

emerson UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST church • the emersonian

www.emersonhouston.org

October 2016

The Emerson UU Church community is mourning the sudden death of its beloved co-minister, Mark Edmiston-Lange.

There will be a Memorial Service on Saturday, October 8, at 2 p.m. with a reception following.

Mark was co-minister here for 17 years.

There will be a feature article about Mark in the November newsletter.

FEATURED EVENTS

Kilgore Lecture

Pulitzer Prize winner and Houston Chronicle's well-known columnist, Lisa Falkenberg, will speak about "Moral Imperatives of Houston's Criminal Justice System". **Thursday, October 6, at 7:30 p.m.** here at church. You'll want to come early to ensure a seat. Free admission.

Fall Social

One of our favorite annual church events—the Fall Social, also known as the Fellowship Dinner—will be held at Westwood Hall on **Saturday, October 15, from 5-8 p.m.** This is a fun and important date for Emersonians of all ages! You won't want to miss it.

Socktober

Thirty days hath September...then it's SOCKTOBER. Help us keep Meals on Wheels clients warm this winter by donating new, unused socks throughout the month of October. Look for the collection bin in The Gathering Place. Questions? Contact Beth Hammer or Barb Adams.

UNICEF Carnival

The UNICEF Carnival is one of our oldest traditions here at Emerson, raising funds to help children around the world while our community comes together for fun. Please join us on **Sunday, October 30**, after the service. Read more on Page 3.

REBUILDING TOGETHER HOUSTON

Rebuilding Together Houston project is almost here! On the Saturdays of October 22nd and 29th (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) we will be renovating a house that needs a little TLC and helping an elderly or disabled Houstonian living below the poverty line. There are many ways to help and you don't have to be a master carpenter to make a big difference! You can come either Saturday and for all or part of each day. We have a lot of folks who come out both Saturdays just so they can see the finished house! Lunch, water and soft drinks will be provided. **If you would like to volunteer, please let us know which day you would like to help out.** Friends, family, co-workers - they are all invited to help. I know that we have some folks who actually bring their own crews! We just need to know who is on your crew so we can plan for lunches.

Time to strap on your tool belts .. Emerson UU's 55th



OCTOBER SHARE-THE-PLATE UNICEF

Throughout the month of October we're sharing our Sunday plate offerings with the US fund for UNICEF. UNICEF provides medical help, food, education, and many more services to children and families in need around the world. This organization has a five-star rating with Charity Navigator. *75% of the collection will go to UNICEF and the remaining 25% will go to our standing recipient, Meals on Wheels.*

If you do have home building or home improvement skills, please let us know your specialty so our mighty crew chief, Leo Vandermeulen, knows in advance. We are also looking for someone who has had first aid training within the last 1-2 years who can be on-hand for either Saturday. If you can

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SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Typical Sunday Schedule

9 AM EIO Rehearsal • 9:45 AM Professional Childcare Begins
10 AM Adult Ed and Kids' Activities • 11 AM Worship • 11:15 AM Kids' Programming

Please join us on Sundays for worship service.

ADULT ED | THE LAY PASTORAL MINISTRY TEAM

10:00 a.m., Room 205/206

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Team will be presenting the introduction to their October Adult Religious Education Series, What to Say When There's Nothing to Say - Supporting Others in Tough Times.

October 2

Part 1 — Introduction

October 16

Part 3— Listening

October 11

Part 2 — Helping vs.
Rescuing

October 23

Part 4 — Coping and
Self Care

Wheel of Life



Several members of the congregation have had surgery recently. We send out healing thoughts and prayers for a speedy and complication-free recovery to all of them. May you all soon be back to your routines with renewed vigor!

- Bonnie Homier has had surgery to repair a broken hand from a hiking accident.
- Vanessa Morales has also had hand and arm surgery for carpal tunnel and cubital tunnel syndromes.
- Tom McDuffie has had cataract surgery.
- And Sigsby Rusk has had hip replacement surgery.

Michele Corron is facing the possibility of thyroid cancer after genetic testing indicated a 50% chance of cancer. She will be having thyroid surgery soon to address this issue. We are keeping her in our prayers for the very best possible outcome.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with:

- Dom Nelson and Olga Sosa-Nelson on the death of Dom's grandmother.
- Maggie and Lori Reeder on the death of Maggie's brother Ted Thompson.

