



Lots Has Happened! And More Coming This Month!

'tis the Season: A Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Christmas Tree Lane All-Ages Gathering at the home of Kathryn Duke & Niels Kjellund (Saturday, December 12, 6:00 p.m.)
- Alameda Point Holiday Party (Saturday, December 19)
- Alameda's Sing-It-Yourself Messiah (Saturday, December 19)
- Sunday, December 20:
 - Live Oak's Holiday Concert (3:00 p.m.)
 - Winter Solstice Candlelight Service (4:00 p.m.)
 - Toys for Tots Collection (during service)
- Gifts of the Shadow Worship Service (Sunday, December 27)

Live Oak's Holiday Concert & Candlelight Service

This year's holiday concert will include some of the favorite pieces the choir has performed during the past year (*Cantate Domine, Shenandoah*), some old holiday favorites (*Carol of the Bells, Coventry Carol*) some solo pieces, and the sublimely beautiful trio (*Star of Wonder*). The concert will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. There will be a short break and then we'll enjoy what is always our best-attended service, celebrating the Winter Solstice. And we hope you'll join us for our communal meal after worship.

There will be a sing-along with the kids performing and finally a holiday improvisation by our wonderful music director, **Adrian Borcea**. You won't want to miss our annual Holiday Concert. Bring a friend!



Toys for Tots: Bring Toys & Games ... or Cash

Our Social Justice team, led by **Renee Harper** and **Nancy Balassi**, have asked us to support Toys for Tots again this year. Please bring new (not used) toys and games for children of all ages to the December 20 service.



Please *DO NOT WRAP* the toys.

If you do not have time or energy to shop before the service on the 20th, please bring cash which will be used the next day to purchase items for the children. Nancy has volunteered to shop for those who don't have the time.



We know items for older kids (upper elementary through high school) are more often in short supply through Toys for Tots. So, if purchasing for those kids appeals to you, it would be much appreciated.

Children & Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

This month the kids are completing their food unit by looking at some aspects of food justice and some UU food heroes. In addition, the children and youth have been practicing two songs which they will sing, leading the adults, at our Holiday Concert. Many thanks to **Kathryn Duke** who has been rehearsing with them on Sundays. Do come hear the results of this effort!

And many thanks to **Sylvia Balding** and **Ximena Rossi**. Each of them filled in for **Brooke Bishara** who was out of town for two Sundays. She will be back on December 20. In addition to leading the class that day, she and **Elena Waller** will provide activities to entertain children who do not wish to sit



through the Holiday Concert.

Meanwhile, we had reports from the rest of our kids on how they spent the \$15 each of them received to create *"More Love & Justice."* **Bruno, Renzo, and Franco Rossi** combined their money to buy toys (see photo) for impoverished children through the organization, [Samaritan Purse](#). And **Kaim Watson-Hajjem** felt blessed to be able to give his money to a man in need.



Christmas Tree Lane, Cider, & Treats: Fun for All Ages

Kathryn Duke and **Niels Kjellund** invite members and friends of Live Oak to join them for a Christmas Tree Lane gathering on Saturday, December 12.

Don't yet know about this special place? [Check it out.](#)

Whatever your age or family size, you are invited to arrive at Kathryn's and Niels' home at 6:00 p.m., enjoy a cup of hot cider, and then walk one block with other guests to the "Christmas Tree Lane" part of Alameda. We will leave the house at 6:30 sharp, to arrive at the Lane in time to hear and see the acclaimed Lincoln Middle School Band playing some holiday tunes. We'll be waving to and applauding our congregation's own **Renzo Rossi**, who plays in the band's trumpet section. And maybe we'll see fellow Live Oak'ers **Kim Rankin & David Keys** and their giant peace sign in front of their decorated Christmas Tree Lane home.

After you've had enough time to enjoy the band plus the many other sights and sounds, you can walk back to the house (someone will always be there) to chat with new or old friends, share a few holiday treats, and possibly sing some songs around the piano. [Address & Map](#) for Duke-Kjellund home.

