



May 23, after flower communion, we will have the third annual Emerson Field Day with numerous field games (capped off by the “tug of peace!”)- all for the distinctive honor of securing rights to the Jester Beagle Award.

Burgers, hot dogs (and veggie alternatives) will be yours for \$2 per person plus your contribution of some dessert, salad, etc. If your last name begins with A-Z please bring what you would enjoy eating or serving to others!

## *How much is enough? News from SAC*

Every day we are blessed with the opportunity to **give**. One which we embrace readily. In January we gave over \$4,000 to Haiti relief efforts. In February we collected \$473.00 for Balazes Scholarships and \$ 610.00 for Search Sandwiches, in addition to the Souper Bowl of Caring. In March we donated \$699.00 to our Partner Church. The question for Emersonians is not should we **act**, but how much? The Social Action Council (SAC) is also asking How Much? How much do Emersonian’s want to **do**? Is there interest beyond the monthly special collection? Is there interest in tutoring students in a Houston school once a week? We would like to hear from you as we plan for the year ahead. Please contact Christel Erickson-Collins or Phil Richardson.



**Upcoming events:** May-Special Collection: Mothers For Clean Air. In June and August we will be supporting Education in Houston and abroad. Look for details later this month.



What do you enjoy doing? The Stewardship Committee has a pretty good list of the opportunities for involvement at Emerson. What we don’t yet know is – what each of you would like to do, how much of it you’d prefer to do, and when you can do it. Rather than guess we thought we’d ask. There’s something for every preference, from acting to weeding, from teaching to scheming (that’s basically what Committees do – good schemes!).

On the first two Sundays in May there will be tables in multiple locations with very approachable people who will help you match your gifts and interests with opportunities at Emerson. You won’t be asked to sign up for anything specific on those mornings. But you will see signs such as “A-F” (and “G-R” and “S-Z”) which means - you go to that line if your last name begins from A through F. You then get to talk with a very approachable person about what you like to do, etc.

ALSO – after answering the questions you will be given a raffle ticket and on May 16<sup>th</sup> the winner will be announced. The award? You name the topic and Mark will preach on it. Maybe your talent is picking sermon subjects?



## The Boniuk Center

for the Study and Advancement  
of Religious Tolerance  
at Rice University

Please join the Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance on June 10, 2010 for a Feast of Faiths – a Cross-Cultural Culinary experience. Each course of the meal will represent a religion and be prepared by a chef who practices that faith.

The proceeds of this event will support the Boniuk Center’s outreach initiatives to foster religious tolerance among Houston youth.

Visit our website at [www.boniuk.rice.edu](http://www.boniuk.rice.edu) to view the invitation, RSVP and learn about the featured chefs. We look forward to having you at our table.

*“Our beloved community of faith, reason, and affection welcomes all to  
grow in mind and spirit as we build a better world.”*

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE & MEMBER INFO

### 11:15 a.m. Worship Schedule

**May 2: This I Believe: Our Eighth Graders Speak**—The Sunday on which our Coming of Age initiates courageously stand before you and deliver their personal credo statements. This annual service never fails to inspire us all with the wisdom and insight of our youth; never fails to give us renewed hope for the future

**May 9: A Woman Whose Genius Belongs to the World**—Author, editor, educator, Transcendentalist, and women’s rights advocate, Margaret Fuller, was one of the guiding lights of the first-wave of feminism. First American to write a book about equality for women, first woman foreign war correspondent to serve under combat conditions, first woman to enter Harvard Library to pursue research - Margaret Fuller is one of our UU foremothers, but her extraordinary accomplishments rightly belong to all who believe in equality and human rights. On this Sunday, we will join hundreds of organizations around the world celebrating the bicentennial of her birth. **The service will also feature special music from Emerson’s Intergenerational Orchestra and our magnificent soloists in honor of Mother’s Day.**

**May 16: A Moving Musical Morning**—The choir has been rehearsing long and hard to bring you the Fauré Requiem, the focus of this Sunday’s service. Of the many settings of the Requiem, this is probably the most widely loved. Elegant and eloquent, it is impossible not to be moved by the ethereal beauty of this subtle masterpiece. **After the service, there will be a celebration in honor of John Branch, who is retiring after nine years as our Music and Artistic Director.** A morning definitely not to be missed!

