

Soundings

Newsletter of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church



Minister's Message

Well, It's kind of a rough time here at SUUC, isn't it. But we are working through it together.

I'm very glad to have been called upon to serve as the temporary minister until you find your Interim Minister. It's a job, on the one hand -- and a sacred trust, on the other.



Catherine Crain is the best Board president I could hope to work with in this environment, and the staff is awesome. So that's great.

And also...there are still so many feelings splashing around. So many questions, still, about what happened to precipitate Rev. Kate's departure, and about what it all means. As you will see in Catherine's in-depth letter elsewhere in this issue, steps are being taken to ensure that all voices will be heard.

But what about you – your voice? I'd be glad to chat with you. Would you like to meet with me? Or talk on the phone? Sundays are, unfortunately, the worst days to do so – I actually have quite a few pre-existing commitments on Sundays during the next couple of months.

But we could meet for coffee, or you could stop by church, or we could make a phone date. Why don't you just email me to make a date to do one of those things? Or if you have ideas for how I might be helpful, please let me know that as well – keeping in mind that I am employed at less than half time.

I think it's okay to be mad or sad or confused or to experience any feelings that are circulating in your heart. But I hope we can all feel grateful that things aren't worse than they are in the aftermath of such a difficult departure of a beloved minister. That the leadership is strong. That you've found a minister to fill in who really loves this congregation. That the denomination itself is supporting and caring for SUUC. And that the Spirit of Life is strong here.

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May we all be blessed with wisdom, patience, a spirit of forgiveness, and a dedication to peace.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Amanda Aikman
Temporary Minister

Director Of Religious Exploration



Greetings everyone. It's been a time of many ups and downs lately. I'm still very sad about the sudden departure of Rev. Kate just before the holidays last year as I know many of you are, too. I learned a lot working with Kate over the last seven years and am not jumping at the prospect of being in search for an interim minister in the coming months as I remember it being a time when our church attendance dipped to its lowest in the time I've been here. Before this sudden change in the life of our congregation happened, I envisioned the next few months being ones of smooth sailing, with things staying on a steady and predictable course.

However, as I mentioned in a Soundings article a few months ago, I've come to understand that, while some lessons I've learned can be applied year after year after year to good effect, it is very frequent that situations come up that old wisdom does not apply to. The situation we are in now is unlike the period our church was in back in 2010 when our prior minister left the church, which I'm sure was unlike the previous time when the minister before him left the church (which would've been the late 80s / early 90s? Please tell me about it if you know, I'm curious to find out more about this.) Anyways, this situation offers the chance for us to re-evaluate what we are doing in this church, what path we are on, and what we want to do differently going forward.

I'm reminded of how I feel sometimes when returning from a trip. Whether the trip was good or not, upon returning, I often feel that I can see my regular life in a new light. Habits, routines, the things which become invisible in our own lives and experiences can be seen anew. Around these times, I may consider questions like "why don't I connect more with my friends?" or "why do I continue to do x or y thing which makes me feel lousy?" The momentum of our normal lives is broken and we have the chance to make a more conscious choice to re-start habitual behaviors or to go in a new direction that we previously didn't even know was a choice. I'm hoping that the coming months will be a rich

time of visioning for the future of our church and considering what has brought us to where we are.

Putting aside this "balcony view" of our congregational life for a moment, I'd like to encourage folks to come out to the first gathering to discuss the Tiny House Building Project on Sunday, February 9 at 12:30 in the Threadgill Hall. I'll fill everyone in with the initial discussions that have taken place so far before we have some time as a large group and small groups to talk about our broad vision for the project as well as considering the various tasks that we'll need to do to make those things happen. As I mentioned in the homily about collective action and organizing on January 19, there are many gifts needed for a project of this scale to work out -- preparing food, fundraising, cleaning up, painting, art, calling people on the phone, and so, so much more -- so everyone is welcome to come to this and think about how they might be able to contribute to this big endeavor. Also, this gathering will take place after what I expect will be a very short meeting to approve Amanda Aikman as our "gap minister," who will tide us over for a few months to the next religious professional to serve our church.

See you on Sunday,

Chris Pollina

shorelinedre@gmail.com

President's Message



Dear Friends,

A lot has happened in the last two months. In this column I hope to give you an overview of what has happened and where we go from here.

