

News from Live Oak – April, 2013

Let's Party: Growing in Alameda! Saturday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a celebration ... of many things! We are celebrating a successful Stewardship Campaign, starting to meet 3 Sundays a month, and growing in numbers, in programs, and in spiritual depth! Woo-hoo!



Let's all (adults, youth, and children) come together on Saturday, April 27 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) in the Parish Hall at CEC. Good food, music, and great people!

The wonderful Richard Arrington (assisted by Kris) will prepare a scrumptious Italian meal for us. The menu is still being refined, but looks like it will include Chicken Piccata, Risotto, seasonal vegetable, salad, and rolls. And a vegetarian option provided by Lisa Fry. And dessert, of course!

Thanks to Dick Bailey, we will have live piano music. Yay! Don't be surprised if there's a chance for singing along!

Mindy Mull will use her magic to decorate the hall. Richard Stromer will help with set-up (but needs help) and Nancy Balassi and Avery Roth-Hawthorne will do the dishes. What a team!

R.S.V.P.'s are required so we will have enough food and place settings for everyone. Send Lisa Fry (lisafry@gmail.com) an email telling her: how many adults, how many children, and if you need a vegetarian alternative. Everyone is welcome!

Stewardship Campaign Report: With Gratitude

Our Finance Committee (David Fry, Roger Hallsten, Darlene Pagano, and Jay Roller) are so grateful for the quick – and generous – responses from both members and friends of Live Oak. We have 30 pledges totaling more than \$29,000.

Everyone made this an easy task, responding quickly to the team's request for information. Our finance gurus are now preparing the budget for the coming fiscal year. Thanks to everyone!

Live Oak Moves to 3 Sundays a Month Starting May 12!

Hooray! We are progressing toward our goal of Every Sunday programming! Mark your calendars! In addition to our 1st & 3rd Sunday worship services, please join us for 2nd Sundays in the Parish Hall, beginning Sunday, May 12, 4:00 p.m.

Ty Meier will lead group discussions on Second Sundays. As with all our gatherings, we will begin with a chalice lighting and reading. There will also be a brief silent meditation before the topic is introduced. Each person will get a turn to speak (or pass). Ty has led similar groups in the past and is quite excited to get this going. And we are all grateful he has stepped up!

Ty suggests a second round of sharing focusing on personal goals. Participants may share something they are working on – and update others on their progress. Ty notes, “This can be anything: writing a book, following a diet, breaking a bad habit, etc. For example, little Autumn and I are trying to learn ukelele. I think this round might be very personally helpful for everyone involved.” The group will close with a brief prayer/meditation. Food & fellowship will follow!

This format is a wonderful way for folks to get to know one another better – and as Ty notes, that’s particularly helpful for our newer members (like him). Peter Hand and Nancy Balassi have both agreed to assist, particularly if we need to break into several different groups.

- Potluck? Yes! Folks may share a meal afterward. Please bring a dish to share.
- Childcare? Of course! Cecilia Owen will be there to provide childcare for children of all ages. Assuming good weather, the children may play outside.
- Clean-up? Please pitch in to be sure we leave the kitchen and Parish Hall clean.

3 Sessions Left: The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith

Bestselling author and professor Huston Smith offers a fascinating tour of the world's major religions in conversation with journalist Bill Moyers. So far, we’ve learned about Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Next up (on April 19): Christianity and Judaism. May 17, Huston will discuss Islam. And June 21 will be a wrap-up, including advice on pulling out elements of various faiths in developing a personal philosophy.

Join us at the home of David and Lisa Fry. Drop in for one session -- or come for all. We will gather at 7:30 p.m. Each DVD runs 55 minutes. Then we spend time sharing and discussing what we’ve heard. RSVP: lisafry@gmail.com.

We create loving community through worship and service to others.

- Live Oak UU’s Mission Statement

Live Oak, Small But So Generous: Donating the Plate on Sundays

Treasurer Jay Roller notes, “Thanks to your pledges for the Stewardship campaign, we continue to be able to donate the proceeds from our Sunday collections to worthy non-profit organizations.”

And we are truly making a difference! In 4.5 years, we have donated more than **\$20,000** to 23 different organizations (including 6 UU-related groups). To whom have we given?

A Home Within

Alameda Food Bank

Alameda Homeless Network

Alameda Point Collaborative

Berkeley Ecology Center

Berkeley Free Clinic

Christ Episcopal Church

First Place for Youth

Home Away from Homelessness

Homeless Prenatal Program

Inclusive Community Resources

It Gets Better

Oxfam

People’s Grocery

Planned Parenthood

Playworks

Standing on the Side of Love

Toys for Tots

UU Ministry for the Earth

UU Partner Church Council

UUA Association Sunday

UU Service Committee

UUSF Guardian Group

If you would like an organization to be considered to receive our collection (501c3’s only), please contact a member of the Board. Most often we have given to local non-profits, but we also have responded to international pleas (Haiti earthquake, Pakistani flood, e.g.) through the UUSC and Oxfam.

