

Soundings



Newsletter of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

Minister's Message for July



Hello Dear Ones,

By my front door I have a mirror framed in wrought-iron with a little shelf beneath the glass. I bought it at a garage sale for \$3 when I worked at Ferry Beach, the UU summer camp in Maine, and it is one of the few decorative items I hauled all the way to the West Coast when I moved here in 2012. It isn't an especially pretty mirror, and its heavy weight makes it hard to mount to the wall, but I love the way the little shelf is just wide enough to serve as an altar. On it are a few votive candles, a small silver chalice, and pictures of a couple of people that I admire. The altar is by the door so that when I leave the house I can center myself and see my role models. Thus inspired, I can go out into the world and do good, or so the idea goes.

Hauling the altar across the northern US in the backseat of the car, wrapped in blankets, was a hassle, as was using the stud finder to find a secure place to mount it. But the hardest part of creating this altar was choosing photos to display. Gandhi? Well, he was awfully mean to his wife. Unitarian Susan B. Anthony was my hero as a child, but it turns out she was quite racist. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second woman on the Supreme Court and tireless advocate for gender equality, called football player Colin Kaepernick's brave protest of police brutality dumb. Briefly a UU as a teenager, Obama did a great deal of good but deported more immigrants than any other president in history. Are there any heroes left? Who belongs on my altar?

Universalists believed that we were all born good, then fell away from goodness through having to live in this world of greed and anxiety. Then, even though we were far from perfect, we all ended up in heaven after death. How could a God who so lovingly created us ever want us to suffer in hell? Universalist said that hell only existed on earth, in the suffering of poverty, sickness, and inequality that we humans created. The great UU

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July Worship Services

Sunday, July 2, 10:30 a.m.:

"Gratitude and The Interdependent Web," Bridget Laflin, Pulpit Guest

Sunday, July 9, 10:30 a.m.:

"Speak with Bravest Fire,"
Rev. Kate Landis

Sunday, July 16, 10:30 a.m.: |

"Peace, Love & Understanding, Revisited," Lew Witham, Pulpit Guest; Special music by Rona Yellow Robe and Bruce Witham

Sunday, July 23, 10:30 a.m.:

"Soulmates with Everyone,"
Rev. Kate Landis

Sunday, July 30, 10:30 a.m.:

"A Gentle, Angry People,"
Rev. Kate Landis



minister Mark Morrison-Reed says that Universalists won't be satisfied in the afterlife until they have dragged every unrepentant sinner into heaven, with, or without, their consent. So, if the spirit of love moving through our world, the great gentle spirit that some call God, won't damn us, I suppose I shouldn't either.

The cynic in me wants to let my disappointment in Susan B, and Bader Ginsburg, and Obama wash away the memory of all the good they did. The continual heartbreak of learning your heroes aren't perfect hurts. I want Susan B to be my prototype feminist whose mind was wise enough to escape the racism of her time. But her mind was not. No hero is perfect, no human is without fault. But we are Unitarian Universalists, descendants of the loving Universalists, so we know that while we are born without sin our imperfect world often inflects us with racism, sexism, or a lack of awareness of our own privilege. And we know that the Spirit of Love that some call God won't damn us for our misdeeds. We reject cynicism in favor of forgiveness, in favor of empathy. After all, Ruth Bader Ginsburg apologized for criticizing Colin Kaepernick's protest, turns out she didn't know who he was or why he was upset.

If my heroes are allowed to have faults, to be imperfect, I suppose I am allowed to have faults as well. I am allowed to admit that I make mistakes, to confess that the racist culture in which we live has imprinted on me some unloving notions for which I am not proud. I can embrace the Universalist philosophy that while we are not perfect, we are perfectly lovable. Being a work in progress is good enough. If there is one idea that should take its place on my altar, it is that we are all flawed, but trying our best to heal this world. And if the Love that some call God won't damn us, we shouldn't damn each other either. What greater theology is there than this?

I hope you are gentle towards yourself and each other this month. We are all trying so very hard to heal our world, and we don't always succeed. We aren't always who we want to be. But we are works in progress, and that is enough.

Rev Kate

President's Update



Exciting news for the **nursery** in the dome building! It is going to be freshened up with new paint, area rug, furniture, and toddler amenities. Keep your eye out for the beautiful new look coming this summer.

