



## Susan Threadgill

April 28, 1960 - October 3, 2021

Services for Susan Grace Threadgill, 61, of Austin are scheduled for 2:00pm Friday October 8, 2021 in the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home in Henderson, Texas, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Don Edmiston will officiate. Burial will follow in the Shiloh Cemetery under the direction of Rader Funeral Home, Henderson. Ms. Threadgill passed away Sunday October 3, 2021. She was born April 28, 1960 in Dallas, one of four children of A. J. "Jack" and Doris Edwards Threadgill, both deceased. She is also preceded in death by her brother Andrew "Andy" Threadgill.

Susan lived in Dallas until age 10, at which time the family moved to Henderson, Texas. She graduated as salutatorian from Henderson High School and attended Southern Methodist University for a three-year dual major in creative writing and theatre, graduating magna cum laude. Susan also completed a special term for foreign students at SMU at Queen's College, University of Oxford, Oxford, England.

Susan's reputation as a stage manager in the Austin arts community was legendary. Known as "she who must be obeyed," she was a production stage manager for the Austin Lyric Opera for 22 years. She went on to become Associate Director of Production and Director of Production for University Events at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, where for over 10 years she guided the production of University-wide events including Explore UT, Gone to Texas, and Commencement. She assisted with several high-profile events including the 2014 Civil Rights Summit at the LBJ Presidential Library that included Presidents Carter, Clinton, Bush, and Obama (as a sitting president), and the 2016 LBJ Presidential Library Summit on the Vietnam War that included documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, and former secretaries of State Madeleine Albright, Henry Kissinger, and John Kerry.

In 2014, Susan received the Distinguished Achievement Award in Management from the United States Institute for Theatre Technology. She did freelance work for the Austin Symphony, Zilker Theatre Productions, and Conspire, and served as production stage manager for the UT Performing Arts Center. Over the course of her career, Susan served

as production manager for at least 50 opera performances, 20 musicals, and eight of Shakespeare's plays.

Throughout her 38-year career in the arts, she wore many hats: actor, technician, stage manager, production manager, producer, director, combat choreographer, librettist, and playwright. She recalled most fondly the projects that allowed her to marry the arts with education, mentoring young technicians, managers, and performers as they took their first steps on the paths to their own careers. Colleagues and performers knew her as a dedicated, competent professional who ran a tight ship, and tempered strictness with kindness, integrity, a strong sense of caring, and a lot of fun.

A force of nature with an infectious laugh and unmatched sense of humor, Susan was much more than her incredible resume. To many, she was known as her alter ego, Mysta Gonagin, or any of a dozen characters she played at Dungeons & Dragons tables across the country. Susan was a huge player for good and fun in Living Greyhawk and various other gaming communities since at least the early 1990s. No one inspired more people in Texas and Oklahoma (and likely many other states) to elevate their role-playing than Susan did. To others, she was the "Queen of Texas Paintball," having been a member of a nationally ranked paintball team. Her team was so accomplished that they toured the country for several years, sponsored by the manufacturers of the paintball equipment.

To her family, Sue was a loyal and loving, steadfast presence, full of stories and laughter. Kind and welcoming, she always had a smile and words of encouragement, supporting her loved ones through good times and bad. We remain in awe of the brilliant, talented person she was, and of how much she meant to so many. The family would like to thank Trinkka Withers and Sylvester Ruffin for their constant companionship and devotion to Susan's care.

Susan is survived by two brothers: John D. and wife Kay Threadgill of Dallas; Chris and wife Teresa Threadgill of Henderson; four nieces and one nephew: Whitney T. Mahan, Erin and husband David Davila, Abby Threadgill, Kristen Threadgill, Jackson and wife Michelle Threadgill; two great nieces, Tiffany and Nevaeh Mahan, and two great nephews, Dre Mahan and Lucas Davila.

View the complete obituary at [raderfh.com/obituaries/](http://raderfh.com/obituaries/). In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Orange Santa at UT Austin at <https://giving.utexas.edu/orangesanta>, or by check to University Events, PO Box S, Austin, TX, 78712. Checks should be made payable to "The University of Texas at Austin" and coded "Orange Santa." Please include a note designating gifts In Memory of Susan Threadgill.

Susan, flee! Be gone!

# Cemetery Details

## Shiloh Cemetery

HWY 315  
Mt. Enterprise, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 8. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Rader Funeral Home of Henderson  
800 Kilgore Drive  
Henderson, TX 75652

## Chapel Service - Henderson

OCT 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Rader Funeral Home of Henderson  
800 Kilgore Drive  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Tribute Wall



“ Rader Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Susan Threadgill



Rader Funeral Home - October 08, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ Rader Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Susan Threadgill



Rader Funeral Home - October 05, 2021 at 12:36 PM

MA

“ To Susan's family: I want you to know how much she taught me about management, about theatre and about life. Some of my fondest memories of my life in the theatre are sitting on the Zilker hillside with Susan on headset and how we laughed and laughed. She taught me how to handle difficult people. She taught me how to use humor in times in stress. She was often exhausted and still had so much joy. The Austin theatre community is really going to miss her and yes, she is a legend. I am grateful I got to work with her and learn from her.

