



## Lots Happening! Read All About It!

Dear Lisa,

In this issue (in order):

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### **Decision Coming Soon: New Monthly Worship Leader**

Our Selection Committee (**Eric Fethe, Jay Roller, Jackie Roth, and Richard Stromer**) has evaluated all the feedback from Live Oak'ers regarding the MWL candidates. Our feedback, plus knowledge of the candidates provided through the materials they submitted (including at least 3 additional sermons) guided them in their decision-making process. They will present their recommendation to members of our board this week. The board anticipates making the final decision at their meeting on Feb. 12. Once the candidates are notified of the decision, the board and selection team will announce the name of the new Monthly Worship Leader. We are blessed to be choosing from two excellent candidates.

### **Changes ... Some Already Started, More to Come: Children's Religious Exploration Program**

The New Year brings a new experience for children, youth, and family members participating in our Children's Religious Exploration (CRE) program.



New energy and ideas are coming from a Steering Committee of seven people from our congregation, some with children or grandchildren raised as UUs,

some with professional experience working with children.

We plan each lesson by starting with ideas and resources from recognized UU curricula, including the *Tapestry of Faith* online curricula and the *We Believe* printed curriculum.

The children have been actively learning about and experiencing one or more of the Seven UU Principles. In a recent class, the children stood on one foot while reciting the "Golden Rule." They've also decorated copies of the Seven Principles (both the original adult version and one written for children). They role played a principle they've been learning about, and on Feb. 1, they helped lead the congregation in singing *This Little Light of Mine* (see photo above). Children will also be invited to help with the chalice lighting at the beginning of each service. Come and join the fun and learning.



**Happy Chinese New Year!**  
**February 19, 2015**  
**The Year of the Goat**

## **First Congregational Meeting of 2015**

On Sunday, January 11, many members and friends of Live Oak UU participated in our annual elections meeting. We unanimously re-elected **Bernadette Alexander, Kathryn Duke, and Jay Roller** to the Board of Trustees, as well as **Judith Heller and Richard Stromer** to the Nominating Committee. And we passed the suggested [Bylaw change](#).

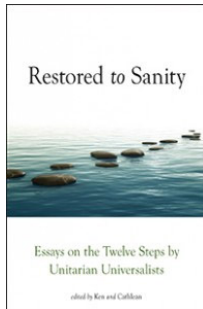
Jay, the current president, then presented the board's goals for this year:

- Stabilize and further develop Every Sunday Programming.
- Move ahead with further developing a Children's Religious Education program and presence.
- Select and move ahead with selected community service and social justice projects, with leadership from the Social Justice & Service Group.

All assembled then joined in an informal conversation about what is going well and what people are interested in creating or improving.

## **Transformative Stories: UUs and 12 Step Recovery Programs**

[from a [blog](#) called **Call And Response: Journeys in UU Lifespan Faith**. Author is Gail Forsyth-Vail]



*"Addiction touches many Unitarian Universalist families, congregations, and communities. We know the pain addiction can cause, not only for an individual, but for those around them. We have seen the tenacity required to sustain recovery."*

The author goes on to discuss the value of these programs and a new book (pictured left) entitled, Restored to Sanity: Essays on the Twelve Steps by Unitarian Universalists, edited by Ken and Cathlean (first names only, as is 12 Step practice).

Click to read the whole [blog post](#), which includes links to the book above and a couple of other books on this topic.

## We All Do So Much, But Today We Thank ...

We now have a wonderfully organized cupboard for our Children's Religious Education supplies (plus a few other things). Many thanks to **Niels Kjellund** and **David Fry** who measured, had shelves made, and then installed them.



And then we want to thank **Ximena Rossi** and **Nancy Balassi** who went through all the materials we've gathered and sorted, pitched, and organized all those items. Wow! Now we can find what we're looking for! Yay!

## Many Ways to Connect to Live Oak UU



Did you know that Live Oak recently added a Meetup page? Our hope is that more people who are looking for the kind of programs we offer will find us on Meetup. You can check out our Meetup Page [here](#). Show your interest, if you wish. (There's no charge to look at Meetup sites.) Tell others about this site. Many thanks to **Seri Gomberg** for helping to facilitate our Meetup group!

And we've had a Facebook group for a while. You can check it out [here](#). You can help us promote Live Oak by "Liking" our page. And check it regularly ... comment on posts, like them, and add your own. See something you think would be of interest to other Live Oak'ers (a news article, an upcoming social justice event, a concert perhaps)? Post it there. And tell others they can find us on FB. (Or, of course, on our [website](#).)



And don't forget our listserv. It's a great place to ask for advice, for the name of a good dentist, electrician, or restaurant, or to let us know you have items to give away or sell. And, again, let others know about upcoming events (demonstrations, theatre, children's activities, e.g.) that might be of interest to folks. Check it out! You may join our listserv, at any time, by sending an email to [uuliveoak-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uuliveoak-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## UU American Roots Class

Did you miss the first session of this class? That's too bad ... but you may still join us for the next class (March 8). Those present yesterday actively participated in the discussion and look forward to next month's class.

**Emily Stoper**, retired Cal State-East Bay professor and long time member of First Unitarian Church of Oakland, will continue to explore the stories of Unitarianism, Universalism and Unitarian Universalism in America.



The class will be in the Guild Room on 2nd Sundays (Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14), from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Light snacks follow. There is no charge for this class and all are welcome, including one-time walk-ins. **Childcare:** Advance notice is important. Please email [Darlene Pagano](mailto:Darlene.Pagano@uu.org), if you are bringing children.

## Finding Your Spiritual Voice: Last Call to Sign Up

Some members of our Live Oak Worship Team -- and several others from the congregation -- will soon be starting a course called "*Finding Your Spiritual Voice*."



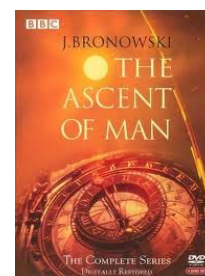
Erika Hewitt

The course is based on a book by UU Minister Erika Hewitt, called [The Shared Pulpit](#). Kate Hand called this book "a recipe for an amazing journey." Whether you have thought you might like to be a Worship Associate or Leader, or you're simply interested in looking more deeply into your own spiritual path, this course is for you. The class will meet once a month (on Saturday afternoon) for 8 months. But sign up fast. The class will begin shortly!

If you think you might be interested -- or if you have some questions -- contact **Richard Stromer**, who will lead this class.

## Adult Faith Development: Next Gathering for The Ascent of Man

Friday, February 20, you are invited to watch and discuss episode 8, titled *Drive for Power*, which explores industrial and political revolutions which author Jacob Bronowski believed altered concepts of power during the 18th century. Join us at the Fry's home in Oakland at 7:30 p.m. on the 20th. [Email Lisa Fry](#) to let her know you are coming. Questions? Need the location? Email or call Lisa at 510-419-0953. Don't worry if you haven't seen previous episodes. You'll still enjoy this program.



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 ([lisafry@gmail.com](mailto:lisafry@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](mailto:uuliveoak-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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