

# the emersonian

*"If you read it here, consider yourself invited"*

October 2009

Sunday, October 11, 1 pm, Room 205  
this month's film is

## IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK II

A moving and wonderful film done originally for Showtime network about the lives of lesbians living in a house in 1961, 1972 and 2000. It stars: Vanessa Redgrave, Marian Seldes, Elizabeth Perkins, Chloe Sevigny, Sharon Stone, Ellen DeGeneres, Kathy Najimi, and Paul Giammati.

A catered lunch will be available in Westwood Hall before the showing and you are encouraged to bring your meal to the movie.

# WELCOME

## Movies And Things

Childcare is provided free of charge, but please help us plan adequately for childcare needs by calling the Church at (713) 782-8250 by Thursday, October 7th.

The film lasts approximately 90 minutes with discussion of the issues in the film and how they affect each of us and our community.



## UNICEF CARNIVAL

Sunday, October 25th, after the service.

Last year's carnival was a tremendous success. Our donation to UNICEF of \$3672.95 made us one of only 4 "Emissary" level donors in all of Texas!

We are adding the **"UNICEF Market"**, where you can buy hand-crafted items made and donated by fellow Emersonians. Last year, Meredith Aucock, Lydian Green and Isabella Juan made chalices out of decorated terra cotta pots and saucers, and sold them at the carnival. If you are interested in contributing your hand-made items, please contact Susan Green.

## PHOTOGRAPHY BOOTH BINGO CAKE WALK HOT DOGS AND BAKED POTATOES

We still need your gently used toys and books for the "Trading Post" carnival game prizes. Volunteer and have some fun!! For more information about the carnival or UNICEF, please contact Karen Benson or Karen Nazir.

## UniTunes Coffeehouse

### MOODAFARUKA

Mixing Flamenco, Middle Eastern, Spanish and Western motifs, Moodafaruka creates a tapestry of sound that is both familiar and new.

Saturday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.  
\$13 in advance or \$15 at the door  
[www.unitunes.org](http://www.unitunes.org)



### Worship

*Every Sunday 11:15 to 12:15*

**October 4:** Come Out on the Side of Love

**October 11:** *Spiritual Courage*

**October 18:** *The Three Doors to Open-Heartedness*  
- Alejandro Chaoul  
Assistant professor at the John P. McGovern, M.D., Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston.

**October 25:** *Finding a Satisfying Meaning to Your Life*

#### IN MEMORIAM

Rita Johnson Six

December 21, 1939 - August 23, 2009

Rita died August 23, after a long struggle with chronic fatigue and a shorter battle with cancer and congestive heart failure. She is survived by her husband, John, of 50 years, daughters, Diane and Kayla, and son Michael. Rita worked as a social worker, as director of a hospice. Rita joined Emerson in August 2006. Rita participated in Circle Dinners, Women's Alliance, and SEARCH projects. She was a member of the Red Hat Society. Her memorial service was held at Emerson Church on Saturday, September 19.

**Shop the Bookstore** - The Emerson Bookstore is bursting with new books this fall including *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction* by Dr. Eugenie Scott! Come in before or after the service and peruse our new and entertaining selection of bumper stickers and UU gifts!

### Parents as Spiritual Guides

Part of Third Sunday Adult RE - *Exploration Sunday*

Spiritual Guides helps parents and church school teachers deepen their understanding of their role in guiding our children's spiritual/ethical development. For information contact Judy Richardson or Alisha Loftin.

#### Wheels Of Life

Our condolences to George Bowden on the death of his wife of 47 years, Mary Bowden, who died September 10 after a long illness.

# Sunday

## Sunday Schedule

### Westwood Hall

**9:00 - 9:45**

Intergenerational  
Orchestra

**10:00 - 11:00**

Adult Religious  
Education

### Delaney Hall

**10:00 - 12:30**

Infant and Toddler Care

**10:00 - 11:00**

Children/Youth  
Religious Education

**11:15 - 12:15**

Worship Service  
2nd Hour Programming  
for Children/Youth

## Ongoing Sunday Activities

### First Sunday

**Newcomer Discussion**

10:00 Westwood Hall foyer

**Lunch** is served \$6

after the Service in Westwood Hall

**Young Adult Discussion Group**

during Lunch Upstairs; Westwood Hall

### Second Sunday

**Food Sunday**

Bring Non-perishable items and  
a Special Collection

**Lunch** is served \$6

after the Service in Westwood Hall

**Welcome M.A.T.**

Film series on lesbian/gay/bisexual/  
transgender themes, with discussion following.  
1:00 pm 205-206 Delaney Hall

### Third Sunday

**Exploration Sunday**

Adult Religious Education at 10:00 am offering  
four topics to choose from.

