

News from Live Oak – July 30, 2010

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Live Oak Garage Sale: Next Week!

August 6: Drop-Off at Roger's home (after 12:00 noon)

August 7: Sale from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Start gathering up those household items you no longer use, but still have life left in them. After 12:00 noon on Friday (Aug. 6), take your "rummage" to the home of Roger Hallsten & Laura Prickett (2436 Woolsey, Berkeley). They will store things in their garage overnight and in the morning set things out for sale – to raise money for Live Oak. Items will only be sold on August 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Roger is also handling advertising the sale.



Everyone is welcome to hang out. And kids are welcome to sell lemonade - we'll make it on the spot if kids want to.

For tax purposes, ask Roger for a donation receipt when you drop items off. And Roger will bundle up anything not sold and take it to Clausen House.

So, start bagging up toys and household items (and books and clothing in good shape). Many thanks to Roger and Laura for generously allowing us to use their driveway – and to Roger who is managing this fundraiser!

Minutes of Live Oak Board Meetings

We strive to post the minutes of each board meeting within a week or two of the meeting. Please read what the board has been working on: <http://uuliveoak.org/governance.htm>. And do let us know if you have any questions or concerns: contact Peter Hand, Board President, at pkhandwww@yahoo.com.

Circle Supper Sign Up: First One on Aug. 28!

Looking for a wonderful way to just hang out together ... to meet new folks ... or to get to know some folks better? Circle suppers are the answer.



Every few months, we will host potluck dinners in homes of fellowship members and friends. The host supplies the setting and one course of the meal. 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. On Saturday, August 28, we have two dinners scheduled (one in Oakland and one in Alameda) and may yet have a third host.

Interested in coming to one of these gatherings? Email Lisa (lisafry@gmail.com) and let her know: how many adults, how many children (and ages). In addition please note if you need wheelchair accessibility or limited mobility access, if you have a pet allergy, if you are vegetarian, if you need a ride (if possible), or if you need a location near a bus stop.

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

There will be childcare during summer worship services, but no classes. Sarah Gassner-Wollwage will take the kids to nearby Franklin Park or lead an activity closer to Home of Truth, with the help of a different adult volunteer each Sunday (maybe you?)

On September 19, we start classes again. Children ages 5 and older will study Super Heroes: Bible People. Younger children will engage in crafts, stories and age-appropriate activities.

Have 16-foot Flatbed, Will Travel!

Ten members of the Live Oak choir (Jay Roller, Vicky Jensen, Vera Gassner, Kathryn Duke, Kate and Peter Hand, David Fry, Debra Temple, Kim Rankin, and Judith Heller) sang, waved, clapped and boogied on the back of a 16-foot flatbed truck driven by Jim Freschi during the City of Alameda's annual 4th of July parade, while Wynnie Savageford, Sara Gassner-Wollwage and two of Sara's friends, Jonas and Zeke, passed out bookmarks and candy to the spectators, many of whom waved, smiled, sang and clapped along with the singers, some even shouting "Yay! Unitarians!!"



Following close behind the truck in a red Mini Cooper convertible, was Darlene Pagano driving Ruth Levitan, Isaiah Hand, and his friend Maya McGuire, and next to them on his bike, with his son Will trailing behind in a Burley, rode David Keyes.

It was a beautiful day and a beautiful chance to let the folks of Alameda know of Live Oak's existence. The song sung most

often was "This Little Light of Mine," and letting Live Oak's light shine was what the day was about for this group of folks. We anticipate a lot of new faces at our services in the coming months, as some of those spectators who saw us in the parade come to check us out. Please make room for them at the welcome table. And maybe next year, we'll need a 24-foot truck to hold all our choir members for the parade!

Our web statistics show us that many more people have been looking at our website. We are now hoping many of them will come check us out in person! May it be so.

And, of course, none of this would have happened without Kate Hand! She corralled the choir and other volunteers, arranged for the truck, worked with the city of Alameda, and followed up on all the other aspects of the day.

But there are more folks to thank ...

The following people made our BBQ a delicious success! Many thanks to: David & Lisa Fry for organizing, bringing the grill, hot dogs, buns, and condiments; Ruby Reay for being grillmeister and doing set-up; Sharon Slaton for helping with set-up; Bernadette Alexander for making sure the kitchen and cottage were left in good shape; and the many others who lent a hand!

And finally, the worship service: Many thanks to Richard Stromer and Nanci Armstrong-Temple for a very meaningful service; Kate Hand for providing childcare (after working on the parade all morning); Susan Sonnemaker, Kim Rankin (accompanist), and the choir for wonderful music.

What a memorable day!

Good Neighbor Giving (Live Oak's Charitable Gifts)

From the start, our fellowship has chosen to “share the plate” with non-profits whose values are aligned with our own. For a while we could only accept checks made out to the organization. Now that we have our 501(c)(3) status, we are able to accept cash and checks for outside agencies.

Each Sunday, the Worship Leader selects a worthy organization from an approved list. (Please note: if you have a suggestion for a non-profit to be added to our list, email Darlene Pagano at dpagano@igc.org and she will happily take your suggestion to the Finance Committee.)



We are a very generous congregation! We give *our entire plate* to outside groups. Though we are small, we have already donated more than \$5,000 to organizations, including

- \$1,219 to Alameda County Community Food Bank
- \$1,212 to People's Grocery
- \$1,081 to the UUSC/UUA Haiti Fund

Other agencies we have supported include:

- Homeless Prenatal Program –caring for moms and babies, breaking the cycle of childhood poverty; <http://www.homelessprenatal.org/>
- Inclusive Community Resource -- providing services to empower people with disabilities to live the life they choose; <http://icrsls.com/>
- A Home Within -- connecting foster youth with volunteer therapists; <http://www.ahomewithin.org/>
- Alameda Homeless Network -- changing lives of women and children who are homeless and have experienced domestic abuse in Alameda; <http://www.midwayshelter.org/>
- UU Partner Church Council – we helped build a playground for a school in Transylvania; <http://www.uupcc.org/>
- UUA Association Sunday -- for the UUA's diversity programs <http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml>
- UU Ministry for the Earth – for environmental justice, spiritual renewal, and shared reverence for our Earth home; <http://uumfe.org/>