

## The Journey

St. Mary of Mo'ili'ili

🔐 :- An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record





November 2018

#### Let us this month

- \* Vote
- Do away with hate in our hearts
- \* Pray for wisdom
- Read up about Human
   Trafficking
- \* Get busy for the Lord
- Volunteer to help with the homeless ministry—last Thursday of each month

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# Human Trafficking rescue \* relief \* restoration

Hawaii's Yearly Total As Of 6/30/2018



source: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/hawaii

VICTIMS & SURVIVORS IDENTIFIED

**High Indicators** 

21

**Moderate Indicators** 

22

Calls From Victims & Survivors

13

**Inside This Issue** 

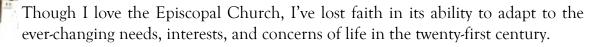
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Meet Jay, a victim and a survivor who sat in our pews Page 3

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## A Call for Reform & Renewal

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ



The loss of 50% of our members over the past 50 years is troubling, especially since the decline has come at a time when the population of our nation has *increased* by 60 percent and our state by 50 percent. 50% *more* residents with 50% *fewer* members represents a 100% fall from relevance. This devolution has been the "elephant in the room" for far too long.

I've also lost confidence in a form of governance that tends to choke creativity, micromanage projects, and express more interest in profit margins than prophetic ministry. Our exasperating experiences with the diocese over the development of our property, and our innovative approach to worship and ministry are just two of many examples.

The dreams and visions we have of a transforming "way of love" are smothered by a system that's more pontifical than empowering, more punitive than encouraging, more dogmatic than enlightening.

An enlightened community, for example, would see that we have been sinking ever so slowly in a sea of denial which our elaborate and regal ceremonies, councils, canons, and creeds cannot resolve.

The hundreds of resolutions we make in our general conventions, or annual meetings, sound promising, but are often forgotten, or prove to be anemic in an environment that cares more about power, posture, polity, and purse, than the "least of these" on planet earth.

Decade after decade we deliberate over challenges like stewardship, liturgy, evangelism, renewal, Christian formation, music, youth, and outreach, but fail to implement meaningful change. As one who came of age in the 1960s, even the present discourse about a "Jesus Movement," which I was part of during my seminary years at Sewanee 45 years ago, is a redundant caricature of a by-gone era.

As our present bishop remarked in his 2<sup>nd</sup> of 11 years in office, "Talking heads are not enough … We must try new ways to reach new people with the message of God's love." (Address to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, 24 October 2008)

One of the many reasons we fail to find new ways to reach new people with the message of God's love is because true reform and renewal is born of the Spirit rather than a committee, or board meeting, or task group, or convention.

As I wrote in a tribute to the quincentennial anniversary of Luther's stand in Wittenberg, "The church as an institution will always be reluctant to change. It is, as most institutions are, self-serving, hierarchical, complicit, regressive, and consumed by the politics of administration." (All Hallows Eve 2017) Still, in spite of all the roadblocks, setbacks, disappointments, and delays, St. Mary's has been able over the past 5 years to reconnect our parish to the local community, expanding our outreach ministries to include programs and services like a multi-agency center for the houseless, a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants, former inmates, and victims of domestic violence, a Housing First Support Group, a Marian Grotto, the best supply priests in the diocese, a home for visiting clergy, seminarians, and family and friends with loved ones in the hospital, a restored one hundred year old chapel built by a retired general who worked for "Black Jack" Pershing and cut his teeth as a second lieutenant in the Civil War, an outstanding parish newsletter produced by a dedicated priest who lives most of the year in Alaska, a competent, cooperative, and compassionate Sr. Warden & Vestry, a church home for our Roman Catholic friends from Dignity, terrific instructors for yoga, zumba, bible, tai chi, and meditation classes to improve body, mind, and soul, a "misfit spirit" who doubles as a professor of religion from the University of Hawaii at Manoa who gives excellent sermons, a clothing and grocery distribution center, a superb candidate for Holy Orders, an eclectic and energetic band of volunteers for our monthly gig for our guests from the streets, a wonderful working relationship with our brothers and sisters in the Korean Presbyterian Church, the most generous treasurer and most efficient parish administrator I've ever known, a native-scape garden and a community garden, creative bulletins, an Anthony DeMello Center, extraordinary prayers, multiple awards & grants from social service agencies, fuel at the Union 76 station for the working poor, a fascinating book-of-the month club, inspiring worship with an ecumenical collection of hymns, musical genres and videos, Laundry Aloha, ono meals from Mama Woos for the hungry, a 22 year high in attendance in 2016, and a 115 year high in stewardship in 2017.