The Board of Trustees regrets that many of you felt surprised or shocked by Rev. Kate's resignation. We, too, were thrown off balance by the sudden announcement. It was hard to share all the details while events were happening at a fast clip and we were in sensitive negotiations. The most important thing that we want you to know is that Rev. Amanda and the Board of Trustees are listening to your concerns. We care about your feelings and we want your input.

Brief History

Let me acknowledge that there are multiple perspectives on "what happened." This is my

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own perspective, as one who has been involved in lay leadership since the very beginning of Rev. Kate's ministry.

The Reverend Kate Landis served our congregation well for more than 7 years. Nevertheless, there were ongoing disputes with each Board of Trustees that Rev. Kate served with. These disputes generally involved the nature and extent of the minister's authority, such as the minister's authority to hire and fire staff. The board always tried to follow Rev. Kate's letter of agreement as well as the SUUC bylaws, which lay out a collaborative relationship between the minister and board and do not grant the minister sole authority. Over the years, there were a series of conflicts between Rev. Kate and the board and these were referred to the Committee on Ministry, but in hindsight, the fundamental issues of authority and responsibility vis a vis the board were not adequately addressed.

In fall of 2019, Rev. Kate and the Worship Planning Committee moved Joys and Sorrows from the worship service and into a separate time slot, which caused a controversy in the congregation. When the board asked the Worship Planning Committee to revisit this decision, Rev. Kate interpreted our action as inappropriate because she felt that she should have sole authority over worship, so we again found ourselves in conflict with Rev. Kate about the nature and extent of her authority. She also objected to the use of a survey to ascertain what congregants thought of the practice of Joys and Sorrows.

During and after this Joys and Sorrows conflict, the relationship between Rev. Kate and the board deteriorated, as did the relationship between her and some other groups and individuals in the congregation. At the November 10 board meeting, which Rev. Amanda also attended, Rev. Kate asked that we discuss the relationship between the minister and the board. As part of its information gathering to prepare for that meeting, the board had asked for reports from all previous board presidents who had worked with Rev. Kate.

Their replies detailed many instances of conflicts between the board and Rev. Kate over the years. These reports were circulated to board members, members of the Committee on Ministry, and to Rev. Kate. The reports were eventually circulated to some other congregants as well. Rev. Kate repeatedly said she found these accounts by former board chairs to be very distressing and disputed some aspects of their accuracy. She also said that the November 10 meeting with the board was very upsetting to her—describing it being like an intervention. After the November board meeting, the board referred the matter to the Committee on Ministry, which started to consider various criteria to assist Rev. Kate in her professional leadership development. It's important to note that many other members of the congregation were very supportive of Rev. Kate during this period and were no doubt unaware of the depth and nature of this conflict.

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Rev. Kate stopped working on December 5, indicating verbally that she wanted to resign. She said that the atmosphere at SUUC was hostile and she could not effectively continue her ministry with us. She said she would be on sick leave in December while we attempted to negotiate a resignation agreement.

During December, there were multiple mediated discussion sessions with Rev. Kate, members of the board, and several different mediators. We did not ask Rev. Kate to resign nor did we fire her. We had an initial goal of trying to keep her from resigning. After several mediation sessions, it became clear that there were irreconcilable differences and she decided to resign for the good of the congregation and for her own continued ministry. The board has now reached a settlement with Rev. Kate in which she receives salary and benefits for January and February and has a separation date of Feb 29, 2020. We sought legal advice from Nat Taylor of Ellis, Li and McKinstry, and he helped us draft a separation agreement that is consistent with Rev. Kate's letter of agreement and with our bylaws as well as Washington state employment law. We also received a great deal of advice and support from Rev. Tandi Rogers, our District Congregational Life staff person from the UUA; and Rev. Richard Nugent, who works on pastoral transitions at the UUA headquarters in Boston.

While Rev. Kate will not be resuming her duties, we hope there can be a way for people who wish to say goodbye to do so. More information on this will be forthcoming. The Board of Trustees sincerely thanks Rev. Kate for her service to our congregation and wishes her the best going forward.

What's Next?

We are lucky to have Rev. Amanda Aikman, who is a long-time member and friend of this congregation, be willing to take the reins as Temporary Minister for the next several months. She will be working part-time, preaching twice a month, and helping with pastoral care and staff support, among other duties. The congregation needs to vote to approve her Letter of Agreement and we plan to hold a brief congregational meeting after church on Feb. 9 to do this.

