



THE ORACLE

*"Conscience is an oracle of the
Divinity" - William Ellery Channing*

We welcome everyone to our
congregation, recognizing no
distinction of class, nationality, race,
gender, or sexual orientation.



**Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist
Church
February 2015 Newsletter**

**Sunday Morning Programs at 10:30
AM**

February 1, 2015

Bob Pryor

You Will Love Again

Relationships, at times can be challenging. Sometimes, for various reasons, they do not work out. "Bob Pryor", our guest speaker will discuss how we react to these disappointments in life, and more importantly how we recover. He will be joined by his band "Significant Others" who will provide supporting music for the talk.

Bob Pryor has been involved in music, production, leadership training, and public speaking for over 45 years. Bob is a true multi-tasker, and is involved in many creative projects. He has developed an organization called "Healing the World Fellowship," which will create a community of healing and bonding through seminars, music, discussions, and fellowship. In addition to being an ordained Minister for Universal Life, Bob is a published writer, penning many provocative and timely articles and essays on various subjects, for "Indigo Sun," a spiritual magazine in the Houston area and other outlets. He also is the guest speaker at a variety of churches speaking on a wide range of topics.



On the musical side, you will often find Bob performing at local coffeehouses, spiritual organizations, and similar venues; either solo or with his band "Significant Others;" anywhere that their musical messages can make a positive difference. At last count, Bob has written over 500 original tunes and has released four songbooks. In 2003, Bob released his first CD, "Throwback - the Beginning," and two years later released a mini CD "Reflections in Time," as a memorial to his late parents. His third individual CD, "The Dream Was Love" was released in July of 2006. His band, "Significant Others," released a CD called "My Spirit Came Alive," in December of 2010, which consists entirely of spiritual and inspiration music that Bob has written. In 2013 and 2014 Bob has released seven singles which eventually will be combined in a compilation CD.

For Bob, creativity is life. It represents gifts that were given to him, and is his way of "giving back" and improving others lives. Come hear Bob's music, experience his writings and lessons, and share his unique way of looking at the world through his music

and prose.



February 8, 2015 The Power within Us

At the 2007 UU General Assembly, the humanist Rabbi Sherwin Wine said, "The main question of religion and philosophy is, 'Where do I find the power to solve the problems of my life?' In this sermon, we explore what this might mean for UU's, and how specifically one UU seemed to be empowered. "The path to empowerment is not the life of faith, but the life of courage."

Our guest speaker today was first introduced to the UU denomination in St. Louis, MO and joined Eliot Chapel. One of her earliest recollections there is of an April Fools' Day sermon on how reluctant we are to admit our flawed humanity-- that we are occasionally fools. When she moved to Houston she joined First UU Church and then Northwoods UU Church in The Woodlands. She, met a marvelous UU there 27 years ago & married him 4 years later. They joined with 2 other couples to start Millbend Coffeehouse as a means to bring music to the community and support local charities-- an outreach of that church. In her spare time Teresa serves on the KPFT Radio and the Pacifica Foundation Radio Boards.

February 15, 2015 R. Keith Armstrong Your God is Too Small

As our young people transition from high school to college -- particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) -- the God that they knew in Sunday School may seem to be "too small". As young people expand their knowledge of the universe, do they become agnostic, more religious, or a U.U.? U.U. was my choice. R. Keith Armstrong was born in New Castle, Indiana. He received Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1958 (Purdue University). Served in the U.S. Navy Reserve (Civil Engineering Corp.) 1958-1961 in Public Works Administration. City Manager in Lititz, Pennsylvania; Williard, Ohio; and Xenia, Ohio 1961-1971. Treasurer and BOT member (Northwoods U.U.) FY 2012-2013 and FY 2013-2014, Endowment Committee (Northwoods U.U.) 2014-2017.



Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen

The Many Faces of Love

There is a famous and often quoted passage (usually at weddings) on from the Christian scriptures. It its take from the 13th chapter of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

I can't say this isn't truth, but love is also more complex than this utopian portrayal. Love is also silent and loud, and particular, and difficult.

Love is Silent

Sometimes we have no other way to say "I love you" than our silence. There really are no words of comfort for life's great losses, especially the loss of love and the loss of life. At times of trauma and loss and grief, quite often the most loving thing we can offer is a silent presence. It's been said that there can only be great pain where there is great love. And in these time of great pain born of love, we find that quite often the loving response is to bear silent witness to it. And to be there when the time for silence ends - a time for talking and crying and wailing and telling love's stories. Blessings, Rev. Tony

revtonyuu@gmail.com

508-344-3668

Office Hours

Tuesdays 10-3

Please call or email for an appointment if you want to make sure to catch Rev. Tony at the church as he sometimes is at meetings or appointments in the community as part of his ministry.

