

News from Live Oak – May 20, 2010

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Memorial Day Weekend: Let's Hike!

Grab your hiking boots and join Kim Rankin, Judith Heller, Carol Thornton, and Jim Freschi for a scenic Tilden Park walk on Saturday morning, May 29. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Little Farm/Environmental Education Center parking area.

There are several options to choose from there, based on the interest and hiking aptitude of those who show up. There are relatively flat trails -- easy even for beginners. And there are more challenging trails. We might split into two groups, again depending on who comes. Bring snacks and we'll stop along the way for a little picnic lunch. See you there!

A Poet Among Us – And Her Gift to Us

Live Oak member Ruth Levitan, a poet of some renown, has gifted our fellowship with copies of her latest anthology of poems, [Boulevards & Blind Alleys](#). And you may own and enjoy one of these wonderful books in exchange for a \$20.00 (or greater) donation to the Live Oak UU Fellowship.

This offer perfectly integrates two of Ruth's great passions – Live Oak and poetry. What a wonderful gift to all of us.

Watch for information about a poetry reading event soon, but, in the meantime, please contact Ruth (rulev@pacbell.net) or Lisa Fry (lisafry@gmail.com, 510-419-0953) to get a copy of

Boulevards & Blind Alleys right now. Several people have bought multiple copies of this volume, presenting gifts to others in their lives who enjoy poetry.

Ruth, who has been writing poetry since she was 10-years-old, has won a number of prizes for her poems and has produced three previous chapbooks. One of her poems appeared in the anthology, *Women of the Fourteenth Moon*. Her most recent publication is in the Fall-2001 issue of [The Sand Hill Review](#).

Ruth writes in many styles and considers herself to be a free spirited formalist. She says, “I believe that writing poetry, like the practice of any art, is done in an attempt to remain sane in a chaotic world. Sometimes it works.”

With her usual humor and spirit, Ruth describes Boulevards & Blind Alleys as an apt description of her life’s journey.

GUUerilla Marketing at Upcoming Events

Darlene Pagano and the board are leading the charge to make more people aware of Live Oak UU. GUUerilla marketing refers to free or inexpensive ways of promoting ourselves.

Darlene identified several events coming up where we believe we should have a presence. We all agreed that having Live Oak t-shirts and brochures to handout would be useful for promoting and growing our fellowship. Some of our ideas:

- [Pride Parade](#) in San Francisco. We purchased a few *Standing on the Side of Love* placards and wallet cards to hand out for that. We will walk with other faith communities.
- Alameda’s [4th of July parade](#) and/or the park where the parade ends – Games, crafts, jump houses, music, food! We could enjoy these activities and end up at Home of Truth for our worship service.
- [Alameda Walks](#) (3 Saturdays each month, May-Dec, Alameda holds 1-hour walks, some with history talks, some just for community and exercise) -- Any walkers (kids & adults welcome) out there who would enjoy this activity and sharing the joy of Live Oak UU?
- June 19: [Sandcastle Contest](#) in Alameda (Robert Crown Beach)
- July 24-25: [Art & Wine Faire](#) on Park Street, Alameda

Do you have ideas for places where we can be visible? Please send them to Darlene at dpagano@igc.org.

In addition, Jim Freschi and David Fry are looking into making a sign that would hang over the Home of Truth’s sign just during the times that we are having our services.

Congregational Meeting: June 13

Though one of the main pieces of business for the June 13th meeting is to approve the coming fiscal year's budget, the board plans to also incorporate a process for all of us to work together to plan the future of our congregation. Watch for more details soon. In the meantime, please put this meeting on your calendars: June 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Cottage at the Home of Truth.

