

# The Saltwater Scroll

## The Newsletter of Saltwater Church

*An Intentionally Inclusive, Spiritually Progressive, Justice-seeking Community*

### February Newsletter

#### Worship Services

*All worship services are at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings unless otherwise noted.*

**Sunday, February 7, “The Creative and Destructive Power of Secrets”  
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto**

A “Meet the Minister” gathering for recent visitors will take place after the service.

**Sunday, February 14, “Independence, Dependence, and Interdependence, Part I”  
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto**

This morning is the first part in a two-part sermon series about our relationship with others, exploring how we hate to ask for help from others, how we wonder how much to help others, and how we live most fully when we learn to give and receive help appropriately.

**Sunday, February 21, “January 17, “Independence, Dependence, and Interdependence,  
Part II”  
With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto**

A potluck lunch will follow the service. Please bring a dish to share.

**Sunday, February 28, Annual Youth Service “Voices for the Voiceless”  
With the Saltwater Church Youth Group**

Our high school and middle school youth groups will share perspectives under-represented in daily discourse, exploring the idea of social privilege and the voices of those often silenced in our society.

## Board of Directors

Sharon Crow, President  
Lisa Key, Vice President  
Echo Allen, Secretary  
Gaye Greeves, Treasurer  
Aaron Sperry  
Quinn Rose  
Saphronia Young

*The Board of Directors may be contacted by email at [board@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:board@saltwaterchurch.org). Phone numbers and addresses are listed in the church directory. Board officers will be elected at the July board meeting.*

## Church Office Information

Office: (253) 777-4994 or (844) 480-0647 (toll free)

Email: [info@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:info@saltwaterchurch.org)

Website: [www.saltwaterchurch.org](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org)

**Church office hours:** Sue Eaton, our church administrator, is usually in the office Monday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.; and Friday, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. She sometimes runs errands, so please call before stopping by.

## Minister and Staff Contacts

*Any staff member may be reached by phone by calling (253) 777-4994.*

**Minister:** Reverend James Kubal-Komoto  
Email: [minister@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:minister@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Director of Family Ministry:** Melinda Einander  
Email: [melinda@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:melinda@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Music Director:** Paula Mayfield  
Email: [paula@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:paula@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Choir Director:** Tom Burt  
Email: [tom@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:tom@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Church Administrator:** Sue Eaton  
Email: [sue@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:sue@saltwaterchurch.org)

## Minister's Schedule

**Reverend James** is at the church Sunday through Thursday most weeks. His days off are Friday and (sometimes) Saturday. He is available for appointments late mornings, early afternoons, and evenings. Feel free to call him on Fridays and Saturdays, but unless it is an urgent matter, he may not return your call until later.

## Church Calendar

The church calendar is on our website, at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar). To have an event put on the church calendar, contact church administrator, Sue Eaton, or visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform).

## Deadlines

The deadline for announcements for the Weekly Emailed Announcements and the Order of Service is **Wednesday by 10 a.m.** The deadline for the newsletter is the third Sunday of every month. **The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, February 21.**

To submit any announcement or newsletter content, visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity). If you email an announcement, please use the [announcements@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:announcements@saltwaterchurch.org) address only. If you email a newsletter article, please use the [newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org) address only.

# *From the Minister*

## *Our Welcoming Community*

### **Meet the Minister**

A “Meet the Minister” gathering will take place on Sunday, February 7, immediately following the worship service in the church office. This is an informal get-to-know-you gathering for recent visitors and is also a chance to learn more about Saltwater Church and Unitarian Universalism.

## *Our Learning Community*

### **Yoga as a Spiritual Practice**

Katie Hardin, CYT (Certified Yoga Trainer) will be teaching a weekly hour-long yoga and meditation class for mixed levels, beginner to advanced, in the Lighthouse Large Room on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Students should be able to weight bear in their shoulders, knees and get up from the floor.

Learn how to center yourself and find your inner guide. Find self-love and abundance of connection to those in community around you. Rediscover your mind body connection. Release judgment and competition and come as you are.