Monday: Minister's Sabbath Day - Rev. Tony is tending to self care - and errands.



TWUUC EVENTS

Religious Education News

Every Sunday - Religious Education for adults and for children will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. During multi-generational worship all children will remain with their parents during the entire service. The younger members of our congregation will be invited to help with parts of the service such as Responsive Reading, Chalice Lighting and Offertory. If a parent is

concerned that a child needs a little entertainment during the sermon, coloring books will be provided for use during the sermon only. If a child needs some time alone, the parent and child may retire to the children's R.E. classroom.



February 18, 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, September – June in the sanctuary. A spiritual Deepening Program for Unitarian Universalists. Firewalkers live their lives on fire for Unitarian Universalism. Firewalking is the spiritual formation program that helps people become firewalkers. Over ten months, firewalking will transform you and your spiritual life. As a Firewalking participant you will develop and commit to your own spiritual practice, learn to listen to your own heart and the hearts of others, connect your life and deepest values to Unitarian Universalism. See the detailed explanation of Firewalking in our recent newsletter and on our website. Registration is required for Firewalking and there is some required reading and viewing (videos). Contact Rev. Tony for more information or see our website for more information. Rev. Tony at revtonyyu@gmail.com.

February 8 - Mid-February Newsletter Deadline.

February 22 - March Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any items for the newsletter to pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net.

THOREAU WOODS COFFEEHOUSE



Please join us for the Spring 2015 Season

March 21: [Ellis](#) with [John Guedry](#) & Jon Hall opening

April 18: **Anderson Fair in the Round**
[Ken Gaines](#), [Scott McCarley](#), [George Ensle](#) & [Greg Whitfield](#)

May 7: Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse @ Wine Down, Thursday 6-9 pm

This will be held in the Gazebo on the Walker County Courthouse Grounds (corner of 12th St. & University Avenue). This concert is free and open to the public. Wine Down is an annual wine tasting event put on by the Huntsville Downtown Business Alliance, where people go to the participating stores where there is a different winery at about 8 stores, and 8 more stores giving away food. It is \$20 for 8 wine tickets.

[Bill Ward](#), [Shellee Colley](#) & [Brian Kalinec](#)

May 16: [James Lee Stanley](#) with [Annalise Emerick](#) opening *****5th

Anniversary*****

Standing Vigil

As a demonstration of a Unitarian Universalism presence in Huntsville, our church will gather as a group to stand vigil in front of the Walls Units during executions. As a church and as a religious people, we cannot accept retribution or social vengeance as a reason for taking human life. The use of the death penalty by the state increases the acceptance of revenge in our society and gives official sanction to a climate of violence. We thank everyone who showed up for the January vigils. There are currently two executions scheduled for the month of February:
February 4, 2015 - Donald Newbury
February 10, 2015 - Lester Bower, Jr.



We ask that everyone join together in front of the Walls Unit (at the corner of Ave. I and 12th St.) by 5:30 p.m. the evening of each scheduled execution. Any stay of execution will be published on the church's Facebook page by 5:00 p.m. the day of the scheduled execution. The vigil is usually over by 7:00 p.m. We often hold a candle in visual protest during our vigil as a signal that there is always hope for personal redemption. If you would like to do so, please bring one. Extra candles from church will be provided for those who forget. If any of us have "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts, please wear them as a demonstration of faithful solidarity.

TWUUC Mission Statement **JUST HELP.**

There are three interpretations of this mission. It is the journey to answer the complex question "Why am I here?"
It is help that is just.
It is to do no harm of any kind against ourselves, others or the environment.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Order of Service If you are willing to take over the weekly OOS, please let Anne True know.

Religious Education If you would like to help with RE, please talk to Beth Williamson at 295-3170.

Building and Grounds If you would like to help maintain the building and/or grounds, please contact Paul Culp at culp@shsu.edu.

Coffeehouse If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net or call 936-661-4313/936-661-4313. We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers.



Good Shepherd Mission

Please continue to bring food. They are very low right now. Thanks for helping however you can. They also need volunteers.

Charity of the Month

SAAFE House

Please make check payable to SAAFE House, and place in the collection basket. Their mission statement is "SAAFE House is committed to empowering abuse victims by providing immediate, free, and confidential services. To our clients, we offer exceptionally trained staff and volunteer resources to help reach each individuals need. SAAFE House strives to educate the community at large to prevent and eliminate the causes of family violence and sexual assault." For more information visit their website

www.saafefhouse.org



In order for Thoreau Woods UU Church to more adequately respond to the needs of our members and friends, we are now registered on the Lotsa website. Maybe you just a need a ride, help when you are ill or just a visit from a friendly face or a chat with Rev. Tony. This site can help us keep track of all that so no one falls through the cracks. If you need help or are willing to help, please go to <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com>.

