

Welcome New Members 2022!



We joyfully extend a loving welcome to the following New Members who have joined Westside UU as pledging members from January 2021-October 2022. Please enjoy learning more about these new and familiar friends in their introductory bio paragraphs below. We encourage everyone to reach out and make a personal connection as you see these New Members at Sunday services, small groups, committees and other WSUU events.

Rick Taylor (he/him) grew up in Amish country, Lancaster, Pa. He's a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College (English, Drama, Education) and Penn State (PhD in English). He served as a professor of English at East Carolina University from 1989-2021, including a variety of administrative positions such as coordinator of programs in multicultural and transnational literatures. He and Ivy have two adult children: Aaron, an attorney in Miami, and Catherine, a nurse and doctoral student in Raleigh. Rick has been a UU since 2001 and active with Westside since his arrival in Seattle in July 2021. He's a proud resident of the Chinatown/International District.

Sheree Porter (she/her) was raised in West Seattle and lives just up the hill from WSUU in a home that originally belonged to her grandparents. After meeting Shelley Webb, the love of her life, in 2010, she began attending social gatherings at Westside (like soup lunch and delightful auction events!). Her two children Dakota and Devon will both be graduating this year and will be teaching in the Seattle area soon. The kids really enjoy "boat driver" mom during the summers as they fill the boat with friends and spend the hot summer days on Lake Washington tubing, skiing and wakeboarding. She taught for 32 years in the Seattle School District, teaching Mathematics for the first decade and then Phys Ed at Madison Middle School until March 4, 2022, when Sheree slid into retirement, with a woohoo! She is now enjoying a more relaxed world, doing all the things that never got done during those crazy, fun-filled days of work and kids when you are just flying by the seat of your pants.

Lynne, Mike and Nora Greenberg live in the High Point neighborhood of West Seattle, with their beloved Labrodoodle, Ruthie. Lynne was raised in Cleveland, Mike grew up near New York City, and they met in graduate school in Seattle. Their daughter Nora has the unusual distinction of being a third generation Unitarian on both sides of her family, including having a great x5 paternal grandfather, Ezra Leonard, who was a Unitarian minister. Lynne administers low and moderate income energy conservation programs for a local utility, and Mike works for a nonprofit affordable housing developer. They dread writing bios about themselves and their interests because they have spent the past few years housebound juggling parenting and full time work with many, many, many toddler quarantines. Nora is a 'sensational kid' who experiences the world with sensory processing differences. She hates loud noises and PCR tests and loves bunnies, music, dancing, reading, and watching Daniel Tiger. The family spends a lot of time

outdoors in parks and on the beach at low tides, where Lynne often volunteers as an environmental educator.

They are thrilled to officially be welcomed as members!

Ellen Wanless (she/her) grew up in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. She moved to Kingston, Washington in 1990, and then to West Seattle in 1996, where she lives with her husband Bill and their dog Miss Lola Pants. Owning and operating a gardening business with Bill, since 1998, has given her the opportunity to begin to understand plants, insects and birds. Being able to feel the life in a garden; listening to leaves rustle in the wind; watching worms move and trying to imagine how they do it; finding a nest of baby moles and being awestruck by their beauty and vulnerability; getting stung by an angry bumblebee whose home nearly got smothered by compost; seeing one of nature's stained-glass windows of an iris flower backlit by the sun; these are some of the many memories this work has given her.

Kate Kirkwood (she/her) is a native of Seattle and a long time resident of West Seattle. There is nothing more that she likes than a spirited conversation over a good meal with friends and good wine! In fact she has sold wine retail for many years, most recently for Metropolitan Market Admiral. She is also happiest when she is active, walking now and doing small group trainings at her gym. She has studied modern dance and west coast swing, done some hiking and climbing, sea kayaking, long distance cycling, and serious yoga training in her past. Not long ago, she came from a Center for Spiritual Living church, Amazing Grace. With that community, she particularly loved singing in choir and did that for many years. But it was time for a change and a new spiritual direction which brought her to Westside within the last year or so during the pandemic. She looks forward to getting to know this UU community and participating in the current discussions about the Church's direction

Vaughn Bell (she/her) and **Brennon Staley** (he/him) have lived in West Seattle for 8 years. Vaughn is an environmental artist and teaches part time at UW, and Brennon is an urban planner. Their kids are Calder and Jasper. Calder would like everyone to know that he is LGBTQ+, loves genshin impact, and loves cats. Jasper likes to play soccer and video games. As a family, we like doing outdoor activities, playing games, and dancing.

Dennis and Cindy Jackson retired from careers as educators and moved to West Seattle four years ago from Indianapolis, Indiana. They live in the Highland Park neighborhood only 8 minutes from their son, Erik; daughter-in-law, Alison and amazing granddaughter, Quincy. Quincy will tell you they moved to Seattle because of her! Their daughter Erin lives in Indianapolis. Dennis and Cindy both grew up in the Midwest, met in graduate school, and married in 1977. Both value learning, diverse experiences and being part of the community in which they live. Although they have only been in here a short time they have found organizations to be part of that allow them to grow and contribute to a more inclusive community. Currently

Dennis is President of the Board at the West Seattle Senior Center and plays pickleball. Cindy has joined the Seattle Raging Grannies, Grandmothers Against Gun Violence, and volunteers at the West Seattle and White Center Food Banks. Both enjoy volunteering with the Earshot Jazz

organization and the Northwest African American Museum. They have been UU's for over 35 years and hold these values as a foundation for how they live their lives

John Hornby (he/him) I'm a former "Army Brat". Born on a military base or "issued" as my Dad used to say, my two sisters and I have lived on the West Coast, the East Coast, Japan and the Midwest. The experience of frequent relocations and attending 10 different schools growing up has given me a broad perspective of the many kinds of people I've met. My wife Mary and I moved to Washington state in 1977, settling in Gig Harbor. In March 2020, Mary suffered a severe stroke requiring full-time care. She has made progress in our new environment closer to our daughter. We both enjoy daily walks in Lincoln Park. I've learned to be a competent baker, cook and to roast coffee from green coffee beans. I drive as little as possible, relying on bicycle and public transportation. I am happy with the decision to move to West Seattle and to be part of the WSUU community!

Kathy Leotta (she/her) grew up mostly in Pittsburgh, the youngest of five kids all born within six years. She has lived in Seattle since the late 80s. She fell in love with West Seattle during her early years in Seattle, lived in the Bothell/Kenmore area for almost 20 years, and has recently happily returned to West Seattle. She has two daughters, now in college at the UW, and two cats. Kathy also attended the UW for graduate school in the 90s, and now works on transportation projects. Growing up, neither religion nor spirituality was much discussed in her family (her mother was a lapsed Catholic, her father Atheist), although two Aunts were nuns. In her free time she enjoys long walks, occasionally playing her guitar and singing, going on adventures, and exploring what it means to have a spiritual life.