

## *News from Live Oak – June 27, 2010*

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*Congratulations, Live Oak!*

### ***We Are Now an Emerging Congregation!***

We are so delighted to announce that Live Oak UU Fellowship has been named an emerging congregation by our district and the UUA. This is the first step toward becoming an affiliated congregation of the UUA. The UUA website explains, "An Emerging Congregation is one that has not yet been accepted into the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for membership. It may be new and growing toward full service or not yet ready to become a UUA member congregation. Once a group has Emerging Congregation status, it is listed along with UUA member congregations on UUA.org and so gets the benefit of reaching people who may be new to or visiting the area where they are located, as well as attracting people from the town and surrounding area who may be looking for a liberal religious community. The designation "emerging congregation" indicates the commitment to grow and eventually become a full member congregation of the UUA."

The steps necessary to become a member congregation of the UUA include completing an application, getting four letters of recommendation (from the District Executive, the District Board President, the District's UUA Trustee, and a neighboring congregational minister). Then our package goes to the UUA Board for the final decision. We will be working toward this in the coming church year. Our Board keep folks apprised along the way.

## *Celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Together*

### **Join us for one – or all three -- Live Oak activities on July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

1) Our choir (including Susan Sonnemaker) will sing their way from one end of Alameda to the other during the Alameda Independence Day Parade. Many thanks to Kate Hand for organizing this effort.

While our “float” of harmonizers rides by the crowds, other Live Oak volunteers will walk alongside, handing out newly designed and printed Live Oak bookmarks to help introduce us to our neighbors (with a little candy to sweeten the deal).

While you can watch the parade anywhere along the route, think about watching from The Home of Truth. The parade passes right by the building. Some of us will gather on the steps and porch of THOT to watch – and to cheer as our choir comes by! (Parade begins at 10 a.m. Maybe it will start rolling by THOT by 10:30?)

2) Then join us at the cottage for a traditional July 4<sup>th</sup> B-B-Q! We'll grill hot dogs (and veggie dogs) in the garden, providing buns and condiments, too. Please bring side dishes to share. And what would the 4<sup>th</sup> be without ice cream? We will also provide that. Woo-hoo! It's hard to judge what time those in the parade will be able to join us, but we're aiming to eat about 12:30 p.m. But there will be folks there before that, too.



If you can make it to the B-B-Q (at the cottage of The Home of Truth), please let us know (email [lisasfry@gmail.com](mailto:lisasfry@gmail.com)). We need to know how many people to buy for. Thanks!

3) And immediately following our lunch together, Richard Stromer and Nanci Armstrong-Temple will lead our worship service in the sanctuary. The service begins at 2:00 p.m. (two hours earlier than usual). They will explore the spiritual significance of Thomas Jefferson's memorable phrase "the pursuit of happiness."

## *Working Toward Wheelchair Accessibility*

Live Oak members have been doing research, talking to experts, and discussing possibilities with the board at The Home of Truth. At our June 13 congregational meeting we heard members' concerns about Live Oak not being wheelchair accessible. With encouragement from them and Elizabeth Keir, the board focused on this issue at our last board meeting. That night, we affirmed our commitment to work toward wheelchair and semi-ambulatory access to all our worship and activity space, naming this a priority for the coming church year.

## *Live Oak T-Shirts Are In!*

Our t-shirts are in – and they look great! To the right you can see what the front looks like. The back has our name and website url. (Those in the parade will be wearing the shirts on the 4<sup>th</sup>.)

If you ordered a shirt and are coming to the service on July 4<sup>th</sup>, please bring money or a check with you to pay for your shirt(s). Each shirt costs \$7.50. We did order a few extras which will be available on a first come-first serve basis.



## *What's Happening with Children's RE This Summer?*

June 20 was the final UU Super Heroes class for children ages 5 and older. We've had a great time learning how people like Clara Barton and Christopher Reeve were motivated by their UU faith to help make the world a better place. (The class also included fun activities like practicing first aid on a mock battlefield and hunting for hidden treasure!) There will be childcare during summer worship services, but no classes. Our childcare worker Sarah Gassner-Wollwage will take the kids to enjoy summer weather at a nearby park or lead an activity closer to Home of Truth, with the help of a different volunteer each Sunday (maybe you?)

