

emerson UNITARIAN  UNIVERSALIST church

the emersonian

*Spotted in
The Gathering Place!*



Emerson member, Judy Harris and Emerson's Board President, Kenny Jones, were spotted mingling in The Gathering Place after Rev. Sam's service on March 24!

International Speaker, Dr. Andrew Vidich, to give free lecture at Emerson: "The Power of Stillness: Cultivating Inner Silence through Meditation"

Saturday, May 4 at 4 p.m. in Westwood Hall at Emerson

Whether you have practiced meditation or not, anyone can discover the key to deeper concentration, relaxation and personal growth by controlling the constantly changing thought forms running wild in our minds. Dr. Andrew Vidich leads us to discover the stillness as the basis of meditation.

Andrew Vidich, PhD, is an award-winning author, educator and international speaker in the fields of meditation, mysticism, and leadership. He has been studying meditation for 45 years under the guidance of three world renowned Meditation teachers. He holds a doctorate in religion with a specialization in the transformational methods within different religious traditions and a specialization in Islamic Sufism.

Please join us—all are welcome!

Babies and Bailouts - End Money Bail Watch Party



Babies & Bailouts
**End Money Bail
Live Panel Watch Parties
+ Donation Drives**

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) member Veronica Davis is hosting an opportunity on **Sunday, May 5 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 205** to learn about the money bail system and also gather much needed baby supplies for women and families being impacted by mass incarceration. Bring a bag lunch, baby supplies, and watch a recording of an informative panel discussion.

Event link: <http://emersonhouston.org/bluuwatchhtx>

Beckonings

In reality the drama unfolded hours before and the outcome was decided by the time I made it home from church that Sunday. Thanks to the news update on my iPhone, I already knew Tiger Woods had won the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia - his first Majors victory in eleven years. And many were the things I could have been, should have been, doing that gorgeous April afternoon. But still I found myself glued to the tv set for the rebroadcast, captivated by the action, even if it had unfolded "earlier today."

Of course, I wasn't the only one captivated, because what was unfolding had many of the elements of a classic Greek tragedy – except in this case the hero would triumph over his Achilles heel and the naysaying Greek chorus would be stilled, at least for the moment. Whether or not the transformation holds, well, we'll see. But I, for one, am rooting for the hero.

Yes, Tiger fell from grace and greatness - ignominiously, reprehensibly, offensively, misogynistically. But I cannot help but admire the way he has fought back from his disgrace and debilitation over the last nine plus years. Yes, his fall was precipitated by his own hubris and folly, by his own internal sense of entitlement from having risen so gloriously to the top. But it can't be gainsaid what it took for him to reach that pinnacle in what was – and still is, in many ways - a sport of the white (male) and privileged. After all, Augusta, the home of the Masters where Tiger won four times before 2008 and again this day in 2019 – didn't admit blacks as members until 1990 nor women until 2012. If you think Tiger's prodigious talent exempted him from discrimination, check out the recently released video of Tiger at 14 talking about the racism he faced.

Nor can we forget how much he became America's darling in his meteoric rise to Golf Godhood. How many people suddenly discovered an interest in golf who had no interest in the sport before? (I confess to be among that number, although I can claim in my defense good friends who were fanatics and the discovery upon entering ministry how conducive golf announcer's somnolent tones could be to a much-needed Sunday afternoon nap.) Nor can we forget how quickly he went from being the sweetheart of the sports world to someone we all loved to, if not hate, then at least *tut-tut*

our tongue at. We were so disappointed. How much did Tiger carry the projected weight of our need to see America as color-blind, multi-ethnically proud? (We might note that *prodigy* and *prodigal* are, at least etymologically, related.)

