

## News from Live Oak – February, 2014

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### Five Years ... And Growing!

**A Don't Miss Event: Sunday, February 23** – Live Oak UU Fellowship will celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation! Join us for a special worship service, led by our own Richard Stromer with special guest



Joshua Searle-White, the District Executive of our district (Pacific Central District). Plus wonderful music by our choir. And, of course, our potluck.

But let's make this a *special* potluck. If possible, bring something a bit distinctive. We will provide cake for dessert for everyone, so hors d'oeuvre, salads, vegetable dishes, entreés, are especially welcome. And we may have guests, so extra portions would be wonderful.

If you've not been to church for a while, this is a perfect time to return! We would love to see you again! The more the merrier!

### Let's Party! Four Home Gatherings ... Then a Grand Party (March 29)

In keeping with the **Five Years and Growing** theme, our Stewardship team (Roger Hallsten, Niels Kjellund, Darlene Pagano, and Jay Roller) will kick off our campaign on our Sunday, February 23 and finish with a Celebration Dinner on Saturday, March 29. Mark your calendars! Richard Arrington will once again prepare a scrumptious meal for us. And Dick Bailey will play tunes for us on the piano.

Now sign up for one of the four house parties where we'll share, in a small group, our joys, concerns, and dreams for the future of our fellowship. And we will talk about Stewardship of our community. Reserve a spot on the Doodle poll: <http://doodle.com/vwq2s992u3svm5yd#table>.

**Saturday, March 1 -- 2:00 pm**

[Roger Hallsten's home](#)

Berkeley (Adeline & Ashby area)

Up a full flight of stairs; no pets; adults only.

**Monday, March 3 -- 7:30 pm**

[Kris & Richard Arrington's home](#)

Alameda (Bay Farm Island)

2 stairs to get into house; no pets; adults only.

**Friday, March 7 -- 7:30 pm**

[Niels Kjellund's & Kathryn Duke's home](#)

Alameda (High St & Lincoln area)

3 stairs to get into house; no pets; children ok (not toddler-proofed)

**Saturday March 8 -- 10:30 am**

[David & Lisa Fry's home](#)

Oakland (Lake Merritt)

Wheelchair accessible; no pets; children ok

## *It's Official! UUA Agrees, "Live Oak Is Welcoming!"*

Woo-hoo! Here are excerpts from the letter we got from the UUA's office of LGBTQ ministries, congratulating us on becoming an official Welcoming Congregation.

"... I was particularly delighted to hear that you have really integrated the Welcoming Congregation principles and practices into your very start-up as a congregation! The steps that you've taken showed a great balance of education, congregational life, and community outreach / partnership. It's wonderful to hear that you collaborated with the Berkeley Fellowship of UUs. And your involvement with the Harvey Milk Day Celebration is fantastic!"



"... You can expect to receive two Welcoming Congregation posters in the mail shortly, and Live Oak will be recognized on the UUA's website within the next few days. Thanks again for your congregation's life-giving, essential work!"

Many thanks to our Fellowship's Welcoming Congregation Committee: Bernadette Alexander, Lisa Fry, and Richard Stromer. And, of course, to all of our warm, welcoming members and friends.

## *New Live Oak Board Officers Elected*

Our Board of Trustees, which oversees the work of the church, including operations, programs, and planning, has 5 members. The new Board elected its officers at the February Board meeting.

- Jay Roller (President)
- Kate Hand (Vice President)
- Roger Hallsten (Treasurer)
- Kathryn Duke (Secretary)

Renee Harper is the 5<sup>th</sup> member of the Board. The Board also gave a fond farewell to departing Board members Darlene Pagano and Kris Arrington who met with the board as part of the transitioning process. Kathryn, Kate, and Jay read a proclamation for Kris and sang a song for Darlene. Enjoy the videos of both presentations! What a fun Board!

- See the video of Kathryn, Kate, & Jay singing a tribute to Darlene: <http://dfry.smugmug.com/Live-Oak/i-LScvDPG/A>.
- Or watch them reading the Top Ten Reasons to Honor Kris: <http://dfry.smugmug.com/Live-Oak/i-CX4Z6dZ/A>.
- Or read (PDF) the lyrics/script: [Song](#) for Darlene or the [Proclamation](#) for Kris.

## *Former Live Oak Teacher, Carol Cissel, to be Ordained*

Carol Cissel, who taught our Children's Religious Education classes during the 2012-2013 church year, will soon be ordained at her home church in Silver Spring, MD. Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.



While serving with Live Oak, Carol pursued her Master of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. After working with us, Carol served as an Intern Minister at the Quimper (WA) UU Fellowship. Most recently, she served as Resident Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK.



We wish Carol well as she takes this next step in her ministry.

## *Small Group Ministry at Live Oak UU*

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 hope to organize a third group.

A group usually has 6-10 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](mailto: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.

## *Miss a Service? Listen to Audio Files On-Line*

We post the reflection and homily from most every service – and occasionally other elements. Be sure to check them out: <http://uuliveoak.org/past-services.htm>. Not as good as being there in person ... but better than missing out altogether. Enjoy!

Live Oak UU Fellowship's Mission:

*We create loving community through worship and service to others.*