The UUA District Healthy Congregations team will be here on Feb. 2 and 8 to hold Listening Circles. In these Listening Circles, congregants will have a chance to share their feelings and thoughts about what happened and about our future. Some board members and Committee on Ministry members will be present at each of the Listening Circles.

After we finish these Listening Circles, the board will take what we've learned, as well as

advice from Rev. Amanda and from the UUA, and determine next steps. In order to enter into a search process for a permanent minister, there are several requirements, such as having an interim minister for at least one year. Another possibility is having a “developmental minister” for a period of several years. Both interim ministers and developmental ministers are specially trained to help congregations with ministerial transitions.

Staying in Touch

I know that many of you have ideas and feelings that you’d like to share with the board and with Rev. Amanda. Our door is open to you and we welcome your input. The easiest way to reach us is by emailing (Catherine_crain@comcast.net) or by attending a board meeting (first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Emerson Room). You may also contact Rev. Amanda at revaikman@gmail.com.

Moving forward together,

Catherine Crain
President, SUUC Board of Trustees

Side by Side...a column from Mental Health & Recovery Ministries

Our theme last year was books that can enhance our recovery. I found so many amazing books, that I had way too many for one year. It is my sincere hope that it will be helpful to have another year where we investigate some incredible books that really shine a helpful light on the complexities of addiction and recovery. This month I’ll introduce an incredibly helpful book about addiction that I’ll write about for a few months. It took a significant amount of time for me to get it from the library. The length of the waitlist was a clue for me that this book would be very special...and it IS very special. Dr. Gabor Maté wrote his book, ***In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*** in 2008. He is the doctor in a residence hotel in downtown Vancouver, B.C. in Canada where addicts are given housing and medical care



and support services. Harm reduction policies have created spaces in Canada where addicts are treated with the respect and compassion that all human beings who are ill deserve. The most notorious aspect (well, in our country, anyway) of harm reduction policies is that addicts are provided with a safe place to take their drugs with clean needles, RNs nearby, with plenty of naloxone available. Naloxone is a medication that blocks the effects of opioids and if given soon enough it can prevent an overdose.

In an effort to explain the title of the book, Dr. Maté describes the six realms of Buddhism. One in particular, the hungry ghost realm, reminds him of addicts and the state of being an addict. Below is an excerpt of his interpretation. I'm interested in hearing your thoughts. I will share more about this incredible book next month.

The inhabitants of the hungry ghost realm are depicted as creatures with scrawny necks, small mouths, emaciated limbs, and large, bloated, empty bellies. This is the domain of addiction, where we constantly seek something outside ourselves to curb an insatiable yearning for relief or fulfillment. The aching emptiness is perpetual because the substances, objects, or pursuits we hope will soothe it are not what we really need. We don't know what we need, and so long as we stay in the hungry ghost mode, we'll never know. We haunt our lives without being fully present.

If there is any way that we can be supportive of you and your family please reach out to us, the co-chairs of the Mental Health & Recovery Ministry team here at Shoreline UU, Chris Poole at 206-542-9271 or Rev. Barbara Cornell at uubcornell@gmail.com The support group for Family and Friends of those with a lived experience of mental illness will next meet in February on the fourth Monday, February 24, 2020 in the conference room at church from 6:30 to 8 PM. There will always be a place for you to join us!

Rev. Barbara Cornell
Affiliated Community Minister

SUUC Board Meeting minutes for Jan 7, 2020 Emerson Room

Opening words	7:00-7:05
Check-in	7:05-7:15
Approval of minutes	7:15-7:20

Hiring gap minister (Catherine and Rev Amanda)

7:20-7:50

The board reviewed the Letter of Agreement (LOA) with Rev. Amanda Aikman. There was a general discussion of hours/month, duties, as well as if hours worked would put her over budgeted amounts. In such cases, Rev Amanda shall bring it to the board's attention.

The Board's representative to Amanda will be Catherine. Ryan would like a lawyer to review the LOA prior to approval.

