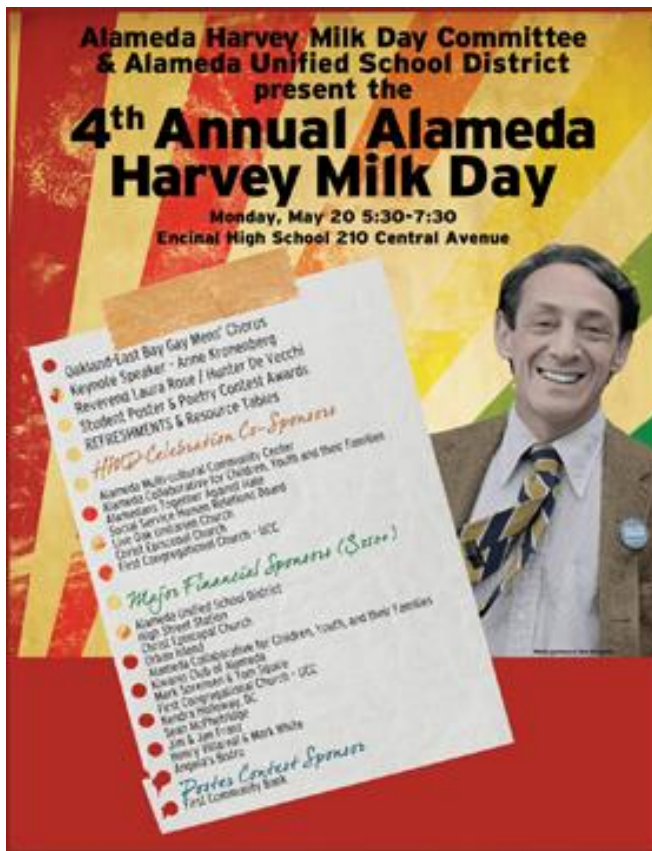


News from Live Oak – May, 2013

Harvey Milk Day Celebration: Please Join Us! **Monday, May 20, 5:30 p.m. Buffet; 6:00 p.m. Program**

Live Oak UU is once again a co-sponsor of this special event. Bernadette Alexander served on the Alameda planning team and Nanci Armstrong-Temple, assisted by others from Live Oak, is creating the Kids' Zone again this year. Members of the Wednesday evening Covenant Group will be there to help with set-up and the Kids' Zone activities. We hope you'll come, too!

Keeping Harvey's Hope Alive is the focus of this year's 4th annual celebration as Alameda welcomes keynote speaker Anne Kronenberg and the return of the East Bay Gay Men's Chorus for another rousing performance.



Anne Kronenberg is the co-founder and co-chair of the Harvey Milk Foundation and a true living legend of the LGBT movement. She was Harvey's campaign manager for his successful ground-breaking election to public office, served as his primary political aide in City hall and was Harvey's close personal friend during his years in San Francisco.

The event will feature a moving presentation by student Hunter DeVecchi, one of the winners of the Season of Nonviolence essay contest, a reading of the Harvey Milk Day Story by children from Alameda's elementary schools, and more. Rev. Laura Rose of the Congregational Church will speak and recognize leaders. She'll also recognize members of Welcoming and Inclusive Congregations in attendance (including, of course, Live Oak

UU Fellowship).

All are invited and children and youth are encouraged to attend. A Kids Zone with art projects and activities for children age 3 and over will be available throughout the event. There will be information tables and American Sign Language interpretation. The school is fully accessible.

Speaking of ... Second Sundays Begins June 9!

Mark your calendars! In addition to our 1st & 3rd Sunday worship services, please join us for *Speaking of ... Second Sundays* in the Parish Hall, beginning June 9, at 4:00 p.m.

One of our newest members, Ty Meier, will lead discussions on 2nd Sundays. Each gathering 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 excited to get this going. And we are 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 folks (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 enjoy a meal afterward. Please bring a dish to share.
- Childcare? Of course! Cecilia Owen will be there to provide childcare.
- We would love to start a regular “crew” for 2nd Sundays: set up, closing, greeters, eg. Tell Renee Harper (reh577@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to volunteer for a task.

News from Carol Cissel, Who Served Live Oak in 2011-12



Carol wrote to tell us she had a successful interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and is on the path to Preliminary Fellowship. She’s excited about the next step on her journey: to serve on a team of ministers for All Souls Unitarian Church, in Tulsa, OK, a church with 2,000 members.

Carol notes, “They say it ‘Takes A Village’ to raise a child. Well, it also *Takes A Loving, Compassionate Congregation* to birth a minister. Your fellowship is that kind of community. I want you to know that Live Oak was an important part of my pathway and formation as a UU Minister ... and working with you was a gift.”