**Lunch** is served \$6

after the Service in Westwood Hall

**Newcomers Fellowship**

Newcomers, look for the special table at lunch

### Fourth Sunday

**SEARCH Sandwich Project** after the Service in  
Westwood Hall

“Well, I belong to this church....”

Ever tried to explain Emerson when somebody said “What is it?” Or maybe they said “What does your church do?” Did you grope for a thoughtful answer, but a short, positive one?

To help us better articulate our identity and purpose, the Board of Trustees asked the Committee on Ministry, the five names below, to draft a brief statement. We did, starting by interviewing interest groups and committees about their ministries, the core of the church. We went through two rounds of rewrites after input from the Coordinating Council and the Board. The Board-approved statement, which they will ask the congregation to approve at our annual meeting in January, reads as follows:

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

These words are descriptive, not prescriptive, and intended to help us all see ourselves more clearly. As we'll discuss at a 10 a.m. Adult Education session on Sunday, November 1, this is not eternal wisdom, but a current statement of who we are now, what we hope to accomplish, and how each of us at Emerson can affirm our own ministry.

----- Kevin Crotty, Betsy Gelb, Emery Goodman, Jill Rose, Linda Condit (chair)

### Children's and Youth Corner

**Parents:** Please complete a RE registration form for your children and youth. This information is important not only in helping us to determine our programming needs but it is vital for the safety of your children. Forms available on the website and in the RE Office.

**Our Whole Lives for 7th – 9th grade** has begun and enrollment is now closed. We have 30 young people from around the Houston Area taking the course this year, 20 are from Emerson.

**The Coming of Age** group will be going on their first retreat Saturday, Sept. 26 – Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Stephen F. Austin State Park

**All of our classes**, Preschool through Sr. High have begun their faith journeys this year by creating covenants about how they will be in community with one another.

**2nd Hour Programming:** Our K – 5th graders will begin a 5 week exploration of Stewardship beginning Sept. 20.

**And for the future:** Our senior youth group will be hosting the Gulf Coast Youth Rally at Emerson UU Church, January 15 – 17.

### Adult Education

*Every Sunday 10:00-11:00*

October 4 - *Bird Watching: A Path to Spiritual Sanctuary* - Peggy Boston, Houston Audubon Ambassador

October 11 - *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups - Session 2: Men* - Laura Emerson

October 18 - *Exploration Sunday*

**Book Club:** Westwood Hall Room 201 - Susan Green

**Conversations on Poetry:** Delaney Hall Room 204 - Carolyn Truesdell

**Who's Who in the UUs:** Westwood Hall - Main Room - Mary Ann Stanley

**Being One with Mother Earth:** Room 202 Westwood Hall - Ann May

**Parents as Spiritual Guides:** Delaney Hall Room 205-206 - Judy Richardson

October 25 - *Solar Cookers: The Simple Tool that Saves Women's Lives* - Alisa Max, Jewish World Watch's Solar Cooker Project.

# October Activities Page

## Life After Loss

**A six week program for individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one**

Six consecutive Thursdays, beginning October 8th from 6:30 pm - 8 pm Room 204 Delaney Hall

The program is a combination of education, discussion and support. It was developed by the American Cancer Society. It is open to the public and Church members, free of charge.

Facilitators will be Kay Bergen, formerly the bereavement coordinator at Houston Hospice, and Church member Barbara Thorn.

For more information or to register, please contact Kay.



## Will YOU Step Up to Relieve Hunger in Houston?

Join the Emerson CROP Walk team and feed the hungry in Houston and around the world. CROP Walk is Sunday, November 1, at 2 pm. By participating in this lovely 5K walk in the

art park along Buffalo Bayou you'll help Interfaith Ministries' Meals on Wheels as well as international hunger relief projects. You can join our team, solicit donations and keep track of contributions on line: [www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org) (Emerson UU Church). Or, visit our table each Sunday in The Gathering Place. Last year we had 65 Walkers, the largest team in Houston, and raised \$6,000. Our goal this year is \$10,000. No registration fee, but we ask that you purchase an Emerson t-shirt for \$8.50.

## Lend a Hand, a Hammer, a Doughnut!

October 17 and 24 Both Saturdays

Single adults, families, covenant groups and supervised teens are all welcome to spruce up the exterior of a dilapidated home in a marginal neighborhood, belonging to an elderly or disabled Houstonian who lives below the poverty line. This is a hands on, sociable volunteer project for both skilled and unskilled people, with and without tools. For more information, contact Laura Emerson.

