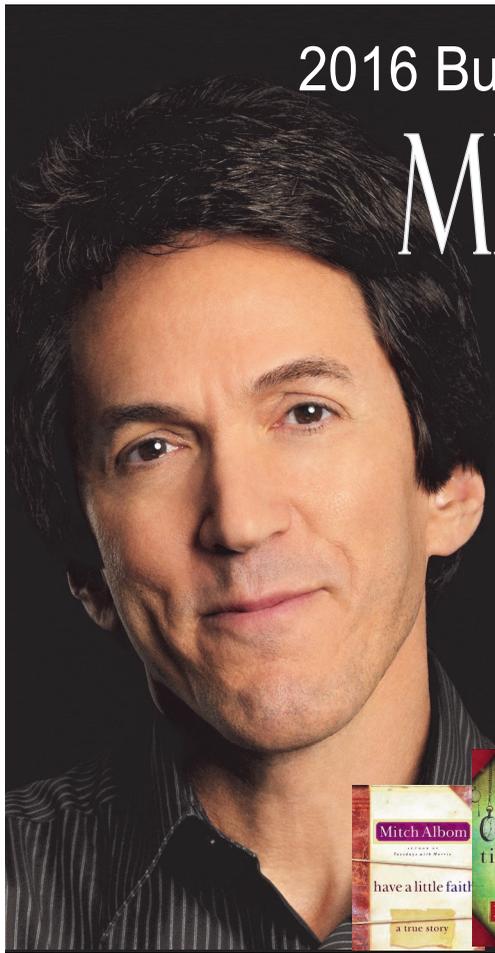




HOUSTON HOSPICE

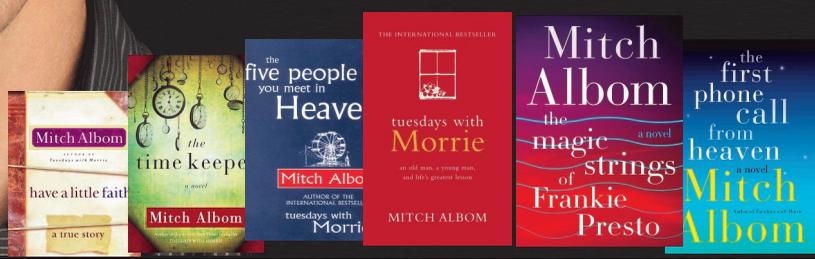
Life Matters

Volume 16 Issue 1 • A Publication of Houston Hospice



2016 Butterfly Luncheon Featuring
MITCH ALBOM

March 29, 2016
The Houstonian Hotel
111 N. Post Oak Ln., Houston, Texas
Registration Begins at 11 a.m.
Sponsorship Opportunities and
Individual Tickets Available
at www.houstonhospice.org



The 15th Annual Butterfly Luncheon

With the humor, insight and compassion that made *Tuesdays with Morrie* a runaway best-seller, renowned author and humanitarian, Mitch Albom, will talk about our connectedness that serendipitously results from the seemingly random path of life's journey.

This is a major theme of Albom's latest book, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, in which he notes that we're all in a band, in fact several bands of people and groups throughout our lifetime. That band can be your family, your coworkers and your groups of friends from various times in your life. The book entices readers to examine what part they're playing in each of those 'bands'. Copies of *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* will be available for purchase and signing.

An aspiring musician, Albom played in bands throughout his adolescence, and worked as a performer after college. When he took an interest in journalism in his early 20's, Albom returned to graduate school, earning a Master's degree in Journalism, followed by an

MBA. He turned full-time to his writing, eventually moving to Detroit, where he became a nationally-acclaimed sports journalist at the Detroit Free Press. His first book, *Tuesdays with Morrie* is the chronicle of time spent with his beloved professor. Albom wrote the book to help pay Morrie's medical bills, and to his great surprise it spent four years on the New York Times Bestseller list. A succession of best sellers followed including, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *For One More Day*, *Have a Little Faith*, *The Time Keeper* and *The First Phone Call from Heaven*. In his latest book, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, Albom has merged his love of music and writing with his virtuoso main character's Forest Gump-like romp through the music world.

Proceeds from the Butterfly Luncheon help fund Houston Hospice operations and our Butterfly Program of pediatric hospice care.

For table sponsorships and individual tickets, visit www.houstonhospice.org/butterfly_luncheon.

Newsletter

Volunteer of the Year

Sylvia Valverde has been named Houston Hospice Volunteer of the Year for 2016. Sylvia is bilingual, speaking English and Spanish. She is retired from the Houston Independent School District where she worked as a teacher and principal.

After her mother was a patient here, Sylvia inquired about how she could help. She attended our volunteer training series in February 2011, and has faithfully volunteered at the Margaret Cullen Marshall Hospice Care Center on Friday mornings for five years.