And yet, under the weight of what few of us can grasp, he has endured his public opprobrium, and one of the longest droughts in sports history, struggling back through unrelenting pain and four back surgeries; pushing through exhausting rehabilitation and grueling daily workouts, braving through nearly eleven years of pity-inducing performance and the pundits' conviction - and his own growing suspicion - that he would never play again, let alone play again at the level of before. He has persevered through it all to win again – today – his fifth Masters, his fifteenth Major, emerging to excellence from (mostly) a pack of young golfers who grew up knowing his greatness only from videos they watched in their short pants, but who nonetheless dreamed of playing beside him in a major tournament. That he has done this all under public scrutiny – well, if there was a lack of character there before, surely, we would have to concede that he has to have grown in maturity and perspective in the ensuing years.

Yeah, I wasn't the only one captivated. Who doesn't love a comeback? Who doesn't love a story of redemption? But perhaps some of the fascination stems from our own dim perception that it wasn't only Tiger who was being redeemed. Perhaps there are lessons here for us all. I, for one, will continue to watch with fascination.

In faith, affection and spring fever,



Beck

Senior Minister

Sunday Morning Schedule



9:45 a.m. Professional Childcare Begins
10 a.m. Adult Education • 11 a.m. Worship • 11:15 a.m. Children's Programming

Please join us on Sundays for Worship.

May 5—Coming of Age Sunday

Emerson teens have spent the year considering the big questions of life and their deepest values. In this annual service, they present their credo statements to the congregation.

May 12—Rev. Dr. Becky Edmiston-Lange, Senior Minister—*The Spirituality of the Senses: Touch*

Mother's Day seems the perfect time to explore the spiritual dimensions of touch. Touch is an emotional need that endures from cradle to grave; how we are touched by our primary caregivers as infants is hugely determinative of our lifelong wellbeing. Further, touch is the foundation upon which life itself evolved and without touch life could not continue. Touch bespeaks the interdependence of all life. Appropriately, we also will be Commissioning the newest members of our Lay Pastoral Ministry Team.

May 19—Rev. Dr. Becky Edmiston-Lange, Senior Minister—*A Lollapalooza of a Community Celebration*

Flower Communion is a ritual unique to Unitarian Universalism that affirms and celebrates how we each give to and receive from others in our congregations. We will also be recognizing the new members among us and expressing our appreciation for all the volunteers that make Emerson what it is. New Member Recognition, Volunteer Appreciation and Flower Communion all rolled into one! What's not to love? **Everyone, please bring a flower to share for Flower Communion.**

May 26—Rev. Samuel Schaal, Transitional Assistant Minister—*Works in Progress*

We get used to routine and resist change. But perhaps our lives are works in progress. Perhaps each of us is evolving toward a fuller expression of whatever it is we are supposed to be.

Adult Religious Education

Whether learning, enhancing or sharing your meditation practices, or seeking ways to be better, more spiritual Unitarian Universalists, or simply wanting to spend time with others in fellowship and learning, we have something for you before worship each Sunday.

10:00 am Sunday Adult RE (see the weekly E-Blast for full class descriptions):

May 5	Spirit in Practice (Room 208)	Guest presentation - Tahirih Justice Center (more on pg. 4) Host – Jane Collins (Room 205) 12:30: Babies & Bailouts Watch Party
May 12	Spirit in Practice (Room 208)	
May 19	Spirit in Practice (Room 208)	Poetry Group – 9:30 (Room 204) Green Landscaping with Mark Holt (Room 205)
May 26	Spirit in Practice (Room 208)	

Have an idea for classes in the months ahead? Please share them with [this simple form](#)!

HOSTS wanted! Support the Adult RE program on an occasional basis as a host, setting up the classroom, introducing the speaker/facilitator. Training provided. We are putting together a schedule for The Fall, so let us know if this might be of interest to you.

Wheel of Life



With gratitude for a long life and an almost 59-year history at Emerson, we remember charter member **Verna Bierschwale** who died April 19, four days after turning 98. Her memorial is scheduled for **May 14 at 10 a.m.** at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home with Rev. Becky presiding. Graveside at 11 a.m. and Reception at 11:30 a.m.