Motion to extend offer to Rev Amanda to serve as gap minister

Susan moved. Marley seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Lauren Harris for Committee on Ministry (COM) 7:50-7:55

There was a general discussion about Lauren Harris becoming a member of the COM
Motion to approve Lauren Harris for membership to the COM

Jo moved. Susan seconded. Vote: Unanimous

Legal Advice re: Mediation, etc. (Chris Doerksen & Catherine)

7:55-8:25

There was a general discussion regarding Rev Kate's resignation, legal issues involved, and the draft separation agreement

The decision was to make the end date Fe. 25, 2020 and pay Rev Kate through that date. We will see an employment attorney (Nat Taylor) this week who will look over our draft and make recommendations.

Financial Report (Ryan)

8:25-8:35

Ryan mentioned church revenues took a hit recently due to this issue. We will have to see how things unfold over the coming months budgetarily.

More efficient board communication (Ryan)

8:25- 8:35

Ryan said that the flurry of communication regarding all that has taken place over the last couple of months made decision making and thoroughly understanding issues difficult.

The board needs more time or planning to allow for effective decision making. We need a better process to communicate and vote efficiently.

Ryan will send out a doodle poll to gather input from board members

Healthy Congregations (Susan)

8:45 – 8:55

Susan gave a general overview of the Healthy Congregations program.

She said there were still items unclear as to how it would be carried out and what it would focus on.

Marley was interested in when the program would take place and what it would focus on

Susan will talk to Rev. Tandi tomorrow regarding the program and its implementation.

Thank you notes

8:55-9:00

Special SUUC Board Meeting minutes for Jan 12, 2020

Emerson Room

Approval of separation agreement with Rev. Kate

8:00 am

Board members approved the separation agreement for Rev Kate. It was drafted with the help of Nat Taylor, attorney with Eli, Li & McKinstry. Rev Kate's official termination date is Feb 29, 2020. She will be paid salary and benefits until that date. These days will be designated as study leave, vacation and up to 4 days of transition assistance.

Approval of Letter of Agreement for Rev, Amanda

8:30

Board members approved the Letter of Agreement for Rev Amanda which was drafted with advice of Nat Taylor, attorney with Eli, Li & McKinstry. This Letter of Agreement should be confirmed by the congregation in a special congregational meeting in order to be in conformity with our bylaws.

Community Announcements

Good Memories and Best Wishes

You are invited to a gathering in honor of Rev. Kate and Jay! It will be held at Rick Wilson's and Jeff Sunde's home on February 29th from 2 to 4 PM. Please bring noshes to share. We'll have a chance to wish them both well in their future endeavors and to share the fond memories we have of the nearly seven years they shared their lives with us. If you would like to contribute to a gift certificate for them, please get your donations to Rick by February 24th. You are also welcome to give Rick any notes you would like to share or you may bring them with you to the gathering on the 29th.

ELP CREATE MAGIC AT HOGWARTS SCHOOL ON APRIL 18, 2020 **FROM 6-9 PM IN THE GREAT HALL (SANCTUARY)**

Now is the time for serious thinking on your part of what you want to donate to the auction. If you really can't come to the auction, **WE HOPE YOU WILL COME** because you will have fun, you don't have to be at the auction to have your auction item(s) auctioned off. Events and services seem to be the best sellers (and, after all, this is for a good cause) and items that you no longer want but someone else may want are good to donate as well. People love to hear about other people's lives through a dinner or wine tasting or slide show or get their home fixed up through gardening, handyperson services, organization, etc. If you have been downsizing or rightsizing recently, you may have items that someone else needs or wants that you can offer to the auction. We are also asking each of the affinity groups at church to come up with a themed auction item(s) related to their group. For example, the Book Group is looking at coming up with a basket of books and book-related items to be auctioned off and the Bridge Group is looking at figuring out bridge-related item(s) to be auctioned off. Donation forms can be found at the following website <https://tinyurl.com/suuc2020>. There will also be forms available before and after church on all the Sundays in February. We will call you if we don't see a donation from you because we know you want to contribute to this very worthy cause of supporting the church.