Congratulations to Evelyn, daughter of Arielle Heath-Gonzalez and Raphael Gonzalez, who, after spending much of the summer in a cast, walked into Sunday School with no encumbrances two weeks ago.

And hearty congratulations to Carole and Larry Huelbig as well who are celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary!

It's just about time for one of the most beloved traditions of the Emerson year- UNICEF Carnival! This annual event raises over a thousand dollars to help grow healthy children and families around the world.

On Sunday, October 30th, we will have all the ol' games and amusements, plus perhaps a few special surprises up our sleeves!

Dozens and dozens of Emersonians come together to make this event happen. You can help Friday night, Sunday morning, or Sunday afternoon, with a few opportunities on the Sundays leading up to the event. See our signups in the Gathering Place or in the weekly E-blast to help grow the joy!

*Volunteer to help at one of our booths--see our online signup at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0A4EACA62FAB9-unicef2

*Go through the bookshelves and toy boxes and quiet corners of your house- got any gently-used toys, books, or movies to donate to our Trading Post! This is the wonderful place where children get to turn in their game winnings!

*Consider what you might bake for our Cake Walk! And remember, it does not have to be a cake! Did somebody say lasagna?

*Contribute to Share-the-Plate throughout the month of October—75% of our offering goes to UNICEF's work in the world.

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education

katy.euuc@gmail.com



This month in Sunday School

October 2: Sunday School Classes

October 9: Sunday School Classes

October 16: Action Day!

October 23: Sunday School Classes

The sudden death of our beloved co-minister, Mark, has shocked and saddened all of us.

To help families, we'll have a resource table of books (both stories and parenting guides) and handouts outside the Religious Education office (Room 102) each Sunday this month.

CIRCLE DINNERS



Circle Dinners are held in homes of the hosts/hostesses, except for the May Dinners that are held at Church. **Each date requires 3 to 4 hosts/hostesses. Please let me know if you are available to host on one of these dates—and if you would like to join us, let me know that too!**

Thanks,

Mary Ann Rusk, Circle Dinner Chair

Email: mafrusk@comcast.net

Tel: (832) 519-9933

Next Circle Dinners dates:

Saturday, November 19, 2016

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Saturday, March 18, 2017

Saturday, May 20, 2017

DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Amazon donates 6% of your purchase price to Emerson for simply connecting to Amazon.com using our special link. In 2015, we received \$342.98. So far this year, we have received \$126.30.

Help us double that amount by using the **Amazon for**



Emerson link found on our website under the Support Emerson tab or using the live link in our weekly E-blasts.

FUND-A-NEED PROJECT



The courtyard. Open every day for rest, meditation, contemplation, conversation, or whatever calls you.

After removing the uneven concrete and enlarging space for the roots of the oak tree, the courtyard is a lovely place for a quiet conversation. It is often used for the seasonal services, such as the Autumnal Equinox Service held every September.

Just to remind you how uneven the sidewalk had become, here are photos “before” and “after.”



Last Sunday, Bonnie and John Homier and Richard Loftin found a level place to stop for a chat on a place that they would have avoided in the past. And, no, the “before” sidewalk was not the cause of her wrist cast!

WALDEN PRAIRIE

The name, Walden Prairie, was approved by the board at the September 13 meeting. Congratulations to Dan Rigney for suggesting the name.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

for Fall Campus Cleanup and more!

A bunch of folks handy with a shovel planted Walden Prairie in short order on Saturday morning, in spite of the heat. Special thanks go to Kathleen, Richard, and Alyssa Dixon for taking the lead. Unfortunately, the Sunday planting of wildflower seeds had to be postponed because the ground was too wet.

Tony and Larry trimmed low-hanging branches in the courtyard, and Sarah Boyd cleaned the mini-fridges and recycling bins. Woo Hoo! Other volunteers were: Dennis Kirby, David Roessler, Creig Romero, Mark Holt, who is grappling with our questionable irrigation system, Carole and Larry Huelbig, Tony Collins, David and Ann May. Apologies if I missed any other workers.



PROJECT REFUGEE

You are invited to a very special film screening of *On the Side of the Road* on **October 14** at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church with the film's director Lia Tarachansky. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm with the film screening at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

In the film, Lia Tarachansky explores the memories of older Israeli militia members of the 1948 events in which horrific violence and forced expulsions were perpetrated against Palestinians, causing most of the Palestinians (over 750,000) to become refugees. This event is called "The Nakba", Arabic for Catastrophe, by Palestinians. The film opens with Israeli human rights activists attempting to commemorate the Nakba on Israeli Independence Day, which is against the law in Israel, and the violent threats that they experience from fellow Israelis. The film also covers the return of a refugee descendant to his family's forcibly abandoned village. The film also follows Lia returning to the settlement of her childhood, and displays the grief of



all parties to the situation.