Find your meditation and clarity of mind with your practice on the mat. Build awareness, strength and flexibility while we all find our own Om. The universal vibration sound of all connection and source. So come ignite your inner beacon of light and shine on before you join your church community in service.

There is a suggested donation of \$10-per-session for participants. Bring a mat if have one or ask Katie to borrow one. Arrive ten minutes early to tell Katie your limitations and injuries so she can help protect you from injury and build a practice toward your goals. Participants are encouraged to contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries, at least two weeks ahead of time if they would like childcare. (No class on Sunday, February 14.)

## **Book Discussion Group**

by Jean Ray

Some of us at Saltwater Church are meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, after Lunch Bunch in the Welcoming Room to get a commitment of forming a Saltwater Church Book Discussion Group. We need five or more for our group and have four already committed. That day we will be discussing "Notorious RGB The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg" by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik. This is the story of the legal struggles and fights for many women's rights as well as her biography. RGB was involved for years planning ACLU civil rights litigation before she became the second woman on Supreme Court. She has a statue of Eleanor Roosevelt in her office. A quote from the book, "*WORK FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN - BUT PICK YOUR BATTLES - AND DON'T BURN YOUR BRIDGES*"

You are welcome to join the initial discussion meeting without finishing the two hundred twenty-eight-page book. If your life was impacted by the changes in civil rights in the last fifty years, RGB helped make those changes! Contact Jean Ray for further information.

## ***Our Caring Community***

### ***Saltwater Church Artists***

By Debra Valpey, Art Wall Coordinator

Please enjoy the fine art of our own Nancy Bogni on display in the Welcoming Room. We will be hanging a new display on March 6. If you would like your art displayed on our Art Wall, contact Debra Valpey. Consider purchasing one of Nancy Bogni's exquisite paintings for yourself or for a loved one. Twenty percent of the sale price is donated to Saltwater Church. If you wish to make a purchase please contact Debra Valpey about the details.

Requirements for displaying your art in the March show are:

- \*must be original work of the artist
- \*artist is a member or regular "friend" of Saltwater Church
- \*work is two dimensional painting, photography, drawing or mixed media. (three dimensional might be considered, so please ask me?)
- \*wire hangers are required. no saw tooth or others hanging devices unless you clear it with me ahead of time.

If you are interested in having your art displayed and you must be willing to be present during

the hanging. For more information, contact Debra Valpey at [debravalpey@comcast.net](mailto:debravalpey@comcast.net) or (206) 243-5566 or (206) 953-5704.

## **Creative Hands**

By Betsy Sproger

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? We meet to do our own creative projects regularly on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Welcoming Room. We will meet next on Mondays, February 8 and 22. Bring what you have been working on at home, and share it with others.

## *Among Ourselves*

We hold in our hearts Phil Dindia. Phil's brother-in-law Jim died on January 12.

We send healing wishes to Tawney Collins-Feay and Barbara Vannier as they recover from recent surgeries.

Congratulations to Laura and Frank Billington on becoming grandparents again, this time to a seven-year-old boy adopted from China.

## **Our Caring and Lay Ministry Teams**

Both the Caring Team and the Lay Ministry Team at Saltwater Church help members of our community during difficulty, transition, and crisis. Members of the **Caring Team** can sometimes help with some of the following tasks: Bringing meals, providing emergency babysitting, providing respite care, providing transportation to medical appointments, buying/delivering groceries or other needed items, and meeting other specific, short-term needs. To contact the Caring Team, contact Denise Yanega at (253) 838-7479 or at [denise@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:denise@saltwaterchurch.org).

