

# WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian  
Universalist Society of Albany

May 2018

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## Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Family Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum (as scheduled)

## Sundays at Albany UU

*Please join us on any Sunday for:*

*Mindfulness Meditation, Religious Education for children and youth, the Service, Coffee Hour, or any combination thereof. Other programs on Sundays include Forum (social justice and environmental topics), Family Chapel, social events, and adult education.*

**All are welcome!**

## Services

### May 6 Why Shelter a Stranger?, Rev. Sam Trumbore

We will be considering a resolution at our annual meeting May 20th to become a Sanctuary Congregation. Part of this resolution is being willing, in compelling circumstances, to offer temporary shelter to an undocumented person in our building. This could put individuals who do so at risk of arrest and federal prosecution. Why might we take such a big risk ... to shelter a stranger?

*Music:* Choir

### May 13 Rite of Passage

Our Rite of Passage youth present their credos – the distillation of their work this year. They have been meeting monthly in small groups with their mentors to explore what it's like to be a Unitarian Universalist as an adult and how UU's make meaning for themselves and respond to a troubled world. Come hear what our emerging UU's have to say about what they believe at this point in their lives.

*Music:* Al DeSalvo, (piano)

### May 20 This I Believe

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor the voices of members of our congregation in their individual search for truth and meaning. This service provides an opportunity to hear the thoughts and reflections on life from three Albany UUs– Karen Kaufmann, Thayer Heath and David Metz

*Music:* Choir

### May 27 Creative Explorations, Leah Purcell

Let's see what it would be like to have a service that is friendly to children, but with enough spoken word, reflection, sermon and other elements to make worthwhile to adults who enjoy a "regular" service. What better topic to experiment with than the theme of May – Creativity? Every day we have an opportunity to create who we are. This Sunday is an opportunity to create meaning, community, and beauty. Together, we can make it happen.

*Music:* Richard Porterfield with Mark Abendroth (trumpet)

# Calendar

## Events happening every Sunday at Albany UU

- 9:00 AM Mindfulness Meditation .....Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Service .....Emerson
- Family Chapel (1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May) .....Sanctuary
- Religious Education ..... Classrooms
- 11:00 AM Coffee Hour.....Channing

Exceptions:

## Regular events and meetings

CHECK the weekly Preview email for changes to date, time and location

<p>Sundays</p> <p>5:30 PM Walker Book Group (2nd)</p> <p>11:45 AM Green Sanctuary Committee (1st)</p> <p>11:45 AM Social Responsibilities Council (3rd)</p> <p>Mondays</p> <p>6:15 PM Religious Education Council (1st)</p> <p>Tuesdays</p> <p>10:00 AM Philosophy Group (weekly)</p> <p>1:00 PM Bridge (weekly)</p> <p>7:00 PM UU Humanists (3rd)</p>	<p>Wednesdays</p> <p>10:00 AM Projects &amp; Quilts (weekly)</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (almost weekly)</p> <p>Thursdays</p> <p>1:00 PM All Sides Considered (1st &amp; 3rd)</p> <p>7:00 PM Program Coordinating Council (2nd)</p> <p>7:00 PM Board of Trustees (3rd)</p>
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## All other events happening in May