Margaret - October 09, 2021 at 05:52 PM

C4

“ Clay Newcomb & Frances 4 lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill



Clay Newcomb & Frances 4 - October 09, 2021 at 04:25 AM

BG

“ *Praying for peace and comfort for family and friends.*  
*Bonnie Geddie*



---

**Bonnie Geddie** - October 08, 2021 at 08:38 AM

JH

“ *I had the marvelous pleasure to work with Susan at UT and Austin Lyric Opera for many years. The special stories are endless, full of humor, grace, sincerity and her ready laugh.*

*Susan's authority & expertise were exactly what you wanted in a stage manager. A large opera, replete with large personalities, chorus members, complicated cues & other technical responsibilities required so much strength, sensitivity, & quick thinking. She knew how to respect & placate a renowned conductor, but could also get in his face when absolutely necessary - then laugh with him about it. She was always aware of safety concerns & ready to stop anything if a potential disaster was imminent. She could keep her eye on a lead tenor who was apt to miss his cues while chatting backstage and gracefully aid an aging singer whose years on stage exceeded anyone's but struggled to remember his role now. Susan didn't miss an opportunity to make a special effect work or a special gag during dress rehearsal for that matter - as long as it didn't interfere with the important work at hand.*

*Susan always showed so much respect and appreciation for all the technical staff making a production happen. She had so many talents herself and loved all the varied skills that made a show come together. In the costume field, we could rely on Susan to let us know if there was an issue we needed to work out for some stage action and she always respected the care often needed with elaborate costumes backstage. She was a dear and treasured colleague.*

*I hope her family members get to enjoy many stories of Susan's life along with all the personal ones they know so well.*

---

**Jan Kremer Horn** - October 07, 2021 at 02:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Susan Threadgill.*



October 07, 2021 at 11:30 AM

BB

“ *My thoughts and prayers for the Threadgill family.*  
*Beverly Baughman*

**Beverly Baughman** - October 07, 2021 at 08:50 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Susan Threadgill.*



October 06, 2021 at 10:47 PM

PC

“ *Paula Crim lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Paula Crim** - October 06, 2021 at 11:07 AM

KW

“ *Keith Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Keith Wilkerson** - October 05, 2021 at 05:42 PM

VH

“ *What a wonderful synopsis of Susan Threadgill’s life. Her proud brother John is my friend. My condolences to the Threadgill family and her professional family. Texas has lost a jewel.*  
*Valerie Hill*

Valerie Hill - October 05, 2021 at 02:45 PM

TM

“ *Troy Maxwell lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



Troy Maxwell - October 05, 2021 at 02:25 PM

KM

“ *Susan was such a sweet, kind and intelligent classmate of mine, who always had a smile on her face. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family for their great loss.*

Karen Medford - October 05, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Susan Threadgill.*



October 05, 2021 at 12:37 PM



“ *Sending my deepest condolences to family and friends of Susan. Susan was my favorite part of singing with Austin Lyric Opera. Wonderful person, the best Stage Manager ever, made us all feel safe and taken care of, could make me laugh til I cried and knew where all the best BBQ was!! I love you Susan and cherish all the photos I have of us and will miss you so much. Rest well sweet lady.*  
*Love, Genie Grunewald*

Eugenie Grunewald - October 05, 2021 at 11:33 AM

SH

“ Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill



Sue Henderson - October 05, 2021 at 11:15 AM

ME

“ To the last Captain of the "Capitol Punishment" Paintball team. Salute to you Suzie.

Mike Engells - October 05, 2021 at 08:43 AM

CM

“ Connie Repp Merritt lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill



Connie Repp Merritt - October 05, 2021 at 07:04 AM

DB

“ Doyle And Linda Rishton Benson lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill



Doyle and Linda Rishton Benson - October 04, 2021 at 11:32 PM

CI

“ RIP, Susan Threadgill, first of her name, legendary Austin stage manager, mentor of singers, *She Who Must Be Obeyed*.

*Susan was the opera stage manager for my alma mater, the University of Texas. Via kindness, compassion, humor, and if needed, tough love, she instilled high principles of professionalism in many a young singer. She taught us to hold backstage personnel in the highest respect; the importance of timeliness; the level of pain to be expected if you did something stupid like eat in costume; how not to get killed on set; and other important lessons too numerous to count. Susan always had her people's backs, and if you were one of her people, you knew it and you knew you were safe with her.*

*Susan continued to be a friend and mentor to me throughout my early career. She vetted my boyfriend, approved, and even recruited him to become her assistant stage manager. He worked with her for many years. We celebrated our first wedding anniversary at Austin Opera, during a show, with Susan managing the whole thing and getting everyone into the green room. One was never dismissed from rehearsal until Susan uttered the magic words, "Flee; be gone!"*

*Susan moved on from stage management some years ago and our paths didn't often cross, but she was the kind of friend where you could always pick up where you left off. My last interaction with her before her illness was on social media, where I had tagged her in a meme about eating in costume, and remarked that I still would not do this for fear of Susan's wrath.*

*Susan Threadgill will remain the gold standard by which all stage managers are judged, at least in my mind. She will always be *She Who Must Be Obeyed*.*

*She did well. I hope she rests well with her loved ones who have gone before.*

*Thank you, Susan.*

*Flee; be gone.*

---

**Cindy** - October 04, 2021 at 11:14 PM

LW

“ Lacy And Rusty Weaver lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill



---

**Lacy And Rusty Weaver** - October 04, 2021 at 10:39 PM

BR

“ *Benny & Becky Rountree*



**Becky Rountree** - October 04, 2021 at 10:17 PM

DS

“ *Dee Lee Smith lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Dee Lee Smith** - October 04, 2021 at 09:28 PM

CS

“ *Carl & Diana Smith lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Carl & Diana Smith** - October 04, 2021 at 08:34 PM

PC

“ *Patricia Combs lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Patricia Combs** - October 04, 2021 at 08:32 PM

LS

“ *Leslie Sullivan Spell lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Leslie Sullivan Spell** - October 04, 2021 at 07:08 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Susan Threadgill.*



October 04, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ *Wayne Sanders lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Wayne Sanders** - October 04, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ *Hal And Rosa Martin lit a candle in memory of Susan Threadgill*



**Hal and Rosa Martin** - October 04, 2021 at 12:29 PM