With love and condolences, our hearts hold the Miller family upon the death of **Craig Miller's** father L.W. on April 15. He had been in hospice care in Brenham and was memorialized at Zion Lutheran Church in that city.

Lisa Estill's mother is in home hospice care, glad to be able to stay home to dine daily with friends there. We hold Lisa and Martin in love during this important time.

With care and compassion we remember those facing illness. **Robin McElfresh's** brother is in the hospital critically ill. **Ken McLeod** continues to seek treatment for health issues. **Francine Heller** remains in treatment in Louisiana. Gavin Miller, son of **Stephanie** and **Ken Miller**, has been admitted to the hospital again for pneumonia. **Gavin** has a good attitude, his parents say. **Fritz Rambow** has returned from out of state where he had another ultrasound treatment for tremors.

We are sad to see **R. Mark** and **Yolanda Miles** and their daughter Chelsea moving to Dallas. R. Mark has accepted a position at the University of North Texas and Yolanda also found employment in that area. Moving back to the DFW area puts them closer to family. They will move in May.

We celebrate with **John** and **Bonnie Homier** upon the birth of their second grandchild Louisa who was born April 4. It's reported that big brother Henry is in love with his baby sister.

The choir is looking forward to the return of **Patti Henry** who is joyous that a recent MRI showed no signs of cancer. In the words of her doctor, she is in "100 percent remission."

Congratulations to **Roman Maciel** on being named Student of the Year at Oak Ridge High School!

Adult Religious Education—Tahirih Justice Center

Learn how our Outreach funds have supported the powerful work of The **Tahirih Justice Center** on **May 5th**! Tahirih is a national non-profit organization that protects courageous immigrant women and girls who refuse to be victims of violence. We elevate their voices in communities, courts, and Congress to create a world where women and girls enjoy equality and live in safety and with dignity.

Since 1997, Tahirih has served more than 27,000 individuals seeking legal protection from gender-based human rights abuses such as rape, female genital mutilation/cutting, domestic violence, human trafficking, honor crimes, and forced marriage. In the Houston area, approximately 1,655 individuals impacted by violence were served in 2018 alone through Tahirih's trauma-informed holistic service model. Inspired by the principles of the Bahá'í Faith, Tahirih is committed to creating a world where all women and girls enjoy equality. Hosted by Jane Collins on May 5th at 10 a.m. in Room 205.



**TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER.**

Emerson Activities

Beginner's Meditation - Every Monday from 7-8:15 p.m. in Room 208. We welcome people from all backgrounds and spiritual practices. For additional information, please contact [Ann May](#).

ESL Classes- Saturday from 1-4 p.m. and Tuesday/Thursday evening classes from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Interested in volunteering? [E-mail](#) the program director for more information.

Stitchers - Every Wednesday, 11 a.m. in Delaney Hall.

Emerson Choir - Every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. For all who are interested in sharing music with our beloved community, please attend the laid-back rehearsals. No audition needed—singers with all levels of experience are welcome! Contact [Adrian Rodriguez](#) with any questions and to get involved!

Sandwiches for SEARCH - Second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in Westwood Hall. Contact: [Barbara Hopkins](#)

Social Action Council Meeting - Second Sunday of each month - 12:30 p.m. in Room 204. All are welcome!

Emerson Poetry Group - Third Sundays of the month at 9:45 a.m., Room 204.

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

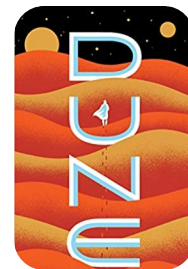
Ministry for Earth supports a healthy, stable and prosperous America for all. We understand that the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (HR 763) will drive down America's carbon pollution and bring climate change under control, while unleashing American technology innovation and ingenuity. Importantly, it will protect the most vulnerable among us by providing monthly dividends to households. We understand this bill to be effective, good for people, good for the economy, and revenue neutral, so we support being listed as one of Citizens' Climate Lobby's Endorsers of this legislation and encourage Emerson's Board of Trustees to support seeking approval of endorsement by the congregation. A letter to that effect has been given to the Board and can be found on the website.



