

## News from Live Oak – June, 2013

---

### Congregational Meeting: Sunday, June 30 (2:00 p.m.)

Join us in the Parish Hall at 2:00 p.m. for our Congregational Meeting. The agenda will include:

- Review and approval of previous Congregational Meeting minutes (March 31)
- Presentation of 2013 -14 Budget; questions, vote
- Bylaw change: discussion, vote
- Music Education for congregation and effort to create a top 20 list of hymns.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade: plans, assignments and sign-making

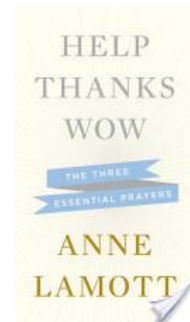
The budget has gone out to members for review as well as the proposed bylaw change. All are welcome – and encouraged – to attend our congregational meetings. Only those who have signed the membership book at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting may vote.

### Speaking of ... Second Sundays!



Many thanks to Ty Meier, one of our newest Live Oak members, for leading this recent addition to our programming. At our first Second Sunday event (June 9), 11 adults discussed Prayer and Meditation. Beyond the personal reflections and stories, here are a few thoughts and quotes that came out of the discussion:

- The shortest prayer is “Help.”
- For some, prayer = speaking to God while meditation = listening to God
- Several people recommended the new book by Anne Lamott – [Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers.](#)



We began with a chalice lighting and opening words. Each person had a turn to speak (or pass). After the initial round, we shared our potluck supper and visited with one another. Before closing, we had a quick round where each person was encouraged to share a personal goal.

Our next *Speaking of ... Second Sundays!* will be July 14 (4:00 p.m. in Parish Hall). Do join us. Cecilia Owen will provide childcare. And we'll discuss religion: what it means to each of us.

## *July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade: Everyone's Invited to this Great Event! And Introducing Our New Banner ...*

Our choir (with choir director Mark Daniel, playing keyboard and singing) and others will sing their way from one end of Alameda to the other during the Alameda Independence Day Parade. Many thanks to Kate Hand for organizing this effort, to Jim Freschi for driving the truck, and to David Fry for handling the audio on the float. And, of course, thanks to all those who sing and wave to the crowd along the 3-mile parade route!

Don't miss our best float ever – with new banners designed by our own Ty Meier decorating the float (a flatbed truck in disguise). The photo (right) is Ty's design. The background is a real Coastal Live Oak tree (photographed on Grand Street in Alameda).



While you can watch the parade anywhere along the route, consider watching with other Live Oak'ers. Lisa Fry will get to the corner of Encinal & Grand early to reserve space for our group. She'll have a couple of chairs and several blankets to mark our territory. (Note: we'll be sitting in the street, not on grass, so you might want a lawn chair or a cushion. We'll cheer everyone, but we'll cheer mightily as the Live Oak float passes by! (The parade begins at 10 a.m. It will be about 11:00 a.m. when it gets to the corner of Encinal & Grand.) Wear your Live Oak t-shirt, if you have one. (And if you want one, let Lisa ([lisasfry@gmail.com](mailto:lisasfry@gmail.com)) know. They are just \$8.00. Be sure to bring a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

## *The End is Coming!!*



What?!

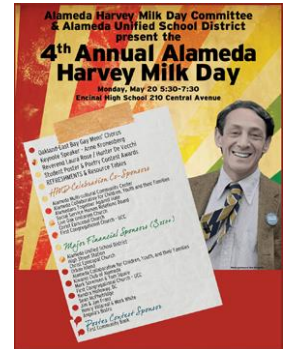
OK, it's the end of the fiscal year. If you have not yet paid up your pledge for FY2012-13, please do so by June 30. On July 1, we start our next fiscal year. It will really help our hard-working bookkeeper if you can send a check to close out your pledge – or let him (David Fry) know ([davidfry@gmail.com](mailto:davidfry@gmail.com)) if you are unable to do so.

Live Oak'ers are a very generous community – supporting our congregation and supporting the many non-profits we give money to throughout the year. You are the best!

## *Great Harvey Milk Day Celebration: Many Folks to Thank*

Sincere thanks to the entire Live Oak UU team who participated in the 2013 Alameda Harvey Milk Day Celebration. We received accolades from the Alameda Multicultural Community Center, from Rev. Laura Rose of First Congregational Church of Alameda, and received some notice in the local press. But more important, we introduced ourselves as a welcoming faith community, reaching out to the largest crowd yet to attend this annual event.

