

the emersonian

"If you read it here, consider yourself invited"

January 2010

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE



for
LGBT EQUALITY



More than 90 Emersonians have signed the Standing on the Side of Love petition in support of full LGBT equality. Wouldn't you like to add your name to that number? The petition can be found in the Gathering Place every Sunday.

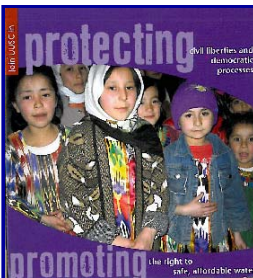
An EPIC Event

Emerson Parents In Community

Potluck on January 9 at 6:30 PM, Westwood Hall

Cherry Frye, Fund Development Director for Volunteer Houston will present "Volunteering -- A Family Affair" on ways to find meaningful opportunities to give back to the community and volunteering as a family.

Please bring a dish to share. 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, January 7. For more information, contact Alisha Loftin.



Welcome a Guest at Your Table

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human-rights work continues, while building UUSC membership. Through a potent combination of advocacy,

education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people.

On Sunday, January 17, please return your Guest at Your Table box or bring a check for the amount you would have spent on your guest.

Also keep in mind that gifts of \$100 or more, are matched dollar for dollar, doubling your good works!

For more information see Aubrey Smith after Church.

WELCOME
Movies And Things

Presents: The Celluloid Closet

**Sunday, January 10, 12:30 p.m.,
Room 205/206**

This is a 1995 documentary that shows us the portrayal of gays and lesbians in the movies from the silent era to 1990. It features clips of actors and actresses of all sexual orientations playing a variety of roles. 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 Thursday, January 7.

**New Covenant Groups are forming
Wednesday, January 27th 6:30 to 8:00.**

Covenant groups are an important part of the life of Emerson's congregation. They are an easy way to connect with other Emersonians, to build trust, to learn about our values and to reflect on essential questions. Each Covenant Group has a trained coordinator, but members share the responsibilities of hosting and leading the meetings' programs. If you are interested in joining a Covenant Group I urge you to join us on January 27th. Any questions? email Nancy Lipp.

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, January 25.



UniTunes Coffeehouse Presents

Brooks Williams

Saturday, Jan 2, 7:30 p.m.

\$13 in advance; \$15 at the door

www.unitunes.org

Sunday Mornings

Worship *Every Sunday 11:15 to 12:15*

January 3: *Turnings*

January 10: *Christianity at Emerson*

January 17: *The Domestication and Co-option of a Prophet* - Please return your Guest at your table boxes.

January 24: *Reconciliation*

January 31: *Secrets, Gossip and Whom Can You Trust?*

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

Wheel Of Life

Our deepest condolences to Pippa Wiley on the death of her sister, Pat, on November 21th, and the death of her mother, Peggy Hollis, on November 30th, both in the UK.

Congratulations to Amanda and Scott Hanson on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Irene Hanson, on December 7th.

Linda McCullough and Shirley Coster are both recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Susanna Painter has moved!! Her new address is 4141 South Braeswood #516,

Houston, TX 77025.

Brent Adams had surgery on December 17th. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Ongoing Sunday Activities

First Sunday

Newcomer Discussion 10:00 Westwood Foyer

Lunch after the Service in Westwood Hall \$6

Young Adult Discussion Group during Lunch
Upstairs; Westwood Hall

Second Sunday

Food Sunday Bring non-perishable items /
Special Collection

Welcome M.A.T. 12:30 205-206 Delaney Hall

Third Sunday

Exploration Sunday Special Adult Ed programing
offers various topics

Lunch after the Service in Westwood Hall \$6

Newcomers Fellowship Look for the special
table at lunch.

Fourth Sunday

SEARCH Sandwich Project in Westwood Hall

RE HAPPENINGS for Children & Youth

Re-join us Jan. 3 at 10:00am for our RE classes.

January - 2nd Hour Programming (for K – 5th graders) 11:30 – 12:15 is “Movie Month” – Join us for popcorn and DVDs – wee hee! The movie will be announced each week in the email blasts. The resource for movies is www.rabbitears.com.