**May 23: Honoring Our Beloved Community**—Reflections on the church year, recognition of our hard working Religious Education teachers, advisors and committee members, a special treat from the choir, and **Flower Communion**, a ritual unique to Unitarian Universalism. What’s not to like? **Please, if possible, bring flowers to add to the communal bouquets and, after the service, please stay for our annual Field Day and picnic. There will be food, games and fun for all ages.**

**May 30: Emerson on Emerson at Emerson** (Laura Emerson, speaker) How did Ralph Waldo Emerson sustain such optimism despite a daunting series of personal tragedies and national calamities? Is he a role model you could use right now?

### Wheel Of Life

- Sarah Scott Williams, daughter of Ramon and Judy Williams, was married to Andrew James Gibson February 13, 2010, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The Reverend Dr. Rebecca Edmiston-Lange officiated.
- Elaine Tidholm, daughter of Karen Tidholm was married here at Emerson on April 10. It was officiated by Rev. Mark Edmiston-Lange.
- Former member Gary Knutsen died suddenly in April. His memorial service will be April 24 at the Westshore UU Church in Cleveland, OH. His wife, Cil, and daughter, Dorothy, reside in Lakewood, OH.
- Clayton Burrell Oliver, brother of Phyllis Burchfiel, died April 18th in Norman, OK.

### IN MEMORIAM - Gregor Riesser

April 13, 1925 - March 20, 2010

Gregor was an active member of Emerson in the eighties and nineties. He is survived by his wife, Marjory S. Patterson; his stepson Dr. William Riesser and wife and their son of Lawrenceville, New Jersey; his stepdaughter Nikki Monacelli and husband and their son of Portland, Oregon; his son-in-law Harlan Laughlin and his and Cynthia's children; his sister-in-law Inge Riesser and her children; and Marjory's five children and their spouses and children. His memorial service was held at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church on April 11.

### Typical Sunday Schedule

9:-9:45-Intergenerational Orchestra, 10-11:00-Adult Religious Ed, 10-12:30-Infant & Toddler Care, 10-11-Children/Youth Religious Ed, 11:15-12:15-Worship Service & 2nd hour of Children/Youth Religious Ed

This page is full of ideas for all. Pick an activity and get involved today!!

### Stitchers

**Every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - Delaney Hall**

Contact: Phyllis Burchfiel

### Choir Rehearsal

**Every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary**

Contact: Bonnie Wellington

### First Friday Night Movie

**Friday, May 7, 7:15 p.m. Social and 7:30 p.m. Movie Begins - Room 205-206** *The Blind Side* -

Sandra Bullock won a Best Actress Oscar for her role in this movie. It's the story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family. \$2 donation. Contact: Leticia Anderson

### Sandwiches for SEARCH

**Thursday, May 13, 10:30 a.m. - Westwood Hall**

**Sunday, May 23, after church** Help make 50 sack lunches for SEARCH. We welcome all volunteers.

Contact: Barbara Hopkins

### Women's Evening Book Group

**Wednesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.** - The Group will be discussing *The Geography of Bliss*, by Eric Weiner. Next month's book is *Reclaiming Virtue*, by John Bradshaw.

Contact: Jill Rose

### Pathways Class

**Wednesday, May 12, 7:00 to 9:00 pm Delaney Hall Room 204**

Come meet one of our ministers and learn more about Unitarian Universalism. Find out all that Emerson has to offer you. Childcare is provided free of charge, but please call the Church at (713) 782-8250 by May 10 to reserve a sitter. Contact: Molly Martin

### Men's Book Club

**Wednesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m. - Lambo's Restaurant, 6159 Westheimer**

The book of the month is: *Vicksburg 1863* by Winston Groom. June's book is *A Voyage for Madmen* by Peter Nichols. Contact: Bill Burchfiel

### Daytime Book Club

**Thursday, May 20, 10:30 a.m. - Westwood Hall** This

month's book is *A Parchment of Leaves* by Syllas House.