The director is doing a three-city film screening tour in Texas in October, with Q&A after the screening. There will also be Palestinians from 1948 refugee families present to address related questions. Please widely share the link to the Tour's Facebook page to the Tour's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Texas2016FilmTourOntheSideoftheRoad/> to your individual and organization's social media sites and websites, and kindly include in your next email distribution or newsletter as appropriate.

See the film trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0z9ebiuUaU>

RECURRING ACTIVITIES

Stitchers: Every Wednesday, 11 a.m. in Delaney Hall. Come for conversation, if not for craft!

LGBT+Allies Emersonians Potluck Lunch: Every second Sunday of the month. The next gathering will be on Sunday, October 9, in Room 209 at 12:15 p.m. For additional information, please contact euulgbtq@outlook.com.

SURJ HTX (Standing Up for Racial Justice): Action Group Meeting in Room 205/206 on Tuesday, October 11 and 25 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sponsored by Fight for Justice Coalition, Coordinating Council for Social Action.

Sandwiches for SEARCH: Thursday, October 13, at 10:30 a.m. in Westwood Hall. Contact: Barbara Hopkins, bbhopkins@sbcglobal.net.

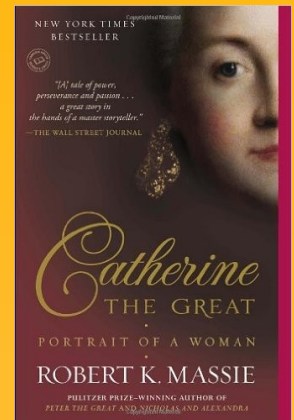
Caregiving Support Group: Saturday, October 15, at 10 a.m. in Room 204. Contact Sarah Rossmiller at sarahrossmiller@gmail.com.

Emerson Poetry Group: A casual gathering of those who love poetry. Bring something you have written or a poem you wish you had written. Saturday, October 16, at 9:45 a.m., Room 204.

Ministry for Earth: Sunday, October 23, from 10-11 a.m. in the Library.

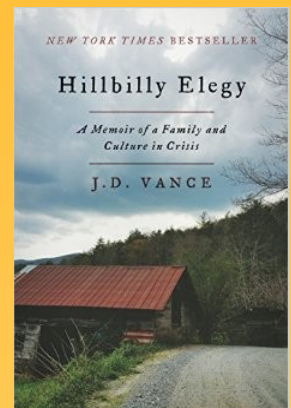
BOOK CLUB GROUPS

DAYTIME BOOK GROUP



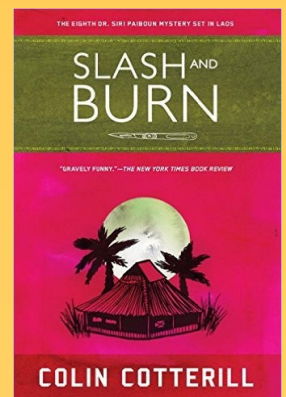
Thursday, October 20, 10 a.m. in the Library. This month's book is *Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman* by Robert Massie. Contact: Dave Bergt, dbergt@comcast.net

WOMEN'S EVENING BOOK GROUP



Wednesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. in the Library. The book of the month is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Contact: Jill Rose, jillorose@gmail.com.

MEN'S BOOK GROUP



Wednesday, October 19, 6:30 p.m. at Luby's, 2730 Fondren. This month's book is *Slash and Burn*, a mystery by Colin Cotterill. Contact: Dave Bergt, dbergt@comcast.net.

MORE OCTOBER EVENTS

October 15th, 8 p.m. —Guitar Houston and Lone Star College present guitarist, Pavel Steidl. For more information, please call (281) 846-4222.

REBUILDING TOGETHER HOUSTON (continued...)

act in this capacity, please let Jane Zachritz know.

Also, if you would like to learn a new skill, there will be demonstrations throughout the day each Saturday. Each house is a different animal so the opportunities are endless!

We will receive our house assignment two weeks before the project and will provide everyone with the address and a map upon receipt.



To learn more about Rebuilding Together Houston, please visit the following website: www.rebuildingtogetherhouston.org.