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| <p><b>1-May Tuesday</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Spring Clean Up!.....Outside!</p> <p>4:45 PM Membership Committee ..... B-8</p> <p><b>2-May Wednesday</b></p> <p>6:45 PM Practice Group, Nonviolent CommunicationChanning</p> <p><b>4-May Friday</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Multi-generational Potluck, host Inclusivity Team .....Channing Hall</p> <p><b>6-May Sunday</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Family Chapel ..... Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 AM Meet the Candidates Reception.....Community Hall</p> <p>11:30 AM ROP Mentor/Youth Meeting.....B1,B2,B6,B7</p> <p>11:45 AM Green Sanctuary Meeting ..... B-5</p> <p>12:00 PM CROP Walk lunch ..... Channing</p> <p>12:30 PM Rite of Passage..... B-8</p> <p><b>7-May Monday</b></p> <p>6:15 PM RE Council meeting ..... Channing</p> <p><b>8-May Tuesday</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Endowment Trust..... B-7</p> <p>5:30 PM Messaging Workshop with Eileen Casey-Campbell ..... Channing</p> <p>6:30 PM Wellspring ..... B-5</p> <p><b>10-May Thursday</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Program Coordinating Council ..... B-8</p> <p><b>11-May Friday</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Rite of Passage Rehearsal ..... Community</p> <p><b>12-May Saturday</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Governance Workshop with David Pyle.... Channing</p> <p>6:00 PM Circle Dinner ..... Offsite</p> <p><b>13-May Sunday</b></p> <p>11:45 AM Inclusivity Team ..... B-8</p> <p>5:30 PM Walker Book Group.....Channing</p> <p><b>14-May Monday</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Small Group Ministry-Mon. AM group ..... B-5</p> <p>6:15 PM Religious Education Council Meeting..... Channing</p> | <p><b>15-May Tuesday</b></p> <p>5:00 PM Meaning Matters - Third Tuesday GroupStott Lounge</p> <p>7:00 PM Albany UU Humanists ..... B-8</p> <p><b>16-May Wednesday</b></p> <p>6:45 PM Practice Group for Nonviolent CommunicationChanning</p> <p><b>17-May Thursday</b></p> <p>5:30 PM Religious Services Committee..... B-7</p> <p>7:00 PM Albany UU Board Meeting ..... Channing</p> <p><b>19-May Saturday</b></p> <p>11:00 AM Jody Zimmerman Memorial .....Community</p> <p><b>20-May Sunday</b></p> <p>11:45 AM Albany UU Annual Meeting .....Community</p> <p>11:45 AM Social Responsibilities Council Meeting ..... B-8</p> <p><b>21-May Monday</b></p> <p>1:30 PM Meaning Matters - Third Monday Afternoon ..... B-8</p> <p>7:00 PM Meaning Matters - Fourth Monday Group ..... B-8</p> <p><b>22-May Tuesday</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Wellspring..... B-5</p> <p><b>23-May Wednesday</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Children's Peace Week Meeting ..... Stott Lounge</p> <p><b>28-May Monday</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Small Group Ministry-Mon. AM group ..... B-5</p> |
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### Share the Vision

The majority of the world's people must walk every day to meet their basic survival needs for water, food and fuel. The CROP Hunger Walk joins us in solidarity with people around the world. Come with us as we walk on **Sunday, May 6** (3-mile route, or shorter if you choose), or support Team UU walkers by pledging or helping with Walk registration. See Dawn Dana at coffee hour. Share the vision of a less hungry and more humane world.



## Sam's Outlook

### Where sermons come from

*Rev. Sam Trumbore*

One of the questions I often get asked about being a minister is the challenge of coming up with sermons and service ideas on a weekly basis. “Where do your ideas come from?” “How do you come up with crazy stuff like draping fabric over the ceiling suspension system in Community Hall?”

Many ministers start with a few big ideas that motivated them to go into the ministry. After a few sermons, those can get exhausted pretty quickly. Then comes the question, “What will I talk about now?” Fearing that day would come for me too, early on I started keeping a list of sermon ideas. A newspaper headline would grab my imagination and I’d jot down a clever title. By the time I look at that title again, I sometimes forget what I might want to say using that title – unless I jot down some notes. I’d read the New York Times Book Review and think to myself, “That book could be turned into a great sermon.” I’ve even found some great phone apps to store ideas for future use.

What I eventually discovered was my idea files were growing far faster than I could turn them into sermons. I realized I was developing a “homiletic eye” that constantly scans everything I read and everything I experience for sermon material. There is little more joyous to me than a great sermon illustration that falls into my lap Thursday morning as I sit down to begin crafting a sermon.

Most of what inspires me doesn’t come from grinding out material through some kind of analytical, mechanistic process. My methods are a little more mysterious than that. Sometimes I just sit quietly and wait. My challenge is to clear the frenetic activity of daily life out of the way. It is as if I create a quiet space, as if I’m sitting by the side of a clear pool of water watching for something surface from the depths. More than one great sermon has organized itself in my mind while I’m calmly watching my breath each morning in meditation.

Philomena enjoys writing poetry, a deeply creative process. I’ve often seen her struggling with a blank page and frustrated that nothing was coming to her. Sitting in Starbucks often helps get her creative process flowing ... but not always.

What can really spark her creativity is a poetry group in which she participates.

They meet monthly usually to consider the work of a famous poet. They also share their own poems with each other. When the poetry they share together is stimulating and good, she often gets inspired and suddenly the Muse is blessing her with poems.



