

Soundings



Newsletter of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

President's Message



Dear Friends,

These are certainly extraordinary times! For now, we are doing all of our church activities through Zoom. Thanks to all who are working so hard to make this possible: our wonderful staff and a veritable army of volunteers! We will hold the May congregational meeting on Zoom after church on May 17. It will be a simple meeting with just two agenda items that we know of now (elections and the roof). We are working on the technological issues to have a vote. Both the UUA and our attorney, Chris Doerksen, have advised us that meeting through Zoom is consistent with our bylaws. We need a quorum, so please plan to attend.

We are trying to reach out to congregants and make sure everyone knows about the services and the May meeting online. There are some members of our congregation who don't have internet access, so Brandon will be mailing them Soundings. Thank heavens for telephones and the Postal Service!

In terms of church business, as I've detailed in the ebulletins of late, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. We are no longer receiving our normal rental income, so this is a problem for our budget. We have applied for a Payroll Protection Program loan in the amount of \$46,000 to help us cover this loss. We will hopefully hear about this soon. The great thing about this program is that part or all of that money can become a grant if it is used to pay staff.

We are continuing to plan for the roof replacement. Our insurance company wants us to take care of this during 2020 if possible. There are a lot of details about the roof in the Sept 2019 and in the April 2020 Soundings which you might want to review. Most of the roofers we've been talking to in the last few months have been concerned about roofing the low slope areas of the dome with shingles. We have two current proposals that Ed Buzzell and I have been working on. One is to replace the roof with PVC (a plastic material often used on low-slope or flat roofs). The other is to use a combination approach:

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composition shingles for most of the dome roof and a membrane or torch down for the low-slope areas on top of the dome. The quotes we are considering are in the \$80,000 range (including tax) plus the cost of any structural repairs. We will be discussing these bids with our consultant, Duane, this week and will have a complete proposal along with the plan for financing ready for the congregation to study well before our May 17 congregational meeting.

We are continuing our search for an Interim Minister. The Interim Search Committee has submitted our application to the UUA website and we are now waiting to receive candidates for interviews. This will happen in May. Susan Storer Clark will share more information about our application in a separate article.

We are continuing to talk to the City of Shoreline about their proposal to create a pedestrian walkway through our property in 2023. This walkway will connect to a bridge across the freeway to get to the new light rail station. Because of our UU values and desire to lower our carbon footprint and support mass transit, the board has worked with the City of Shoreline over the last year to be supportive and to help shape the proposal in a way that impacts us as little as possible. But it **will** impact us, in both positive and negative ways. We may lose some parking and some trees (both of which will have to be mitigated by the city). But on the plus side, we will gain lots of visibility to the community, easy access to the light rail for our congregants, as well as receiving a financial benefit to our church (the amount is not yet determined). The City of Shoreline held a webinar on April 23 which many congregants attended and asked good questions. Also many of us participated in their online open house and survey during the month of April. For more information about the project, please visit Shorelinewa.gov/148thbridge. We will continue our conversations with the city over the next several months as they narrow down to their “preferred alternative.”

Even more pressing for us right now is the roof project. Because we wish to vote on the roof plan at the May meeting, we want to talk to you about it BEFORE May 17. It will not be possible to have a great deal of discussion with a large group on May 17. To remedy this, we plan to hold Board coffee hours every Sunday from now until the congregational meeting to discuss the roof plan (and other church business) with you. Please plan to attend one or more of these focused coffee hours so that we can hear your ideas and answer your questions.

Please come to coffee hour on Sundays at 12:00 for a chance to have more in-depth discussions. Here is that zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/803336724>

Or by phone

253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 803 336 724

We would also like to create an FAQ (frequently asked questions) page regarding the roof project for congregants. Could you please email your questions (and comments) to Catherine (Catherine_crain@comcast.net) and we will try to answer them and post the Q & A.

Wishing you peace and comfort in these stressful times,

Catherine Crain

President, SUUC Board of Trustees

May 17 Congregational Meeting

The Board of Trustees invites all members and friends to our congregational meeting at 11:45 after our Sunday service on May 17.

This meeting will be held on Zoom. You will find the link on our home page, www.shorelineuu.org, the morning of May 17. If you have trouble connecting contact the office – office@shorelineuu.org

There are two major items on the agenda:

Elections to the Board of Trustees, Endowment Committee, and Congregational Life Committee

Vote to authorize funds to pay for the roof replacement

We need a quorum. Please plan to come!

