

News from Live Oak – March 23, 2010

Articles in this issue:

Congregational Meeting (3/28)

July 4th Task Force Needed

Hiring a Choir Director

Worship News

RE Workshop

District Assembly

Website Changes

Congregational Meeting: Next Sunday, March 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

How are we (Live Oak) doing?

What activities got the most interest on the recent Live Oak survey?

What's next with those choices?

Do you have concerns we haven't addressed?

Don't miss this opportunity to share thoughts and feelings with one another. The meeting will be in the sanctuary at the Home of Truth. Please note: No food is allowed in the sanctuary – and the only drink allowed is water. (We had hoped to use the cottage, but it will be in use for another group. That also means you might want to leave a little extra time to park.)

July 4th Plans: Shall We Worship or Play?

July 4th is on a Sunday this year and there appears to be interest in replacing our usual Sunday worship and potluck with a picnic, barbeque, or other social event. If this is to happen, a task force needs to be formed as soon as possible to plan this event. Please contact Kathryn Duke if you are interested in this planning process. (Please bear in mind that Kathryn is simply acting as contact person and will not be a member of the task force). We need to have this group in place quickly both for starting the picnic plans and so the worship team knows if they need to plan for a regular worship service for July 4th. Richard Stromer says if a social activity is arranged the WLs will also plan a brief ritual as part of the day.

We are blessed to have one volunteer willing to work on this already, but only if others step up to help. Email Kathryn at kathryn.saenz.duke@gmail.com to express your interest. She will tell you about one site in Alameda that she recommends (though the task force will make the ultimate decision).

Hiring an Interim Part-Time Choir Director

We are delighted to announce that this week a team of Live Oak choir members (Debra Temple, Jay Roller, Sally Kennedy, and Kate Hand) will interview a number of candidates to be a part-time choir director (April-June). After the interviews, some or all of the candidates will then audition with the choir itself. Debra reports that the applicants appear to be strong candidates. We will report more when there is someone hired. Many thanks to Debra, Jay, Sally, and Kate.

More Worship News

Our Worship Leaders met recently to set the schedule for the rest of the calendar year. As you know, our services have been following the theme, Compassion, the last few months. The WLs set upcoming themes: Spring = Possibility; Summer = Joy; and Fall = Gratitude.

Also, we will host our first guest minister on Sunday, May 2nd. We look forward to sharing our pulpit with the Rev. Jeffrey Melcher, who most recently has been working with the UU Legislative Ministry on the issue of Healthcare.

Religious Exploration Workshop: Sun., April 25, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Children's Religious Education/Exploration Committee warmly invites you to be part of the discussion and fun on April 25, 2:00-4:00 pm, as we come together, with Religious Education and Exploration consultant Carol Bodeau, for guided conversation about growing a multi-age, multi-faceted Religious Exploration program within Live Oak UU Fellowship.

Why do this? Because many people believe:

- Congregations that are vital are intergenerational (some congregations are now using the term multigenerational); they thrive when people of all ages come together and share their different skills, experiences and passions. We are all teaching and learning together.
- "RE" isn't just about kids or adults in a structured class. Every single thing that happens in congregational life is "religious education" or "religious exploration" -- how the welcome is done, how the potluck dinners happen, what special events the community holds and how that participation happens.
- Congregations that want to be active and growing must proactively make space for families with children. Just as families of all types (single people, couples without children, e.g.), these families bring a wealth of new ideas and vitality. But we need to re-think how churches serve families and communities of all sizes and types, because issues and concerns have changed considerably in the last 20 years.

- Coming from largely age-segregated family, work, and school environments, we all benefit from sharing our gifts and talents with people of diverse ages and experiences. Older adults pass along hard-earned wisdom, experience and perspectives to younger people, who offer newer perspectives, insights, and energy.

To help us know how many people to plan for, please RSVP with Laura Prickett (prickett_l@yahoo.com, 510.848.8749) or Kate Hand (pkhand@sbcglobal.net, 510.540.8337).

Laura Prickett, Kate Hand, Darlene Pagano are the Workshop Planning Team.

District Assembly: A Fantastic Experience!

Our district (Pacific Central District) is known across the country for holding the best District Assembly (DA) anywhere. We enjoy the opportunity to hear outstanding speakers, attend a huge selection of excellent workshops, and meet and gather with 400 other UUs (the largest number to attend any DA). In addition to the adult programming, there is also full-time programming for children and youth. And there's music, fun, vendors (including our own Laurel Eber), and good food. This year's two keynote speakers are well-known and inspiring.

There are also two moving worship services (Friday night and Sunday morning).

And DA is coming up quickly: Friday, April 30-Sunday morning, May 2, in Fremont – almost our back yard. Registration is open now. Don't delay.

I highly recommend you attend this event. Click here for additional details and to register. A sliding scale makes this more affordable. <http://www.pcd-uua.org/events/DA-2010/index.htm>. You can make a weekend of it and stay in the conference hotel. Or save money by driving back and forth. I'll attach the PDF that lists workshops for you to peruse. (Note: It does not mention it, but another of our own members, Carol Thornton, is going to co-lead a workshop on Earth Justice: The Green Sanctuary.)

Let's have a large number of Live Oak members there, learning and sharing.

Live Oak Website Changes

We have made some changes to our website that we hope will help bring Live Oak higher in search results. Some changes include making links (particularly in our navigation bar) and headers on each page more informative. Another change folks might notice is the use of the word "church" somewhere on most every page. Though we have chosen to be a "fellowship," not a church, most people searching for a Unitarian Universalist congregation will use the word "church" in their query. Using the word "church" occasionally on our site will help those folks find us.