As you know, the Harry Potter auction will be in-person at the church from April 18, 2020 from 6-9 pm in the Great Hall (Sanctuary). The cost is \$25/adult and \$5/child and a light meal will be served along with a libation. Other drinks will be available as well. These "in-person" auctions are designed for everyone, adults and children alike, to come to church and have fun interacting with others and get to know each other better, enjoy good food, good friends, and a good opportunity to support the church financially by buying auction items. Plan your trip and costume to Hogwarts (school/home of Harry Potter, Hermione Granger, and Ron Weasley and Professors Dumbledore, Snape, and McGonagall). If you don't want to dress up as a Harry Potter character that's definitely ok too. Everyone will be sorted into a Residence Hall at Hogwarts School of Magic but if you already know which residence hall you and your children want to be in, that works also. The important thing is for everyone, including the kids, to come and enjoy each other's company (and raise money for the church) at this biannual sit-down auction event on April 18. You'll only have this amazing adventure if you come to church on April 18 for the auction and we hope this will be one of the most fun events you attend the whole year of 2020!

For those people who haven't been exposed to Hogwarts or Harry Potter and his crew, ask your kids/grandkids and come to the sneak preview of the 1st Harry Potter movie, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Threadgill Hall on **February 16, 2020 at 12:30 pm**. \$5 for adults/\$1 per child will get you pizza and popcorn (bring your own drinks) and good seats to a fantastic movie! Or feel free to ask any one of the planning crew (Kate Beck 206-898-7100, Rick Wilson 206-799-3054, Dana Doerksen 206-919-2666, Mary Lou Haberman 206-402-984-3534 or Laura Banks 206-235-3611).

Please Lock the Church!

Remember to check all the doors (and windows in summer) of both church buildings if you are the last to leave and make sure they are all closed and locked. If you're not sure that you're the last person, please err on the side of caution, and lock up. If you're not sure how to lock up, please ask Brandon, or Rev Amanda or a board member, or Rick, Cal, Bruce, or someone to show you how. It's not hard :) Thank you!

GreenSong Imbolc Ritual – Sunday, February 2, 2020. Doors open at 5:00pm, ritual begins at 5:30pm.

Join GreenSong CUUPs for a ritual celebrating Imbolc. Imbolc, also called St. Brigid's Day, is a Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of spring. It is often held on 1 February, or about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. We will sweep away the troubles and disappointments of the past year and put forth our hopes and dreams for the year ahead with Brigid by our side.

Photo Credit: Autumn Earthsong



Our Plate Share recipient for February, on Sunday the 9th, will be American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Washington.

This local nonprofit is dedicated to defending/expanding civil liberties and civil rights.

Thanks to the many members of our congregation who took time to cast votes to determine SUUC's Plate Share recipients for the coming year!

Our nine selected nonprofits are listed below, along with the projected Sundays on which we will recognize them:

*ACLU Washington (February 9)

*People for Puget Sound (March 8)

*NW Immigration Rights Project (April 12) *Literary Source (May 17) *End of Life Washington (June 14) *Climate Action Families (August 9) *Amara Foster Care (September 13)

*King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (October 11) *Food Lifeline (November 8)

Submitted by Lew Witham, Sharon Greenman

FAN's Interfaith Advocacy Day, Thursday, Feb. 6, 9 AM – 3 PM, at United Churches of Olympia & the WA State Capitol in Olympia



FAITH ACTION NETWORK's **Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD)** in Olympia brings our voices for justice and compassion to our elected state leaders. We partner for the common good with people of all faiths who stand up boldly for our shared values. Meeting with legislators and/or their staffs on this day is one of your most effective possible actions for social and economic justice.

On Interfaith Advocacy Day, you will be able to:

Join workshops explaining the issues on FAN's 2020 Legislative Agenda (<http://fanwa.org/legislative-agenda/>).

Learn current best practices on how to advocate in today's legislature (<http://fanwa.org/advocacy-toolkit-new/>).

Prepare for briefings and hearings with advocates from your legislative district.

Meet your legislator! Once you register, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district.

FAN is limited to 250 participants for IFAD because of regulations about numbers who can gather at The United Churches of Olympia (110 11th Ave. SE, Olympia). **So register on-line and get complete information now at <https://fanwa.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/info?id=179&reset=1>** . If you are interested in carpooling, contact Bob Beekman (206-527-7340), RLBEEKMAN@GMAIL.COM).