If you plan to come, please let Kathryn know: Kathryn.saenz.duke@gmail.com.

Help APC Residents Enjoy the Holidays

Come join people from Live Oak and other Alameda congregations in creating a special holiday meal and party for the adults and children living at [Alameda Point Collaborative](#) (APC).

- Can you help us by making cookies, brownies, or pies in the days just before December 19?
- And / or join us for two hours or more (11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) on Saturday, December 19
 - To service dinner (which starts at noon) or
 - Help at the crafts table: Live Oak is in charge of helping residents make holiday decorations to take home or to hang on the tree at APC.



To sign up -- or if you have questions -- please speak with Kathryn Duke in person or by email at kathryn.saenz.duke@gmail.com.

Live Oak at Large November Climate Rally in Oakland

Some Live Oak members joined several thousand people rallying and marching in downtown Oakland to call for a strong global agreement to reduce global warming at the UN climate talks in Paris. Our fellowship was one of almost 200 sponsoring and endorsing organizations that included environmental, labor, antiracist, and faith based groups.



Roger Hallsten and son Jason



Renee Harper

This rally was just one of many actions worldwide. Grist newsletter reported:

"Hundreds of thousands of people joined an estimated 2,300 marches and actions in 175 countries over the weekend, demanding that the heads of state and negotiators in Paris pull together a strong deal to fight global warming - and fight to keep fossil fuels in the ground and shift to 100 percent clean energy." Lots of inspiring photos from around the world [here](#).

Great Games Day -- November 29 (a 5th Sunday)



Lisa Fitts and Lisa Fry teaming up for Word on the Street

We had a terrific turnout for games and a potluck on the 5th Sunday of November. What fun! Seventeen people (ranging in age from 6 to 70!), including several *serious* gamers were there -- and introduced us to some new games.

In addition to the always popular [Chicken Foot Dominoes](#), we played a couple of hotly contested rounds of [Word on the Street](#) while another group played [Pickomino](#).

It was great to have several people who were quite new to Live Oak, along with our game regulars!

We'll schedule a date for the next Games event soon! Watch for it. And many thanks to **Kathryn Duke**, the evening's photographer.



Neil Planchon, Nancy Balassi, and Renee Harper playing Dominoes.



Eric Fethe, Erik Smith and two children play Pickomino.

Very Cool UU Advent Calendar Recognizes Unitarian & Universalist Ancestors with Foundational Roles in Many Winter Holidays

WorshipWeb (a Facebook group curated by UU minister Erika Hewitt) has posted beautiful and informative images, all created by Ralph Roberts, also a UU minister. These are meant to help specifically UUs count down the days in December to Christmas Eve (December 24).

Many of the historic milestones in this Advent calendar aren't necessarily recognized on the precise day that they're celebrated (for example, Kwanzaa is recognized here on December 2nd instead of December 26th, and the December 12th image recognizes Clara Barton's birthday (December 25, 1821).

More than perfect historic accuracy this calendar is offered in the spirit of holding up and delighting in the ways that our Unitarian and our Universalist ancestors had a foundational role in many of the winter holidays. You won't want to miss any of these [lovely illustrations](#) and the stories they demonstrate (see just 2 examples of the 24 illustrations below).



Alameda's Annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah

The organizing committee and the congregation of Christ Episcopal Church invite you to participate in Alameda's 21st annual [Sing-It-Yourself-Messiah](#). This event is quite popular. Some regulars have been rehearsing already and look forward to you joining in: Saturday, December 19, at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary at Christ Episcopal Church (1700 Santa Clara Avenue @ Grand St.). A freewill offering will be collected. And attendees are asked to bring a canned or dry food item to donate to the Alameda Food Bank. Questions? Call 510-523-7200.

Adult Education / Faith Development: Cosmos DVD Viewing

There will be no meeting in December. Please plan to join us in January

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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