

September 2018
Volume 9



The LEAVES

EMERSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

7304 Jordan Avenue Canoga Park, CA 91303

www.emersonuuc.org (818) 887-6101

Rev. Matthew McHale, Minister

Lynne Masuhara, President

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

September theme: Vision

September 2 - "Finding Vision" - Rev. Lora Young; David Early, Worship Associate

It is written that without a vision, people perish. But what exactly is vision and how do we find vision, build vision and achieve our vision for a better, more just and equitable society in the midst of uncertainty? Join Rev. Lora Young as she explores the building blocks of vision making required for the long game of our call to love and justice as faithful UU's. Rev. Lora Young is an ordained UU minister affiliated with the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. She enjoys working on social justice issues as a community minister and earns a living as a hospital chaplain at Cottage Health in Santa Barbara. She recently joined the board of PFLAG, which advocates for justice and inclusivity for LGBTQ people and their families and has been a long-time advocate for women and girls. *Special Music: Instrumental version of "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash. Hap Palmer - sax, David Early - drums, and Kevin Mathie - piano.*

September 9 - "Water Communion Sunday"

Rev. Matthew McHale; Melissa Marote, Worship Associate

Our annual water communion traditionally marks the beginning of our church year at Emerson, later this evening is Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish New Year. At this time of new years and new beginnings, let us explore our visions for Emerson in the coming year and beyond. Please bring a small sample of water from a place you visited, or an activity you participated in, for our water communion.

The Emerson Choir will sing "Riversong (A Celtic Celebration)" by Roger Emerson

September 16 - “We Wear The Mask: Passing in America”

M.G. Lord, Guest Speaker; Brian Nelson, Worship Associate

Author and cultural historian M.G. Lord returns to Emerson to discuss the complex reality of passing in America. Whether passing occurs to gain safety, opportunity, or access, or whether it's the involuntary result of others' assumptions, people wrestle with this issue in striking ways. Ms. Lord will draw upon her essay, “Among the Heterosexuals,” which details her conflicted foray into questions of identity after the murder of her female lover, which was published Beacon Press' new book, *We Wear The Mask: 15 True Stories of Passing in America*.

September 23 - “Looking Beyond The Way Things Are”

Rev. Matthew McHale; Linda Fitzgerald, Worship Associate

As humans we are predisposed to focus on the present or the immediate future, while great for the survival of our early human ancestors, this short-sided perspective prevents us from seeing (and preparing for) future challenges. And perhaps more importantly focusing too much on the here and now, stifles our capacity to imagine what beautiful possibilities could be. This Sunday we practice looking beyond the way things are, to see the way that things could be, so that we can try to bring them into reality. *Part one of a two-part series.*

The Emerson Choir will sing “I Dream a World” by Rollo Dilworth, based on a poem by Langston Hughes.

September 30 - “How Do You See Yourself”

Rev. Matthew McHale; Barbara Calvi, Worship Associate

This Sunday is second of a two-part series, and we move from a broader, societal or global perspective, to the personal. The way we see ourselves, the stories we tell about your life can help us to grow and change, or leave us repeating the same mistakes all over again. How much can our perceptions actually shape reality?



Soul Matters

What Does It Mean to Be a People of VISION?

There's one quote we all need to remember this month. The author is unknown, but they've given us a great gift. Here it is: “*What will mess you up most in life is the picture in your head of how it is supposed to be.*” It's not the place one usually starts when it comes to the topic of vision. Most often, conversations about vision tell us to hold on tightly to our pictures of how it is supposed to be, not be suspicious of them. We're encouraged to “*stay true to your vision.*” We're told, “*Without vision, the people perish.*” We're warned that without a clear vision, we're vulnerable to whatever winds blow. And let's be clear: all of that is true. A clear vision anchors us. It gives us direction and hope. It is, indeed, a precious thing to which we should hold fast. But as our quote of the month makes clear, all that holding fast is also dangerous. In short, no vision is perfect. They are all flawed and limited. Every vision distorts even as it clarifies. On top of that, life changes. Some doors close, new ones open. If you stay true to the vision of what's behind that closed door, you'll just end up spending your life banging your head against the wall.