I recognize a similar process in me as well. One of the reasons I like going to UUA General Assembly and regional UU minister gatherings each year is to hear inspiring talks and have stimulating conversations with my colleagues. We are all struggling with the sermon creation problem and often have resources to share with each other. The Internet has facilitated a proliferation of resources and ideas that can be overwhelming. Yet we have to keep in mind the ears in our congregation and what we anticipate will be received and taken in. Given the many, many sources of sermon inspiration in the world today, I find I’m rarely short of material or things to say. What matters a lot more is filtering it all based on the members and friends of our congregation. It is their concerns and questions that guide my selection.

Which leads me to my May 6th sermon. I hadn’t planned on speaking on the sanctuary movement until the last congregational conversation discussion on it. I listened to people fretting about our legal risks if we accommodate an undocumented person in our building. I realized we needed to understand better why we would want to take this kind of risk. And more than understanding, we need to connect emotionally to what may be a life or death situation for an undocumented immigrant. The best sermons are often shaped by the moment and the congregation as much as they are the interesting ideas bouncing around in my head. The best sermons get right to the heart of the matter and the moral choices we must face.

So important as my own personal creative process is, so is hearing from you both when you like something you’ve heard from me on Sunday and when

***Sam's Outlook, continued on page 4***

## News

### Let's write a covenant!

The Congregational Covenant Team is looking for your input: what do you want to see in our congregational covenant? Check out the paper chalice on the bulletin board in Channing Hall and give us your ideas.

Also very shortly, a detailed survey will be coming your way in the weekly *Preview* email, in the Sunday order of service, and for teachers, in your teacher packet. Please take the time to answer the survey. We very much need your ideas and opinions. A covenant is for all of us and we, the Covenant Team, need your help in crafting a covenant that will represent all of us, how we want to relate to each other, how we want to be with each other to make a difference in this world. If you want to give us your feedback in person, talk with any of us on the Team: Dick Dana, Brian Frank, Jan McCracken, Patti Jo Newell, Leah Purcell, Kelly Smith, Rev. Sam Trumbore, or Jacqui Williams.

### Vision of governance for Albany UU

Last fall, the Governance Working Group (GWG) began to consider changes to Albany UU's governance structure, drawing on the experience of other congregations and a model described in *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss. At its April meeting, the Board of Trustees affirmed the governance structure and vision proposed by the GWG and charged them with developing a plan for implementation. The plan is to include presentations to committees, congregational conversations, and new policies and bylaws changes that will ultimately be considered at a congregational meeting. Members of the GWG are Molly Daniels, Nancy Shay, Peggy Sherman and Rev. Sam Trumbore.

The future that the GWG would like to achieve is described in the following Governance Vision Statement:

### Flyers in this issue

At the end of this newsletter you will find full page items on:

- ◆ Amy Lent retirement party invitation

Through democratic process, the congregation of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany chooses a Board of Trustees as its governing body and a minister as its spiritual, programmatic and administrative leader.

Through its long-term planning and fiduciary responsibility, the Board ensures that the congregation will fulfill its mission far into the future. Through its policy-making, the Board establishes a clear governance structure so that Board members, minister, staff and volunteer leaders understand where decisions are made and where accountability rests.

The Board communicates frequently with the congregation, encouraging broad input and diverse voices on issues, explaining how its decisions and directions support the mission of the church, and bringing major decisions to congregational vote.

The minister serves as Chief of Staff and on the Program Team, which also includes appointed lay leaders. The Program Team leads staff and volunteers in setting annual goals, planning programs and carrying out the work of the congregation to achieve its mission. Staff and volunteer leaders understand their roles and responsibilities. With guidance, they are empowered to carry out their responsibilities in creative ways and respond quickly to opportunities and choices. At the same time, each volunteer or staff leader works in collaboration with others to align his or her programs with others in a coherent congregational program.

There is a strong sense of partnership and shared mission and vision among the Board, minister, Program Team, and staff and volunteer leaders. Volunteers and staff take pride in and enjoy their work.

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### Sam's Outlook, continued from page 3

you haven't. Your neighbor may the opposite opinion but both responses are valuable and can be educational for all of us. A good sermon is not meas-

ured by whether you like it or not as much as if it stimulates your growth and development. And the same happens for me when you share your response.--Rev. Sam

## Earth Day Clean-up Event

More than two dozen adults and children from Albany UU met at the Boat Launch at the Corning Preserve for a morning of cleaning up the litter that



accumulates on the hills and fields of the park. We were joined by people from Capital District Physician's Health Plan at this clean up organized by New York Parks &

Trails. All worked hard! Thanks to everyone for their efforts! And the weather was just about perfect.