New building progress. By the time you read this update, the asbestos removal will have been done. Furnishings, children's library, etc., will have been moved elsewhere for temporary storage. We have selected a contractor for demolition and excavation. Contractors for electrical, plumbing, gas, and fire alarm system work have also been selected. The building permit application has been submitted to the City of Shoreline. And we await a definitive schedule from Modern Building Systems regarding the start date of construction of the modules at their plant in Oregon. The delivery date to our campus depends on that start date and the smooth flow of work at the plant.

We're raising more funds to cope with higher bid figures and/or to reduce loan amount. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to those who have joined the church since fall 2015 and are willing and able to contribute to this worthy cause.

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This summer will be very busy behind the scenes and busy in stages on the ground. Carolyn Threadgill (cjtgill1@gmail.com) and Ed Buzzell (ebuzzell@frontier.com) are both available at all times to answer questions in depth. Please don't hesitate to ask when you are curious about how this ambitious project is progressing.

Carolyn Threadgill
President, Board of Trustees
Chair, New Building Committee

Money Talks

Host a House Meeting This Fall!!

That's a great way to help our annual campaign to fund our operating budget. Not only does it cost practically nothing, but it gives you a great excuse to clean your house!!

Newer members have especially appreciated this opportunity to get to know other SUUC members, share a few stories, and discuss congregation priorities. For the past five years, these house meetings have been an important community-building part of our growing congregation.



The house meetings this year will be held between October 8 and 29. They are 90 minutes long, and are scheduled at the convenience of the host--weeknights, weekdays or weekends. They have included anywhere from 4-12 people, again, per the wishes of the hosts. The gatherings are facilitated by a member of the Stewardship Team, and people will sign up to attend specific gatherings--so the host doesn't even have to deal with invitations.

All the host is asked to do is to provide a light snack and beverage such as juice or coffee. And then enjoy the good fellowship!

Interested? Want more information? Contact me at kdonn55@comcast.net.

Paul Borrmann
VP-Finance



Director of Religious Exploration



Hello everyone. It's been a really fun end of the school year around the church and I'd like to thank everyone for heeding my requests for you to come out for the last few services of the year --we had a whole lot of folks out for the first two Sundays of June, in which we celebrated kids, teachers, OWL graduates, the end of the Chrysalis' life, babies, flowers, and ... am I missing anything? There was so much! Anyways, the big crowd really helped to end the church and school year on a high note. The decoration of the Chrysalis in preparation for its demolition was an especially fun (and chaotic!) event which I feel pretty sure the kids will remember for a long, long time to come. While a lot of the Religious Exploration Program necessarily entails slowly building up and adding to children's "toolbox of faith," as the 3rd-5th grade class called it over the past year, it's very fun and rewarding to witness the big moments that occasionally punctuate a process such as this one. We had one young boy named Jacob who was visiting our church for the first time who was absolutely over the moon to participate in such a singular and wild activity; I almost feel bad for the guy as I know there's really no way we can keep up that level of excitement in the coming weeks...but we'll do our best!

Speaking of the coming weeks, this summer our activities are going to revolve around the first of our faith's six sources of wisdom, "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." In other words, rather than hearing lots of stories and parables that point to the wonder and mysteries of life, we'll be trying to get in touch with them first hand, using our own senses. I'm happy to have the help of new member, Chana Meddin, in crafting and running this summer's RE program; Chana has done a lot of facilitating outdoor nature activities with children, so the timing of her joining our church couldn't be better for the children and youth who are sure to benefit from her experience!

Lastly, the first Sunday of the summer program we had 17 kids and youth ranging from entering kindergarten to 8th grade--we could really use some additional adult assistance during the summer! If you'd like to help, please visit SignUpGenius.com, click on the magnifying glass in the upper righthand corner, and search for my email address, shorelinedre@gmail.com. There you'll find information about helping out, and a form where you can sign up for helping out with days in the summer. Thanks so much for helping make our summer RE program safe and fun for the kids of our church!

Chris Pollina
shorelinedre@gmail.com



Minutes for the June 2017 Shoreline UU Church Board of Trustees Meeting

Attending: Carolyn Threadgill, Paul Borrmann, Juel Erickson, Ryan Dunne, Catherine Crain, Bill Hayes, and Rev. Kate Landis

Absent: Judi Kalitzki

Opening Call to Order: Carolyn Threadgill presiding

Approval of May meeting Minutes postponed to July 6, 2017. (copies unavailable)