And as Unitarian Universalists, we also know that one vision isn't enough. As clear as our perspectives may be, we all know by now that none is complete. To see the entire view, we need everyone's vantage point. So clearly being a people of vision is hard work. Knowing when to stay true to your vision and

when to let go is a very tricky task. Figuring out when to keep your vision front and center and when to de-center it and make room for others intimidates the best of us. Yet, here's the thing. If danger and hard work dominate the tone of this month, we will have done ourselves a disservice. Besides being dangerous, holding tightly to one single vision is also just no fun! We don't just **have** to see things from others' points of view; we **get** to see things from others' points of view!

Learning about the visions of others isn't just a way of making up for your flawed perspective. It's also an invitation to see the world anew! And while having to let go of precious visions and dreams is painful, it's also exhilarating to evolve and grow. And maybe that's the most important vision of all this month. Not that of a stern-faced people sticking to their single vision through thick and thin. But that of a playful people exchanging visions and helping each other encounter new and larger worlds. A people who don't just ask each other "Are you staying true to your vision?" but who also say with a smile, "What new vision is calling to you?"

Rev. Matthew's Ministerial Musings

If you've ever looked at the back of an order of service, you have seen these words:

Believing that our ministries will flourish more abundantly within the beloved community, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church offers a sanctuary of spiritual freedom where:

we celebrate and encourage the diversity of heritage, culture, beliefs, and experience shaping our individual visions of truth;

we translate our compassion into sharing, our longings for peace and justice into action;

we challenge ourselves to live our Unitarian Universalist principles by bringing healing and hope to the larger community;

we honor the transcendent mystery of creation by nurturing the planet and all who live upon it.

This is Emerson's Statement of Ministry, adopted by the congregation in February 22, 2004. At their May retreat, the Board of Trustees decided that it would be good for the congregation revisit that statement of ministry and to develop a new mission and vision statement that—in short—reflect what we want to be known for and what we want to be in the future.

So what exactly is a Vision? and What is a Mission? Take these definitions from the handbook, *Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together*:

"A vision is a carefully defined picture of the congregation's future. It is not the current reality of the congregation, but it is a dream of what the congregation wants to make of itself. The vision answers the following question: What do we want the congregation to look like in five or ten years as a result of its efforts in ministry, programming, and outreach?"

"The mission is a carefully defined, concise, and focused statement of what the congregation wants to mean to the community, and for what it wishes to be known. It is a statement of who you are and what you value, and it should be the measuring stick for all the congregation does."

From these definitions, we can see that Emerson's Statement of Ministry is more like a mission statement. Because it has been so long—almost 15 years—since it was adopted, the congregation may feel like it no longer *fully* captures who we want to be today, let alone how we want to grow into the future.

In the coming months, the congregation will begin the process of exploring and developing a shared vision and mission for Emerson. And when I say the congregation, I want to be clear that this is the work of the whole congregation. As the authors of *Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together* write:

“The vision needs to be... more than a cherished possession of just a few. It needs to be a shared vision, created among and by the people who are in the congregation. A shared vision enables a congregation to move from the status quo toward a new reality.”

And out of that shared vision, our mission arises. If our vision is where we want to be in 5 or 10 or 20 years, where does this lead us in mission now.

A shared mission and vision for Emerson, will help guide congregational life, painting “a path of how to move from the present reality to the dreamed-of vision,” and giving us a greater sense of purpose in the work that we do. I look forward to process of developing it with you. I’m getting excited just thinking about it!