Joys & Concerns



Wish these members and friends born in February a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

15 **Leda Lupo**
24 **James Johnson**
25 **Joan Hinds**

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS



February 20-22, 2015 **SW LREDA Mid-Winter Conference**, featuring a keynote address and concert by Nick Page, will be held at U-Bar-U, in Mountain Home, TX, 20-22 February, 2015. For a webflyer, go to

http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/images/SW_LREDA_Advertising_Flyer_Registration_2015.02.pdf.

Our Sacred Springs
Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Circle
www.swuuw.org • March 6-8, 2015 • San Mar

Registration fees are \$165 for early registration by February 4, and \$185 after February 4. The registration fee for the Maiden Program is \$110. Scholarships are available, and may be applied for during the registration process. Your registration fee also includes your SWUUV membership dues of \$25 for the year. For more information, go to

<http://reg.attendeenet.com/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x2528e126&varPage=location>



EVENTS



Johnson Studio House Concerts

J. R. Byrd

February 22, 2015 (Sunday)

J.R. Byrd is a singer-songwriter from the humblest of towns, Littleton, Colorado. Shaped heavily by the jazz department at the University of North Texas, J.R.'s songs tend to boast poignant, bluesy melodies over rich, sweeping harmonies. That said, J.R.'s witty lyrics are usually what set off most people's alarms. Byrd's "smart pop" can be most likened to John Mayer, Seal or Sting, but certainly brings its own hops to the dance. *Note: J. R. did a house concert for us in January 2013. You may remember him as the young man that did the fancy stuff with the keyboard.*

For more information, go to

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/johnsonstudio/HouseConcerts.html>

This is a private event and you must RSVP to:

pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net or 936-294-9751.

Potluck 5:00 pm (optional), concert 6-8 pm.

Suggested Donation: \$10-20.



TXUUJM Legislative Action Day @ the Capitol

The TXUUJM Legislative Action Day at the State Capitol has been postponed until February 10th. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Anne True at ae_true@yahoo.com. During the first Texas UU Justice Ministry Legislative Action Day UU's from across Texas will gather at the capital to promote our main issues: women's reproductive justice, medicaid expansion and economic justice. The day will start at 8:30-10:30 a.m. with supportive legislators, who'll teach us about the legislative process and their views about the upcoming

session. We'll also get briefed on how to handle legislative meetings from Austin UU Karen Neeley, who's worked as a lobbyist for community banks for about 25 years. From there, we'll visit legislators from the districts where each of us reside. We will do that in teams because numbers talk. Don't worry if you're just one person visiting from your area, because you'll have fellow UUs with you, but know the more people from an area signing the book will catch legislators' attention. We'll reconvene as a big group to debrief our day from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Those planning to arrive the Monday before, will have the option of a special tour of the Capitol, by Karen Neeley, who will show us the shortcuts, back stairways and other secret spaces most people never discover, along with sharing a few juicy stories. Please sign up on our Evite invitation - <http://www.evite.com/event/0325J7M2B3VPRMKKOEPEKSPBFA7MC4>. You and also contact our TXUUJM Executive Director, Rev. Chuck Freeman - Exec.Dir@TXUUJM.org.



The Bookshelf by Ann Staples

The Flowering of American Folk Art 1776 - 1876 by Jean Lipman and Alice Winchester. This is an older book with lots of lovely illustrations. The text is excellent in discussing the styles, evolution, and known artists of the time periods. The book is divided into sections according to topic, paintings, furniture, etc.

The Story of the Jews - Finding the Words 1000 BC to 1492 AD by Simon Schama, page 421 with excellent illustrations. The writing is rich with detail and excellent in construction. I would think this would be an excellent book for someone interested in the history of the Jews during this time period. There are many new things to learn. I did not read all of this book.

When Paris Went Dark - The City of Light Under German Occupation 1940-1944 by Ronald C. Rosbottom, text page 386. This is an excellent book, and I have enjoyed reading it carefully. This also carefully chronicles the feelings of the occupied and also of the occupiers. "We" would do well to consider how the occupied and occupiers feel, because I imagine the reactions apply to current and future situations. This is one of the best books I have ever read!

I Can Hear You Whisper - An Intimate Journey Through the Science of Sound and Language by Lynda Denworth, text page 340. The subtitle does not really reflect the subject of this book. This is a book about hearing or not hearing and her family's journey to deal with the deafness of the youngest child. The book is excellent.

Elizabeth Gunn is a good mystery writer. She has two different detective series, one man, one woman. Our library only has one of her books. The other you have to order on inter-library loan.

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