February Nominations for Recipients of Global SRE Fund Leveraged Donations

SUUC's Social Action Ministry will be asking next month for suggested recipients for SUUC'S global SRE Leveraged Donation Campaign in April. The Social Responsibility Endowment (SRE) Fund was established over a decade ago by a generous founding donation from SUUC members Nick and Jeanne Aldrich. The annual income from this endowment is designated for distribution to one or more of the following: 1) environmental non-profits inside or outside the U.S. or 2) non-profit charities working substantially outside the U.S. that are not aimed at environmental missions -- or both. In the past five years, we have asked SUUC congregants to nominate recipients and then split the annual donation from the SRE Fund income according to congregant donations in April to the 3-4 selected recipients. This has resulted in total annual donations ranging from \$2000 to \$11,000 for some very worthy -- and sometimes unusual -- organizations.

Please start this year's global SRE-Leveraged Donation campaign by suggesting possible recipient non-profits. See Bob Beekman or Sharon Greenman (and their clipboards) in the sanctuary entry hall and the Threadgill social hall before and after each February Worship Service. Or contact Bob Beekman, [\(206\) 527-7340](tel:2065277340), rbeekman@gmail.com. A list of some past recipients will be available -- both to give you some ideas and to avoid duplications.

SUUC EVENING BOOK GROUP STARTS MONTHLY BOOK DISCUSSIONS ON FEB. 5

"The owl of Minerva flies at dusk."

The Evening Book Group (aka "The Owls of Minerva") will meet on Wednesday, February 5, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Brown Room, in the Davis Building. We're discussing Neil Postman's Amusing Ourselves to Death -- a 1985 treatment of how television and other electronic media warp public discourse about religious, educational, and -- especially -- political matters. We'll try to update Postman's ideas to cover cable news channels, WWE, reality TV, the internet, hyperlinks, social media, cell phones, selfies, twitter -- and recent politics!

Here is the schedule for the rest of 2020's monthly book discussions:

- Mar. 4 Margo Jefferson, Negroland: A Memoir
- Apr. 1 Katherine Boo, Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity
- May 6 Anand Giridharadas, Winners Take All: The Elite Charade of Changing the World
- June 3 Hans Rosling, Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World -- and Why Things Are Better Than You Think
- July 1 Amal El-Mohtar, This Is How You Lose a Time War
- Aug. 5 Lissa Evans, Old Baggage: A Novel
- Sept. 2 Jeffrey Toobin, American Heiress: The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst
- Oct. 7 Barbara Ehrenreich, Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves To Live Longer
- Nov. 4 Gerard Russell, Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms: Journeys into Disappearing Religions of the Middle East

Dec. 2 Lesley Hazleton, Jezebel: The Untold Story of the Bible's Harlot Queen

Anyone is welcome to join our monthly book group discussion -- even if you haven't finished reading the book. Need more information? Contact Bob, [\(206\) 527-7340](tel:2065277340), rlbeekman@gmail.com .



Passages

In recent months we at SUUC have lost several of our beloved long time members and friends. We believe that it may be appropriate to share that information about *Passages* in our congregation. Although some of them lived at a distance, we remember them and the contributions they made to our congregation. The following members died in November and December:

Reverend Heather Lynn Hanson served as our Interim Minister from 2010-2012. She often used the chambered nautilus as a metaphor for the ability to change and to grow as she helped us with change in our ministry.

Reverend Jim Wickman. Jim was a founding member of SUUC and for many years led the Worship Planning Team before attending seminary and becoming an ordained minister and leaving for a congregation in Eastern Washington. He was also a carpenter, a university professor, a former DJ, a mountaineer and a talented photographer. His widow Janet Tyler, also a longtime member, lives in Pasco. Both his children and her children were active in our Sunday School and youth groups.

Julia Black was our first pianist and first choir director. As a former music professor she wrote and taught movement with music, and even had our choir use active movement as a learning tool. Her late husband, Alastair, was an architect who designed the "bay window" in the old building, which looked out on the memorial rhododendron garden. Julia also played the harpsichord while Alastair played guitar. An announcement will be coming from the family about a Memorial in the spring.

Cleone and Toivo Perala were founding members as well. Cleone was a one-woman welcome team, and was known for her friendliness and for organizing many dinners and social events. Toivo was the handyman extraordinaire who could fix anything around our property, including crawling under the old building to keep the pipes from freezing. They both sang in Julia's choir. Toivo was still climbing mountains in his 70s when he developed Alzheimers and they moved to Duluth to be closer to relatives. They continued to keep in touch with older members, and have left a generous gift for SUUC. Their ashes will be spread at Mr. Rainier. Here is a very brief collection of pictures: <https://youtu.be/Kufx0heoafY>

Ken Cook was a newer member, but still loved for his infectious smile and cheerful demeanor. His wife, Caroline, remains active at SUUC.