Given all the institutional concerns, as well as our many accomplishments, I have decided to "pass the mantle" to a younger, less expensive cleric. Old, white, monogamous, hetero-sexual male dinosaurs like me, who have been married to the same public high school teacher for 46 years, have become an endangered species.

Times, as always, have changed.

I will retire, therefore, effective February 1, 2019, in the clear and present hope of finding another creative and engaging way to foster, support, and encourage the best and brightest in the kingdom of heaven among us.

On behalf of all who have made this adventure of faith possible, I say "Mahalo nui loa!"

Love always,

#### Fr. GREGORY+

The Rev. Prof. Gregory M. Johnson Rector: St. Mary's Episcopal Church On the Feast of St. Fortunata October 14, 2018

## From The Desk Of The Rector

by Father Gregory Johnson

Three decades ago a human trafficker, posing as an employer, convinced the son of an American Merchant Marine named William Hester and a mother named Filipina Bartolome to leave the Philippines to pursue a brighter future for his family in the United States.



The son, Ruppert Bartolome Hester, known to St. Mary's as "Jay," was living at the time in Quezon City. (in the Philippines)

JAY

Like so many other victims of unscrupulous criminals, Jay believed he would be able to provide a better life for his wife, Violeta, and daughter, Janet, by working in Hawaii, and sending the money he could save home for his family.

There are approximately 1 million Filipinos living and working around the world today who send money home to improve the quality of life for their loved ones.

One of many obstacles that undocumented immigrants face upon arrival is that the traffickers take away their identification cards, including passports, which makes them virtual prisoners and victims of abuse and extortion, threatening to turn them in to the Immigration & Custom Enforcement officials.

Thankfully, St. Mary's is blessed to have a Senior Warden who is also the managing attorney for the Hawaii Immigration Justice Center [HIJC]. An attorney who works for Tatjana named Ashlee Berry was kind enough to volunteer her valuable time for over a year to get Jay the documentation needed to return home on September 18th.

Though Jay never saw his father or mother again before they died, he has been reunited with his daughter and granddaughter who live in Angeles City near Manila.

In his letter to the Vestry, just prior to his return to the Philippines, Jay wrote, "Never in my life have I experienced this kind of heart-warming love. God guided me to St. Mary's for a reason, and I'm so grateful."

Thank you Tatjana and Ashlee for ALL you did to make Jay's dream come true!

9/4/18 TO- ALL PASTORS, VESTRIES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL THE ALOHA AND THE BLESSINGS, FOR ALLOWING ME TO HAVE A SAFE HAVEN, AND ALL THE TRUST. NEVER IN MY ENTIRE LIFE, EXPERIENSED THIS KIND OF HEAPT WARMING LOVE YOU HAD GRANTED ME, And TREATED ME LIKE A REAL FAMILY. NOT JUST FINANCIALLY, BUT 176 MY PLEABURE TO SERVE ST. MARYS NEVER MET SUCH TREMENDOUS, LOVING CHURCH MEMIBERS SINCE I CAME ABOARD AT ST. MARYS. HONESTLY, I'VE BEEN TO OTHER CHURCHES IN THE PAST, BUT ST. MARYS IS THE MOST LOVING CHURCH THAT I FOUND, THAT GOD DIRRECTED ME TO THE RIGHT BATCH, HE GUILDED ME TO ST. MARYS FOR A REASON, TO BE IN A SAFEST AND LOVING ENVIRONMENT, AND TO ALLOW ME TO MEET ALL THE LOVING AND CARING CHURCH'S FAMILY MEMBERS, AND TO CONGLETER ME, AS PART OF THE FAMILY. IM SO GRATEFILL, AND SO PRIVILAGE TO BE A PART OF THIS SHOH FAMILY. DEEP IN MY HEART, I THANKED EVERY SINGLE ONE

DEEP IN MY HEART, I THANKED EVERY SINGLE ONE TOR AU THE ACCEPTANCE AND THE LOVE THAT WAS GRANTED UPON ME. CAN'T THANK YOU GNOUGH. ALL OF YOU, EPECIALLY ST. MARY, WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY HEART AND MIND, SPECIALLY, FATHER GREG. HIS THE BEST, SO LOVING, AND CARING, AND FULL OF COMPASSION, WITHOUT ADN REGRETS AT ALL.