Sometimes during a time of difficulty, what a person needs most is someone to talk to. Members of the **Lay Ministry Team** can provide an ear to listen, a heart to care, and a hand to hold. They are also available to visit hospitalized or homebound individuals. You can contact any one of the lay ministers below:

- **Debra Valpey** (206) 243-5566 or [debra@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:debra@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Denise Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or [denise@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:denise@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Peggy O'Connor** (253) 839-1432 or [peggy@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:peggy@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Mike Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or [mike@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:mike@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Phil Dindia** (253) 941-1106 or [phil@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:phil@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Lynn Crow** (253) 941-0860 or [lynn@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:lynn@saltwaterchurch.org)

## *Family Ministries*



People often ask what children and youth learn in our religious education classes. Our children and youth may not be able to articulate what they are learning (as a parent, I know well the answer to the question, “What did you learn today?” is “nothing”), but as an educator I know that the lessons learned and retained are often not clear until much later in a child's life. I remember very little of the content of my own religious education classes as a child, but I know participating in them played a vital role in my understanding of myself and my religious identity.

In our religious education classes, children and youth learn about Unitarian Universalist history, our Jewish and Christian heritage, and other sources of inspiration and understanding—the religions of the world, the words and deeds of famous people, the teachings of science, and the rhythms of the natural world—and how to apply what they learn to their own lives. They learn songs and stories from all branches of our faith tradition, the rituals we use in worship, and about a variety of spiritual practices. Each week, the teachers and I send an email to families, describing the week's lesson, and encouraging families to discuss these ideas together. (If you do not receive these weekly emails, and would like to know more about what our children and youth are learning, let me know to add you to the list).

More important than the content covered, is what children learn from the process of how we teach. They learn our church is a place to wonder and ask questions, and to seek answers to those questions together, learning from one another. They learn that both creativity and rationality are important parts of being religious people. They learn religion is an ongoing process, and that adults too are always learning and growing; that no one has all the answers to the big religious questions.

We teach our children to be responsible choosers, for we believe that choosing is the essential religious act. It is up to each of us to use our minds and our hearts, to listen to our conscience and do the hard work of discerning what is right and true in life. We wonder with our children, encourage them to develop their own answers to big questions, while listening to and supporting others in their search.

We teach our children the importance of finding meaning through connection with the sacred. We guide them in understanding the universe as a creative place, and encourage their natural wonder and awe. We cultivate a deeper understanding of their faith through simple rituals—lighting a candle and taking a moment to enjoy its mystery, singing a song and feeling the feelings stirred by music, and engaging in activities to better understand themselves and their lives through creative expression.

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We teach our children the importance of love, to know that they are lovable beings of infinite worth, and that they are obligated to use their gifts and talents in the service of life. The belief in the potential for good in each person is part of being a Unitarian Universalist. We teach our children to be ethical people who are called to work for justice. They learn they can make a difference in the lives of other people and the planet.

We teach our children to value our faith community and religious heritage, and to understand the need for community, relationships, and connections to support and sustain us in our journeys. Our children learn they are respected and cherished as individuals, with an essential and interdependent role in our community.

Curious to know more about what our children and youth are learning this year? Visit our Lighthouse open house on Sunday, February 14, after the service. Our children and youth and their teachers will be happy to show you around!

## Family Ministries Calendar for February

Feb 1	Family Ministries Team meeting 6:30-8:30
Feb 6	Youth Group Overnight 6 p.m.
Feb 7	Children and youth meet in classrooms
Feb 7	Youth Group bake sale fundraiser
Feb 14	Children and youth meet in classrooms
Feb 14	Lighthouse Open House 11:30-12:30
Feb 14	Parent Class "Roots and Wings" 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Feb 21	Lighthouse Chapel for Children and Youth (all ages meet in the Community Room)
Feb 21	Potluck lunch at noon
Feb 21	High School Youth Group 12-2:30 p.m.
Feb 28	Youth-lead worship service; all ages meet in the sanctuary (childcare is available)

## Youth Overnight and Fundraiser

Middle School and High School youth baking party and overnight Saturday February 6, at 6 p.m. We are raising funds to send teens to the spring youth conference and to leadership trainings. Youth are encouraged to bake something at home to contribute to the bake sale. Please support our youth by buying baked goods on February 7. Contact Amanda Radak for more information.

## **Lighthouse Open House**

On Sunday, February 14, following the service, please join our children, youth, and their teachers in the Lighthouse building to see what we are learning and doing in our religious education classes this year. Refreshments will be served.