On September 19, we will start our classes again, with the children ages 5 and older studying about Super Heroes: Bible People, while children ages 4 and under engage in crafts, stories and other age-appropriate activities.

## *Many Thanks to Children's Program Teachers and Teaching Assistants*

The Children's Religious Education/Exploration Committee would like to offer special thanks to Live Oak members and friends who volunteered as teachers and teaching assistants during the 2009-10 school year. We hope we have not forgotten anyone, but our records show the following list of volunteers: Nanci Armstrong-Temple, Kathryn Duke, Jim Freschi, Vera Gassner, Kate Hand, Judith Heller, Ruth Levitan, Laura Prickett, Jackie Roth, Jody Savage, and Emma Styles-Swain.

We would also like to thank Sarah Gassner-Wollwage, who has been our paid childcare worker most Sundays over the past few years, and the following young people who have occasionally

substituted for her during this school year: Emma Styles-Swain, Elena Duke, and Avery Roth-Hawthorne.

We are so grateful for your help in providing a fun and enriching experience for the younger generation of UUs!

## *Live Oak Garage Sale in August*

Start gathering up those household items you no longer use, but still have life left in them. And mark the weekend of August 6 & 7 for the Live Oak garage sale. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, we can all bring our “rummage” to the home of Roger Hallsten & Laura Prickett on Woolsey in Berkeley. They will store things in their garage overnight and the next morning Live Oak volunteers will help set things out and help sell our items. And picture our children selling refreshments to those who come to buy our hand-me-downs.



This Live Oak fundraiser will be fun for all. We will take shifts helping with set-up, sales, and clean-up – all the time gabbing and laughing with each other. Watch for more details soon. In the meantime, do start collecting toys, books, clothes, household items to donate to our sale. Thanks! And many thanks to Roger and Laura for generously allowing us to use their driveway!

### **Are You An Experienced Garage Saler?**

We are looking for people with experience with garage sales to help us manage this event (pricing advice, scheduling shifts, other suggestions). We will advertise the sale on craigslist, but welcome other ideas. Email [lisafry@gmail.com](mailto:lisafry@gmail.com) to offer advice or to sign up to help.

## *Circle Suppers: Let's Get Together!*

Looking for a wonderful way to meet and get to know a small group of folks from Live Oak? Circle suppers are the answer. Every few months, we will organize potluck dinners in homes of fellowship members and friends. The host supplies the setting and the main course. S/he is also responsible for contacting each of the guests assigned to his/her home. Each guest then brings a dish to share. These are casual, pleasant evenings where folks have an opportunity to meet new people and perhaps enjoy the company of some you've already met.

Mark your calendars: We have dates set for our first two Circle Suppers: Saturday, August 28 and Saturday, October 23. Intersted in coming to one or both? We've created a Doodle where you can let us know you wish to be a guest at the Aug. 28 supper, host a supper, would like to attend a multigenerational supper where your children can join you, and other options. Here's the link: <http://doodle.com/t5b5nqah2w78g26r>

## *Mens' Movie Group July Meeting*

Several men in our fellowship have been getting together to watch a movie (on DVD) and then hang out together for discussion (of the film and of life). The next movie night is Friday, July 23. The movie for that night is *Chinatown*. If you are interested in coming on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – or in learning more about this group, please contact David Fry ([davidfry@gmail.com](mailto:davidfry@gmail.com)).

## *Live Oak UU Receives an Award*



The UU Ministry for the Earth has recognized only 16 UU congregations all across the country as Honor Congregations – and Live Oak UU was one of them.

We received this honor in recognition of our generosity when we donated our entire Sunday morning plate to the UUMFE during our April 18<sup>th</sup> Earth Day worship service. Many thanks to Carol Thornton for leading that service and suggesting we give our collection that day to UUMFE. And thanks to each of you who donated so generously.

## *Want to Listen to – or 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.

- June 6 – *Heartbreak Hotel*  
(Hear Ruth Levitan's reflection and Jay Roller's homily)
- June 20 – *Everything Possible*  
(Hear Kim Rankin's homily.)