Rev. Matthew

RE MATTERS
by Cleo Anderson
Director of Religious Education



Hello! This is my first of (many) columns as your Director of Religious Education here at Emerson. What's very cool is that as I am starting out my time here we are also embarking on new programming and practices in the RE program. First, we plan on expanding our Sunday classes to 2 classrooms. One will be for nursery/Preschool age kids and the other for school aged kids. This change will help us give the kids a chance to make deeper connections with the material covered and have fun with their peers.

I would love to see the rotation of RE teachers during the summer continue for the year. For that to happen we need volunteer teachers or assistants. Please consider volunteering 1 or 2 Sundays a month to help our youngest members develop their spirituality. We will provide an orientation for anyone interested. We are also planning to start a High School youth group, as we have a large number of high schoolers connected to Emerson right now. But we need a couple more advisors (over the age of 25) who are excited about working with our youth a about two Sundays a month.

Email me at cleoemersondre@gmail.com if you're interested, have questions, or just want to say hi! This month our theme of exploration is Vision. Throughout the month the RE classes will be exploring visions we have for ourselves, our communities and the world. Additionally we'll be exploring several holidays from different religions. I'm very excited to hop right into the new church year and hope these activities will excite the kids as well!

September 9th: We will participate in the Water Service with the entire congregation, and then have an activity of their own.

September 16th: The classes will explore vision and its connection to justice via improvised conflict resolution scenes, games and songs about community.

September 23rd: We will be delving into the history and meaning of the Jewish High Holy Days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We will learn about why people chooses this holiday as a time to forgive as

well as why and how to apologize. We'll also be making a Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur card for the congregation to sign. We'll then send it to a local synagogue to wish them a Shanah Tovah ("happy new year").

September 30th: The classes will be learning about the Autumnal Equinox aka Mabon. We'll listen to some Mabon specific tunes while we draw and/or dance to get in the spirit of fall. We'll also craft God's Eyes and Sun/Moon shakers.

And if you missed my bio earlier, here it is again:

Cleo Anderson is a glitter loving, queer woman of color, teaching artist, feminist, poet and general rabble rouser. Cleo has taught applied theater to middle and high school students since she was 19, and has taught workshops about intersectionality in academia for five years. Her varied teaching adventures have also led her to workshops for groups ranging in age from 4 year olds to 70 year olds, and teaching adaptive swim lessons to kids with special needs. Cleo first attended a UU church as a teenager and started attending services more regularly as young adult at the UU Community Church of Santa Monica; when she would travel for college debate competitions, she would almost always visit the local church. Cleo has a profound appreciation for the openness and love of the UU community. She takes personal inspiration from Gertrude Stein, Angela Davis, Faith Lehane, Audre Lorde and bell hooks. And she is thrilled to be starting this journey with the Emerson UU family!



CALLING ALL UU CAMPERS!!

LA/VALLEY CLUSTER CAMP at DE BENNEVILLE PINES - Oct. 12-14

Join us for a fun-filled weekend (registration opening soon!) Weekend offerings include: **WORKSHOPS & HIKES** **ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & TEENS** * **RELAXING BY THE FIRE** * **RELAXING IN THE HOT TUB** * **SATURDAY NIGHT TALENT SHOW** * **PLENTY OF HOMESTYLE MEALS TOGETHER IN THE LODGE** * **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**. Contact Louise Klatt, Camp Dean at CLUSTERCAMP@YMAIL.COM



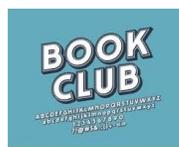
Going Greener the Easy Way

The **JUSTWEB** meeting will be on **Sunday, Sept. 9** from **12-1 pm**. We will have reports on progress toward encouraging conservation and promoting solar energy use by Emerson

and its members and neighbors, reducing use of plastic like straws and single use plastic bottles, supporting Greenpeace in their anti-plastic campaign, participating in the latest 350.org actions, helping plan oak tree seedling planting, and other worthwhile projects. Bring your passion and your ideas and join us!

- **Tracy Watson**

*JustWeb is an affinity group whose members focus on environmental issues where they intersection with justice and the interdependent web of life.