## **Carry the Flame**

Children ages 7-11 are invited to expand their understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith and how it applies to his or her life. This project is designed for a child and parent (or other adult mentor) to work on together. Children who complete this project will be recognized by the congregation at a worship service in the spring. Recognition will include a chalice pin to wear on his or her nametag, and a book about Unitarian Universalism for children. Contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries, for more information.

## **Young Adult OWL Con**

Did your sex education leave something to be desired? Do you ever wish you could participate in sexuality education now that you're not an awkward teenager? Would you benefit from having a safer space to discuss gender and sexuality? Join young adults (ages 18-35) from Saltwater and Wayside UCC at weekend retreat exploring OWL (Our Whole Lives) for Young Adults. March 4-6 at Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center in Port Orchard. Cost \$100, limited scholarship funds available upon request. Contact Katie Einander ([katguts@gmail.com](mailto:katguts@gmail.com)) to register.

## **Roots and Wings: Unitarian Universalist Parenting**

Many parents struggle with the tension between wanting to protect and shelter our children, and wanting to help them develop the skills they need to become happy, capable adults. "Roots and Wings: Unitarian Universalist Parenting in the Millennium" addresses important child-rearing issues faced by contemporary families. This class is intended for parents with children ages 0-10. We will meet monthly on the second Sunday from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Childcare is available upon request. Sign up online at, [www.saltwaterchurch.org/node/3213](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/node/3213) or call the church office to register. For more information, contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries.

## *Church Life*

### **Seabeck Retreat- "Let the World Sing Through You."**

By Melinda Einander

Building Community with Puget Sound Unitarian Universalist Congregations: Shoreline, Evergreen and Westside UU Congregations, together with Saltwater, Tahoma, and Olympia UU Congregations, have begun preparations for a joint retreat, with more interconnectedness.



We will gather April 22-24 at Seabeck Conference Center on Hood Canal for our Annual Seabeck Retreat. This year, we make a stronger commitment to accommodating all who want to come by contracting for exclusive use of the entire campus.

Registration opens on February 1, 2016. Each congregation will have a registration table, so watch for this. All ages are welcome. Scholarship assistance is available. For more information, contact Kat Sperry at [mommakatsperry@gmail.com](mailto:mommakatsperry@gmail.com).

Program: Mary Oliver says “There is something that has to do with all of us that is more than all of us.” Singing together dispels the illusion of our separation from each other and connects us to that “something more.” Come travel to some unexpected places as we explore the power of community through singing. Kathleen Tracy, singer, songwriter, teacher, will facilitate a program of song loosely themed around the idea of our oneness with each other and nature. The repertoire and spoken bits would touch on such things as our interdependent web of belonging, and the need for each of us to be more and more deliberate about seeking out opportunities for authentic connection in this digital age, to actively confront the ever increasing fragmentation of our culture. A metaphor I use for this exploration is mycelium and mushrooms - crazy, right? But it works!

## **Hidden Giving**

By Suzanne Laurel, Stewardship Team

On behalf of all of us, the Stewardship Team would like to thank all of you who have silently given to our church, ever. You all know who you are, but most others don't! We're talking about those of you who bought office supplies for a committee meeting, Play-Doh for the Lighthouse or some beautiful item for worship services and never submitted a receipt for reimbursement or donation.

We also thank those of you who participated in the design, demolition, reconstruction, decoration and overall project management of any one of the many remodels we have done on our buildings at Saltwater!

To the lawnmowers, the garden tenders, the fix-it people, the garbage can movers, the dishwashers, the website designers, the Scroll folders, the sound system installers, the chair repairers, the amateur accountants, artists, cooks, caregivers, plumbers, painters, playground supervisors, sign makers, shoppers, tree trimmers, toy finders, writers, researchers and so many more, we say, “Bless you!”

Our church would not be the beautiful community it is without your quiet contributions. There is so much hidden giving in the running of a church that if we acknowledged it all in financial terms, we might see a yearly budget that dwarfs our current one.

