

Holiday Celebrations: Many Voices, Many Traditions

Let's Party! Join us for our 2nd annual (!) holiday caroling, craft-making, and cookie-eating party: Sunday, December 13, 2:00-5:00



p.m. in the cottage at the Home of Truth.

Once again, we will come together to sing carols, make decorations honoring the many

celebrations of the season (Diwali,

Chanukah, Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa) and traditions from many different cultures and countries. We'll play Dreidl, make Danish stars, beaded candy canes, Kwanzaa kinaras, and more. And we'll use our crafts to decorate a tree that night in the cottage.

Kim will play the piano. We'll have a fire going in the fireplace. And hot cider and sweets will complete this festive gathering.

Holiday Services: Sunday, Dec. 6 the focus will be on our children and how we can best teach them -- and learn from them. But we will also celebrate Hanukkah that day. Join us.

Sunday, Dec. 20, Richard Stromer and new Worship Leader Judith Heller will lead us in an intergenerational service focusing on the Winter Solstice.

Calling All Families: Sunday, Nov. 15

On November 15, RE Consultant Carol Bodeau will again visit our congregation. She'll start with all of us in the sanctuary, then move to the cottage when the children go there, to talk with them about their ideas and hopes for their time within the Live Oak community. The children's activity that day will include making "shakers" which will be saved for use (by people of all ages)

as part of the music in the Dec. 6 service and other services as well. We're also happy to accept donations of any shakers (shaped as fruit, eggs, or something less identifiable) or other small percussion instruments you might have in your closet waiting to be part of joyful musicmaking in our worship and children's activities. (See RE Wish List, pg 2 of this newsletter, for more ideas on

unused toys and art supplies you might give a new life by donating them to Live Oak).

All families with children are especially welcome and encouraged to attend the Nov. 15 service -- and then the December services and party (above) where the new shakers and perhaps other instruments will be part of the fun.

Stewardship Campaign Report: Feeding Our Roots

What a committed and generous community we are!

The Stewardship Team and our Board of Trustees are delighted to share the results of last month's campaign.

Still with a few people left to contact, we now have 31 annual pledges (from individuals and families) totalling \$38,118.

Many thanks to all who have already made commitments to this faith community. If you are

ready to make a pledge, but have not done so, email David Fry (davidfry@gmail.com).

We will soon have a draft budget proposal for the approval of Live Oak members.

This success would not have happened without the efforts of many. Our thanks go to David Fry, Stewardship Chair, and his team (Bill Pezick, Ruby Reay, Lisa Fry, Jay

Roller, Darlene Pagano, and Bob Hood). And thanks to those who so generously hosted Stewardship parties: Sally Kennedy, Vicky Jensen, and Lisa Fry.



Thoughts for the Day of the Dead
In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

Board Change: Hail & Farewell

With regret and much gratitude for her service, we accepted the resignation of Sharon Slaton from the Board of Trustees on Oct. 27. Sharon has found she does not have the energy she feels the job requires and does not want to shortchange the Board or the membership. We wish her well.

The Board asked Darlene Pagano to serve as the interim Board Member until our January election. Darlene has graciously accepted. We heartily welcome her to the Board.

Save Dates

Sunday, Dec. 13:

Holiday Party, 2-5pm

Sunday, Jan. 10:

Congregational meeting, 2-4pm
(To approve our interim budget and elect two members to the Board of Trustees)

Children's RE Wish List: Can You Help?

Please let us know if you have any of the following to donate to Live Oak's RE program. Contact Laura Prickett at prickett_l@yahoo.com.

MUSIC- and NOISE-MAKERS

Hand held percussion instruments suitable for all ages. We're especially interested in those small shakers that look like eggs or pieces of fruit. Also, castanets and spoons or similarly easy to use percussion toys/instruments. Plus others you think would be suitable and fun.



TOYS

- For toddlers: blocks, large legos, cars, trucks, dolls, puzzles
- For elementary age: puzzles, small legos, large and small trucks, cars, etc.
- Large plastic storage bins for storing RE materials/toys/books, etc.
- Interesting & fun children's books with themes related to UUism, world religions, myths.



ARTS and CRAFTS SUPPLIES

- Small plastic bins for art supplies
- Adult scissors for teachers/assistants
- Children's scissors, crayons, markers, pencils, glue, tape
- Construction paper, white paper
- Tempera paints, assorted colors, paint brushes
- Plastic cups for paint, rinse water
- Colorful stickers
- Magazines with lots of photos for cutting out pictures to make collages
- Poster board

Meditation Workshop

Kate Rowland, is offering a free 6-hour workshop (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.), *Meditation for Daily Life*, Sat., Nov. 21, at her home in Moraga. You will learn 3 specific meditation templates, including practices in centering, pranic breathing, and some A-U-M chanting (and why!).

RSVP by email to Kate at karowland@yahoo.com or call her at 925-377-8880. She will have several salads, and recommends you bring something to share for the lunch break. She can pick you up/return you to the Orinda BART station.

Special Membership Benefit

Our Board of Trustees has elected to purchase one hardcover hymnal (*Singing the Living Tradition*) in the name of every "founding member" of Live Oak UU Fellowship. Each founding member will then be able to choose the words for a bookplate for one hymnal.

And more good news: YOU can still be a "founding member" (and choose the words for a bookplate), but only if you sign our membership book by Sunday, Nov. 15. If you want to know more about what membership means before making this decision, see <http://uuliveoak.org/membership.htm>.

Another important benefit of membership is being able to vote. If you wish to vote on our budget, for Board members or Nominating Committee members at our Jan. 10th congregational meeting, according to our bylaws, you must sign the book two weeks earlier (by Sat., Dec. 26.)

Live Oak UU Fellowship

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