EMERSON BOOK GROUP – Join us on **Tues. Sept. 25th @ 7:30 pm** in the Pavilion. We will discuss the non-fiction selection: ***The Rent Collector*** by Camron Wright, a story of a family's efforts to survive

living in a municipal waste dump in Cambodia, based on a documentary by the author's son. All are welcome. Please join us. Contact **Louise Rovner** at **(818) 621 9628-cell; (818) 884 9178-home;** louiserovner@sbcglobal.net

JUSTICE ADVOCACY MINISTRY (JAM) - will be meeting after the service on **Sunday September 16th at noon**. -Renee Lancome

EMERSON'S CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION MEETING will be held on **Thursday, September 27th** from **1-2:30 pm** in the Emerson Pavilion. Come and exchange viewpoints while sharing coffee/tea and snacks! Call Pat Lindenauer at 818-205-7632 or email apatlinden@gmail.com..



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
time to celebrate!!

- Grant Fisher 2-Sep
- Carl Jacobson 2-Sep
- Mary Gleason 5-Sep
- Andrea Reuter 7-Sep
- Ron Loewe 9-Sep
- Octavian Hausselman 9-Sep
- Cole Massie 9-Sep
- Linda Morris 10-Sep
- Eliza Richard 10-Sep
- Barbara Pampalone 11-Sep
- Lillian Brotherson 15-Sep
- Adam Tolin 15-Sep
- Teri Freas 16-Sep
- Mia Forbes 18-Sep
- Mary Anne Hale 21-Sep
- Jim Emery 23-Sep
- Nicholas Rosselot 23-Sep

VEGETARIAN DINING CLUB:

If you are ready for a fiesta, then what better way to celebrate than with an assortment of non-GMO, quinoa rich salads, tacos, burritos, and fajitas at Sharky's?:



On Sept. 22nd at 6:00 pm we will meet at: **Sharky's**
6219 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Woodland Hills - (818) 887-6963

As always, the cost is \$15 per person. Who's hungry? Please contact **Tracy Watson** if you want to attend: tracyjwatson@yahoo.com or call 818-620-9451.



EMERSON'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON [open to all] will be held on Friday, **Sept. 14th**, at **11:30 at Anantra Thai Restaurant**, 21799 Ventura Blvd. [in the far back corner of

the mini-mall located at Topanga & Ventura]. Please **RSVP to Pat Lindenauer at apatlinden@gmail.com or by calling her at 818-205-7632** -- so she'll know how big a table to reserve.



ELDER'S CIRCLE -September 20th @ 10:30 am

Our next **Elder Circle** will meet the third Thursday of the month (as usual), **September 20th at 10:30 am** in the **Pavilion**. We hope to see you there. If you need transportation please contact one of us on Pastoral Care to arrange for a ride before the 21st. Contact Pat Lyon (818) 341-9324; Pat Lindenauer (818) 205-7632 or Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430.

The **Nominating Committee** will meet the **second Tuesday** of the month, **September 11th**, from **7-8 pm** in the Pavilion.

 <p>OFFICE SCHEDULE Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9 to 5 PM Friday - 2 to 6 PM Mondays and Wednesdays, office closed</p> <hr/> <p>Next Deadline for the Leaves: Sunday September 23rd. [Send to Editor4Leaves@gmail.com-Ellen Trumpler].</p>	<p>Rev. Matthew McHale revmatthew@emersonuuc.org (562) 754-8756 mobile; Office hrs. by appt.; Wednesday - day off</p> <p>Director of R.E.: Cleo Anderson cleoemersondre@gmail.com</p> <p>Pianist: Kevin Mathie kevin@kevinmathie.com</p> <p>Admin. Asst. Ramon Alvarez (818) 887-6101 office@emersonuuc.org</p> <p>Sunday Childcare: Lucy Graham</p>
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To view the online **Emerson Calendar**, go to:
<https://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/57642357/month/2018-09-01>

HELP EMERSON WHILE YOU SHOP!!

