



Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2004 Newsletter

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A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

October 3, 10:30 am. Rev. Kathleen Ellis: *Celebration Sunday*: Once a year we set aside some time to celebrate how far we've come and where our talents and resources might take us. We are grateful for the foundation built by others and now we ask for new pledges of time and money to carry us forward. Give a little or give a lot – it's all good!

October 10, 10:30 am. Dr. Barbara Coeyman: *The Prophetic Imperative: Our Call to Social Ministry*: Why do you go to church? Why are you part of a religious community? Certainly one answer for many of us is about the inward and the personal: inward calming, personal growth, friendship, and support within our church community. However, equally important in virtually all religious traditions is some sort of outward direction, what is called by some "social ministry" or "social action". UU minister Rev. Richard Gilbert calls this our "prophetic imperative". What can this congregation do to respond to the prophetic imperative? What can you personally do to get involved? What can you do to demonstrate that there is not only a conservative religious voice speaking out in and for our communities?

October 17, 10:30 am. Rev. Chuck Freeman: *Survival of the Fittest*: Unitarian naturalist and scientist Charles Darwin remains as one of the most potent and controversial thinkers of our time. Capitalism has employed his theory to create a dog eat dog world. Come hear his real truth, as Darwin swallows the \$ sign!

October 24, 10:30 am. Rev. Chuck Freeman: *Hard Sayings*: One sultry day, Jesus uttered a teaching. His disciples got rattled. "This is a hard saying. Who can accept it?" Today Chuck will trot out some of the "hard sayings" he has observed in this life, with an eye to how these mysteries can engender profound depth. We will celebrate CHILD DEDICATIONS during this service (see article inside).

October 31, 10:30 am. Rev. Kathleen Ellis: *Circle of Life*: All Hallow's Eve celebrates the turn of seasons after the last harvest. This used to be the time when people stopped between worlds, between light and dark, between life and death. We are part of this circle of beginnings and endings. There will be an INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE and the children and youth will also Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Watch for magic potions, too!

LIVING WITH SOUL

Robert and Jessie Doremus. Do these names ring a bell? The gymnasium of my adolescent days at Washington and Lee University is named in their honor for gifts to the school. I relished many moments of pleasure in this gym and never gave thanks, never even wondered who Doremus was.

Roger and Alice Sessions are two of our Doremuses. They are among that original number of mavericks from First Church with the "crazy idea" and a dream for establishing a UU church in Northwest Austin. They edited the inaugural two page newsletter, and became bedrocks of our religious home.

Alice gave us our name. She has served on everything from clean up crew to RE director, to Live Oak President. Roger has run the gamut from teen tutoring, to Worship Committee Chair, to church President. I am a richer man for having witnessed up close their dedication, arduous, sacrifice, and love for our sacred community. Yes, they had their foibles and the church its faults. But the collective spiritual account reflects many more credits than debits.

This is the end of an era. A year or so back Alice and Roger decided to go separate ways in their marriage, and now their individual spiritual paths have led to church homes away from Live Oak. Lives shift, folks change, and institutions evolve. We suffer loss, but are emboldened by a greater vision.

First generation Live Oakers know the names and holy offerings of Roger and Alice. But for you second wave acorns, the names may be unknown. Nonetheless, your branches reach sunward from their roots.

As one of our mythic hymns resounds, "Though the path be hard and long, still we strive in expectation, join we now their ageless song, one with them in aspiration. One in name in honor one, guard we well the crown they won; what they dreamed be ours to do, hope their hopes, and seal them true."

Soulfully,
Chuck Freeman