## Jody Zimmerman memorial service

A memorial service for Jody Zimmerman will be held on Saturday, May 19 at 11:00 AM in Community Hall, followed by a reception in Channing Hall. Contributions of finger foods for the reception are welcomed. Please note, we do NOT have permission to use the UAAlbany Hawley Parking Lot for this event as this is the University's commencement weekend.

## Our Beacon Burns Bright!

Thank you to all of you who pledged your financial support of our beloved congregation. We are heartened by the strength of support for the Albany UU community and mission. While we do have a few outstanding pledges, we've been in contact with all potential pledgers and expect to conclude our stewardship campaign having met 98% of our goal. This is great news!

With this success, we've pledged to continue support for our rich and dynamic congregational life. Additionally, we've pledged to provide new support for our inclusivity and anti-racist work, a part-time youth advisor to coordinate programming for teens, and increasing our annual contribution to our Ministerial Intern Fund with the goal of hiring an intern biennially.

This year, we created an incentive for returning pledges within a shortened timeframe. The names of those who returned their pledge by April 1 were en-



tered into a drawing that was conducted at the Annual Fellowship Dinner. We're pleased to announce that Sharon Babala won the first prize of \$100 UU Bucks and Paul Fisk and Luba Reep each won second prize of \$50 UU Bucks. UU Bucks can be redeemed for goods and services at any Albany UU event. Congratulations! And thanks to all who returned their pledge by April 1.

We made other changes to the stewardship campaign format, as well. We wanted to make the stewardship process less daunting, less labor-intensive and time-consuming and more attractive as a way of service to the congregation. With an eye toward succession planning we streamlined the approach, compartmentalizing tasks so that the primary role of being on the team is not attending meetings, but engaging in specific tasks and adopting a model of leadership using co-chairs with a two-year term of service, staggering terms to ensure continuity of experience.

We're pleased with the outcome of this new format. We held two meetings of the Stewardship Team. The co-chairs met three or four additional times, two of which focused on rethinking the format and will not necessarily need to be repeated by future co-chairs. We used volunteers for two sessions of envelop stuffing, three Sundays of packet distribution, plus a couple more staffing the stewardship table in Channing Hall after the service, testimonials during several services, and follow-up calls and emails. We distributed these tasks broadly, resulting in limited overlap among volunteers. And we had excellent support from the office staff.

## Board Notes

### What does a Treasurer do at Albany UU??

*Kathy Harris, Treasurer*

Ever wonder what Albany UU's Treasurer does?

Oh, she/he probably writes checks and keeps track of deposits. Right?

Of course, right! But there is a lot more. When I took over from Sue Berzinis, I inherited a wonderfully detailed binder of instructions, passwords and reminders. As I finish my third and final year as your Treasurer, I mostly have the job down and am in the process of revising the Treasurer's Handbook.

First, I have been writing checks and keeping track of deposits. Using QuickBooks, I work almost every Wednesday paying bills and keeping track of the checking account. At the end of the month I balance the checking account, as well as the several savings accounts that Albany UU has.

Then I prepare the monthly Treasurer's Report, which is forwarded to the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. The people on the Finance Committee are pretty savvy about our operations, so have some great questions about how we are doing financially.

The Treasurer is a member of the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee, attending those monthly meetings. She/he is also able to attend Endowment Trust Board monthly meetings as well. These I have found very informative.

The Treasurer works with our Auditor, which does a financial review (we don't really need a formal audit, given the size of our operations). This assures that our operations are properly documented and

tracked.

There have been several financial highlights during my tenure as Treasurer:

Our original ten-year mortgage with Berkshire Bank came due. Thanks for the work of Dave Metz, our liaison with Berkshire Bank, we were able to significantly reduce the interest rate that we were paying. And, with loans from Endowment Trust, and several of our members along with a very successful Looking Forward campaign and a gift approved by the congregation from Endowment Trust, we reduced our obligation to an outside entity to less than \$150,000. That new mortgage was put in place last October and is on track to be paid off well before the new ten-year term is over.

The Finance Committee recommended that some of our savings be invested in high-interest certificates of deposit. This significantly increases the amount of annual interest that we earn, while keeping the funds fairly liquid in case of an immediate need for funds.