All book lovers are welcome! Contact: Jo Irwin

### Covenant Group

**Wednesday, May 27, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Library**

Please join us for a conversation on a spiritual topic. If you are thinking about joining a covenant group but Wednesday nights are not convenient for you, let me know and I will place you in another group.

Contact: Nancy Lipp

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - EVERY SUNDAY 10:00-11:00

**May 2**—*Response Ability: Local Foods and Our Changing Environment* with Patricia Greer-Simplicity is a notch in the key to response ability. How can local foods become another notch? How does our changing environment affect our inner "climate"?

**May 9**—*Capital Punishment* with Adam Gershowitz— Defensible in Theory, Not So in Practice Can it be administered fairly? Our experience suggests not. And errors made in this process are irreversible.

**May 16**—*Exploration Sunday*—Share new ways to enrich our spiritual lives on third Sundays

**May 23**—*Houston KIND (Kids in Need of Defense)* with Yasmin Yavar- More than 8,000 children come to the United States each year without a parent or legal guardian and are put into the custody of the U.S. government; numerous others enter alone but live "underground" in secrecy and deprivation in a desperate attempt to evade U.S.

**May 30**—Memorial Day weekend—no classes

## Ongoing Sunday Activities

**1st Sunday**—Newcomer Discussion 10:00, Westwood  
Lunch after the Service in Westwood Hall \$6

**2nd Sunday**—Food Sunday-bring non-perishable items / Special Collection

**3rd Sunday**—Exploration Sunday-Special Adult Religious Education programming offers various topics

Lunch after the Service in Westwood Hall \$6;

Newcomers Fellowship-newcomer table at lunch

**4th Sunday**—SEARCH Sandwiches, Westwood Hall

## EPIC Evening Event

**Saturday May 8, 2010, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Wortham IMAX theater, Museum of Natural History, Emerson Parents in Community (EPIC) will attend *HUBBLE 3D*, at 6:00 PM then proceed to Hotel Zaza for some adult libations and appetizers. Tickets for the movie are \$6.00 - \$11.

Childcare is provided free of charge, but please call the church by May 5 at (713) 782-8250 to request a sitter.

For more information, contact Alisha

Save a Tree - If you would prefer to receive newsletter by email or not at all, contact: Molly, 713-782-8250

### Public Relations News

Newsletter submission deadline : **Tuesday, May 18.**

For more information on any item in the newsletter, please consult our website at [www.emersonhouston.org](http://www.emersonhouston.org)

### Everything Else

#### *Torch Song Trilogy*

**Welcome M.A.T.** encourages you to join us for the last film in our series. Tony Award-winning actor and playwright Harvey Fierstein re-creates his role as the unsinkable Arnold Beckoff in this film adaptation of the smash Broadway play. A very personal story that is both funny and poignant, the film chronicles a New Yorker's search for love, respect and tradition in a world that seems not especially made for him.

**Sunday, May 9, 12:30 p.m., after Church,  
Delaney Hall, Room 205/206**

A selection of sandwiches and iced tea will be available for lunch in the room for a donation. Childcare is provided free of charge, but please help us plan adequately for childcare needs by calling the Church at (713) 782-8250 ,by May 6. The film is approximately two hours with discussion of the film afterwards.



#### *Auction Thanks....*

We'd like to express our extreme gratitude to our donors, sponsors and, especially, our guests, for making the Carnival de Emerson 2010 Service Auction a great success. Boundless thanks, too, to our team for their tireless efforts, energy and creativity:

Kay Bergen, Sarah Boyd, John Branch, Phyllis Burchfiel, Laura Emerson, Nicole Engstrom, Sarah Hager, Laurie and Bill Hammons, Alejandra Koosh, Nancy Lipp, Karen Nazir, Sally Phillips, Mary Ann Rusk, Ken Salzman, Rachel Shada, Mary Ann Stanley. Photos and details will appear in the next Emersonian. -Anne Goodman and Barb Adams



*Job Well Done!*

#### *G. A. Delegates Needed!*

General Assembly (GA), the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be held in Minneapolis, June 23 -27. Emerson can designate ten delegates to GA. Please contact Janet Meininger before May 18.