

# The Acorn

December 7, 2018

This Week's Events and Meetings

## New Name Tags!

Membership has reworked our name tags to include a large first name for easier reading, plus other "upgrades".

If you do not see your name tag please see someone at the Welcome Table on Sunday and we will get you one as soon as possible!



Artist: Leonard Afremov

## Twelve Days of Winter

Steven Lovelace, DRE, and Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki invite you to join in the fun and learning as the whole congregation participates in this very special interactive winter service! Together we will explore various holiday stories and traditions from around the world and multiple religious traditions. Live Oak Souper Sunday today following service so plan to stay for lunch and the Town Hall meeting!

### Sunday December 9

10:00 A.M. Worship  
11:30 A.M. Souper Sunday  
11:45 A.M. Town Hall (S)

### Monday December 10

No Scheduled Events

### Tuesday December 11

3:30 P.M. Good Relations Ministry  
6:30 P.M. Worship Ministry  
7:00 P.M. Sangha (S)

### Wednesday December 12

7:00 P.M. Winter Contemplative Service (S)

### Thursday December 13

10:00 A.M. UU Minister's Mtg. (S)  
7:00 P.M. Choir (S)

### Friday December 14

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

### Saturday December 15

No Scheduled Events

### Sunday December 16

10:00 A.M. Worship  
11:30 A.M. Getting to Know UU (C)

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

[http://liveoakgoleta.org/  
events-calendar/](http://liveoakgoleta.org/events-calendar/)

## Upcoming Services

### **December 12: *The Quiet of Winter: A Contemplative Service* 7:00 p.m.**

Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki

All are welcome and invited to a special evening worship gathering with Rev. Tamara. This candlelight service in the Taizé tradition is a time for comfort, sharing, candlelight, and simple songs.

### **December 16: *On Climbing Waterfalls* Rev. Lora Young**

When you look at a waterfall the cascade of water is glorious, even terrifying! Yet, the salmon of the Pacific Northwest not only swim upstream on their way to the sea, they actually climb waterfalls. How do they do this? And what can we learn from them as we navigate tough times in our own lives? Join our former intern, Rev. Lora Young as she explores how we might build a more justice-rich and love-filled world.

### **December 23: *Carols, Readings, and Reflections* Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki**

It is good to take a bit of time during the holiday season attend to your spirit and be still. Join us this morning for a time filled with carols and readings of the season.

### **December 24: *Surrendering to the Mystery* 5:00 p.m. Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki**

Celebrate this Christmas Eve together with friends, families, and guests, as we join our voices in song and experience the mystery in 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.

## Children's Religious Exploration

Well, it's official.....it's the HOLIDAYS!!! This week is all about celebrating this most revered time of the year. We are all called to elevate our thoughts and intentions at this time, and words like "family" and "generosity" come to mind, as well as "appreciation", "inclusion", "giving" and our all time favorite... "LOVE". May it be that as we move forward into the next few weeks and beyond.

For Live Oak... we would LOVE to see you at our Holiday Party on Friday Dec 7 from 5:00-8:00, so we can be together with creativity and joy. Please come and make some ornaments, trim our congregation's tree, and watch a holiday favorite.... "Elf". Oh, and eat too... pizza and salad.

This Sunday is our Holiday Pageant, and believe me, there is something for everybody in it, so we are hoping everyone will attend. It is a "no-rehearsal" pageant, and anyone who would like to participate in however they like will be welcomed and appreciated. We would love the KIDS to be there too, at some point.... we need 8 angels. We have the wings if you have the kids!! We will all be in the Sanctuary this week for this Intergenerational favorite!! Hope to see you there.

### **RE MOVING INTO THE NEW YEAR**

As we get past the holidays, Religious Exploration has a few needs from the congregation, so thank you for checking this out.

## Children's Religious Exploration Continued

- We need volunteers to work in RE the following Sundays in 2019 (through June 2019), January 27, February 3, March 3, and every Sunday from March 31 through the beginning of June. Please contact me if you can work a Sunday or two into your calendar.
- Live Oak is looking for a child care person, 2 hours a week with potential to work events. Sundays 9:45-11:45. Grace MUST leave by the first of the year. Thank you.
- If you know by Wednesday morning prior to the Sunday service that you will be in attendance, and your child would like to light the chalice, let me know. We are now listing the kids' names in the Order of Service.
- RE is looking for Game Night hosts for the second Friday of the month, usually goes from 6:30-9:00, someone should open up around 6:10.

Please contact Steven at [dresteven@liveoakgoleta.org](mailto:dresteven@liveoakgoleta.org) in regards to any of these.

WHATEVER YOU CELEBRATE, DO IT WITH LOVE!!