Albany UU was able to increase all wages of custodians to a starting wage of \$15/hour and moved Albany UU's retirement contribution for our full-time staff to 10% of wages, ensuring both a living wage and a more secure retirement. All our staff are paid in line with the Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines.

Treasurer work may not be for everyone. You have to love numbers and love putting things in order. I have enjoyed my tenure as your Treasurer.



So, the results are in. We had a successful campaign, substantially meeting our goal, and we implemented an abbreviated process that was a relatively light load, shared among many. Next year, you may want to join the effort; it's a great way to support our community.

Thanks to everyone for doing their part. Our beacon burns bright!

### Rev. Sam goes to Romania!

Rev. Trumbore will be away from May 23 to June 6 as part of the trip to visit our Partner Church in Romania. If you have a pastoral concern during this time, please contact the church office (518-463-7135), and Amy or Tammy can connect you with pastoral assistance. In addition, Rev. Sam will be checking messages and email on his cell phone during his trip.

## Celebrating and thanking Amy Lent for keeping us on track

Amy came to work at Albany UU 16 years ago with a strong background in Communications and her inherently creative, intelligent, and kind manner. She has given us her best, helped our beloved community grow and develop, and now she plans to retire at the end of June. Anyone who has worked with and known Amy in any capacity would agree that it's a positive experience. Managing the office at Albany UU is a busy enterprise that requires much energy to keep our constant engine humming. There are people to accommodate, fires to put out, and the future of the organization to consider in every minute of the operational day (as well as nights and weekends!) We are sad to see Amy leave us as Church Administrator and she will be dearly missed in that capacity. Yet her adventure into this next phase of life is exciting and we can help her make the launch! She likes to party and a party we will give her!



All friends and members of Albany UU are invited to Amy's retirement party in Community Hall on Friday June 8 from 7:00 - 10:00. (Please see the flyer included at the end of the newsletter.)

While we hope you will simply come, we are also looking for help with decorating, bartending, set-up and clean-up, and contributions of savory appetizers

—food without forks, please.

If you would like to donate money toward a gift, we will gladly accept cash or checks at the party, or let Tammy Hathaway in the office know of your intention.

If you plan to come, please RSVP! You can either sign up in Channing Hall or by email to Tammy at [office@albanyuu.org](mailto:office@albanyuu.org). For more info, feel free to contact any of the organizers: Tammy Hathaway, Meredith Mercer, Jan McCracken, Bobbi Place.

## The votes are in!

The Renaming Team has finished the task of finding a new name for the Albany UU service hall. Congregants of all ages were asked to submit a suggestion via an online form, by sending email, or by filling in a paper submission form which was accessible on the Inclusivity Team bulletin board in Channing Hall. The children and youth then voted for the top submissions. The team was very pleased that we received 47 submissions, most were unique, but four received multiple submissions with Community receiving by far the most: Truth, Unity, Community, and Beacon. Each submission idea was discussed among the team with very careful and deliberate consideration as to how the name was representative of Unitarian Universalist values, and whether the submitted name would have staying power for future generations as the name of our service hall. The children and youth voted on March 11 and 12 during their RE classes or by absentee ballot for either Community or Beacon. In the final tally, Community Hall received 30 percent more votes than Beacon. The Renaming Team is happy to announce that the Albany UU service hall is now officially known as Community Hall.

## Growing Together

### New Books in the Joy Library

**Cultivating Empathy: The Worth and Dignity of Every Person -- Without Exception** / Nathan C.

Walker (Skinner House, 2016). Stories of "experiments with moral imagination" -- empathetic interactions with, among others, a homophobic preacher, skinheads, Monsanto executives, and one's own hypothetical murderer.

**Chaos, Wonder and the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting: An Anthology.** / editors Sarah Conover & Tracy Springberry (Skinner House 2011) Essays by about two dozen authors, including Barbara Kingsolver and Barry Lopez.

