



# Whew! News & Invitations for Our Small Fellowship!

## Greetings!

In this issue (in order):

- Second Sundays: Gathering in Franklin Park
- News from Our Children & Youth Religious Exploration Teacher
- Large Live Oak Collection to Help the Southern Churches Burned by Arsonists
- Games Night: August 1 -- Need Response!
- Worship Team Looking for One New Worship Associate
- Children/Families: Newsletter from Tapestry of Faith (Environment)
- Gratitude: Recognizing Our Own
- Ascent of Man: Last Episode (July 17) and What's Next!
- SF Mime Troupe: Join Other Live Oak'ers on July 23
- 25th Anniversary: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Invitation to PRIDE Concert at the Freight & Salvage, Berkeley: Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, July 24 or 26

## Second Sundays in the Park: Picnic Next Sunday, July 12 -- and Again on August 9

Live Oak will gather at lovely Franklin Park (1432 San Antonio Ave, between Paru & Morton) on Sunday, July 12 (and August 9). We'll have someone go early to save a spot for us. Look for familiar faces.



You'll have choices: Just hang out and visit with other Live Oak'ers or join a discussion group led by **Roger Hallsten**.

There are some benches at the park, but we suggest bringing a blanket and/or lawn chairs with you. We'll talk, play, maybe sing a little, and eat (of course!). Bring a dish to share, as usual. We'll supply plates, cups, napkins, and flatware. Also, feel free to bring frisbees, kites, balls, etc.

There are two play areas in the park (near each other) -- one fenced in, with

equipment safe for toddlers, and the other with equipment for older kids. Note: there are also restrooms.



If you have questions, just ask! You can email [Lisa](#) for more info.

## News: Children & Youth Religious Exploration Team

The children and youth of Live Oak are doing wonderful work this summer. On July 5th, we talked about Independence Day and the way that Frederick Douglass called on people of conscience to abolish slavery and oppression of all kinds.

### Service Project Ideas

Knowing that all people are not yet free *"to pursue happiness"* in our world, we brainstormed a list of people we might want to help with our class service project this fall. People without jobs or homes were mentioned, along with children who don't have enough food to eat. Stay tuned to see what kind of service project the children and youth embark on in the coming months.



### Finishing Our Sports Theme

On July 19th, our class will have a visit from member Judith Heller, who will talk about the exciting sport of Dragon Boat Racing. After checking out her equipment, we will interview her to find out why she loves her sport and how it reinforces her UU values.

### Up next: Medicine

Next, we'll be moving onto the theme of medicine. We will look at the lives of

some people who served humanity through health care (Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman to graduate from medical school and women's health pioneer, and Albert Schweitzer). We will learn some first aid skills and check our safety equipment at church as well.

All of our classes include group games, activities, stories, and chances to take leadership. I look forward to seeing you and your children at Live Oak this summer!

~ Brooke Bishara

## Wow! Big Collection for Rebuild the Churches Fund

This past Sunday, July 5th, we elected to give our collection to *Rebuild the Churches Fund*, organized by an Episcopal church in St. Louis. **Our small, but truly generous community collected \$563.00!** If you were not there Sunday, but wish to help -- or you want to learn more about this fund -- please [click here](#). Live Oak UU is listed on their website already as one of the communities supporting this drive.

Communities of all faiths have been invited to hold special offerings as a sign of interfaith solidarity against racism and with our sisters and brothers of faith. The monies will go to the four predominantly black churches (in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) recently confirmed as victims of arson. If other churches are confirmed as being burned by arson, they will be added to the distribution list.

## Interested -- and Available -- for Aug. 1 Games Night?



Candyland.

We have reserved space at Christ Episcopal Church on Saturday, August 1 for an all-ages Games Night. Kids, youth, and adults: You all are welcome. Bring a game or two, if you wish. A few past favorites include Apples to Apples, Dominoes, Bananagrams, Yahtzee, and

More info soon. In the past we've had a simple dinner, too. Still working on that piece. Thoughts? Anyone want to help? Or just come to participate?

**Who's in?** [Email Lisa](#) right away to let us know if you will be there. It's always a fun evening. (And we start and end early enough for families and kids.)

## **Worship Team: Looking for a New Worship Associate**

The Live Oak Worship Team is looking for an additional Worship Associate. Worship Associates assist our Worship Leaders in the creation and presentation of our worship services by performing some of the standard elements of our worship. For example a Worship Associate (WA) might introduce the *"Sharing of Responsibility"* and/or the *"Embracing Meditation."* WAs also usually write and present a short personal reflection on the theme of the service.

In addition to assisting at 5-6 services a year, this person would also be expected to join the rest of the team at our bi-monthly planning and development meetings. These are held on the second Saturday morning of odd-numbered months from 10:30 to 12:30.