See [www.rebuildingtogetherhouston.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherhouston.org) for general information about this worthy 501(C)3 charity.

## Community Capacity Building Workshop

**October 17, 9:30 until 3:30  
in Westwood Hall with catered lunch**

The Workshop will provide strategies and decision - making tools for helping a community, or any group, to identify and prioritize their needs, identify available resources, and develop action plans. Area UU congregations have been invited to send interested members. The workshop leader is Dr. Richard Ford, who developed the methods and has implemented the process for more than 30 years. The Community Capacity Building method is currently being used by the UU Partner Church Council in Transylvania, the Philippines, and India. The methods are applicable to any group and were used at the International Convocation of UU Women, held here in Houston in February. At the end of the Workshop, you will be qualified to be a facilitator for the process and be able to help a community take control of its future.

The fee for workshop is \$10, which covers the lunch and materials. Please pre-register with either deForest Ralph or Eleanor Lane .

## Pathways Class

Wednesday, October 14th, 7:00 to 8:30 Delaney Hall Room 204.

Come meet one of our ministers and learn more about Unitarian Universalism and how we at Emerson seek to build a community. Find out all that Emerson has to offer you.

Childcare is provided free of charge, but please help us plan adequately for childcare needs by calling the Church at (713) 782-8250 by Monday, October 12th.

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

**Stitchers**  
 10:00 a.m. Every Wednesday- Delaney Hall  
 Contact: Phyllis Burchfiel

**Choir Rehearsal**  
 7:30 p.m. Every Wednesday - Sanctuary  
 Contact: Bonnie Wellington

October Activities

**First Friday Movie**

**Friday, October 2, 7:15 p.m. Social and 7:30 p.m. Movie Begins - Room 205-206**  
*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* This movie was chosen a NYT Critic's choice after release in 2007. If you would like to suggest a movie, please contact Leticia or Joann. Join us for movie, refreshments, and friends. Contact: Leticia Anderson or Joann Hendrick

**Sandwiches for SEARCH**

**Thursday, October 8, 10:30 a.m.- Westwood Hall** Help make 50 sack lunches for SEARCH. We welcome all volunteers. Contact: Barbara Hopkins

**Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday, October 10, 8:00 a.m. - Westwood Hall** Sigsby Rusk will present a graphic and video program on "DNA and the Most Amazing Factory in the World". Everyone is welcome, including ladies. Contact: Sigsby Rusk

**Women's Night Book Group**

**Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. - Library** The Group will be discussing *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo. Next month's book is *Passing Strange: a Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line* by Martha Sandweiss. Contact: Jill Rose

**Daytime Book Club**

**Thursday, October 15, 9:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation, the discussion starts at 10:00**  
 This month's book is *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland. Contact: Jo Irwin

**EPIC Lunch/Playdate**

**Tuesday, October 20, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Room 209** Open to all Parents. Let's get together with our kids (or without) Bring a dish or a beverage to share. Contact: Alisha Loftin

**A Note from the Nominations Committee**

A CALL TO SERVE: The need is great – the time is now!

The Nominations Committee is currently seeking candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees, the Nominations Committee, and the Committee on Ministry. Incumbents have a tremendous opportunity to get to know fellow congregants better, impact Emerson's future, and grow in their personal faith journeys. To volunteer or recommend a friend, or just to explore the possibilities, please contact Christel Collins by October 15. Or feel free to chat with any of the other Nominations Committee members: Phyllis Burchfiel, Chris Collins, Beverly Hanson, Kim Howard, and Sherle Watson.

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

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

### Public Relations News

The Public Relations Committee would like to remind everyone that the weekly deadline for entries submitted for inclusion in the Order of Service, Big Screen Monitors, or e-blast is **noon each Tuesday**. Similarly the deadline for inclusion in the monthly and quarterly Emersonians is **noon the third Tuesday** of the month. Next newsletter deadline is October 20. The quarterly insert for the Emersonian is published each March, June, September and December and includes articles, pictures of Emerson activities, and longer announcements of activities.

Another note: The new tabs on the mailed copies of the newsletter are a new regulation from the post office.



I just wanted to say **"Thank You!"** to the anonymous donor of the Altar Flowers in my honor Sunday September 13th. I really appreciated being honored for my work in the community and for Emerson and our religion. I took the flowers with me when I went to visit with Martha after church. She is doing well and we have good visits on Sunday afternoons, sitting on the couch, watching sports, and being affectionate. It is thanks to Martha that I developed the skills and interests to be able to be of service. And my thanks also to all of you in our Emerson "Beloved Community", you inspire and sustain me.

**- deForest Ralph**