**Christ for Unitarian Universalists: A New Dialogue with Traditional Christianity** / Scotty McLennan; foreword by Harvey Cox (Skinner House, 2016)

**From Zip Lines to Hosaphones: Dispatches from**

## Religious Exploration

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education

From Soul Matters

“Creativity is our ability to dream things up and make them happen.”— Peggy Taylor

*We're all familiar with that part in the quote about dreaming. Conjuring up new ideas and images is what creativity is all about. Using the building blocks of “what is,” we -almost magically- make the “not yet” appear in our minds.*

*But what about that other part? The part about “making them happen.” When we talk about creativity, that half of the equation often gets short shrift. We celebrate the fun piece about dreaming and leave off the hard piece of making our imaginings real. And it's not just the hard part; it's the scary part too. You have to be brave to try new things and fail. Being creative and unique can cause the crowd to cheer and swoon; it can also lead to being laughed at and excluded from the group. Yes, there is joy, beauty and play in creativity, but there is also insecurity, loneliness and self-doubt. Which means that this month is not just about imagination, artistry and self-expression, but also courage.*

At this moment, I have a white board in my office with

various colors of post it notes, writing in marker, lines and arrows. I'm working on ideas for a Sunday morning service. I'm thinking of a service that is friendly to children, but with enough spoken word, reflection, sermon and other elements to make worthwhile to adults who enjoy a “regular” service. And it's not just a creative exercise to decorate my office. It's going to be real! I'm presenting the service on May 27th. We won't have Sunday school on that day; children and youth will attend this service. Fittingly enough, the theme is on creativity. I won't say that I'm not at least a little bit scared. I do have plenty of resources to rely on, though, including advice from my colleagues who have done these types to services. The key, I'm learning is to tell the message (sermon) in 3 or 4 parts and intersperse it with music or an interactive element. So I hope you'll make attending this service part of your Memorial Day Weekend. Meaning, community-building, and beauty – together, we can make it happen.

In faithful service,

Leah



**the Search for Truth and Meaning** / Jane Rzepka (Skinner House 2011). Fifty brief essays on life from a UU perspective -- a fun read.

### Come! Learn! Grow! Together! Join a Wellspring group this fall

Wellspring at Albany UU provides a safe space for you to explore the sacred within; to understand how we UU's got to be who we are; to read, think and talk about life's big questions; and to reflect upon what we are called to do in the world. There are five interconnected components:

commitment to a daily spiritual practice, monthly spiritual direction (self-reflection with a guide), small group meetings, readings; audio; video material, and putting our faith into action. Coming closer to your own purpose and meaning can enhance your UU faith community in countless ways. Wellspring participants express that their experience gives them deeper acceptance



and understanding of the many paths that UU's take on their personal and spiritual journeys. This awareness contributes to sustaining the living mosaic of beliefs and practices that hold us together as a community.

Sharon Babala and Jan McCracken are coordinating two Wellspring groups next year. **Sources** is the group to join if you are new to Wellspring and **Deep Questions** will be offered for those who have more Wellspring experience.

For more information, contact the church office or Jan at [jmccrack@nycpap.rr.com](mailto:jmccrack@nycpap.rr.com) or Sharon at [sharonbabala@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbabala@gmail.com). Either Jan or Sharon would love to have a conversation with you to explore your interest!

**Inclusivity Insights: Earning restorative justice**  
Despite the ongoing microaggressions that I commit and despite that my taking advantage of white privilege is often not a victimless crime, I expect those who are my victims to forgive me. I expect them to

### Register for 2018-19 RE now

That's right: avoid the rush and crush of fall and sign your children up for our Religious Education program now. You can register on line at <http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/re-registration-form/> or pick up a paper copy at the RE office on Sundays.

be understanding, gentle, patient, and helpful. Without even asking in many cases, I am expecting them to be better than I am. This is my white privilege talking; I sure have a lot chutzpah!

But am I wrong? I can see wisdom on both sides. This sort of forgiveness and working together is quite consistent with my Unitarian Universalist sensibilities that prefer restorative justice rather than punitive justice. That's good. And yet if I invoke restorative justice for those with white privilege and allow punitive justice to tear apart the lives of people of color, that's bad.

As I see it, that's the balance. If I want restorative justice for my misdeeds then I must earn it by working for restorative justice for others, especially for those who lack privilege. There are plenty of opportunities; the parole system, the cash bail system, and the schools-to-prison pipeline are three obvious domains that destroy lives. Whether or not you too benefit from white privilege, you can make the same resolution as I: talk with someone at the Social Responsibilities Council table on Sunday about what can be done, and then do it!—Lee Newberg

#### Three ways to sign up for a class or event:

—Send an email to [Registration@AlbanyUU.org](mailto:Registration@AlbanyUU.org)

—Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall

—Call the church office, 518-463-7135

If childcare is offered, please let us know you need it when you register. (Include names and ages of children.)

*Who?* Children entering 2nd - 8th grades

*Why?* To help children explore pathways to peace and peacemaking through games, arts, crafts, and lots of creative interactivity.