*“Live Oak’s visible presence through the resource table, as part of the faith community acknowledgment, and with the Kid’s Zone all helped make the celebration a great success. It’s so very important to inform the public, students and parents about local resources available to the LBGTQ community. Thank you again for your support of the Harvey Milk Day Celebration.”* - Zoe Holder, Alameda Multicultural Community Center



Special thanks to Bernadette Alexander, our team leader, who worked with folks from other congregations and groups in Alameda to make this all happen. And Nanci Armstrong-Temple for providing such a welcoming and well-stocked fun place for kids of all ages, the KidZone. Nanci was ably assisted by Renee Harper, Ginny Irving, Mindy Mull, Darlene Pagano, and Richard Stromer. Providing this service made it possible for parents to enjoy the activities while their children were cared for and having a ball. Thanks to Ginny for bringing a huge Standing on the Side of Love banner (borrowed from the UU Church of Berkeley) and to David Fry for hanging it and several other banners and signs. And Lisa Fry staffed our information table, greeting and chatting with folks and handing out Live Oak brochures throughout the event.

## *Where Did We Get Those Lovely Tablecloths?*

If you were at a recent potluck, you surely noticed the festive Hawaiian print tablecloths. Many, many thanks to Mary MacKay who purchased the fabric on a recent trip to Honolulu and then made three tablecloths to class up the joint. They really are a great addition to our community meals!

## *Miss a Service: Listen to Audio on Our Website*

We post most of our homilies and reflections (and occasionally readings or music) on our website following services. Take a look at <http://uuliveoak.org/past-services.htm> to hear something you missed – or to listen again to something that touched you during a service. Sometimes there is also text offered for homilies or reflections. Many thanks to our worship team for their thoughtful offerings – and to David Fry for managing the audio and creating the mp3s. (Note: You can listen to these by clicking the link or save any file to an mp3 player to listen anywhere.) And share the link with your friends & family.

## *Blog: Why I Made My Teen Go to Church*

In a blog post on Sojourner's (Faith in Action for Social Justice) site, the author says: Making an ultimatum about church attendance to a sleep-deprived teenager may be my own version of hell on earth. "We are leaving for church in 10 minutes," I said, summoning my most authoritative voice before the lifeless lump under the covers.

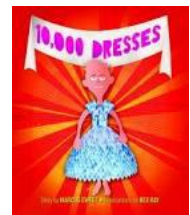
Read the full blog post here (it's short): <http://sojo.net/blogs/2013/05/06/why-i-made-my-teenager-go-church>. The author notes: I made Maya go to church because we may not know why we are here, but we can pass along a little light to others on the journey. And maybe that's what we need to create a little heaven on earth.

## *Trans Books for Children and Youth*

Here is a link to a list of young adult literature featuring "trans" (including transgender, gender variant, two-spirit, genderqueer, aggressive and other gender non-conforming) characters or "trans" themes. [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/11446.Booklist\\_for\\_Trans\\_Youth](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/11446.Booklist_for_Trans_Youth)

The list creator says: "This list is measly, not because I have not been digging, but rather because so few titles exist, so please add books if you know of them (only YA books with trans/gender variant/etc themes, as there are tons of booklists out there for LGBTQ youth already). I also encourage trans authors to write books for teens--if you do, let me know (and if you are trying to get it published, let me know too!)"

Cecilia shared one of these books during a recent service (Goblinheart by Bret Axel). Lisa Fry notes that she owns another one and will loan it out (10,000 Dresses by Marcus Ewert). Do you own any of these books? Perhaps we can put together a list of resources that are available to Live Oak'ers. Note: there are comments following the list, which offer opinions about some of the books.



## *District News: New Executive Coming July 1*

The Pacific Central District Board of Directors announces Joshua Searle-White will become the District Executive of the Pacific Central District on July 1.

Josh has presented popular workshops at General Assembly and is also the author of Magic Wanda's Travel Emporium: Tales of Love, Hate, and Things in Between. Josh is a master storyteller with deep experience helping individuals and congregations work with their own narratives to create greater health and vitality. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation UU.

Josh, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology, is leaving his tenured position as Associate Professor of Psychology and Department Chair at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania because he longs to serve Unitarian Universalism. And he looks forward to living and working in our district.