And others have moved on to pursue other paths in their lives:

Reverend Kate Landis has resigned as of February 29. She will be missed and we wish the best for her on her journey. See article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Reverend Carmen McDowell resigned from her role as Affiliated Community Minister in January, 2020. We wish her well.

If you have information about *Passages* of church members, please let the office know, or contact me at jottingjo@gmail.com. If you have Pastoral Care needs, please contact the church office.



Cultural Literacy for Religion:

When does the Jewish Sabbath begin? Who are Vishnu and Shiva? What are Buddhism's Four Noble Truths? What are the Five Pillars of Islam? These questions are more than an academic exercise. Religious belief has been innate to humans everywhere and in every age, from the time of the Neanderthals to the 21st century. It's also one of the strongest motivators of human behavior and has a profound impact on all aspects of our culture—our spiritual beliefs, our rituals, our politics, and the very



Starting February 2nd at 12pm there will be a new group featuring a video lecture series. Over the course of 24 engaging lectures, award-winning Professor Mark Berkson of Hamline University takes us on a tour of our world and its religious culture. After each 30-minutes lecture will follow 30-minutes of group discussion to reflect on information gained, share experiences, and cultivate spiritual growth.

Meeting will be 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12pm. Dates and lecture titles are listed below

Feb-2 1 Religion - Its Meaning and Importance
Feb-16 2 Facets of Religion - Divinity and Devotion
Mar-1 3 Hinduism - Foundational Texts and Teachings
Mar-15 4 Hindu Gods and Devotional Practices
Apr-5 5 Gita to Ganhi - Yogas and Modern Hinduism
Apr-19 6 Waking Up - The Buddha and His Teachings

May-3 7 Vehicles to Nirvana - The Schools of Buddhism
May-17 8 Chinese Religion and Cosmology
Jun-7 9 Confucianism - Rituals and Relationships
Jun-21 10 Daoism - Harmony, Nature, and the Way
Jul-5 11 Kami and Spirits - Shinto and Shamanism
Jul-19 12 East Asian Buddhism - Zen and Pure Land

Organized by Nikklas Colpron, available to answer question at nkcolpron@gmail.com



“Risk/Benefit”

A Suspenseful Resistance Drama

By Amanda L. Aikman

Directed by Carissa Meisner Smit



Sunday, Feb. 23, 2:00 pm

Saturday, Feb. 29, 7:00 pm

Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church,
14724 1st Ave NE

Sunday, March 1, 1:00 pm

Prospect Congregational United Church
of Christ, 1919 E Prospect, Seattle

All performances \$10 at the door.

Cash or check only.

How much would YOU risk
for freedom?



"Risk/Benefit"

A Suspenseful Resistance Drama



About the Playwright:



Amanda L. Aikman

Amanda has written about 1 dozen plays, most of them shorter than Risk/Benefit. Risk / Benefit: A Suspenseful Resistance Drama is more intense, plot-driven, passionate, focused, and suspenseful than the others.

The central message is that anyone, whether they consider themselves to be "brave" or not, can, under pressure, perform acts of great courage.

"Risk/Benefit"

A Suspenseful Resistance Drama



About the Director:



Carissa Meisner Smit

This will be the 8th play Carissa has directed. Recent productions include:

- *The Clean House*
- *The Addams Family, The Musical*
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Also, Carissa has acted in more than 30 roles. Her favorites are:

- *Rose, from Enchanted April*
- *Velma, from Chicago*

February Worship Services

Sunday, February 2, 10:30 a.m.: “Clinging to Timelessness”
Rev. Amanda Aikman

Sunday, February 9, 10:30 a.m.: “Navigating the Unexpected”
Pulpit Guest Tori Manzer

Sunday, February 16, 10:30 a.m.: “Where Is The Star?”
Pulpit Guest Victoria Poling

Sunday, February 23, 10:30 a.m.: “Finding Your True North”
Rev. Amanda Aikman

Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

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Calendar available online at <http://www.shorelineuu.org/calendar.html>