Carol, who was a ministry student at Pacific School of Religion when she worked with us, taught our children and youth, participated in worship, and led a service at Live Oak UU. We wish her all the best and thank her for her service and for the very kind words above.

Partnering with Alameda Point Collaborative (APC)

We received a lovely thank you note from Lisa Dyas, APC's Director of Fund Development and Community Relations, for Live Oak's generous support for their upcoming fundraiser, *Not Your Mother's Garden Party*. We are proud to be listed as one of APC's Community Boosters for this event. We will again be donating our June 2nd collection to APC.

Other exciting news from APC: Last month, they broke ground on a new, sustainable building for [Ploughshares Nursery](#). The green features include sustainable features including earthbag and straw bale wall construction, and a



rain catchment system that will run through a channel over the roof and dramatically drop into oversized rain barrels. Also, the adjacent root cellar will sport a roof planted in native grasses and vegetation. A large blue array of the photo voltaic panels will sit atop the structure's roof and be visible from the retail and demonstration gardens.

During Phase 2 there will be many opportunity for volunteers to help with exciting projects including the construction of the straw bale and bagged earth interior walls! If you are interested, please sign-up for their [volunteer newsletter](#) for updates on volunteer opportunities for the Ploughshares Nursery building project.

Bits 'n Pieces: News Shorts

Best Wishes: To Rev. Ben Meyers, the minister of the Berkeley Fellowship of UUs, who has been so supportive of Live Oak. Ben has been called as the Senior Minister for the UUs of San Mateo. We wish both Ben and the San Mateo congregation much joy and success.

Summer Changes: Pianist Ellen Hoffman leaves us in June, but may return. In the meantime, choir director Mark Daniel will accompany and direct the choir, with Debra Temple assisting.

July 4th Parade: We'll once again have a float in Alameda's July 4th parade. Ideas for decorating the float? For handouts to the crowds? Let us know if you want to help. Save the date! And plan to ride (and sing) on the float ... or watch the parade with other Live Oak'ers.

Head for Numbers? Finance Committee (Jay Roller, treasurer; David Fry, and Roger Hallsten) welcome another team member. They meet one Saturday a month (if needed), often by phone. Please let Jay (jaybroller2002@yahoo.com) know if you are interested – or have questions.

Grazie, Grazie ... Belissimo! *Second Annual Stewardship Dinner*

Many, many hands made our April 27th Italian dinner a truly wonderful event. First, thanks to Jay Roller for organizing the event and the team. And now applause, please, for:

Richard Arrington – Chef extraordinaire
Kris Arrington and Darlene Pagano -- meal preparation assistants
Lisa Fry -- vegetarian entrée
Roger Hallsten -- dessert
Richard Stromer, Ruby Reay, and David Fry – table set-up
Glory Styles – who raided her garden to make the tables truly glorious
Dick Bailey – music and music sheets
David Fry – magic
Nanci Armstrong-Temple – children’s activities
Lisa Fry -- publicity & reservations
Avery Roth-Hawthorne, Neil Planchon, & Nancy Balassi – clean-up
And everyone who pitched in throughout the evening



And rumor has it that Glory and Ruby are ready to sign up as the ambiance & décor team for future Live Oak events. Woo-hoo!

An Expansive View: Mama's Day Our Way

Let's celebrate Mama's Day by highlighting the real lives and experiences of all kinds of mamas: those who adopt; those who identify as transgender, gender-queer, or lesbian; women of all colors and ethnic backgrounds; gay men who raise children; women trapped by systemic poverty, women separated from their children or incarcerated; and those who *mother* without ever assuming that title.



Jessica Halperin, a UU ministerial intern, says, “Strong Families is a national initiative to change policy and culture in support of all families. Their annual [Mama’s Day Our Way](#) campaign lifts up and celebrates the magic and heartbreak of being a mama and honors the experiences of motherhood that often don’t fit ideas of a traditional Mother’s Day.”

Send one of Strong Families’ original [eCards](#) to someone you love. These cards are designed to recognize all the different Mamas in our lives.

Recognition & gratitude to [UU Parenting](#), by Michelle Richards, as a source of information for this article.

UU Parents: Some Book Suggestions

Educators and others interested in UU children recently posted books they recommend for UU parents on the Religious Education listserv. Here are a number of the titles they mentioned. The first two are specifically UU.

Tending the Flame, by Michele Richards

In this first-of-its-kind guide to UU parenting, mother and religious educator Michelle Richards encourages a practical and proactive approach to raising UU children. Includes information about developmental stages, suggestions for incorporating spiritual practices into family life, teaching the 7 Principles in age-appropriate ways, answering difficult questions on religious matters and dealing with religious disagreements.