THANK YOU, VERY, VERY MUCH, TO ALL.
SINCERLY

R-17ESTER



9-Krislyn Padama 14-Elizabeth Hardaway 17-Jackie Mok 27-Edgar Kimsey

## "Jay" Was Here

One day at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, I saw Mr. Jay sitting in the church service. I did not know who he was, and thought he was just a visitor. Then I found out he was residing on the church grounds.



YAL

At first, one can be apprehensive of someone when one does not really know who, what, where, when and how a person may be. But as time passed and as we kept coming back to St Mary's Episcopal

Church service, Jay was always there. Jay was a humble, quiet soul. He cared for what was

appointed to him, and took care of everything that was assigned to him with dignity.



Jay's Garden: He called it his "Heavenly Garden"

Pretty soon there was "Jay's Garden" in front of the guest house. Was a pleasure to see it being taken care of!

Jay would attend the Wednesday evening's Gospel Singspiration gatherings. Enjoying what was presented as far as food was concerned which was mostly some sort of a bean stew with ham hock.



Bean Soup

Jay really took care of the guest house area. He kept the outside area clean and had a watchful eye for the property as a whole. He kept the administrator's abreast of what was happening during the evening and night.

Jay at Gospel Singspiration
Where everyone sang with the
videos and feasted on bean
soup and bread

Mr. Jay, it was a pleasure to meet you and get to know you while you were at St Mary's Episcopal of Mo'ili'ili. Your presence will surely be missed and I'm sure it has already been missed. Until we meet again.... God speed and take care of you, Mr. Jay!!!!

## **Nurd's Words**

#### Fr. Brian Nurding

#### **NURD'S WORDS**

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Last month my wife and I took a vacation trip to the mainland which included a stop in Seattle to visit friends. By sheer coincidence, my high school, Stadium High, Tacoma, Washington, class of

1953 was having a 65<sup>th</sup> reunion about 20 miles down the freeway. I couldn't pass that up.

I had never attended a high school reunion and after 65 years had no contact with my classmates. So, what would it be like? I looked at the list of people attending, recognizing only a few names. One thing I did know: everyone would be the same age.

I was right. It was an age-appropriate event. We gathered on a Saturday afternoon at a single level restaurant. Access not a problem. Social hour began at 4:00 pm, buffet dinner at 5 and everyone was out the door by 7 pm. Life in the fast lane for the 83-year old bunch.



## October 2018

But here was the surprise. Even though I knew only a few people, those few people were worth reconnecting with. Three of them had shared elementary

school, junior high, and high school with me. We all had stories to tell based on our recollections of doing things together back then. Then we began to share a little bit of our lives since those high school years. There were life stories of successes, confusions, serious illness, changes, and personal loss.

We shared our common pilgrimage called Life. It wasn't over yet, but we'd come a long way in learning and understanding from those days in 1953. Go, Stadium Tigers!

Fr. Brian Nurding



#### Ruppert "Jay" Hester

## We Know Him As "JAY"

No identification papers or cards, no passport. No family you can touch, no money. Can't cash a check, have to hide from authorities. Because of your situation, many people around you are taking advantage of you, using you and abusing you. Working

menial below minimum wage jobs, must be paid in cash only. Sleeping on the streets or in hidden hide away places. Though surrounded by a sea of people, you feel utterly alone, feeling everyone can see your fault, but knowing almost no one is giving thoughts of your problem or existence. Why?

All because a schemer promised to fulfill your dream but instead turns your dream into a nightmare 24/7. Taking away your passport and demanding unfair, unreasonable, unjust labor. You are a victim of Human Trafficking.

Only a handful of people at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Mo'ili'ili knew this, that "Jay" as he wanted be called, was that person outlined above: undocumented and stranded in a land far from his home country, the Philippines - stranded because he is a victim of human trafficking.

It was 1985 Jay took flight from the employer and his employment on the British ship, the SS Carolina while on the east coast of the United States. To survive he worked under the radar as a farm hand, picking vegetables in Southern California. He came to Oahu to visit a friend of the Hester family in 1986 and became stuck in Hawaii due to the creation of tighter identification checking at the airport.

Jay wanted to go back to the Philippines, but he had no documents to prove he is a citizen of that country, leaving Jay stuck in Hawaii, a man without a country, trying to not do anything wrong that would alert authorities.

Though Stranded a long time, Jay finally saw a chance to be recued by people he believed were sincere about helping the Hawaii Immigration Justice Center. They **recued** Jay and Saint Mary's provided **relief** beginning 2015. During September 2018, The Philippine consulate General finally signed documents that allowed Jay to go home. Jay finally received **restoration**.