Please sign up in the Gathering Place or you can email Jane Zachritz at jm.zachritz@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

The Emerson UU Rebuild Committee (Tony Collins, James Dean, Gavin Mason, Lori Reeder, Leo Vandermeulen and Jane Zachritz)

UNITUNES COFFEEHOUSE

2016-2017 Season

Season Tickets on sale now at www.unitunes.org (as well as links to our season artists!)

Season: \$80 for 8 Shows; tickets transferable if you cannot attend \$15 per show online; \$20 at the door

Emerson UU Church, 1st Saturdays, April – October, 7:30 p.m.

All monies support the performer, with a significant portion to charity as well.

Oct 1st—Bradley Kopp and Lorrie Singer

Nov 5th—Jeff Plankenhorn

Dec 3rd—David Olney

Jan 7th—Johnny Nicholas & Friends

Feb 4th—TBD

Mar 4th—Shake Russell, Michael Hearne, w/ Mike Roberts

Apr 1st—Kevin and Dustin Welch

May 6th—Terri Hendrix & Lloyd Maines

GREETING FROM REV. BILL LEGGETT

Many times I think of you wonderful folks at Emerson! I send you light, love, and good wishes! This brief note is to inform you that I retired from full time ministry in 2011. and anticipate celebrating my 70th birthday next month!

My summer ministry with you in 1995 was, and still is, the highlight of my ministry!

What a wonderful summer it was!

Steve Gilbert, my spouse of 43 years, and I, live in Scarborough, Maine, a seaside community just south of Portland. If you're up this way, please stop by and say hello! We'll do a lunch or a tour of the harbor. I'd love to see you and would love to hear from you, too!

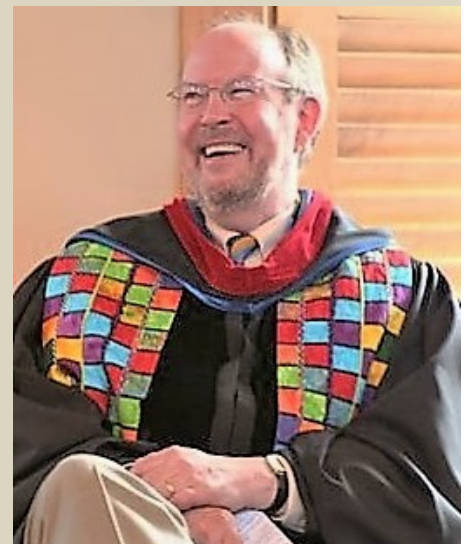
My address: 11 Bornheimer Pl., Scarborough, Maine 04074.

Email: revwmleg@maine.rr.com

I'll certainly stop in to see you when I'm down your way.

With Love,

Bill



ESL PROGRAM GROWS STRONGER THIS FALL

Emerson's ESL Program increased the number of Saturday classes from three in the Spring semester to six this Fall semester. Also, for the first time, we have enough volunteer teachers to have Tuesday and Thursday night classes which build on each other and use the same Saturday curriculum. Our total number of volunteer teachers increased from six in the Spring semester to twelve this Fall semester! On August 27, 42 volunteers registered and 66 new students from 12 different countries enrolled. The volunteers gave each student an oral and written exam to determine the correct class level. On Saturday, September 17, 82 students attended classes at Emerson with the help of 21 volunteers. Thank you to our many dedicated volunteers! Come join the fun and help make the world a better place. If you want to learn more, contact Deborah Wotring Landis at (713) 504-0819.

Level 1 Class taught by lead teacher Norbert Welk with assistance from volunteers Dennis Kirby, John Menier and student teacher Chris Stafford.



Level 4 class with Lead Teacher Clara Kosloff



Level 4 class with Lead Teacher Clara Kosloff



ESL volunteers from left to right: Leticia Anderson, Beatrice Bomba, David May and Lisa Rockett



Class Level 2A taught by Elisabeth Lindheim



This is the Beginner Class for students who need some instruction before starting Level 1 being taught by Vanessa Sanchez.



Level 4 class taught by Michele Corron and assisted by volunteer Jon Whitten-Lege



Volunteers Tina Obut and George Eggleston in the ESL office across from the Library





Becky and Mark Edmiston-Lange, Co-Ministers
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Come Learn What Membership Means at Emerson.

Join Emerson Sunday - 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 pm. **Next Class: October 9**

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

Stay Connected!



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PR News

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

**Next Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, October 18.**