

Thoreau Woods  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Church  
July  
2019



# THE ORACLE

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

***Paraphrase of a quote from Henry David Thoreau, for whom our church is named.***

***"If we do not keep pace with our companions, perhaps it is because we march to the sound of a different drummer. Let us step to the music that we hear, however measured or far away."***

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

**We now have child care beginning at 9:15 AM until the end of the Sunday morning service.**

Month July 2019

Sunday, July 7, 2019  
Jess and B Sterling Archer

"Come On Home"

Every person longs for a sense of home. Jess and B. Sterling will share stories and songs that reflect this universal longing. Jess has written a memoir about moving around the world, essentially feeling homeless most of her childhood. In the last three years Jess also co-founded "Refugee is Not My Name" about refugees from around the world that have settled in Austin. Jess will tell stories and show beautiful photographic images from the exhibit that highlight the universal desire to feel at home.

**B. Sterling Archer is an award-winning singer/songwriter who's performed extensively throughout the country at house concerts, music venues, and festivals (including the Kerville Folk Festival)**

**Jess Archer is the mother of two kinds, a free-lance writer and poet. Her memoir, *Finding Home with the Beatles, Bob Dylan and Billy Graham* is about moving around the world as a child with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.**

**Find Jess and B. Sterling Archer at [archercollaborative.com/her](http://archercollaborative.com/her)**

Sunday, June 14, 2019

**Rev. Adam Robinson**

"We Are All Star Stuff"

I recently discovered on Amazon Prime Video one of my favorite science fiction television series of all time, *Babylon 5*. It is generally about the space station named *Babylon 5* and a whole cast of characters that give it life. One of those characters is an alien ambassador named *Delenn*. In an episode early on in the second season called "A Distant Star" *Delenn* says, "The molecules of your body are the same molecules that make this space station and the nebula outside, that burn inside the stars themselves. We are star-stuff. We are the Universe, made manifest, trying to figure itself out. And, as we have both learned, sometimes the Universe needs a change of perspective."

That fictional quotation reminds me of others from Carl Sagan. And Carl Sagan quotations remind me of Walt Whitman. And that leads me to even still others. Soon I am on a journey of wonder and awe as I (as truly as my finite knowledge and understanding can) contemplate what it might mean to me to be beautifully and wonderfully wrought of the same tiny atomic building blocks as the stars, and indeed the whole universe.

Adam lives down the road by the lake and is a regular speaker for us.



Sunday, July 21, 2019

Jan Seides

"Untold Stories in the Bible"

Bible stories are part of our culture in a way that almost nothing else is. But the stories we know started orally and when they were written down, the writers decided who was important and who was not. So there are many important and interesting people we never learn anything about. I decided to try to tell those stories. After all, we're all important.

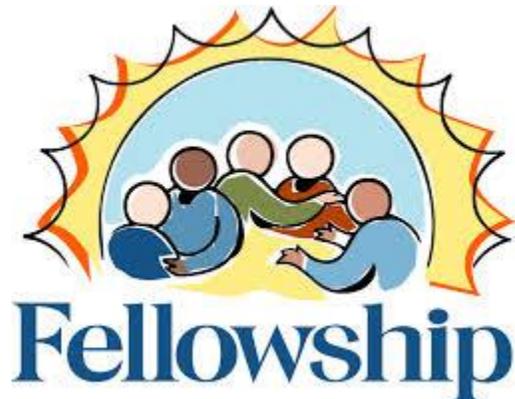
Singer/Songwriter Jan Seides (sigh-deez) writes and performs original, lyrics-driven, award-winning songs that combine uptown sophistication with down-home truth. They have been presented with style and spirit in prestigious venues in the U.S., the Middle East, and Europe



Sunday, July 28, 2019  
Fellowship Sunday

It is our custom to have a shorter service without a sermon on the 4th Sunday in order for us to enjoy a shared meal and conversation.

Please stay even if you didn't bring food. We always have plenty!  
Please bring something to eat and something to share.