If you've wanted to become more involved in our worship program, the role of Worship Associate is a great way to get started. If you're interested and/or have any questions, please contact the chair of our Worship Team, **Richard Stromer**, by email at [rsstromer@gmail.com](mailto:rsstromer@gmail.com), by phone at 510-682-6302, or in-person after one of our worship services.

## **For Kids & Families: *"Families Weave a Tapestry of Faith"***

Take a look at this very nicely done (PDF) [4-page newsletter](#) for children and families with articles, stories, and project ideas for UU children. This issue (*Summer 2015*) deals with our environment. It includes articles on:

- Wind energy (and a look at what's happening in Denmark)
- Habits for animals
- Ways you might notice climate change
- Where does the energy we use come from and how do we use it
- Web of life: helping children know our place

***Surely the earth can be saved by all the people who insist on love.***

~ Alice Walker

## Heartfelt Thanks to ...

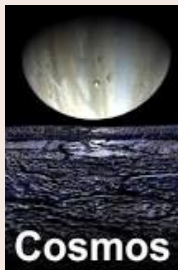
**Sally Kennedy** for being our pianist during our June 28th worship service and to **Kim Rankin** for filling in as our choir director and pianist for the 1st and 3rd Sundays in the month of July.



We are also grateful to the Music Search Team (**Sally Kennedy, Judith Heller, Jay Roller, and Richard Stromer**). This hearty and talented group have been looking for and interviewing potential candidates to lead our choir in the coming year.

## Adult Evening Discussions: Ascent of Man Series Ending; Next Up: Cosmos

Friday (July 17), join other Live Oak'ers to watch the final episode (#13), called *The Long Childhood*, Jacob Bronowski's treatise on the commitment of man. We gather at 7:30 p.m. in a home in Oakland. Email [Lisa Fry](mailto:Lisa.Fry@liveoak.org) to RSVP (and for the location).



The 3rd Friday in August (Aug. 21) we will watch *The History and Modernization of the Unitarians in Transylvania*, a video documentary by Dakotta J.K. Alex, edited by Zoltán Varró-Bodoczi.

And in September, we will watch and discuss a new (but old) series, Carl Sagan's [\*Cosmos: A Personal Voyage\*](#). It's also a 13-part series. This one was produced in 1980. All are welcome to join us. Read more about the inimitable [Carl Sagan](#).

## Join Us for the SF Mime Troupe: Thursday, July 23 Enjoy the Show with Other Live Oak'ers in Oakland





From the SF Chronicle: "There are certain absolutes in a San Francisco Mime Troupe performance: Current events will be blasted apart, analyzed and satirized; amusing songs will be sung; and a good time will be had for a ticket price of \$0."

How can you turn that down? The Mime Troupe's 2015 show is "Freedomland," a look at an out-of-control police force, a

war on a new drug called SNORF, and citizens caught in the crosshairs. The show will be presented in Lakeside Park (Lake Merritt) in Oakland on July 23, 7:00 p.m. (music begins at 6:30). Join other LO'ers at the [Edoff Memorial Band Stand](#) (map link) for this evening of laughs. Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets to sit on. You may bring food and beverages, if you wish. Arriving early assures us good views. If you know for sure you will join us, let [Lisa](#) or [Jay](#) know. We'll try to have someone there early to score space for those we know are coming. Note: The troupe will also be at Lakeside Park on July 22 (7:00 p.m.) and other bay area locations throughout the summer. See their [schedule here](#).

## 25th Anniversary: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

In observance of this milestone, the ADA National Network has prepared an ADA Anniversary Tool Kit, which includes publications, events, videos and other resources.

They are also calling for individuals, organizations and faith communities, including individual congregations, to sign a proclamation to recommit to full implementation of the ADA. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is one of the faith communities that has signed this proclamation. Please check out their [website](#) to learn more and recommit to full implementation of this civil rights act.



[EqUUal Access](#), the UU organization committed to the full engagement of people with disabilities in our congregations and beyond, will also be releasing a resources for congregations probably by the July 26th anniversary of the ADA.

Live Oak is proud to be:

- Wheelchair accessible (sanctuary, fellowship rooms, bathrooms)
- Provide large-print orders of service

- Provide large-print hymnals
- Offer assisted hearing devices for worship.

Still work to be done, but our small fellowship is ahead of many other congregations.

## **Concert at the Freight & Salvage: Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus**

The wonderful Oakland East Bay Gay Men's Chorus (OEBGMC) will perform at Freight & Salvage (downtown Berkeley) on Friday, July 24 and Sunday, July 26. Advance tickets are \$22 each.

Live Oak received this note from the chorus: "As you are all aware, Marriage Equality is now the law of the land ... again I want to say THANK YOU to you and your congregation for being welcoming AND accepting of the LGBT community. You all helped reach that successful milestone as well!"

They've invited us to attend their PRIDE show: [Divas, Anyone?](#) (PDF)

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@yahogroups.com](mailto:uuliveoak-subscribe@yahogroups.com).

[Live Oak UU Website](#)  
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