## Live Oak Holiday Party! Tonight!



FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!!!  
ORNAMENT MAKING, TREE TRIMMING, DINNER & MOVIE

5:00 - 6:00 TREE TRIMMING & Ornaments

6:00 Dinner\* 6:30 MOVIE - *elf*

Please RSVP to Diane Green - [4dianeg@cox.net](mailto:4dianeg@cox.net)

\*Pizzas, salad & cookies



## Souper Sunday!

The weather is getting colder, and winter is approaching. Is there a better time to enjoy a bowl of warm homemade soup?! But first, let's thank Live Oak's wonderful Membership Ministry for hosting in November. We really appreciate the effort and enthusiasm of this group! **Our next luncheon is set for this Sunday, December 9**, and will be a true collaborative effort; Sue Smiley and Sylvia Sullivan will make two delicious soups, and the members of our newest L.O. covenant group (lead by Kate McGuinness) will pitch in to help with set-up, serving, and clean-up. Mark your calendar now, and plan to join us on Sunday for sustenance and socializing.

These luncheons continue to be a great way to build community while also supporting Live Oak's fundraising budget. Thank you so much for your continued support of this program, and of the hosting groups, by joining us each month. And remember, visitors eat for free as our guests - **perhaps you want to invite a friend to attend Sunday service and then enjoy lunch with you this week.** We hope to see you on December 9.

## Town Hall Meeting - Live Oak Mission Statement

Greetings LOers!

At long last, your Board of Trustees would like to present the Live Oak Mission Statement for your official affirmation at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Town Hall. It is below, but before you peek, a bit of a story of how we got there! Our Mission Vision Workshop, which was open to the entire congregation, announced at the pulpit, and at the September Town Hall as well as in the Acorn commenced the morning of October 13, 2018 with a group of Live Oakers. Jeri Moulder, our fearless (and accomplished) facilitator led a 3-hour workshop, which consisted of a series of small group and combined group exercises to get our creative juices flowing towards a common understanding and embodiment of the Live Oak identity. The workshop culminated with three (3) small groups, each of which crafted their own Mission Statement and an exercise where we all identified themes and language that were consistent in each of the 3 Mission Statements. Then 3 people, one from each of the 3 groups were then tasked with synthesizing the communal themes and language into a representative and fluent Mission Statement. After the team of 3 refined the statement, it was sent to the Board of Trustees, who refined it and then affirmed it at the November Board meeting. The sentences below are the result of all the work described.

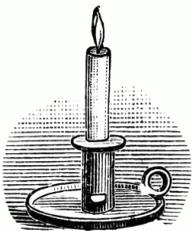
*Live Oak is an open, welcoming, and inclusive community, grounded in love, providing opportunities for spiritual growth to seekers of all ages and stages. We actively live our values of diversity, compassion and justice in service to humanity and the earth.*

So, now it is time for the Live Oak Congregation to affirm the newly formulated mission statement at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Town Hall. Please join us! We look forward to seeing you there!

-Live Oak Board of Trustees

## Adult Programs: Winter Contemplative Service

All are welcome and invited to a special evening worship gathering with Rev. Tamara on December 12. This candlelight service in the Taizé tradition is a time for comfort, sharing, candlelight, and simple songs.



Please join this gentle gathering at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12.

## Mid Winter Celebration

Friday, December 21st, 6:30PM in the Live Oak Outdoor Sanctuary

Gather 'round the Yule fire under the full moon for a mid winter celebration.

## Live Oak Holiday Project 2018

Help us spread cheer throughout  
the year!

CALM – Child Abuse Listening  
and Mediation

8 therapy rooms – hundreds of children  
served

Items needed:

- Play-Doh
- stress balls
- sand for sandboxes
- art supplies of all types
- finger puppets
- Bubbles

Amazon wish list created by CALM  
therapist, Christine Alger:

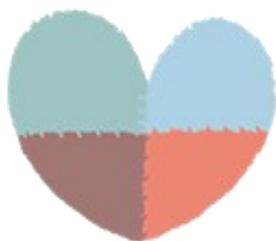
<http://a.co/7LQ2xli>

Please bring UNWRAPPED items to:  
**Holiday Party on Friday, Dec 7 or any  
service during the month of December.**

If you would like to participate but don't  
wish to do the shopping, **our half-basket  
collection on December 16 will benefit  
this effort.**

If you would like to help deliver these gifts  
in early January, please let me know.  
Thank you!

Liz, for our Live Oak Social Justice Ministry  
[elazok@gmail.com](mailto:elazok@gmail.com)



## Lessons of Loss for Adults



Artist: Christi Belcourt

Jan. 10, Jan. 16, Jan 23, Feb. 6

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Rev. Tamara is pleased to offer a four session curriculum which will provide a forum in which adults can discuss loss, understand how we respond during times of loss, and why. We will also examine how our Unitarian Universalist theology can comfort us in times of loss and grief.

Please note that this is not a bereavement support group per se and those who are interested in finding an ongoing community in which to discuss and understand a loss would be better served by finding an ongoing bereavement support group.

Our children and youth will also be participating in age appropriate *Lessons of Loss* curricula in the month of January and we will culminate this "all congregation" look at loss with a multigenerational service on February 10.