Amazon for Emerson

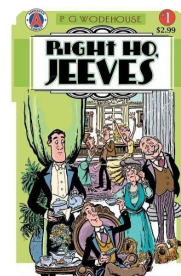
We received \$256.99 from Amazon during 2017 and \$311.05 during 2018. Emerson receives about 6% rebated when shoppers use our special hyper-link to browse Amazon.com when making purchases. Details about Amazon, Randalls and other rebates are at <http://emersonhouston.org/giving-overview/donate-while-you-shop/>

Book Clubs



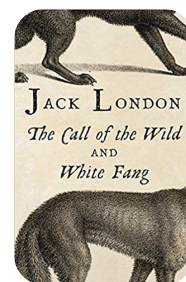
DAYTIME

Thursday, May 16
10:00 a.m. in the Library.
Book: *Dune*
by Frank Herbert
Contact: [David Bergt](#)



WOMEN'S

Wednesday, May 15,
7:30 p.m. in the Library.
Right Ho, Jeeves by P. G. Wodehouse
Contact: [Jill Rose](#)



MEN'S

Monday, May 20,
6:30 p.m. at La Madeleine
(10001 Westheimer)
Book: *Call of the Wild*, a classic
by Jack London
Contact: [Cletus Lee](#)

Transitional Thoughts

There was a church located on a street just before a curve. Two ministers stood on the front lawn holding a sign for passing traffic that read "The End is Near! Turn around now before it's too late!" A car whizzed by and the driver yelled, "Leave us alone you religious nuts!" The car sped around the curve, and the clergy heard screeching tires and a big splash. "Do you think," said one to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Regarding my service at Emerson, the end is (somewhat) near. I will be among you until the end of June. I remain employed at Emerson but on vacation through the end of August, taking all my vacation at the end of the year to allow me time to take a breath, move and settle at my next congregation (wherever that will be—stay tuned). This is standard practice for transitional ministers at the end of the second year of a ministry to provide time for this needed change.

I mention this to remind us of the importance of saying goodbye well. I have enjoyed walking with you, learning from you, and serving you in times of joy, heartbreak, success, challenge—that is to say, in all the seasons of life.

Especially I've enjoyed working with the Rev. Dr. Becky Edmiston-Lange, one of our association's best preachers and skilled leaders. She brings particular wisdom both to the church's inreach (having developed the Lay Pastoral Ministry program) and outreach (in her Interfaith Ministries leadership in wider Houston). And I marvel at Emerson's staff who do so much to keep things going at church.

As you know, the congregation did not budget for an ongoing assistant minister. You're in the middle of a rich discernment process including looking at optimal staffing in the future, so staffing (as in so many areas) remains an open question at Emerson.

You are a strong, bold, changing church facing a promising future. I look forward to continuing our walk together these last two months. Then we both speed ahead to our futures—being mindful of any curves in the road!

In the Good News of our Free Faith,



Rev. Samuel Schaal
Transitional Assistant Minister

Usher Volunteers Wanted

Ushers provide vital services in preparing the Sanctuary, welcoming the congregation, and collecting the offering each Sunday. Please consider volunteering as an usher one Sunday a month or every other month. Ushering is a very easy way for you to help serve our beloved church with very little effort.



To volunteer, please see David before or after service or e-mail him at david@euucusher.org.



EMERSON BOOKSTORE

Stop by the bookstore to see the new titles in stock. While you're there, check out the great assortment of bumper stickers and hand-made cards.

May Share-the-plate The Women's Home

Since 1957, The Women's Home has worked to build whole lives in the Houston area. We currently have four unique programs: a residential treatment and transitional housing program, two permanent supportive housing programs, and a collaborative service center that offers support services to help prevent and end homelessness in our community.

