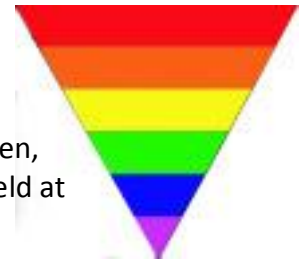


News from Live Oak – February, 2013

Join Us for the Welcoming Congregation Process

Live Oak is excited to begin the Welcoming Congregation process, using a UUA program designed to help congregations be more welcoming and inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Yes, we *do* already welcome LGBT folks, but theoretical welcome is very different from the lived welcome. How can we truly embody a spirit of radical hospitality? Those of us who attended the first class found it very useful.

We strongly encourage you to join us for some of 6 evening sessions on “Practicing Radical Hospitality.” We are coordinating with the Berkeley Fellowship of UUs in offering this series. Richard Stromer, who has been involved with this program before, is joining Rev. Ben Meyers, Cecilia Owen, and Caitlin Cotter (from BFUU) to lead the program. The classes will be held at BFUU (1924 Cedar St. @ Bonita, in Berkeley). There is no cost and the space is wheelchair accessible.



We will look at the common elements of oppression, gender socialization and homophobia, racism and homophobia/heterosexism, HIV/AIDS, religion and homosexuality, Bisexual and Transgender Identity, and how homophobia hurts us all. We invite our entire congregation, your families and friends to join in this important work of becoming the community we wish to be. Remaining dates: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, and Mar. 5. (We recognize that a few of these conflict with our choir rehearsals.)

If you would like to coordinate getting to BFUU, just let Lisa know (lisasfry@gmail.com).

And watch for more information about the Welcoming Congregation process, which is being led by Bernadette Alexander, Lisa Fry, and Richard Stromer. Want to help? Let us know!

Welcoming New Members!

We are happy to announce three new members of our congregation. Bernadette Alexander, who has been coming regularly since our beginning, has made the decision to become a member. Welcome, Bernadette! We also welcome Alison Stuart and Ty Meier who have made the commitment to join Live Oak UU. We are so happy to welcome them and their daughter. We look forward to celebrating these new members with an Ingathering ritual during our worship service on Sunday, March 3. Join us then!

New Adult Faith Development Program: The Wisdom of Faith



Bestselling author and professor Huston Smith offers a fascinating tour of the world's major religions -- Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam -- in conversations with journalist Bill Moyers. Smith claims that, at core, all religions are the same -- and that at their best, they provide universal truths by which humans can define and unite themselves.

Join us at the home of David and Lisa Fry. We will meet on the third Friday of the month (February, March, April, May, and June) .Drop in for one session -- or come for them all. We will gather at 7:30 p.m. Each DVD runs 55 minutes. Then we'll spend time sharing and discussing what we've heard. And Richard Stromer has offered to guide us during the discussion time.

The first session will be Friday, February 15th. The topic will be Hinduism. Please join us for these highly reviewed conversations. RSVP: lisafry@gmail.com.

Harvest Festival at Alameda Point Collaborative

A little late, but ... Many thanks to all Live Oak'ers who helped make Alameda Point Collaborative's Harvest Festival such a success. Following a suggestion from Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Live Oak staffed carnival-type games at the festival. The Live Oak planning team was Nanci, Kate Hand, Mindy Mull, and Kathryn Duke. Others who helped at the festival included:

- Nanci Armstrong-Temple
- Kathryn Duke
- Kate Hand
- Peter Hand
- Renee Harper
- Niels Kjellund
- Mindy Mull
- Franco Rossi
- Ximena Rossi
- Jay Roller
- Richard Stromer

And people who donated supplies or loaned us equipment:

- Annabelle Conlin
- Vicky Jensen
- Dave Keys
- Rebecca Ramirez
- Kim Rankin



Also, Debra Temple and her dog visited us there, as did Kathryn & Niel's adult son, Kevin.

*Pacific Western Regional Assembly: Big Faith * No Borders*

Join our four western UUA Districts (our own Pacific Central District, plus Pacific Southwest, Pacific Northwest, and Mountain Desert District) in making history this spring as we come together for the first-ever UUA Regional Assembly. The theme is BIG FAITH * NO BORDERS! We will gather April 26-28, 2013 in San Jose.



Friday night's Opening Celebration includes the inspiring challenge of our featured speaker, the Rev. Christine Robinson, Senior Minister of First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque (left).

Saturday includes three all-day workshop tracks responding to the charge of UUA President, the Rev. Peter Morales, to "Get Religion, Cross Borders and Grow Leaders." These all-day seminars will be augmented with an Option Track, consisting of shorter workshops offered by congregational leaders from the Pacific Western Region, ready to share their insights and expertise. Click here for [descriptions of the workshops](#).

Our Regional Assembly is a multigenerational event. There will be terrific age-specific programming for children and middle schoolers, as offered at our regular District Assemblies in the past. Youth and young adults will participate in the energizing workshops, transformational workshops and community-building experiences offered to the adults.

All activities will be in the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose. [Make your hotel reservations](#) (at a discounted cost). Registration will be available soon. Remember Live Oak has money to defray some of the costs for people attending events like this. Contact Lisa at lisasfry@gmail.com.

New Leadership Team for Live Oak

We are delighted to announce the election of Kathryn Duke, Kate Hand, and Jay Roller to our Live Oak Board of Trustees. They join ongoing members Kris Arrington and Darlene Pagano. And joining Sally Kennedy on our Nominating Committee are Judith Heller and Richard Stromer.

Many thanks to Lisa Fry, Peter Hand, and Jody Savage who are rolling off the Board and to Kate Hand and Jay Roller who completed two terms each on the Nominating Committee. We are blessed to have had all these folks serving our community.

We create loving community through worship and service to others.

- Live Oak UU's Mission Statement

Live Oak's Second Yard Sale

Thanks to the initiative of Roger Hallsten, we will have another yard sale – to help all of us clean out our closets while adding some funds to the Live Oak budget.

Please gather your cast-off *whatevers* to donate to our fellowship. Roger will host the sale at his house on the Berkeley-Oakland border. He says he will accept almost anything with resale value. He notes that clothing should be in excellent condition only. That's what will sell. So bring household goods you no longer use, working electronics, games, puzzles, knick-knacks, books, and more to Roger. The sale will be Saturday, March 2 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.). Please bring your treasures to Roger's home (2436 Woolsey St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Feb. 28 or Friday, March 1.

New Religious Education Class for Upper Elementary Ages

In February, we are dividing our Children's Religious Education into two separate Sunday classes. Cecilia Owen will continue working with the younger children. David Fry will work with our older students. They will utilize a curriculum titled *Riddle & Mystery*, part of the "Tapestry of Faith" program of the UUA. The youth will explore "big questions," such as where do we come from, what are we, right and wrong, what do we believe, and more. David welcomes more students to join the class. Questions? Talk to David.

Small Group Ministry: Opportunities to Gather

Members of Small Group Ministry (SGM) groups get to know one another and deepen their own spirituality by participating together in discussions of topics of universal human significance. The topics are intended to focus the group's attention on the things we have in common just by being human. We have several people hoping to help create a new group, perhaps meeting on Tuesday evening. And the Wednesday night group has room for another person or two. Email Lisa Fry (lisasfry@gmail.com) or Darlene Pagano (dpagano@igc.org), if you are interested! And let us know which night works best for you. Please reply ASAP. We hope to get a new group started quickly.

Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 24 (2:00-4:00 p.m.). Main topic: discuss and approve the budget for the next fiscal year. Several people wanted to talk more about Every Sunday programming, the possibility of more ministerial services, and more.