During the last month, have you shopped for groceries at Whole Foods, Vons, Sprouts, Albertsons, Pavilions, or Smart & Final? Did you purchase clothing at the Gap, HomeGoods, Ross, T. J. Maxx, Neiman Marcus, Kohl's, Penney's or Macy's? How about a quick meal at Red Robin, TGI Fridays, Maggiano's, Mimi's, Olive Garden, Denny's, El Torito, Del Taco, Panera, Subway Taco Bell or Burger King? Or a special evening meal at Fleming's, Chart House, or Ruth's Chris?

In the future, are you planning to do any more of the above (sure you are!), or are you going to send gifts through Amazon, Harry & David, See's, Apple iTunes, or 1-800 Flowers? Buy gas at ARCO, Exxon or Shell? Flying with Southwest or Delta? Planning a cruise with Princess, Carnival or Royal Caribbean? Staying at Best Western, DoubleTree or Hilton? Catching a movie at AMC, Edwards or Regal?

Did you know that you can do all of those things while providing Emerson UU Church a stream of income by purchasing ecards or hard scrip cards through ShopwithScrip.com? Before you know it, the holidays will be upon us -- not to mention birthdays, weddings, showers, and many other reasons that you will be making purchases. If you're planning to purchase at brick and mortar stores by going online, using Scrip gift cards or eScrip makes it easy. The retailers mentioned above are only a handful of participating ones. There are many more that are local to other areas, perhaps where your out-of-state family shops and dines. Don Ordway can show you the simple online registration to name Emerson as your choice of nonprofit. Then, you can order hard cards and get them through Don, or order eScrip which is immediately available to you (virtually).

Let us help you help Emerson. It's easy and convenient and goes to a good cause. **-Pat Lyon**

FROM THE GARDEN -



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Despite the summer heat, August and early September are actually the best time to start planting winter vegetables (incl. beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbages, carrots, cauliflower, chard, celery, kale, leeks, lettuce, peas radishes and turnips). These will get off to a great start during warm weather and mature throughout the winter and spring months.

Plant strawberry starts in September and October also. Plant Swiss chard now too. First harvests of outer leaves begin in about 2 months; chard remains productive for over a year so the plants you put in now will yield harvests through next spring, summer and fall. Young greens and stems are good in salads.



Community input is being sought in an effort to share the **Los Angeles River Master Plan**. The river starts in Canoga Park and was cemented into flood control by the Army Corps of Engineers in the mid-20th century due to fears of flooding; it is now envisioned by City leaders to become a 51-mile linear park. Ideas for transforming this include a gravel bottom, greenways, bike lanes, riparian trees, benches and a more parklike environment to make the river more inviting to the public. You can contact L.A. County officials at info.lariver@lacity.org.-Eric Schmidt

Make an Impact - from the UUA



Join **No More Deaths** [in asking that humanitarian aid be allowed in the desert.](#)

We are so grateful for religious leaders and all people of faith and conscience who are taking courageous action to resist hate and oppression in these difficult days. Recently, an interfaith group of clergy and laypeople trekked through intense heat and rugged conditions in the Arizona desert to leave water for migrants who are known to cross there seeking safety.

Leaving water for people dying of thirst in the desert has become a bold form of resistance because of the rampant criminalization we're seeing in our country right now, where Border Patrol feels justified in slashing water bottles left by humanitarian aid groups. This [powerful video from Colorlines](#) shows how hard it has been for humanitarian aid groups to help humans in one of the deadliest areas of the U.S. border with Mexico.

We cannot allow the Trump regime to continue to characterize people who are fighting for their lives as criminals -- whether in remote parts of the Arizona desert or in any community across this country -- or in any way equivalent to the weapon-carrying, militant forces they come up against. At Love Resists, we know that no human being is illegal and our lives matter --and we will keep fighting to make our communities safe for all. (<https://www.uua.org/lovesresists/blog/saving-lives->)