



## **WSUU NEW MEMBERS WELCOMING CEREMONY** **Sunday, December 8, 2019**

***We joyfully extend a loving welcome to the following New Members into our Westside UU community. Please take the time to introduce yourself and make a personal connection with these new and old friends who have honored us by joining as active pledging members.***

**Israel Evans & Naomi Rue** and their children Oliver and Samuel are long time Unitarian Universalists excited to join Westside. Naomi comes from a vibrant East coast Unitarian Universalist congregation where she attended life changing youth con's and Camp Unirondack. Israel grew up in Alaska and Oregon and found a home in the UU community as an adult. Oliver is an avid soccer player and third grader. Samuel is a voracious reader and seventh grader. Israel, Naomi, Oliver, and Samuel appreciate the welcoming community at Westside and the beautiful music on Sunday mornings.

**Amanda Meier** grew up in the tiny town of Sequim on the Olympic Peninsula, a great place to be a kid. After several years of travel that included Guatemala and being a nanny in New York City, she went to college in Huntington Beach, CA where she got her nursing degree. After some time as a travel nurse that took her crisscrossing the nation, she settled back in Seattle in 2009. She lives in Beacon Hill with her Doxie pups, Cali and Olive. She works at Harborview in the Transfer Center located at the Airlift Northwest base. Time spent outside of work usually includes keeping the pups out of trouble, talking to all her plants in the garden, teaching herself to play piano again, and trying out new restaurants in this amazing foodie city (share with her your favorite restaurant!) Amanda is so happy to be cultivating a beautiful spiritual community which aligns with her social, environmental and political principles. A special heartfelt shout out to her covenant group for gathering her in their collective arms to show her the deep spiritual connection that is Westside.

**Noella Natalino** grew up in CT as the most sensitive member of her large Italian immigrant family. She left the Catholic faith after coming out at age 15. Friends introduced her to UU at that time. After four glorious years at Smith College in Northampton MA, she moved to Seattle for the UW's Library and Information Science. There she met a human who changed her life forever. His name was John Sucharski and they were together for 15 years. He died unexpectedly in May 2018. Noella lives with their two children Lucy and Milo in West Seattle. They have come to Westside UU seeking a spiritual home after losing their beloved Papa. They love to jump on trampolines, explore beaches and forests, and say hi to every dog they meet. Covenant group, RE class and Sunday service story time are their favorite Westside activities.

**Jim Angell** was born and raised in central Illinois with a generic Episcopalian upbringing and spent his 20s and early 30s living agnostically with latent Buddhist tendencies. Lainey and Sam were born in Denver, Colorado, and appear to enjoy being UU so far. Westside became their spiritual home as this beloved community gave precious sanctuary for healing through divorce while offering elegant opportunities to strengthen and support the family's commitments to personal and social peace, love and harmony. Services always feed their felt connection to the Divine. Jim has enjoyed teaching RE and all three love singing and making music with the congregation in any way possible!!

**Lucia Enriquez** was born and raised in the Philippines. Her family of 12 kids came to the U.S. in the 80s, one sister remains in the Philippines. She is fortunate to have made a life here in Seattle working for

tech companies as a product designer, and currently for animal advocacy with Best Friends. Lucia has also been a visual artist and arts writer. Lucia came to Westside UU 2 years ago and considers it a very special place for connection and spiritual growth. She co-chairs the hospitality ministry, is a covenant group facilitator, and has participated in the Welcome singers, the Uke/Guitar and Percussion groups. She shares a home in Highland Park with her partner Peg and her cat Lulu.

**Tate Morgan** (He/Him), I am originally from West Virginia and come from a family of coal mining fundamentalist Pentecostal Christians. I got my Bachelor of Fine Arts with a double major in Flute Performance and Music Composition from Marshall University. I went to graduate school at The University of Nevada at Las Vegas for Flute Performance and worked as a costume designer on the Vegas strip. When I was sick of living in the desert, I entered a Roman Catholic Benedictine Monastery in Oregon, and lived as a cloistered Monk where I learned how to be a people-loving humanitarian. When it came time to take my permanent vows, I was ready for a new chapter in life and came to Seattle in 2014 and started working for Ronald McDonald House. I started working as a Social Worker in crisis and outreach with homeless single mothers, about a year and a half ago, and after my job started weighing in on me, I knew I needed a spiritual community. After several months of church hopping, I wound up here at Westside a year and a month ago, and I knew I had found my tribe of people. Being here has enabled me to connect with some very wonderful people and I am so humbled and blessed to have you all as my "Beloved Community".

**Phil Harris**, As many of you may already know, I first discovered WSUU after falling in love with, then, Director of Religious Education, Betsy "Jade" Lowry. I was amazed that I had never heard of the UU faith. During the past five years I have been involved in different activities at various levels of commitment. I have watched many amazing people devote their time and financial resources to support this congregation and the things it stands for. I am excited to finally become an official member.

We will be pleased to include **Vernon Brown's** bio paragraph in our Members only New Members section of our website at a future date.