Attendance at all sessions is expected and class size will be limited. Please contact our Administrator, [Clacey Kahn](#), to register for this opportunity.

## Social Justice News

- **Remember your gifts for the CALM Holiday project!**
- **Climate change** is connected to the caravan at our southern border. This is a good example of the intersection of immigrants and climate change, and how they interact with each other.

[https://truthout.org/articles/how-climate-change-helped-create-the-migrantcaravan/?utm\\_source=sharebuttons&utm\\_medium=mashshare&utm\\_campaign=mashshare#](https://truthout.org/articles/how-climate-change-helped-create-the-migrantcaravan/?utm_source=sharebuttons&utm_medium=mashshare&utm_campaign=mashshare#)

- **You might want to choose a gift of clean air to give this year! Sierra Club monthly or one time donation might be something to consider for a holiday gift [sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org)**
- **Volunteers needed for the 2019 Homeless Point In Time Count**, Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 5 AM – 8:30 AM.  
Sign up on our website [www.commongroundsbcc.org](http://www.commongroundsbcc.org). Volunteer trainings will be held in January.
- **Live Oak Social Justice Ministry Meeting**, January 23, 2019 at 4:30pm. Everyone is welcome in the Cottage! There will not be a meeting in December.

### Community Activities

**December 9: 6<sup>th</sup> Annual National Vigil to End Gun Violence**, SB Unitarian Society, 5:30-6:30

**December 10: PFLAG SB meeting**, 7-8:30 "How LGBTQ Families can Thrive during the holiday.

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

**IMMIGRATION:** The caravan of immigrants from Central America are in Tijuana and in need of assistance. Many are trying to apply for asylum. The US is limiting entry into the US by anyone so many are left with no resources in Tijuana. Assistance has been requested by the Mexican Consulate and is being delivered to Tijuana. You can help through the SB Response Network 805-699-5208.

### Our Members of Congress

- Dianne Feinstein - LA office 310-914-7300, Washington office 202-224-3841 [senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov).
- Kamala Harris - Sacramento 916-448-2787, Washington 202-224-3553 [senator@harris.senate.gov](mailto:senator@harris.senate.gov).
- Salud Carbajal - Congressman-24<sup>th</sup> district, Washington 202-225-3601, San Luis Obispo office 888-202-8934, Contact through his site

**Live Oak Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation**

**Live Oak Staff and  
Office Hours**

**Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki**

[revtamarasuzuki@gmail.com](mailto:revtamarasuzuki@gmail.com)

805.967.7867 x 2

by appointment

**Steven Lovelace, Director of  
Religious Exploration**

[dresteven@liveoakgoleta.org](mailto:dresteven@liveoakgoleta.org)

805.967.7867

by appointment

**John Douglas, Music Director**

[jed805@gmail.com](mailto:jed805@gmail.com)

805.284.2082

**Clacey Kahn, Administrator**

[administrator@liveoakgoleta.org](mailto:administrator@liveoakgoleta.org)

805.967.7867 x 1

M- F 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Janet Mocker, Bookkeeper**

[bookkeeper@liveoakgoleta.org](mailto:bookkeeper@liveoakgoleta.org)

**Coordinating Team**

[coordinating-](mailto:coordinating-)

[team@liveoakgoleta.org](mailto:team@liveoakgoleta.org)

## Holiday Boutique

We did it! Congratulations! Bravo! and Thank you! The Holiday Boutique of Dec. 1 and 2 was a great success. Once again thanks to all of you, we have raised \$1400 for Live Oak and reached our annual fundraising goal of \$15K for this fiscal year.

Without the spirit of community building and your generosity it would be an impossible task to accomplish. I am so appreciative of this congregation. Mother Teresa reminds us that "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters and cause many ripples".

-Marie Arnold

## Afternoon Book Group

**Afternoon Book Group**

Monday, January 7th, 2PM in the cottage at Live Oak, we will discuss *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi.

Guests are welcome.

For Information please contact Jeanne Northsinger  
805-898-1085 [jnorthsinger@gmail.com](mailto:jnorthsinger@gmail.com).

## Supporting Our Members

Priscilla Marchus is in the SB Treble Clef Chorus, and they are having a holiday concert on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Rd. (at the corner of Foothill). She would like to invite her Live Oak friends to attend. There is no admission fee, and refreshments will be served after the concert, and there will be drawings for baskets or other prizes. We ask for donations.

Also, they will be performing along with the SB Master Chorale at the "Santa Barbara Sings" program at the Lobero Theater on Sun, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. There is no charge for this, either, but tickets are required, as space is limited.

<https://www.lobero.org/events/santa-barbara-sings/>

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



Paula Golus 12/9, Gail Hubbell 12/9, Dorothy Yakub 12/7

Paul Mocker 12/19, Aletha Solter 12/21, Clacey Kahn 12/23

Craig Garvin 12/31, Frank Thompson 12/31

Consider renting Live Oak for your next event! Call 805-967-7867.