Emerson Youth Planning and Organizing the SW Youth Rally to be held Jan. 15 – 17.

Be on the lookout for announcements about this special event. The Rally gathers youth from around the district as they come together for socializing, worship, leadership development and to complete a social action project.

Adult Education *Every Sunday 10:00-11:00*

January 3 - Holiday Break; no Adult Education

January 10 - TBA

January 17 - *Congregational Meeting discussion* - Linda Condit; Committee on Ministry and Janet Meininger; Incoming Board President

January 24 - *Exploration Sunday: Conversations on Poetry, Who's Who in the UUs, Being One with Mother Earth, Parents as a Spiritual Guide*

January 31 -TBA

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

Pathways Class

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m. - 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 help us plan adequately for childcare needs by calling the Church at (713) 782-8250 by Monday, January 11.

Women's Evening Book Group

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m. - Library The Group will be discussing Wolf Hall, by Hilary Mantel. February's book is Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell and March's book is Homer and Langley, by E. L. Doctorow
Contact: Jill Rose

Sandwiches for SEARCH

Thursday, January 14, 10:30 a.m. - Westwood Hall Help make 50 sack lunches for SEARCH. We welcome all volunteers. Contact: Barbara Hopkins

Circle Dinners

Saturday, January 16, in Members' Homes. Would you like a chance to sit down and have a good conversation over dinner with a group of your fellow church members and friends? If the answer is yes, join our Circle Dinner groups. We meet in homes in different parts of our city and everyone brings a part of the meal. It is an opportunity to become better acquainted with the people you see briefly on Sunday morning. Contact Gwen Essinger to get assigned to a host home.

Daytime Book Club

Thursday, January 21, 10:30 a.m. This month's book The Wasted Vigil by Nadeem Aslam. All book lovers are welcome. Contact: Jo Irwin

Calling all WRITERS at Emerson!

We're starting a writers' support group in the New Year. We'll meet once a month to discuss our work, encourage each other, and give feedback, if desired. It doesn't matter what type of writing you're doing: technical, academic, fiction, non-fiction, etc. We can at least encourage and advise each other, and the best way to make sure you write is to have a deadline where others will ask, "What did you do since last time?" If interested, contact Don Whittaker.

Talk about walking the walk! This year's 32-person **Emerson CROP Walk Team** raised \$4850 for international hunger relief, including Meals on Wheels in Houston. What's remarkable is that although we only had half the number of Walkers this year as last, we raised nearly as much money. All together, there were 17 Houston CROP Walk teams; the total raised was slightly more than \$17,000. More than a fourth of that figure came from the Emerson team, so you can see how important we are to the effort. Thank you to all the Walkers and to our generous Sponsors.



1900 Bering Drive Houston TX 77057

Becky and Mark Edmiston-Lange, Co-Ministers
(713) 782-8250

www.emersonhouston.org

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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

Public Relations News

The next Emersonian submission deadline is
Tuesday January 20th.

Thank you, Emerson, for your support of the Greater New Orleans UU Churches. Through the Cindy Scott concert and special collection, Emerson gave \$3,613 to the rebuilding effort of the New Orleans churches.

Due to Emerson's generosity we were able to collect and donate 290 boxtops to Wharton elementary school. Wharton is attended by the Loftin family, members of Emerson, and is a Title One school. Each boxtop is worth .10 to the school to buy supplies, books or to augment programming. If you would like to contribute, please clip boxtops and deposit them in the green box in the membership alcove. A listing of participating products can be found at <http://www.boxtops4education.com> or contact Christel Collins.

The Board of Trustees calls the Emerson Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on January 17, 2009, at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect the church President, Vice President, Trustees and members of congregational committees. The congregation will be asked to approve the following statement of Identity:

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

Also, there will be a vote on Proposed Constitutional Change in the Section on the Committee on Ministry. Year end reports from Emerson committees and groups will be submitted. All who have been members in good standing for the 90 day period before the meeting will be eligible to vote.