New Business

1. Board meeting days and times will remain the first Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m., except as follows: July 6, Thursday and November 14, second Tuesday. Congregational meetings will be December 17, 2017, and May 20, 2018. Note: Future bylaw changes should show the original text in black type and the proposed new text in red type when posting prior to the congregational meetings.
2. Because of a bylaw change at the Congregational Meeting, there no longer exists a requirement for church committees to submit yearly reports. The Board will rectify this at a future meeting. In addition, we shall specify clearly what constitutes a committee for this reporting purpose.
3. Faith Action Network: The Social Action Ministry contributes money each year to FAN voluntarily from its budget. Now that the congregation as a whole has voted to support FAN, a sum should be allocated in each year's operating budget for this purpose. We think the current sum is about \$100.00 per year and will verify this. Rev. Kate will go online and sign up SUUC as a supporting congregation to FAN. Individuals may also do the same in their own names.
4. New building financing update from Paul: We're generally in good shape. More pledges will be solicited from new members to cover unexpected increases and/or to pay back loans more quickly. **The Board voted in favor of this resolution:** "Be it resolved that, Board President Carolyn Threadgill and Vice President - Finance Paul Borrmann are authorized to sign loan documents on behalf of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church with Verity Credit Union for the new building."
5. Robert's Rules of Order confusion still persists in the congregation. We are in favor of some education for the congregation before the next congregational meeting, particularly addressing the meaning and consequence of "I call the question."
6. May Operating and Balance Sheet review and explanations by Paul Borrmann.
7. Rev. Kate requested \$1,000 to pay for guest speakers at the remaining once/month Sundays when Jessica would have preached. **The Board voted to approve the request.** Kate will inform Kristina Selsset, chair of the Worship Planning Committee.
8. Rev. Kate also requested \$1,000 for sprucing up the nursery, whose paint and furnishings are worn after 16 years of service. **The Board voted to approve the request.**
9. Thank you notes were written for Jessica Star Rocker for her year of service as an intern minister and for OWL teachers Laura Westbrook, Jeff Lily, Catherine Crain and Noel Bain.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Threadgill, secretary for the day, 6/7/17

Community Announcements

Worship Planning Committee News

I, Dianne Carreri, am the new chair of our SUUC Worship Planning Committee, effective July 1, 2017. I follow on the heels of our most excellent immediate past chair, Kristina Selsset. Many at church know she has been the go-to person for questions on any and all aspects of the worship service. And, she gave the gift of a third year as chair. Many, many thanks, Kristina.

Our lively, cheerful group meets at 7 p.m., the third Wednesday of each month for 2 hours. Do you have opinions about elements of a service you've attended? Do you want to weigh in on guests in our pulpit? Do you care to shape the message our church presents to members, guests, Vimeo viewers? Please contact me to discuss joining the Worship Planning Committee or specific thoughts and ideas about worship. Email: carreri54@gmail.com. Cell: 206-697-3418.

GreenSong Picnic at Woodland Park



Please join GreenSong CUUPs for our celebration of the first harvest festival of the year, Lughnasadh, on July 30 at 8 p.m. in Woodland Park. We will meet near picnic shelter #6. If you have any trouble finding us on the day of the event, please text or call Hans at 650-383-8505.

Shoreline UU Men's Association



SUUMA (Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Men's Association) will meet for breakfast at the Wedgwood Broiler, 8230 35th Ave NE, on Saturday, July 15, 9-11 a.m. All SUUC men are welcome at our monthly breakfast meetings on the third Saturday of each month.

July Hymn of the Month



Each month, the Music Committee chooses a hymn from our rich musical heritage for the congregation to learn and enjoy. The Hymn of the Month for July is #1041, "Santo," a lively mariachi-type song.

The song title refers to a Spanish-language setting of the *Sanctus* portion of the Roman Catholic Mass, from a complete Mass cycle *Misa Popular Salvadorena* composed in 1968 by Guillermo Cuéllar. It was commissioned by the late archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, Oscar Romeros (1917-1980), who was martyred for his devotion to the poor and his political advocacy for their plight. The verses of this *Sanctus* expand the usual Mass-text with the ideas of liberation theology, of which Romeros was an ardent advocate. "To know God is to do justice" was his theological mantra.

Women's Circle

SUUC Women's Circle will not be meeting in July. We will meet on the first Saturday in August to share our stories-- stay tuned for details.

SUUC Evening Book Group Meets July 5

"The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk."

The Evening Book Group (aka "The Owls of Minerva") will meet on Wednesday, July 5, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Church Conference Room. Karen Thompson will be leading our discussion of *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* by Sebastian Junger. It's a short book but with some big ideas about human society.



Looking ahead, the book for our August 2 meeting will be *The Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across North America* by Jack Nisbet. Tori Manzer will lead that August discussion.