Update on Interim Minister search: Our application's in!

On Wednesday, April 22, the Interim Search committee hit "Publish" and sent our application in to the Unitarian Universalist Association for an interim minister. The committee (Dana Dorksens, Brian Flaherty, Libby Gray, and Susan Storer Clark) have worked on this extensive application for more than a month, outlining the history, finances, and character of our congregation and saying what we want in our Interim Minister.

A clear picture of what we want emerged in our meetings, coffee hours, e-mails and discussions with members of the congregation: someone accredited as an interim minister; someone lively, who would give engaging sermons and show genuine interest in members of the congregation; someone who will be calm and capable in time of conflict; someone who will respect, perhaps even enjoy, our theological diversity.

If you did not get to say what you want, there's still time. The applications will be open to candidates on May 4. The committee will hear from candidates during May, narrow down candidates in early June. The anticipated start date for our new interim will be August 1. So if you have something you want the committee to know, you can do that in May—either come to a Sunday coffee hour, or call or e-mail any one of us. We're all in the church directory. Interim ministers can serve for one year, two years, eighteen months, or one year with an option to renew. A congregation offering a two-year interim post is likely to get substantially more and better applications. Still, when we began this process, more congregants told us they wanted a one-year interim than any of the other options. Two of the members of the search committee felt that way. However, as time went on, the Covid-19 crisis deepened. People began to think that we might need two years to take care of all the things that need taking care of before we called a settled minister.

In order to call a settled minister in 2021, we would have to be selecting a Search Committee early this summer. Our lives are so unsettled now that it's likely we'd have difficulty getting people to serve on it, and they would have difficulty focusing on the large and complicated task of finding a settled minister.

For all these reasons, and because of the unsettled outlook for the next year to 18 months, the committee reached the conclusion that many things will take longer and be more difficult than we anticipated, and we need to give ourselves time: time to articulate and absorb the lessons given in the past year, time to decide who we are, who we want to be, and what kind of minister we want for the long term.

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The committee therefore unanimously recommended that we apply for an interim minister to serve us for two years, starting August 2020. The Board has agreed, and voted Tuesday night to approve the application for an interim minister as written, specifying a term of two years.

We're on our way. If you'd like a copy of our application so you can see what we said, please get in touch with me.

Susan Storer Clark, Member, Interim Search Committee

Songsue30@gmail.com 206-801-7027

Community Announcements

Give to The SUUC Endowment Funds

“Why Endowment? I already pledge.” We're so grateful for the pledges of our members. The Endowment Funds are a way to support SUUC beyond the year-to-year Operating Budget. Endowments allow members to make gifts for the long-term health of SUUC. In addition, you can make variable gifts to the Endowment Funds as your resources change year to year or even month to month. Some members set up their donations tied to their investment accounts.

SUUC has two endowment funds. The Support and Enhancement Endowment (SEE) that supports the overall operation of the church and the Social Responsibility Endowment (SRE) income from which is disbursed by the Social Action Ministry to qualifying non-profits external to SUUC. Your contributions to the Endowment Funds are invested and proceeds from the investments are given to the church. This year the SEE will give almost \$5,000 to the SUUC operating fund. You can direct your donations to either the SEE, the SRE or both. You can donate by a single payment, by regular periodic payments or by including the SUUC Endowment in your estate plans. As you know, financial markets are presently depressed so that donations you make now can be invested at low prices to give good yields in the long run.

For more information about the Endowment Funds and how to donate contact any member of the endowment committee.

Bruce Campbell campbb48@gmail.com, Laura McCarty ldmccarty@q.com,

Dick Volkman richard.volkman@att.net, Rick Zander zander44@yahoo.com,

Terry Zimmerman tlyezim@gmail.com.

Cultural Literacy for Religion

Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know. An exquisite video lecture series and discussion group. Award-winning Professor Mark Berkson of Hamline University takes us on a tour of our world and its religious culture. Together on Zoom we will watch a 30-minute lecture follow by 30-minutes of group discussion to reflect on information gained, share experiences, and cultivate spiritual growth. Contact Niklas for more information—
nkcolpron@gmail.com

Plate Share Status

Each fall members of our congregation nominate local non-profit organizations for inclusion in the next year's plate share program. Members then vote for nine organizations which are scheduled once a month from February through October (except June this year). We invite someone from the organization to speak briefly and to bring materials for members to take home. Three quarters of the offering for that day is donated to the organization.

