



Ways to Connect: Games, Create Worship, Support Alameda Muslims, Join the Choir, Learn Art History, and Much More!

Dear Lisa,

!! NO PROGRAM !! This Sunday (Feb. 14, 2016)

But learn about all the activities and opportunities Live Oak offers!

- Games Night: Saturday, March 12 -- All Ages Welcome!
- Two Ways to Participate in Worship: Think About It
- Our Choir Welcomes You!
- Report on January Congregation Meeting
- New Way to Volunteer (Using an On-Line Program)
- Children & Youth Religious Exploration Plans -- Check These Out!
- Standing Against Hate 2: Supporting the Alameda Islamic Center
- Live Oak'ers Helped at Alameda Point Collaborative's Holiday Party
- Interested in Learning More About Covenant Groups (Small Group Ministry)?
- Many Ways to Connect: What Interests You?
- Art History DVDs -- Watch and Discuss with Other Adults
- Gratitude

Time for Some FUN Together! Games, Games, Games!

Mark your calendars! Save the date! Saturday, March 12, 6:00 p.m. -- We will gather for games once again. We'll be in the Guild Room at Christ Episcopal Church (our usual gathering place). Bring a game or join in playing one brought by someone else! We'll share more info about dinner that evening shortly. Last year we had a very popular Burrito Bar at a Games Night. Maybe we'll do that again.



Meanwhile, do save the date! And if you want to be involved (help with set up, have an idea for an activity or food, e.g.) or if you have a question, email [Lisa](#).

Want to Help Create Worship? Two Ways to Participate

1. Seeking Worship Associates

We're seeking additional Worship Associates to help create and present worship

services at Live Oak.

Worship Associates assist Worship Leaders in the creation and presentation of our worship services. Their duties *might* include preparing a 3-5 minute "personal reflection" related to the theme of a particular worship service, finding and reciting a poem or other reading, presenting an "Embracing Meditation," and performing the donation collection or other component of a worship service. In addition, as part of our worship team, Worship Associates meet with our Worship Leaders once every other month to help with the ongoing development of Live Oak's worship program. As our Worship Associates can tell you, these activities not only offer a valuable opportunity to reflect on what matters to you, but also a chance to add your unique voice to the worship life of our community.

If you're interested in becoming a Worship Associate -- or if you have any questions about our worship program -- please contact Richard Stromer at rsstromer@gmail.com or 510-682-6302.

2. Congregant Participation in Worship

Normally each of our worship services is conducted by one of our Worship Leaders assisted by one of our Worship Associates. Given our current shortage of worship associates, however, a number of worship services in the coming months will be led solely by a Worship Leader. Partly to deal with not having enough Worship Associates and partly to increase congregational participation in our worship, the worship team is extending an invitation to congregants to become more involved in our worship services. If a Worship Leader approaches you about reading a text or some other component for an upcoming service, we hope you'll say yes. Not only will you be helping out the worship team, but you'll also be helping to build beloved community through our worship. Many thanks from the worship team!

Singers, Musicians Welcome!

If you would like to sing with the choir, contact a member of the Music Committee, listed below (with links to each of their email addresses):



Judith Heller: jkheller@gmail.com
Sally Kennedy: deskennedy@att.net
Jay Roller: jaybroller2002@yahoo.com
Richard Stromer: rsstromer@gmail.com

Or show up for a choir rehearsal. (We rehearse on Sundays before the service.)

If you play an instrument and would like to share your talent during a Live Oak worship service, please let the Music Committee know of your interest. We'd love to hear you.

January 31, 2016 Congregational Meeting: Brief Report

Nineteen people attended the January 31 meeting. **Jim Freschi** was elected for his first term to the Board of Trustees and **Roger Hallsten** was elected to a second term on the Board. **Niels Kjellund** was re-elected to the Nominating Committee. Many thanks to all 3 of them -- and to **Renee Harper** who served two years and is now going off the Board.

The main item for discussion was *Every Sunday Programming*. Those present agreed that we should discontinue regularly scheduled *Second Sunday* programming for now. Many suggestions were offered for spontaneous activities that might happen on Second Sundays, not necessarily in the church building or at 4:00 p.m. See [draft minutes of the meeting](#) (PDF). These draft minutes will be discussed and approved at the next congregational meeting (in May).

Try Our On-Line Volunteer Program

Each Sunday we meet for worship, many hands are busy setting up for the service, the communal meal, and cleaning up afterwards. We now have an online volunteer schedule that will automatically send you a reminder before your scheduled date, and also give you the opportunity to trade places with other volunteers, if circumstances change and you need a substitute.

To sign up for upcoming Sundays, please go to our Live Oak Volunteer Spot site at <http://vols.pt/5cvHE3>. There,



you'll find a description of the volunteer service opportunities and available spots on any scheduled Sunday. If you'd like to view the schedule in calendar form, please click on *View Calendar* or jump to any date section in the upper right hand corner, above the list of descriptions.

This [PDF provides short descriptions](#) of the volunteer opportunities available to you. All are Sunday afternoon tasks such as setting up the sanctuary, helping set up tables for potlucks, greeting people, and more. We hope you'll read what is involved in each of these -- and think about small ways you might help strengthen our congregation by pitching in several times a year! Thank you!

Many, many thanks to those of you who indicated you were willing to volunteer at the Congregational Meeting on January 31. If you haven't already selected a date through our [Volunteer Spot](#) site, please do so now. Thank you!

Children & Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

Children and youth will have a busy spring at Live Oak. Our last two classes in February will focus on two famous Unitarian artists: architect Frank Lloyd Wright and sculptor Daniel Chester French, who created the Lincoln Memorial statue in Washington, DC. In both sessions, we'll have a chance to try our hands at our own art as we take in the grand visions of these master artists.