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This month, the Stewardship Team encourages you to consider this. Think about the many ways you quietly give to and receive from each other in this community. Look for the hidden gifts contained in our Sanctuary, our Lighthouse, our church offices, our grounds, even our storage areas and bathrooms! Feel gratitude for the gifts you see, hear, smell (or don't smell!), taste and touch. Express that gratitude by acknowledging the gifts with each other, especially if you have no idea who to thank for these gifts. You may find, and give, no-longer-hidden joy in these hidden gifts.

## **Stay or Go Team Update**

By Geoffrey Jackson

The Stay or Go Team is working on one of the resource goals in the Saltwater Church Long Range Plan:

To provide sustainable welcoming, accessible, aesthetically pleasing facilities adequate for a three-hundred-member congregation, including one hundred children and youth that will accommodate worship, community, arts and social events and space sharing.

We are currently focused on answering the question “Can we meet this goal on the current site?”

We are gathering information on how the church is currently used, historical data on worship service attendance, and other measures of facility use. We have reviewed literature that tells us how to determine appropriate facility size for a three hundred-member church. We engaged a wetlands biologist to identify wetlands on church property. We are also working with an architect to find out how much of the church property can be used for facility expansion or parking.

You have probably seen the blue and pink markers tied to tree branches on the church property. These markers show the boundaries of the wetland area to the west of the labyrinth and the path of the stream that flows under 14<sup>th</sup> Place South and through the property.

We will post a map on the bulletin board that shows the wetland and stream and the required buffer areas that surround these features.

We cannot expand parking or build new structures within the wetland and stream buffer areas. We are in the process of learning how we can use the remaining area for possible facility and parking expansion. The wetlands analysis and architects report are two of the many tasks that the Stay or Go team is working on. Please take a look at the task chart posted on the bulletin board to see the variety of team tasks.

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Part of the team charge is to investigate the “go” option. This would mean either purchasing an existing facility or purchasing land and building a new facility. We have done some preliminary checking on the real estate market, but we are currently focused on evaluating the “stay” option. Team members welcome your questions about this work. At this point, there are many answers that we do not have, but we can share what we have learned to this point. Our meeting minutes and team reports are posted in the Team Documents area of saltwaterchurch.org. The team name is “Stay or Go Task Force.”

Team members are: Lucia Faithfull, Galen Guffy, Geoff Jackson, Peg LovellFord, Jim Morgan, Mary Paynter, Sandra Petschek, Meiling Sproger and Ray Valpey. Board Liaison: Lisa Key

## Snapshot for Saltwater Church November 2015 Financial Status

	Month	Year to Date
Budgeted Income	\$ 33,766	\$ 163,701
Actual Income	23,816	178,605
Actual/Budgeted Income	71%	109%
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 25,704	\$ 143,145
Actual Expenses	23,224	132,532
Actual/Budgeted Expenses	90%	93%
Actual Income/Actual Expenses	103%	134%
Actual Income Less Actual Expenses	\$ 592	\$ 46,073

Income for November was significantly lower than budgeted due to the Fund-a-Thon money being transferred out of the Auction account into the Fund-a-Thon account. However, if you combine the October and November numbers the budgeted income was \$70,669 and actual income was \$76,225 giving an Actual/Budgeted Income percentage of 108%. These numbers all relate to the General Fund budget whereas the Fund-a-Thon is a restricted fund and not a part of the General Fund. Expenses for November were only 90% of what was budgeted.

For the year to date, income continues to be ahead of budgeted and significantly ahead of expenses for year to date. This gives us a good cash position, but both will come closer to budgeted amounts as the year continues.

On the Consolidated Fund Activity Report you will see the disbursement of \$9,222 from the Facilities Capital Reserve Fund. This covered the 1/3 down payment on the oil tank removal contract and the transfer of \$8,200 from this account into the General Fund to bring the Long Range Plan Implementation Expense amount up to \$15,000 as authorized by the Board on Nov. 3, 2015. This amendment to the budget brings the income and expense totals to **\$317,010**.

Additional financial information is available on the church website, or from the finance team.

Prepared by Treasurer, Gaye Greeves for January 5, 2016 Board Meeting

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A Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
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