Full Circle, by Kate Tweedie Erslev

Many UU congregations have asked about their members, "Why do they leave?" Kate Erslev (now Kate Covey) asks, "Why do they stay?" Here she explores the 15 common threads that lifelong UUs identified as critical in their commitment to their faith. She interviewed 82 men and women, ages 25 to 87, who were raised UU. A lifelong UU herself, Erslev has been a Director of Religious Education for more than 20 years and has written many UU curricula.

The Gift of Faith, Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar

Filled with practical advice and psychological insight, this celebrates religion in lives in children. Drawing from personal stories and experiences, Nieuwejaar illustrates how religious community plays an integral role in deepening the faith of parents, who are children's primary educators. She encourages parents to communicate their beliefs in words and in actions and to become part of a religious community that supports these beliefs. Nieuwejaar offers ways to foster spiritual awareness in the home and includes practices for marking the many events in children's lives as religious occasions.

Above All Be Kind: Raising a Humane Child in Challenging Times, by Zoe Weil

Teaches parents how to raise their children to be humane in the broadest sense—to become not only more compassionate in their interactions with family and friends, but to grow up to make life choices that demonstrate respect for the environment, other species, and all people. The book includes chapters for early, middle, teenage, and young adult years, as well as activities, issue sidebars, cases, tips, and profiles.

Raising Freethinkers: A Practical Guide for Parenting Beyond Belief, by Dale McGowan

For the more than 40 million people in the United States who identify themselves as nonreligious, "Raising Freethinkers" offers solutions to the unique challenges secular parents face and provides specific answers to common questions, as well as more than 100 activities for both parents and their children. This book covers every important topic nonreligious parents need to know to help their children with their own moral and intellectual development,

including advice on religious-extended-family issues, death and life, secular celebrations, wondering and questioning, and more.

The Parent's Tao Te Ching: Ancient Advice for Modern Parents, by William C. Martin
Martin has freshly reinterpreted the Tao Te Ching to speak directly and clearly to the most difficult of modern tasks -- parenting. With its combination of free verse and judicious advice, The Parent's Tao Te Ching addresses the great themes that permeate the Tao and that support loving parent- child relationships: responding without judgment, emulating natural processes, and balancing between doing and being.

Live Oak T-Shirts for Sale

Help show your Live Oak UU spirit! Buy -- and wear -- one of our T-shirts. On the front, it reads: ***Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.*** Our name and website are on the back.



The shirts are well made, high-quality, and all cotton, and printed locally for us. All for the bargain price of \$8.00 (our actual cost). Please let us know if you would like a shirt, but cannot afford to pay for it.

Wear one everywhere! And especially, wear them for the Harvey Milk Day celebration, for the July 4th parade, and other gatherings of large groups of people. Help us with our guerilla marketing campaign for Live Oak UU Fellowship. Email lisafry@gmail.com to request a shirt (or two or three)!

Small Group Ministry: Forming 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. 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 contact Darlene (dpagano@igc.org), 510-595-7726 (home). Let her know any evenings you can NOT meet. (Anyone interested in a daytime or weekend group? Anything is possible.) If childcare is an issue, talk to Darlene.

Upcoming Events Beyond Our Congregation

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. UUs 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>.



For future planning: The 2014 General Assembly will be in Providence, RI. But in 2015, it will return to the West coast – to Portland, OR.

Change of Venue: May 19th Live Oak Service

We will meet for worship and fellowship at our “old stomping grounds,” The Home of Truth Spiritual Center, 1300 Grand St., Alameda, instead of our current church home. Why? Because Christ Episcopal Church (CEC) has a long-standing relationship with Soli Deo Gloria and that group will be presenting a concert at CEC on May 19th at just the same time we will be meeting.

Please join us at The Home of Truth, just 2 blocks from CEC. We will have both the service and the potluck there. Unfortunately, the space is not wheelchair accessible.

Sunshades for Your Car Windshield



We have a handful of really effective car sunshades available – on a first come basis.

The sunshades fold up to about the size of a Frisbee for easy storage in your car. And they are imprinted with a chalice and a UU slogan: *Imagine a religion where people of different beliefs worship as one faith. Room for different beliefs ... yours.* (You can only see part of the shade here (left). It also includes a website: uuba.org, from which folks can connect to all the bay area UU congregations, including Live Oak.

It's a great marketing tool for us. And keeps your car cool!

If you want one of these, just email Lisa at lisasfry@gmail.com.