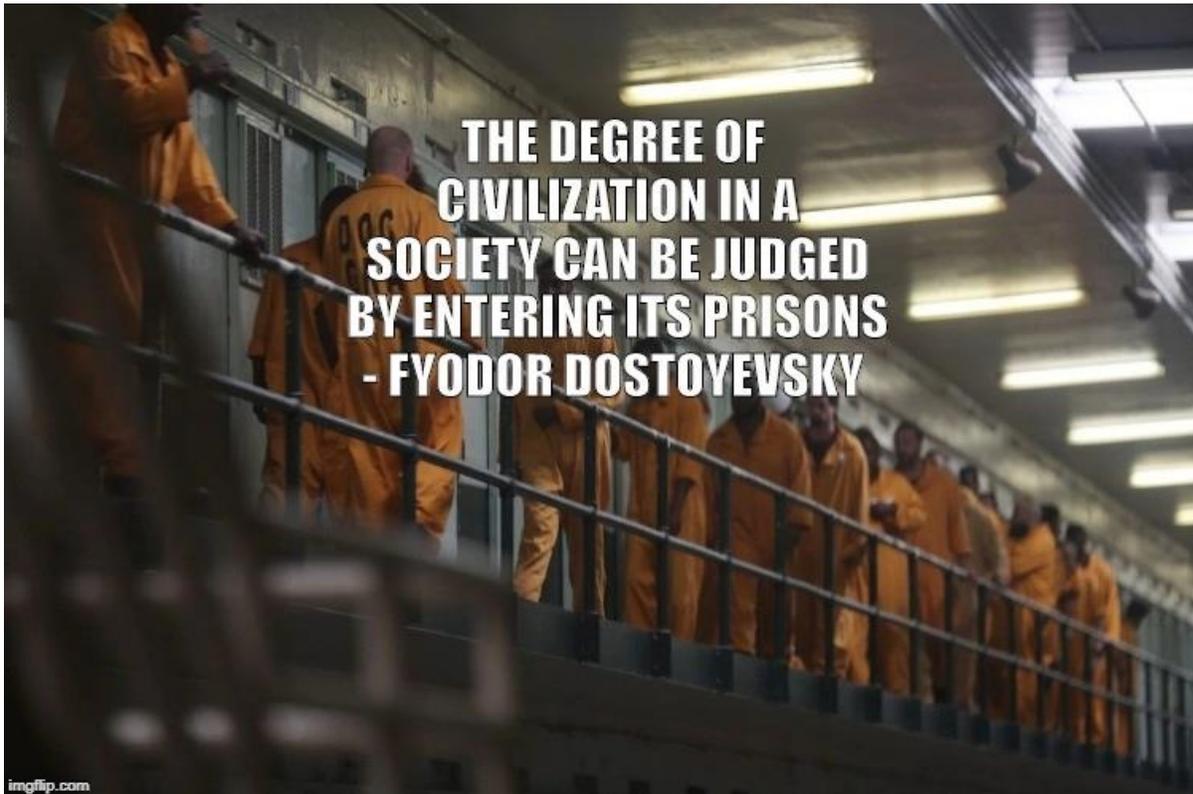
Book Reviews from Ann Staples

Russian Roulette-- How British Spies Thwarted Lenin's Plot to Global Revolution. Giles Miller

Girl in Black and White-- The Story of Mary Mildrid Williams and the Abolition Movement. by Jesse Morgan-Owens

An American Princess-- The Many Lives of Allene Tew by Annejet Van Der Fijl

The Spy and the Traitor-- the Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War by Ben Macintyre about Oleg Gordievsky, a Russian in the KGB who spied for MI6 in England. He is still living in England.



## **JOIN OUR PRISON MINISTRY**

**The Unitarian Universalist First Principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Yet every day millions of incarcerated people are told the exact opposite of this principle, that they are worthless and undeserving. Through prison visits and letter writing, we at TWUUC have a special opportunity to show incarcerated people living right here in Huntsville that they are inherently worthy of love and justice.**

**We need you to help nurture our nascent prison ministry. Working together we can show incarcerated people that they are not forgotten and that those of us in the “free world” care about their well-being. Our program consists of one-on-one visits, letter writing and phone calls with local inmates at the Ellis Unit located on FM 980 in Huntsville.**

**This ministry is organized and led by Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez and her husband Martin Hernandez who is incarcerated at Ellis Unit. Vicki organizes and trains volunteers in the so-called free world, and Martin leads the program from inside the prison. Together they launched a letter-writing campaign that connects pen-pals who write monthly. Their vision is to establish one-on-one (non-contact) visits with men, who over the years, have had either very few visits or none at all. Whether you are interested in writing or visiting, you will receive guidance and assistance every step of the way. Vicki and Martin are committed to ensuring a safe, secure and mutually beneficial experience for both volunteers and inmates. For more information contact Vicki at (617) 970-5430 or [vicki@thriveafterloss.com](mailto:vicki@thriveafterloss.com).**

### Birthday Calendar

Pam Johnson has a birthday on July 21st!

If you have an August birthday, please tell the editor!



Johnson Studio House Concerts

*presents*  
Jan Seides

July 20, 2019, Saturday

6 pm: Potluck, 7 pm: Concert

Singer/Songwriter Jan Seides writes and performs original, lyrics-driven, award-winning songs that combine uptown sophistication with down-home truth. They have been presented with style and verve in prestigious venues in the U.S. and Europe. Singer-songwriter Jan Seides may well be based in Austin, **but she's a** hardly a typical Texas troubadour. Though she tells it like it is, with an honest-to-goodness **style that's incredibly effective, she does so with a level of polished sophistication, which has led** previous reviewers to describe her sound as Patty Griffin meets Broadway. Jan says she has always tried to combine down-home honesty with up-town sophistication. She has an eclectic writing and performing style, folk to pop to jazz. She, like many others we have had, is a Kerrville New Folk Winner. For more information, go to [www.janseides.com](http://www.janseides.com).

*These are private events and you must RSVP to [pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com) or call 936-661-6332. For more information, go to [johnsonstudiotexas.com/HouseConcerts.html](http://johnsonstudiotexas.com/HouseConcerts.html). You will receive address after RSVP. Suggested Donation: \$10-20.*

Coming up:

Johnson Studio House Concerts:  
August 17 K. C. Clifford

Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse: September 21 Laura Zucker with Alex Coba opening

\*\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday Morning Programs If you are willing to be the meeting leader, guest speaker, or read a story for all ages, please contact Rosanne Barker his\_rmb@shsu.edu or email info@twuuc.org

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 [pammoon41@aim.com](mailto:pammoon41@aim.com) or call James at 936-661-6332 We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers

Membership/Outreach Committee--We still need volunteers to handle a more organized way of greeting people, providing assistance to members who are ill, and outreach to the community.

CONTACT US

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144 East Mosley Lane  
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Website: [www.twuuc.org](http://www.twuuc.org)  
Facebook: TWUUC and Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse

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Webmaster: Pam Johnson .

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