



Lots of News for Our Small Fellowship!

Dear Lisa,

In this issue (in order):

- Stewardship Report: Woot! A Very Successful Campaign
- Honoring the Deeper Voices (on Mothers' Day)
- Children's Religious Education: Letter from Brooke
- Summer Camp Opportunities for Children & Youth
- Facebook Page: Ours Can Help Us Grow!
- Gratitude: Recognizing Our Own
- Ascent of Man: This Friday (May 15)
- UU American Roots Class Continues

Thank You! A Very Successful Stewardship Campaign!

Many thanks to everyone who so generously supports this congregation -- with your time, your talent, and your treasure! We thought you'd all be interested in a few statistics from our just completed Stewardship campaign.

- 31 total pledges
- 12 pledges increased over last year
- Largest increase was 100% more than last year!
- 7 pledges increased more than 20%
- Total average increase was 5%
- Total amount pledged for the coming fiscal year is \$31,061 (\$1,500 more than last year's total)

Kudo's to our Stewardship Committee (**Jim Freschi, Roger Hallsten, Niels Kjellund, and Darlene Pagano**) for their successful campaign. And, of course, to all who pledged.

And many thanks to all who worked on our April 18th celebration community dinner: **Kris and Richard Arrington** (chefs), **Roger Hallsten** (veggie alternative), **Judith Heller** (decorations), **Dick Bailey** (piano-playing), **David Fry** (magic), and all who came to the dinner and all who pitched in to help with set-up and clean-up.

As We Approach Mothers' Day: Honoring the Deeper Voices

Prayer by Evin Carvill-Ziemer, UU minister

Spirit of Life,

Today, the advertising tells us what to buy for mom, instead help us listen to and honor the deeper voices.

Today, let us honor all of those who have made this world possible for us. Those who did the hard work of building a better world for future generations.

Today, let us honor the grief of those who have lost children, through miscarriage, stillbirth, death, those who long for children, and those for whatever reason cannot be in touch with their children this day.

Today, let us honor the grief of those who mourn for their parents, whether separated by death, dementia, or disconnection.

Today, let us honor those who fill in for missing mothering-fathers, grandparents, foster parents, aunts and uncles and more.

Today, let us honor the ways we have each been nurtured and mothered, by the mothers who gave birth to us, by the parents who raised us, by those many others who have supported and nurtured us, of all genders.

Today, let us honor those who survived damaging and traumatic mothering. Spirit of life, help them to heal. Let us remember that not every mother is ready for her children. Let us turn aside from the myths of motherhood on a pedestal and remember each parent is an imperfect human in need of more support than adulation, in need of our support.

Today, let us honor those who are doing the hard work of nurturing, striving to meet not only the physical needs, but the many deep and complicated emotional and spiritual needs. Spirit of life, nurture and sustain them so that they may be the nurturers you desire.

Today, let us honor all the ways each of us give to tomorrow, knowing there are multiple paths of meaning and more than one way to birth the future.

Today, with both joy and sorrow, let us be grateful for life, for the chance to love, for those who love us, and the opportunity to nurture the future.

May it be so. Amen.

Children's Religious Education: Letter from Brooke

Thanks to all the children and their families for coming to Live Oak in recent weeks! We've enjoyed a larger-than-usual class, and we are having a great time. Last week we started our sports unit, playing Blob Tag and talking about our favorite sports. Many wonderful spiritual lessons are revealed in playing sports, and we'll continue to focus on those on May 17th and 24th.



I will be enjoying an extended family reunion in Massachusetts from May 31st to June 28th, so during those Sundays children

and youth will be enjoying games and free play time at our nearby park. We still need volunteers for those Sundays. Contact [Kathryn Duke](#) or [Brooke Bishara](#) to volunteer.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you Live Oak folks for making me feel so welcome in my first weeks here. I am enjoying getting to know all of you, and your children! You are a small congregation with a very big heart!

Warmly,
Brooke

Summer Camp Opportunities

There are several UU Camp opportunities coming up this summer. Live Oak also has some funds to subsidize tuition fees. We are currently developing a process for applying for these scholarships, so stay tuned for information about that.



Click on the link to get information and the registration form for [Chalice Camp](#) (9am-4pm day camp) at Lake Temescal. It runs from August 10-14, and costs \$350. It is open to 1st through 6th graders as campers, and 7th through 9th graders as counselors-in-training.

Our District also offers a [Middle School Weeklong Camp](#) in the Mendocino Woodlands from the evening of July 6- July 11. Cost is \$280 for the week. You can access the [registration form here](#).

If you have a teen who may be interested in participating in the Coming of Age program through our [Pacific Central District](#), stay tuned for information about that. The district does not have the calendar for the fall posted yet, but we expect the first retreat to be in October.



Though this year's plans are not yet posted, you can learn more about the typical program by reviewing last year's info: [Retreat Overview](#) and [Retreat Responsibilities](#). The program is for youth in 8th-10th grades.

Using Live Oak's Facebook Page for Growth: You Can Help

Do you know Live Oak has a Facebook page? We are trying to use it more now and welcome input from others. If you become a "member" of our page, you can post items of interest for others to see -- and comment on posts you see there.



And the best news:

Posts from our page will also appear on your FB wall -- and that is a wonderful way to help us grow



our congregation! In fact, one of the families who recently began regularly attending Live Oak, first learned about UUs because they saw posts on a friends' page (a friend in another state). They were intrigued and so came to check us out! And stayed!

So, please sign up for our page and help spread the word. It might help Live Oak grow. Or it might help someone across the country check out a UU congregation -- and find just what they needed.

Here's the link to our page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/71478294121/>.

And you can always post about Live Oak's worship or other activities on your own FB wall! Think outside our walls

Heartfelt Thanks

Darlene Pagano is yet another unsung hero at Live Oak UU. She has served in so many roles over the years -- many simultaneously! Here are some:

- Worship Leader
- Arranged our current UU Roots American History class
- Organizes Small Group Ministry groups
- Serves on the Finance Committee
- Served several years on Stewardship Campaigns
- Past Board member and President
- Recruited coats for a drive by an Alameda School
- Helps at the Greeter's table
- Prints our Orders of Service



Darlene does many other small things for us all the time (e.g., because of her, we can always count on having delicious bread at our potlucks!). Be sure to thank Darlene for being the warm, giving person she is.

Coming Right Up: Watch & Discuss Ascent of Man

Friday (May 15), join other Live Oak'ers to watch Episode 11, **Knowledge of Certainty**, of Jacob Bronowski's series. Bronowski travelled the world in order to trace the development of human society through its understanding of science.

In this session: Dr. Bronowski offers his personal view of moral dilemmas that confront today's scientists. For example:

- Contrasting humanist traditions vs. the inhumanities of the Nazis
- Harnessing nuclear energy vs. development of the atomic bomb

We gather at 7:30 p.m. in a home in Oakland. Email [Lisa Fry](mailto:Lisa.Fry@liveoakuu.org) to RSVP (and for the

location).

UU American Roots Class: Two More Sessions

Those who are participating in this interesting class will tell you how much they've gotten from it already. There are 2 more sessions (May 10 and June 14). Those Sundays, **Emily Stoper** will examine the emphasis UUs have put on inclusion (multicultural, multiracial, LGBT).

The class will be in the Guild Room on 2nd Sundays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Light snacks follow. There will be no program for children or youth.

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 (lisasfry@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@yahoogroups.com.

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