Anyone is welcome to join our book group discussions on the first Wednesday of each month -- even if you haven't finished reading the book for that month! If more information is needed, contact Bob Beekman, 206-527-7340, rlbeekman@gmail.com.

Social Action Ministry

July 8 Social Action Ministry Meeting Cancelled

The SUUC Social Action Ministry (SAM) scheduled for Saturday, July 8, is cancelled. (Both co-chairs are out of town and nobody else volunteered to lead this meeting.)

The next SAM meeting will be a longer strategy retreat meeting on August 12. This retreat will focus on purposes, priorities, practices, and projects for the following year. Details are being developed and will be announced in the August issue of Soundings. Please contact SAM Co-chairs Jean Berolzheimer or Mark Smith if you have any questions, suggestions, or assistance to offer.



Social Action Ministry

Social Action and the Evolution of Our Mary's Place Volunteerism

The name [Mary's Place](#) has become more and more commonplace in Seattle since adults and kids from SUUC first began volunteering at their north shelter in August 2016.

Mary's Place has been increasing the geographic distribution and number of shelter beds they offer as a result of partnerships with the City of Seattle, King County, and Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos--as well as ongoing community support from folks like us. We've experienced a little transitional pain as they grew, but it seems they've come out of it wiser, more nimble, and equipped to serve their target population: families experiencing homelessness.

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While the number of transitional and emergency shelter beds has increased this year, so has the population experiencing homelessness. The King County “one night count” in January increased by about 1,000 people from last year-- bringing the total to 11,643 currently homeless ([learn more](#)). This number includes those sleeping on the streets as well as those in emergency and transitional shelters.

Mary’s Place focuses on families experiencing homelessness who are typically homeless for the first and only time in their lives. They have been displaced from their homes due to a lost job, eviction, or other trigger situation. Many families in temporary shelters are eligible for section eight housing, but are on a waiting list to get housing that is in short supply.

The needs of families are poorly met in traditional gender-segregated shelters. In 2016, 46 babies were born in the Mary’s Place north shelter. Many of the children living in the shelter attend Seattle and Shoreline schools. There is a large population of East African immigrants in the Mary’s Place north shelter, though people of color are disproportionately impacted by homelessness throughout King county.

Mary’s Place has been in the news recently, opening new locations in South Lake Union, White Center, and soon in Kenmore. Behind the scenes Mary’s Place has been quietly making improvements to their processes:

Donation processing is being centralized and streamlined

Vetting volunteers has been added to keep residents safe, especially when fleeing domestic violence

The north shelter is piloting innovative approaches to serving families, such as splitting their in-house store into focused areas: the Home Store for those getting permanent housing, the Baby’s Best Start store for mothers of newborns, an evolution of the points-based store, and as always the free hygiene items area for basic necessities.

How does this impact you and how you can volunteer at Mary’s Place? Well, first off, you can still volunteer with your children of any age. And second, we will continue to offer SUUC-led volunteer times at Mary’s Place north shelter as long as attendance continues steadily.

What’s changed is that volunteers age 16+ need to complete a [quick online registration](#) with Mary’s Place using the join code SHORELINEUU. Your consent for a background check protects the safety of families in a vulnerable time of life. Children can still attend with a parent or authorized adult. Once you’re registered you’ll be able to add yourself to our upcoming events as well as pitch in on other Mary’s Place requests if you choose.

What’s the plan for volunteering this summer? Mary’s Place can use lots of extra hands in summer while their ~50 resident children are out of school. We’re joining forces with Chris Pollina and the RE program to create some special summer events for SUUC and Mary’s Place kids to play together. *Sundays, July 16th & August 6th*: Our K-8 SUUC kids will spend the morning at either Northacres or Bitterlake Park. We will provide lunch at the park and activities. We hope to organize a swim suit drive in anticipation of our day at the spray park. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for further details, including adult volunteer opportunities.

Can you still donate gently-used clothes, toys, and household items? Yes, you absolutely can. Unfortunately, you cannot currently do so at the location near church. This option may be available again, but for now we could really use a volunteer willing to take donations from SUUC on Sundays to the Mary’s Place donation drop-off location in Belltown on weekdays.

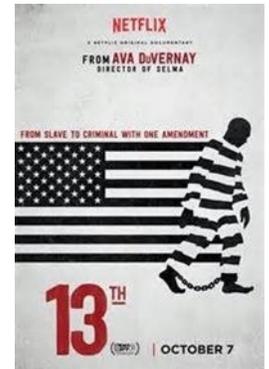
If you want to learn more about volunteering at Mary’s Place, contact Corinne Sherry at csherry@gmail.com.