Emerson Covenant Groups

Explore significant life topics in a small group setting. Gain warm connections with other members and friends of Emerson. For more information contact Mike Hilgart (mrhilgart@outlook.com).

Religious Education

It's May already? We're whooshing toward the end of the school year, and the "church year" as well - Our high school youth led worship in April, the **Coming of Age** youth have their service **May 5th**, then we finish our Sunday school classes on May 12th. The 19th we come together in a joyful celebration of community, and then it's Memorial Day weekend!

Of course, the fun and learning continue during the summer - and this year we invite Emersonians to share their hobbies (you may have seen a hint or two in a previous newsletter column) with our youngest members, showing how we enrich our lives and develop our souls through the things we do in our free moments. I'll kick things off with a simple cooking session on June 2nd and we'll see where our adventures go!

How will you join in the fun?

- ✓ Volunteer to share your hobby (I'm happy to help you sculpt your ideas into an age-appropriate activity)
- ✓ Assist with the day's activities
- ✓ Be a Family Greeter, welcoming our existing families and those who check out Emerson during the summer months

See you soon!

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education

katy.euuc@gmail.com

This month in Sunday School



May 5: Classes or Service

May 12: Class Parties!

May 19: Flower Communion

May 26: Holiday Weekend—attend
service



Two Covenant Groups and one spouse joined to volunteer at Project C.U.R.E. on April 6. The group sorted medical supplies and helped prepare shipments. Project C.U.R.E.'s mission is to identify, solicit, collect, sort and distribute medical supplies and services according to the imperative needs of the world. Pictured left to right: Sharon Hilgart, Devin Miles, Fred Wolfe, Michael Eckenfels, Lydia Chasen, Mike Hilgart, and Judy Harris. Not pictured - Bill Brown.

“Hello, Welcome to Emerson . . .”

If you are comfortable saying that phrase, you have conquered step one of becoming an Emerson greeter. We have an increasing number of visitors walking through our doors each Sunday and we need your help to welcome them to our community. If you would like to share your love of Emerson with a newcomer, please become a greeter. To get started, contact Dori Wolfe (dori.wolfe@gmail.com).

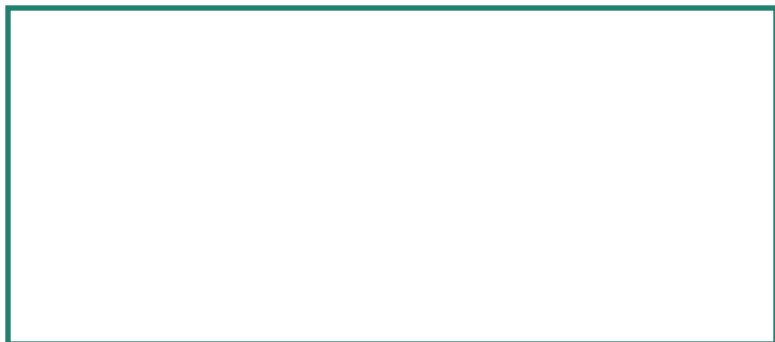


Becky Edmiston-Lange, Senior Minister
1900 Bering Drive Houston, TX, 77057
713-782-8250

emersonhouston.org

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Come Learn What Membership Means at Emerson.

Open House - The Membership Committee welcomes you to a conversation about Emerson and to sign the membership book if you are ready to join. Meet in the Library at 12:30 p.m. **Next Class: May 12**

Child care is provided. Please RSVP to the office at alejandra@emersonhouston.org at least five days before the event.

Stay Connected!



emersonhouston.org
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meetup.com/emersonseekers

PR News

Please send all submissions for the E-blast, Order of Service and website weekly by Tuesdays to pr@emersonhouston.org.

**Next Newsletter deadline is:
Tuesday, May 21**

*Digital version of this newsletter is available on our website,
emersonhouston.org, under "News & Calendar."*