It is at Jays request that we tell a little about his story, to raise the consciousness of church members about the plight of those in situations like his - victims of human trafficking. Good people tricked and now needing help. We were asked to wait until he was truly settled in the Philippines with his daughter before we write our article. He sent a photo of him and his daughter and they are doing just fine.



Jay and Daughter in Philippine

For the almost four years that St Mary was assisting Jay with relief, shelter and work, he blessed us, every day. He mostly did painting and landscaping. With the assistance of a helping agency, he was paid for the work he did so he could save up to have money when he returned home to the Philippines.







Jay Painting and Landscaping

Impressed by Jay's trustworthiness, he was asked to be a member of the Disaster Preparedness Team.



Jay lived on the church grounds in a converted secured outdoor shed. He kept it tidy and clean at all times.







Sleeping Area

He created a small garden next to his sleeping area and during each Christmas Season, he decorated his area with lights.



Jay's Garden







The Church provided him food not only from the food pantry, but also from the church's Community Garden. In the corner of the garden is a papaya tree.

One of the things Jay loved to do with the garden was to pick green papayas from the papaya tree and make green papaya chicken soup. He'd place in the pot papayas, chicken, spices, water, etc, and make a dish which was "Just like my mom made" he said. I, on occasions had the opportunity to taste some dishes from his makeshift kitchen. I must honestly say, the green papaya with chicken was really good! I was surprised at its wonderful taste. It had a touch of sweetness even though no sugar was added.





Papaya Tree in Community Garden

Preparing Green Papaya Chicken Soup



Soup is ready



Placed in a bowl



Fr. David Enjoys His First Green Papaya Chicken Soup



Please read the following four pages to learn about, report and help your neighbor—the victim of human trafficking

#### What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation.

After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with illegal arms dealing as the second largest international crime industry and the fastest growing. It is a market-based industry with an estimated global annual profit of USD \$31.6 billion. There are 2 general types of human trafficking—sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

#### What is Labor Trafficking?

Labor trafficking is the most common type of human trafficking that involves recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

#### **Human Trafficking in the US**

- The US State Dept. estimates 50,000 people trafficked into the US each year
- Human trafficking occurs in all 50 states, with the top 3 being California, Texas, and New York.
- In 2006, only **5,808** traffickers were convicted, which means that for every **800** people trafficked, only 1 person was convicted

More than half of all foreign persons trafficked to the US are from the Asia-Pacific region, and are female.

#### **Challenges for Victims of Labor Trafficking**

- Labor trafficking is harder to prove than sex trafficking because the current US immigration policies, in particular the US Guest Worker Program, provides a legal framework that recruiters often manipulate and take advantage of.
- Because of this, there is a disproportionate level of access to services between victims of sex trafficking than for labor trafficking, though both are prevalent in New York and in the US.
- It's common for victims of labor trafficking to not realize they have been trafficked
- The profile of victims of international labor trafficking to New York include foreign nurses, teachers, engineers, construction workers, and hotel workers, in addition to domestic workers, garment workers, and service workers.

Victims of labor trafficking are also vulnerable to abuse, violence, and hardship, and often need relief in the areas of (1) immediate assistance (i.e.- housing, food, medical, safety and security, legal services), (2) mental health counseling, (3) income assistance (i.e.- cash, living assistance), (4) legal status (i.e.- T visa, immigration, certification).

#### Challenges:

Fear, Humiliation, Shame Family Separation and Isolation

Debt Bondage and Hardship Exploitation and Wage Theft (inc. from lawyers)

Criminalization Lack of Justice

https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs

## **Recognizing the Signs**

The following is a list of potential red flags and indicators of human trafficking to help you recognize the signs. If you see any of these red flags, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 for specialized victim services referrals or to report the situation.

The presence of these red flags is an indication that further assessment may be necessary to identify a potential human trafficking situation. This list is not exhaustive and represents only a selection of possible indicators. Also, the red flags in this list may not be present in all trafficking cases and are not cumulative. Indicators reference conditions a potential victim might exhibit.