In this new normal, we have decided (Worship Planning and Social Action) to suspend this effort until such time as we can meet in person again. Our Sunday donations have fallen so that our donations to these groups would be minimal, not to mention our church currently needs those funds as well.

We were able to have Plate Share in February, the ACLU. Here is a list of the other organizations that were planned for the rest of the year. It includes a brief statement of the purpose and the website. If you are interested and able to donate to one or more of these groups, please go to the group's website and donate directly.

MAY: Literacy Source- Builds a literate community by providing learner-centered instruction to adults in English literacy and basic life skills. (literarysource.org)

JULY: End of Life Washington: Advocates for excellent end-of-life care, patient-centered care, and expanded choice at the end of life. (endoflifewa.org)

AUG: Climate Action Families- A diverse group of multi-generational families based in Washington state, committed to climate justice while valuing the precious time we have now as young families. (climateactionfamilies.org)

SEP: Amara: Works to ensure that every child in foster care has the love, support and comfort of a committed family- as quickly as possible and for as long as each child needs. (amaraputskidsfirst.org)

OCT: King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (NEW)- Provides direct services to people of all ages, genders, races and cultural backgrounds in King County, while working toward the ultimate goal of eliminating sexual violence and abuse from our communities. (kcsarc.org)

NOV: Food Lifeline: Dedicated to ending hunger in Western Washington. (foodlifeline.org)

Greensong CUUPs May Day Celebration

All who want to become the May Queen or King of their plot of earth should join by Zoom on Sunday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m. We will feel, listen, smell and see the spring, adorn ourselves with flowers and declare ourselves May Queens and Kings. Check the Greensong CUUPs mail list or email chrisdoerksen@comcast.net for instructions on how to connect.

Dana Doerksen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: GreenSong CUUPs Beltaine

Time: May 3, 2020 05:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85809028426>

Dial by phone

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 858 0902 8426

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcIrNMOGeC>

SRE-LEVERAGED DONATION CAMPAIGN POSTPONED TO FALL

**For Donations to Global, Foreign, and Environmental Non-Profits
Matched with Money from the Social Responsibility Endowment**



Because of the Stay-at-Home anti-pandemic measures, the Social Action Ministry is postponing our annual SRE-Leveraged Donation Campaign from this spring to the fall. Watch for notice and publicity with full information in the September issue of SUUC's *Soundings*.

We do have the finalists for this year's donations -- five of them instead of the usual 3 or 4. They are:

- Maya Pedal -- uses donated bicycles to recondition or to turn into "Bicimaquinas" -- pedal powered farm and home machines for Guatemalan indigenous communities without electric utility service.
- The Pad Project -- provides menstruation education and affordable pads for women in rural India to free them from restrictions on their social and economic activity.
- Washington Foundation for the Environment -- provides small grants for well-focused local environmental stewardship and educational projects in Washington state.
- Operation USA -- very well run, lean disaster relief -- e.g., Puerto Rico earthquake and hurricane relief, California wildfires, Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, etc.
- Americans for Peace Now -- U.S. affiliate organization of Shalom Achsav (Peace Now), Israel's pre-eminent peace movement. Education and advocacy for policies leading to comprehensive, durable, Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab peace, base on a two-state solution and limitation or removal of Israeli West Bank settlements.

Need more information? Contact Bob, rlbeekman@gmail.com.

May Worship Services

Services will continue to be held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

For the duration of May, services will be online only.

We will most likely be holding all of these services on Zoom. The easiest and quickest way to link yourself into the service is to go to the home page of our website at www.shorelineuu.org, scroll down to “Upcoming Services and Events” and then click the link that says “Join Zoom Meeting” directly below the service title. If you have any problems connecting, contact the office.

office@shorelineuu.org

We hope we will all be able to meet in person again soon, but we are grateful to be able to gather online while we are not able to gather in person! Hope to see you “there”!

Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

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2020 Board of Trustees:

Catherine Crain, President; Ryan Dunne, VP-Finance; Susan Storer Clark, Vice President;
Earl Davis, Secretary; Dana Doerksen; Marley Banker; Jo Moore

2020 Staff

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Lucy Wenger, Pianist	
Wil Sederholm, Choir Director	
Carly Davis, Nursery Attendant	
Monica Barroga, Nursery Attendant	

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