Upcoming Events Beyond Our Congregation

Big Faith * No Borders: April 26-28, Doubletree Hilton, San Jose, CA. Our district (Pacific Central District) is hosting the first-ever Regional Assembly of UUs. The Pacific Western Region, which includes UUs from 13 states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming). There is still time to a) register for the event, or b) attend the Sunday morning worship (April 28, 10:30 a.m.). Worship is free and open to all. There is a fee for RA. Learn more about this event and register at [Regional Assembly](#).

General Assembly, June 19-23, Louisville, KY. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. We will gather in Louisville, Kentucky to examine and renew our covenant to our faith, one another, our congregations and the larger world. To register and/or learn more: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml>.

Moving Forward: Proposed Bylaws Change

Our Welcoming Congregation Team has proposed a modification to our bylaws in accordance with advice from the UUA's guidelines. We will vote on this at the June 30th congregational meeting. If approved, four words (highlighted below) will be added to Article III, Section A.

Article III. Membership

SECTION A. MEMBERSHIP

The Fellowship embraces all people, including those of every religious background, any racial and ethnic background, any national origin, any educational level, any income level, any level and type of physical and mental development and ability, any affectional or sexual orientation, **gender identity or expression**, and any age. Any person in sympathy with the purpose and program of this organization may become a member by signing the Membership Book. To remain an active member, a person is expected to participate in the affairs of the organization, and to contribute services and funds as appropriate to the needs and abilities of the organization and of the individual members.

Board member Kathryn Duke notes: "The wording change is fine with me. And some part of me prefers to replace the somewhat legalistic language of that section with the words of 🎵 *Come, Come, Whoever You Are*. 🎵 But that's a whole other conversation!"

Small Group Ministry: Call to Form a New Group

Would you like to have a regular reflection time in your schedule in the company of other members and friends of Live Oak? The Small Group Ministry practice offers just that. We have two such intentional groups meeting in our community and have requests from others to find a place in such a group. So Darlene Pagano is trying to organize a third group.

A group needs at least 6 folks who can commit to regular attendance. Peer-led groups are a place for deep listening, sharing important issues and NOT being judged. The group is not therapy, or a study group, or a topical discussion group. It is an opportunity to develop a spiritual practice, explore values and ethics and build relationships with others in our community. It is not a drop-in group; you are asked for a commitment of participation.

If this sounds like a step you would like to take please let me know. We almost got a third group running last October, but not quite. Perhaps you are ready to be part of such a crew now.

Give me a call or email. Let me know any evenings you can NOT meet and I will start the round robin of calls and emails to get this organized. (Anyone have an interest in a daytime or weekend group? Anything is possible.) If childcare is an issue, let's talk. dpagano@igc.org, 510-595-7726 (home)

Live Oak: A Fellowship of Leaders

Q: How many UUs does it take to build a thriving congregation?

A: More than you might think! Check out our current roster of leaders below.

Board of Trustees: Darlene Pagano, President; Krista Arrington, Vice-President; Jay Roller, Treasurer; Kathryn Duke, Secretary; Kate Hand; Immediate Past President: Peter Hand

Adult Religious Education / Faith Development: Vacant (you?)

Alameda Point Collaborative: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Kathryn Duke

Children's Religious Exploration Committee: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Lisa Fry, Kate Hand

- Children's RE Teachers: Cecilia Owens, David Fry
- Children's RE Assistant: Avery Roth-Hawthorne

Christ Episcopal Church / Live Oak Liaison Committee: David Fry, Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, Darlene Pagano

Communications & Outreach: Lisa Fry

Every Sunday Programming Coordinator: Renee Harper

- Second Sunday Discussion Group: Ty Meier
- Fourth Sunday Minister-Led Worship: Richard Stromer, coordinator

Finance Team: Jay Roller, Treasurer and Chair

- Accountant/Bookkeeper: David Fry
- Pledge Secretary: David Fry
- Stewardship Committee: David Fry, Roger Hallsten, Jay Roller

Harvey Milk Day Alameda Celebration: Bernadette Alexander, Chair

Membership Committee: Lisa Fry, Coordinator; Judith Heller, Ginny Irving

- Caring Committee: Nancy Balassi, Sally Kennedy, Jay Roller (Board Liaison is Kris Arrington)
- Covenant Group Contact: Darlene Pagano
- Men's Movie Group Contact: David Fry
- Potluck Coordinator: Nancy Balassi

Music Committee: Debra Temple, Facilitator; Kathryn Duke, Kate Hand, Sally Kennedy, & Jay Roller; Mark Daniel, Choir Director, Ellen Hoffman, Accompanist

Nominating Committee (elected): Judith Heller, Sally Kennedy, & Richard Stromer

Personnel Committee: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Kathryn Duke, and Jay Roller

Social Justice Team: Vacant (you?)

Welcoming Congregation Team: Bernadette Alexander, Lisa Fry, Richard Stromer

Worship: Richard Stromer, Chair

- Worship Leaders: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Kate Hand, Darlene Pagano, and Richard Stromer; Need one more. Are you interested?
- Worship Associates: Kris Arrington, Peter Hand, Mary MacKay, and Mindy Mull