#### **Common Work and Living Conditions:**

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp / manager
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work

High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

#### **Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior:**

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement

#### Avoids eye contact

#### **Poor Physical Health:**

- Lacks medical care and/or is denied medical services by employer
- Appears malnourished or shows signs of repeated exposure to harmful chemicals

Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

#### Lack of Control:

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)

Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist

#### on being present and/or translating)

#### Other:

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time

Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

Note: According to federal law, any minor under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion. If you believe you are a victim of human trafficking or may have information about a potential trafficking situation, please contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please call 911.

https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions

#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

### **Myths & Misconceptions**

To effectively combat human trafficking, each of us needs to have a clear "lens" that helps us understand what human trafficking is. When this lens is clouded or biased by misconceptions about the definition of trafficking, our ability to respond to the crime is reduced. It is important to learn how to identify and break down commonly-held myths and misconceptions regarding human trafficking and the type of trafficking networks that exist in the United States.

Myth 1: Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.

Reality: The federal definition of human trafficking includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. Both are protected under the federal trafficking statutes and have been since the TVPA of 2000. Human trafficking within the United States affects victims who are U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, and undocumented workers.

Myth 2: Human trafficking is essentially a crime that must involve some form of travel, transportation, or movement across state or national borders.

**Reality: Trafficking does not require transportation.** Although transportation may be involved as a control mechanism to keep victims in unfamiliar places, it is not a required element of the trafficking definition. Human trafficking is not synonymous with forced migration or smuggling, which involve border crossing.

Myth 3: Human trafficking is another term for human smuggling.

Reality: Smuggling is a crime against a country's borders: human trafficking is a crime against a person. Each are distinct federal crimes in the United States. While smuggling requires illegal border crossing, human trafficking involves commercial sex acts or labor or services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion, regardless of whether or not transportation occurs.

Myth 4: There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.

Reality: Trafficking does not require physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force. Psychological means of control, such as threats, fraud, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime. Unlike the previous federal involuntary servitude statutes (U.S.C. 1584), the new federal crimes created by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 were intended to address "subtler" forms of coercion and to broaden previous standards that only considered bodily harm.

Myth 5: Victims of human trafficking will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self -identify as a victim of a crime.

Reality: Victims of human trafficking often do not immediately seek help or self-identify as victims of a crime due to a variety of factors, including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by the traffickers regarding how to behave when talking to law enforcement or social services. It is important to avoid making a snap judgment about who is or who is not a trafficking victim based on first encounters. Trust often takes time to develop. Continued trust-building and patient interviewing is often required to get to the whole story and uncover the full experience of what a victim has gone through.

Myth 6: Human trafficking victims always come from situations of poverty or from small rural villages.

**Reality:** Although poverty can be a factor in human trafficking because it is often an indicator of vulnerability, **poverty alone is not a single causal factor or universal indicator of a human trafficking victim.** Trafficking victims can come from a range of income levels, and many may come from families with higher socioeconomic status.

Myth 7: Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking.

**Reality:** The federal definition of human trafficking encompasses **both sex trafficking and labor trafficking**, and the crime can affect men and women, children and adults.

Myth 8: Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.

**Reality:** Trafficking can occur in legal and legitimate business settings as well as underground markets. Human trafficking has been reported in business markets such as restaurants, hotels, and manufacturing plants, as well as underground markets such as commercial sex in residential brothels and street based commercial sex.

Myth 9: If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they "knew better."

**Reality:** Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is **not relevant to the crime, nor is payment**.

Myth 10: Foreign national trafficking victims are always undocumented immigrants or here in this country illegally.

**Reality:** Not all foreign national victims are undocumented. Foreign national trafficked persons can be in the United States through either legal or illegal means. Although some foreign national victims are undocumented, a significant percentage may have legitimate visas for various purposes.

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

An Online Monthly Pictorial News Record

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949-4655

## Mo'ili'ili Homeless Outreach Service

November 29- 10am **In Gathering Room** Volunteers report at 9am



## **Sunday Worship Service 9:00am**

## **Aloha Hour**

10:00am Sundays in Gathering Room

## **Vestry Meeting**

November 18 10:15am **Conference Room** 

#### Office Closed

November 12 and 22

### **Prayer Ministry**

8:15am Sundays in Soldier Chapel

#### Jane Oki Funeral

10:00am

**November 24** Visitation at 9am **Soldier Chapel** 

## n Memoria/ 16-Edward Okutani 17-Matsuko Matsumoto 23-Nancy Conley

**WARRIORS** AT EASE **CLASS** 



**YOGA CLASS** 

Tuesdays 10:00am **Gathering Room** 

#### MEDITATION **CLASS**

**Saturdays** 

Nov. 3 & 10

11:00am

Saturdays 3:00pm **November 10 & 17 Gathering Room** 





**ZUMBA** 

**CLASS** 

Saturdays 8:30am except Nov. 24 **Gathering Room** 

#### the Journey 'eam

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