March will begin with a trip down Grand Street to the beach along Shoreline Drive. We'll leave at the very beginning of the service and use our time exploring the beach, collecting trash when we find it, and also natural treasures. These treasures we'll use to create a natural sculpture on the beach to celebrate the coming of spring and our need to care for it.



Later in March, we'll start work on creating a set of games and activities to offer at Live Oak's table at the Earth Day Festival in Alameda on Saturday April 23rd. The children and youth will be planning the project, but we could use some more adult volunteers to help, so if you are interested, please let me know! It is a short-term project.

Standing Against Hate: Ongoing Efforts Alameda Interfaith Group Supports Islamic Center

A second meeting of members of many different Alameda faith groups again addressed the concerns and needs of the Muslim community in Alameda. **David** and **Lisa Fry** attended the January 20th (hastily called) meeting on behalf of Live Oak UU. There were about 20 people at the meeting (organized by **Rev. Laura Rose**, First Congregational Church of Alameda, and **Rabbi Barnett Brickner**, Temple Israel). About 15 different congregations were represented.



This group first met when **Imam Musa Balde** asked for support following disturbing incidents, including the shattering of a large glass window at the [Islamic Center of Alameda](#), derogatory phone calls, and people yelling negative comments at Muslims on the streets in Alameda.

Aiesha Balde from the Islamic Center, **Sameena Usman** from the [Council for American-Islamic Relations](#) (CAIR), and **Cristina Craig**, advisor to the Muslim Student Association at Encinal High School, all shared their perspectives with the group. Several immediate efforts came out of this meeting:

1. Plans to hold an interfaith vigil
2. ["Everyone Belongs" Community Concert](#) (PDF flyer) -- Sunday, February 28, 4pm, at First Congregational Church -- Unfortunately, this event conflicts with Live Oak worship, but perhaps some might choose to attend the concert.
3. Film to be shown at the Alameda Theatre followed by a panel discussion. A specific film was suggested and will be shared with the Muslim Student Association before a final decision is made.
4. Laura Rose and Rabbi Brickner will call a follow-up interfaith meeting soon.

Live Oak -- and the other faith communities -- may be asked to contribute money to help with the costs for securing rights to show the film and/or other activities.

Please watch for further announcements about plans and activities for ongoing

support for Muslims in Alameda. If you are interested in helping with any of these, please let [Lisa Fry](#) know. Many thanks to **Nancy Balassi**, **Seri Gomberg**, and **Bruce Langley** who went to the first meeting to support the Islamic Center.

Covenant Groups: A Meaningful Way to Connect with Others

If you are ready to join (or even are just ready to ask questions about) a Covenant Group (our small group ministry), please contact **Darlene Pagano** (dpagano@igc.org, 510-595-7726). Our Wednesday evening group (meets 2x a month) and our Friday evening group (meets once a month) are both open to welcome you.

A Month Late ... Live Oak'ers Helped at the APC Holiday Party

Many thanks to **Nancy Balassi**, **Kathryn Duke**, **Renee Harper**, and **Ximena & Bruno Rossi** for helping out at [Alameda Point Collaborative](#)'s holiday party. They all report they had as much fun as the children and youth who participated in the festivities. You may want to join them for the next opportunity to support APC!



Other Ways to Connect: Book group? Knitting?

A couple of people have expressed interest in forming a book group. The initial interest appears to be in reading fiction, but if you are interested in a group that would select and read non-fiction, let us know about that, too. We'll see if there are enough people to start one or the other -- or both!

Also, we have some knitters among us -- and some people who would like to learn to knit. Any interest in gathering an informal group to hang out together and knit (or crochet or cross-stitch or even do mending)? Contact [Lisa Fry](#), if you are interested in any of these (or other) ideas for new groups/connections.

Other ideas:

- Afternoon Games Group
- Evening Games Group
- Going Out to a Movie Group
- Daytime Walking
- Hiking (weekends -- maybe 2nd Sundays)

Adult Faith Development: 3rd Fridays of the Month

Enjoy the musings and teachings of [Sister Wendy Beckett](#), a nun and art enthusiast who has stirred up interest in the history of art -- even among those who avoid museums like the plague. This entertaining and enlightening collection of her programs spans the globe and the years as Sister Wendy shares her knowledge and passion for art and artists; her insight and whole hearted enthusiasm are an alternative to the traditional study of art.



SISTER WENDY
THE COMPLETE COLLECTION



On February 19 we will watch and chat about "The Story of Painting," a look at Western art from ancient Egypt, through Europe and in the galleries of New York City.

All adults are welcome to join us for one -- or all -- of these sessions. This group meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday of the month in a home in Oakland. Please let [Lisa Fry](#) know if you plan to attend.

More Live Oak'ers to Thank

Nancy Balassi, Seri Gomberg, and Bruce Langley, who attended the December meeting of the Alameda interfaith community, providing immediate support to the Islamic Center of Alameda.



And many thanks to **Renee Harper** for her service on the Board of Trustees -- and the many other things she has done for Live Oak: Creating and organizing the Volunteer Spot program, designing our beautiful Live Oak UU banner, representing us at climate change events, helping at APC, and more!

Email options: We maintain two separate email lists. One gets ONLY reminder announcements of upcoming worship services. The other gets those notices, plus information about congregational meetings, activities, religious education, newsletters, and more. You are welcome to be on either list. Please let Lisa (lisasfry@gmail.com) know if you wish to be moved from one list to the other -- or if you wish to be removed from our email list altogether. Note: We also have a listserv for members & friends of Live Oak. You may join it, at any time, by sending an email to uuliveoak-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

[Live Oak UU Website](#)

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