

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

MEET THE CANDIDATES

NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD

AIDA SANCHEZ-VELA

Saltwater has been very important for our family since we first moved to the PNW in 2003. Over the years we have developed good friendships and have had the opportunity to serve. Something that we value so much about Saltwater is that our children, Fernando and Gustavo, have grown up here surrounded by a group of wonderful caring adults who have taught, encouraged, witnessed and supported them over the years. For several years I volunteered as a Sunday school teacher, that allowed me to interact and get to know better some of Saltwater's children and youth (that's where I learned a lot about UUism and world religions). My husband, Patrick, and I hosted a Spanish Club and a Chalice Circle at our home for several years. I've also had the opportunity to chair the Healthy Congregation Team for four years.

I am so grateful to be able to volunteer together with other Saltwater and Bet Chaverim Synagogue members who are very committed in the work for social justice and the common good through the Saltwater-Sound Alliance Team.

As I continue to receive from and give back to Saltwater, I believe that the time has come for me to step up and serve on the board, to do my part in furthering our mission.



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KATIE BAKER

While I was in practice at my small naturopathic clinic in Ballard, I sat on the board of the state professional organization (WANP) and the Ballard Boys & Girls Club, as well as acted as the treasurer of the Fremont Rotary chapter and my business networking group. Upon becoming a mom, I transitioned into teaching, which I love! I currently teach Anatomy & Physiology and Cellular Biology at Green River and *Highline Colleges* (where I am a member of the Adjunct Faculty Advisory Committee and am teaching kindergarten to a class of one in the afternoon).

I joined the Edmonds UU Congregation after the 2016 election because I wanted to be a part of a larger group pushing for social justice as well as a supportive environment in which to raise my son. I was a member of the Family Ministries team there, as well.

We joined the Saltwater congregation after moving to Federal Way in 2018 and have made some lovely friends here as part of the Family Ministries team. In 2019, I was a part of the larger Witness at the Border movement to document and witness the troubling family separation of asylum-seekers. I continue to work with groups supporting immigration and asylum as well as educating myself on anti-racism, diversity, and equity in education.