New Ideas for the Children's Program -- and Building an Intergenerational Community

On Sunday, April 25, thirteen members of the Live Oak community came together for a workshop on cultivating the children's program and building community with people of all ages. Led by Carol Bodeau (Minister of Religious Education at the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula), we began the workshop by focusing on our own childhood experience of religion or spirituality. (One attendee commented that this was such a great community-building experience, even if nothing else happened, the workshop would have been extremely worthwhile.) Afterwards, we brainstormed ideas for activities or goals for both Live Oak's children's program and for intergenerational opportunities. Ideas were grouped in categories of Fellowship, Worship, Classes, Potluck Time, and Social Justice, and then we worked on a tentative schedule. The following are some of the top-ranking activities that may be implemented in the coming months:

- Games night
- A special field trip or outing
- Camping trip, including outdoor worship
- Nature/ecology related social justice activity
- Hire a part-time (25 percent) Director of Children's Religious Education/Exploration

Many thanks to Carol and to all who helped plan the day (Planning Team: Laura Prickett, Kate Hand, Darlene Pagano, assisted by Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Kim Rankin, and Kathryn Duke). And thanks to all who came and contributed ideas and energy to this workshop. For further information, please contact (prickett_l@yahoo.com, 510.848.8749).

Take the Survey on the Children's Program and Intergenerational Community Building!

Even if you missed the April 25 workshop on the children's program and building an intergenerational community, you can still offer input! Please go to the following Internet link and take the online survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MCM6D3Z>.

Please note: a hard copy of this survey was handed out at the workshop. If you already completed and handed in the survey, please do not take it again.

Miss a Service? Want to Share a Past Homily/Reflection?

A few recent services have been added to our website for those who missed a service – or for those who want to recommend someone else hear or read some of the words of wisdom and heart from one of our worship services. You will find a number of items newly posted at <http://uuliveoak.org/past-services.htm>. (Some are audio files, some are PDFs.)

Below are the services recently added to the page.

- May 16 – *Growing Up: It's a Lifetime Job*
(Hear Kate Hand's story and Nanci Armstrong-Temple's homily)
- May 2 – *Behind the Screen*
(Read Jay Roller's reflection. Unfortunately our recording on this day failed so we do not have Jef Melcher's sermon.)
- April 18 – *Speak, Memory* (Earth Day)
(Hear Worship Leader Carol Thornton's homily and our choir [directed for the first time by Susan Sonnemaker] singing *Kae'na Laemuna*, from South Africa)

Federal Climate Legislation: Discussion on June 8

Will the U.S. Senate pass a climate bill this summer?

The UULM (UU Legislative Ministry of CA) invites us to a discussion with Mike Sandler, Co-Founder of the Climate Protection Campaign on Tuesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berkeley Fellowship Of UUs. This meeting will be in the Connie Barber Room in the Education Building, 1606 Bonita Ave., 2nd floor (not wheelchair accessible).

Many scientists believe we're heading for a climate crisis of a magnitude unprecedented in human history. Mike Sandler will discuss the various proposals for Federal climate legislation, including the Waxman bill, the CLEAR Act, the Kerry-Lieberman bill, and the Hansen proposal. He'll also talk about their possible impact on California's climate law.

Mike has worked with cities, water agencies, and air districts to quantify and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions since 2001. He manages a website on carbon pricing and equity at www.carbonshare.org and has degrees in Political Economy and Urban Planning.

Mens' Movie Group Forming

Several men in our fellowship are interested in getting together to watch a movie and then hang out together for discussion (of the film and of life). If you are interested in learning more about this group, please contact David Fry (davidfry@gmail.com). The group is looking at both watching movies on DVD in someone's home and at going to theatres for current films.

Fellowship Calendar: Keeping It Up-to-Date

Have you scheduled a committee meeting? A choir rehearsal? An outing for folks in our community? If so, please make sure the event is on our Live Oak calendar (<http://uuliveoak.org/calendar-large.htm>). Email Lisa Fry (lisafry@gmail.com) or Ruby Reay (rurubux@hotmail.com) with the details (date, time, place) and they will add it to the calendar.

Worship Welcomes Your Feedback

Your feedback (signed or anonymous) will help guide the process of worship creation at Live Oak and is greatly appreciated! http://uuliveoak.org/worship_feedback_sign-up.htm

Easy One-Shot Way to Contribute

Volunteer for potluck duty: Use the on-line sign-up: <http://doodle.com/38zxf8szas4e882u>. Or contact Judith Heller (510-847-3719 or at jheller@fogcty.com) to volunteer to set-up and/or clean-up! Not a big job, but important! Thanks.