

# The Acorn

**December 17, 2017**

**This Week's Meetings and Events**

**Miss a Sermon?**

Check out past sermons by clicking on the link.

<http://liveoakgoleta.org/multimedia/>

**December Live Oak Event Book!**

Reserve your spots now!

<http://liveoakgoleta.org/our-community/live-oak-event-book/>



Thank you, thank you, thank you! We are a very generous congregation! We have delivered all the gifts to CALM and fulfilled everything that was asked. They were overwhelmed with our generosity. We gifted the three families and also did gift cards for the preschool teachers from Storytellers who work with the children of families from CALM. Thank you one and all!

-Holly and Wendy



## **Carols, Readings, and Reflections**

Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki

Air and fire conditions permitting, please join us this morning for a time together. This has been a hard time of dislocation and health concerns for many and it will be good if we are able to come together. Songs, stories, and silence will fill our time.

### **Sunday December 17 Souper Sunday!**

10:00 A.M. Worship (S)

### **Monday December 18**

No Scheduled Events

### **Tuesday December 19**

3:30 P.M. Committee on Ministry (C)

6:00 P.M. Board Mtg. (FH)

7:00 P.M. Sangha (S)

### **Wednesday December 20**

6:00 P.M. Adama Dance

7:00 P.M. Men's Connection (C)

### **Thursday December 21**

7:00 P.M. Choir (S)

### **Friday December 22**

10:30 A.M. Hookers & Needlers (C)

6:00 P.M. Earth Centered Winter Solstice Celebration (S)(FH)

### **Saturday December 23**

No Scheduled Events

### **Sunday December 24**

5:00 P.M. Worship (S)

S=Sanctuary; FH=Fellowship Hall, C=Cottage

<http://liveoakgoleta.org/events-calendar/>

## Upcoming Sermons

**December 24: What WOULD Jesus Do? 5:00 p.m.** Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki  
Celebrate the season with carols and candlelight. Rev. Tamara invites people of all ages who seek the true meaning of Christmas to come to our very special Christmas Eve candlelight service. **Please note that there will be no morning service on this Sunday. We will have one service at 5:00 p.m.**

## Half Basket

This Sunday we are donating half of our collection to Freedom Warming Centers of Santa Barbara. Their mission is to "relieve suffering and save lives to the unsheltered homeless on nights of severe weather conditions". We provide meals to the center in IV regularly. This organization provides materials and staffing for all the centers in the county. The lead organization for this is the SB Unitarian Society. We are happy to help them with this mission. Please be generous with your response to this. Thank you for your help and caring!

To Find Out More: <https://www.facebook.com/FreedomWarmingCenter/>

## Children's Religious Exploration

Dearest Congregation,

In light of the last week of our lives, I can only hope this finds you well and healthy, safe and loved. A week ago, we were staring into the mouth of this beast and surely, the beast is amongst us today. May we find the purification that goddess Kali offers inside of this experience of destruction, may we bless it and make space for renewal. We will get through this together and our task at hand is to be better people for it. I know we are up for the task.

At this time, I am not sure that we know what will be right and real for this Sunday. I know this, I have missed the fellowship of our Sunday together. I cherish every hug and word that your love and generosity gives me each week. As we get closer to "the holiday that has taken a backseat to Kali", I truly hope that we can safely and healthily converge this Sunday. Seeing each other and knowing we are all there is such a foundational part of each week. Unless there is a shift in how this fire is manifesting itself, I hope to see those called to our weekly fellowship as I personally could use your smile. I let go of pageant-ing and all the work we did means we will be ready for a rocking pageant next year. Let's gather in hope if that it is possible and air/fire conditions willing. Songs, stories and community are the most sustainable thing of all. Blessed be.

## Souper Sunday in December!

A BIG thanks goes out to your Live Oak Membership Ministry for hosting in November. This was the second Souper Sunday of the year, and it was another success. Thanks, one and all! **We will be holding Souper Sunday this Sunday, December 17**, and it will be hosted by Sue and Bill Smiley, Sylvia Sullivan, and Elaine Sears air and fire conditions permitting.