Sno-King's Meaningful Movie on July 8th will be "13th"

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery. But it also included a provision many people don't know about. "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist." That exception justifies the use of forced labor as long as the laborer is a convict. This documentary makes the case that inclusion of this loophole is only one of the justifications for continuing domination of people of color. It is essentially about "understanding institutional and structural racism" and the resulting disparities.

Our special guest who will participate in our discussion of this film is Cecelia Hayes. She is Equity and Engagement Program Manager for the King Co. Dept. of Exec. Services. In that role, she directs implementation of the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan throughout county government.

The screening is at 7 p.m. on July 8, at the Edmonds UUC and will be followed by discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation.



Sunday Volunteers for July

July 2

Greeters: Shirley Beresford and Barbara Stilson
Ushers: Belle Moore and Robert Plaag
Baristas: Ron Patula and Juel Erickson
Videography: Jerald Forster
Sound and Projection: Ben Tompkins

July 9

Greeters: Marguerite Chin and Andy Landis
Ushers: Dianne Carreri and Robert Plaag
Baristas: Ron Patula and Earl Davis
Videography: Rich Clark

July 16

Greeters: Karen Thompson and Earl Davis
Ushers: Paul Borrmann and Anne Martin
Baristas: Marley Banker and Rick Wilson
Videography: Rich Clark

July 23

Greeters: Carolyn Brenner and Sue Leisy
Ushers: Paul Borrmann and Homer Henderson
Baristas: Marley Banker
Videography: Jerald Forster

July 30

Greeters: Myrtle Bishop and Jessie Strauss
Ushers: Homer Henderson and Anne Martin
Barista: Rick Wilson

July Calendar of Church Events

Sunday, July 2

10:30-11:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 4

Holiday—Office closed

Wednesday, July 5

6:30-8 p.m. Potluck Supper, Sanctuary

7-8:30 p.m. Evening Book Group, Conf. Room

Thursday, July 6

6-8:30 p.m. Weekly Game Night, Conf. Room

7-9 p.m. Board Meeting, Sanctuary

Saturday, July 8

4:30-10 p.m. Neighborhood Group 8 Potluck,
Sanctuary

Sunday, July 9

10:30-11:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Monday, July 10

7-8 p.m. Endowment Meeting, Conference Room

Tuesday, July 11

1:30-2:45 p.m. Chalice Circle, Nursery

7:30-9 p.m. Barbara's COM, Conf. Room

Wednesday, July 12

6:30-8 p.m. Potluck Supper, Outside

7-8:30 p.m. Welcome Team, Conf. Room

7-8:30 p.m. Drama Chalice Circle, Sanctuary

Thursday, July 13

6-8:30 p.m. Weekly Game Night, Conference Room

Saturday, July 15

9-11 a.m. Men's Group, Wedgwood Broiler, Lake City

3-7 p.m. Cribbage Night, Conference Room

5:30-9:30 p.m. Neighborhood Group 9 Potluck, Sanc.

Sunday, July 16

10:30-11:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

Tuesday, July 18

7-8:30 p.m. Chalice Circle, Chin Residence

Wednesday, July 19

6:30-8 p.m. Potluck Supper, Sanctuary

7-8:30 p.m. Worship Planning Committee, Conf. Room

Thursday, July 20

10 a.m. August Soundings Copy Due

6-8:30 p.m. Weekly Game Night, Conference Room

Friday, July 21

10-11:30 a.m. Charites Chalice Circle, Udd Residence

12-1:30 p.m. Appreciating Elderhood, Sanctuary

Sunday, July 23

10:30-11:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

11:30 -1 p.m. GreenSong Brown Bag Lunch, Conf. Rm

Monday, July 24

6:30-8:30 p.m. Family/Friends Support Group,
Conf. Room

Wednesday, July 26

6:30-8 p.m. Potluck Supper, Conference Room

Thursday, July 27

6-8:30 p.m. Weekly Game Night, Conference Room

Sunday, July 30

10:30-11:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

12-1 p.m. SUUC Atheist Group Meeting, Conference Rm.

8-9:30 p.m. GreenSong Celebration of First Harvest,
Outside (TBD) or Sanctuary

Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church

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Soundings

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Submission deadline for **Soundings** is usually the 20th of the preceding month by 10 a.m. Include your name with submitted materials. Email articles to office@shorelineuu.org.



Saying goodbye to Chrysalis