After her volunteer shift on Friday, February 5, Sylvia was surprised with the news that she had been selected as Volunteer of the Year at a reception in her honor in the Holcombe House dining room.

Thank you Sylvia for your dedication to Houston Hospice, and for your steadfast assistance and comforting presence to our patients and their loved ones!

Volunteer Appreciation



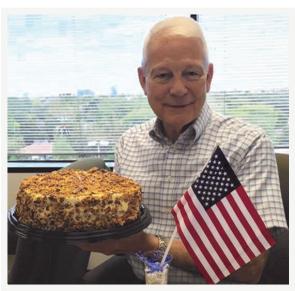
Back Row L-R: Elisa Covarrubias, Linda Martinson, Stephennie Anderson, Rebecca Quantz, Patsy Piner, Mike McCardle, Linda Setzler, Karen Meehan
Front Row L-R: Paul Schmitz, Mary Reddick, Cathy Hamill, Patty Poole, Sandy Kattner, Debbie Hoelscher, Sue Gaines, Joanne Wilton, Lynne Sewell, Linda Norton

At the Holiday Volunteer Appreciation gathering Saturday, December 5 in the Houston Hospice Chapel, volunteers who have served our patients and their families for 2, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years received special recognition. (Yes, we have two incredible volunteers who have been with us since 1990!)

It was inspiring to hear our volunteers speak about their experiences with patients. They have all made a positive impact and we are grateful!

We Honor Veterans

As a We Honor Veterans participant, Houston Hospice provides specialized care to Veterans with life-limiting illnesses. The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs created We Honor Veterans to empower healthcare providers across America to meet the unique needs of seriously ill Veterans and their families.



Veterans Day recognitions included our own Dr. Gary Erwin who served in the U.S. Army.

Angel Bag Outreach

Thanks to generous contributions to our volunteer fund, the Volunteer Department of Houston Hospice is able to undertake a monthly outreach endeavor called “Angel Bags”.

It's hard to imagine anything more difficult for an individual or family than coping with the terminal illness of a loved one. Imagine the resultant emotional and caregiving stresses compounded by financial strain. A typical family, living from paycheck-to-paycheck, has difficulty enduring the avalanche of expenses caused by serious illness without experiencing financial devastation. Admission nurses have reported walking into homes where patients have absolutely nothing.

Through the Angel Bag outreach program, volunteers help financially struggling patients and families with monthly deliveries of essential hygiene items such as laundry detergent, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion and shampoo to name a few. Angel Bags also contain food, drink mixes and pet food when needed. The bags are supplemented with additional food and Walmart gift cards depending on the size of the family.



Above: The Angel Bag cabinet. Upper right: An Angel bag for a pediatric patient. Lower right: Typical monthly deliveries.

Visit houstonhospice.org or call 713-677-7131 to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Houston Hospice.



Kay and Paul Mansfield chaired the Laura Lee Blanton Community Spirit Award Dinner at River Oaks Country Club on October 29, 2015. Terri and John Havens were honored for their many years of service and generosity to our community.

Sharing Knowledge

Over the last several months Dr. Strauch has served as a consult to the Methodist Texas Medical Center palliative care program. Dr. Strauch and Dr. Trinh have attended meetings and rounds. Additionally, Dr. Trinh is scheduled to give a Continuing Medical Education (CME) training to this group after their staff positions are filled during the first quarter of this year.

Dr. Strauch and Dr. Reyser have offered end of life discussion CMEs at VA Medical Center, to St. Dominic's physicians and Baylor Geriatrics physicians.



Elizabeth M. Strauch, MD, FACP, FAAHPM, Vice President for Medical Affairs



Thuy Hanh Trinh, MD, MBA, FACP, FAAHPM, WCC, Associate Medical Director



Dr. Reyser serves as Assistant Professor of the Department of Medicine, Section of Geriatrics for Baylor College of Medicine

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 16 Issue 1

The Newsletter is published by Houston Hospice, a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive end-of-life services and education to Greater Houston and surrounding communities.

Houston Hospice is a member of the Texas Medical Center

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Mission Statement

Houston Hospice provides uncompromising, compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families in our community.

Through the efforts of specially trained and highly skilled interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals and volunteers, Houston Hospice patients and their families are guided through the process of illness by receiving clinical care, psychosocial support, spiritual guidance and volunteer assistance.



Thank You!

You generously responded to our annual giving letter with gifts totaling \$78,000.

During the holiday season, Houston Hospice received \$28,000 thanks to your generous response to the Trees of Light mailing.

Thank you for purchasing snowflake ornaments in memory of loved ones and helping others have the gift of hospice comfort care all year.



Houston Hospice is a funded partner of Susan G. Komen® Houston

This partnership provides hospice care for unfunded breast cancer patients.