These luncheons continue to be a wonderful way to build community while also raising a few dollars for Live Oak. In fact, Souper Sundays have the potential to raise around 15% of this year's fundraising goal. Please continue to support this program, and the hosting groups, by joining us each month! **A special thanks goes out to the many individuals and groups that are stepping up this year - we now have every month covered!**

## Social Justice Ministry

**A Holiday reminder: *Prayer for When You Get Confused About How To Be A Human*** - Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, Spiritual Sustenance Advisor to Standing on the Side of Love and UUA Ministry Associate for Youth and Young Adults of Color

This time of year I get confused sometimes. Because I know we need to celebrate and huddle with community by fireplaces and over cocktails and under stars. We need ugly sweaters and the sweets that so and so always makes and a reason to get off the internet and in front of each other's faces. And also ICE doesn't take a holiday break, the jails are full every time of year and all the reasons for celebrating have some history of greed and taking.

Help me to not be a person who regrets not visiting a grandparent or taking the time to call my sibling or writing my neighbor a card. Help me to not be a person who stops singing or gives up on art or gingerbread or latkes or candles or whose loved ones miss me more than they see me.

Let's remember to be humans. Humans with loved ones in prison, humans who need rent money and don't get to go home for the holidays. Humans who go to parties and work other people's parties and forget our phones at home on purpose and bring each other cookies and tea.

I visited someone in detention last week. On the anniversary of the night on the bridge at Standing Rock with the water cannons and the tear gas and rubber bullets. And then I went to work with apples, cranberries and pineapple for the jello salad. In each case, showing up as who I want to be required something from me.

Let's remember to be humans.

**Thank you, Live Oak**, for being such a generous congregation and contributing gifts to the families at CALM and holiday cards to the people who are incarcerated at this holiday season.

If you have more resources to share, an Invitation from Home For Good Santa Barbara County, a community-driven action plan with a vision of ending homelessness in Santa Barbara County. They are conducting a: **Sock and Supply Drive**

### Community Activities

**January 10, 2018: Interfaith Sanctuary Alliance**

**January 11: SB Progressive Alliance Meeting**, Note new location: Santa Barbara Red Cross, 2707 State Street.

**January 20: 2<sup>nd</sup> Women's March** across the nation, watch for information about the Santa Barbara March.

### Action Alerts: Putting our UU Values into Action



If Congress is still debating! The Republican Tax bill may still be active. Keep the pressure on to vote down this bill! This will necessitate cuts to many social care programs in next years' budget. Call Now!!

**Live Oak Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation**

**Live Oak Staff and  
Office Hours**

**Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki**

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805.967.7867 x 2

W 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Th 1:00-4:00 p.m.

and by appointment

**Steven Lovelace, Director of  
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M-F 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Janet Mocker, Bookkeeper**

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**Coordinating Team**

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## Winter Solstice Celebration

Friday, December 22, 2017  
6:30 PM at Live Oak

The wheel of the year turns and darkness once again reigns in the fullness of night. Join us as we celebrate and welcome the return of the light. The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara is joining us for this Yule event.

Please RSVP to Kristin Ingalls, [antkap@cox.net](mailto:antkap@cox.net).



## Help Wanted

Elderly member of our congregation seeks housemate (offering large room and private bathroom) beginning in early January.

Contact (805) 683-1775.

## Supporting Our Members

Melanie Jacobson invites you to the **Quire of Voyces** concert to enjoy seasonal a cappella pieces, including Renaissance masterworks by Victoria and luminous settings of traditional carols. **Saturday, December 16th at 7pm** and **Sunday, December 17th at 3pm** at St. Anthony's Chapel 2300 Garden Street. \$20 General admission. \$15 Students/Seniors. Tickets available at the door and in advance at Garvin Theater Box Office SBCC West Campus (805) 965-5935 or at Chaucer's Books until Dec. 15th 3pm.



### Happy Birthday to the following friends and members celebrating upcoming birthdays !

If you have not shared your birthday month/date with us and wish to do so, please contact Liz at [elazok@gmail.com](mailto:elazok@gmail.com)

Dorothy Yakub 12/7, Paula Golus 12/9, Gail Hubbell 12/9, Lessie Schontzler 12/16,  
Paul Mocker 12/19, Aletha Salter 12/21, Rev. Bets Wienecke 12/22, Clacey Kahn 12/23  
Craig Garvin 12/31, Frank Thompson 12/31