*Cost?* \$50/per child; maximum \$100/family; camperships available so that no child is turned away for lack of funds

**Need to talk?  
FUUSA Pastoral Care  
Associates are here  
to listen!**



Our Pastoral Care Associates have been trained in compassionate listening skills and are available to all members and friends of our congregation. To contact a Pastoral Care Associate, email [listeners@albanyuu.org](mailto:listeners@albanyuu.org), contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the Albany UU office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Chuck Manning, Phil Rich, Randy Rosette, Sandy Stone, Lisa Barron, Donna Meixner, Dee Van Riper, Eileen Casey-Campbell.

### Peace Week

Summer program for kids

*When?* August 13-17 (half days)

*Where?* Friends Meeting House on Madison Ave. in Albany

For more information contact Jan McCracken (representing Albany UU on Peace Week steering committee) [jmccrack@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jmccrack@nycap.rr.com) or 518-275-8709

## Our Community

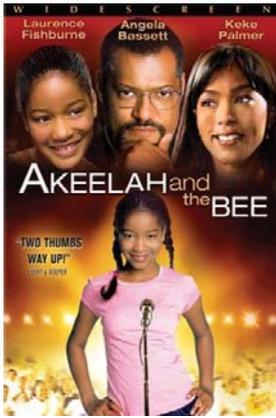
### You're invited!

Barb and Chuck Manning invite Albany UUs to join them for an open house celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 16, from 3:00– 5:00 pm in Channing Hall. While the event is open to all, we need to know how many will attend as we want to have enough appetizers and beverages for all. Please RSVP to Barb Manning at 518-

439-4226 or [barbaracmanning@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaracmanning@hotmail.com).

### UU Weekend at Silver Bay: the 25th (Silver) Anniversary Edition

Have you registered for this special UU Weekend at Silver Bay? Sign up today! This weekend is the eagerly awaited highlight of the fall season, featuring stimulating workshops, family togetherness, music floating over the lake, cozy conversations by the fireplace, the sights and smells of fall, and silent auction



## Multigenerational Potluck and Movie

Friday, May 4 - Hosted by the Inclusivity Team

Potluck begins at 5:30 with a family-friendly movie, "**Akeelah and the Bee**," at 6:00. "Akeelah and the Bee" is the story of an 11-year-old girl living in South Los Angeles who discovers she has a talent for spelling. She hopes her talent will take her to the National Spelling Bee. Her journey has challenges and supporters, too. Will her dream come true? Join us to find out!



skirmishes.

Who says the cost of everything keeps going up? Register from now until May 28 for the UU Weekend at Silver Bay on Lake George from October 12-14, 2018 to receive the lowest rates! Children under 6 are free with substantial discounts for older children and youth. AND, first-time visitors to Silver Bay receive an additional 10% discount!

Remember – the cost is all-inclusive – meals are provided at Silver Bay's NEW dining hall... from Saturday morning through Sunday lunch. Want to upgrade your lodging? Sign up for a new premium room above the dining hall!

Dr. William Schulz, former director of both Amnesty International and UUSC, will be this year's featured Jeanne Blank Memorial speaker. Schulz has traveled the globe in pursuit of a world free from human rights violations. "William Schulz...has done more than anyone in the American human rights movement to make human rights issues known in the United States." The New York Review of Books, 2002

Enjoy music? The Albany-based Morris Code band is returning by popular demand! Our Saturday evening entertainment will feature an intergenerational dance with the Tamarack  
www.tamarack-band.com. Tamarack brings the joy-

ous touch of traditional fiddle tunes, reels, lively jigs, and smooth waltzes.

The Sunday worship service will be led by Reverend Kimberley Debus, who recently served as minister at First Universalist Church of Southold, New York. She is currently building a community ministry of the arts in the Capital Region.

Workshops and activities to date include a physics-based workshop on The Inner Workings of the Universe, Painting/Sketching, Tai Chi, Star Island Bead Making, Introduction to Meditation, Meet the World-Wide Goddess, Drumming, Photography, Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and several hikes.

Stop by the UU Weekend table during coffee hour for more information and pick up a registration form or access it at [http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/pdf/Reg\\_form\\_2018-3-10.pdf](http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/pdf/Reg_form_2018-3-10.pdf)

## Albany UU Humanists next meet on Tuesday, May 15 at 7 PM.

The Albany UU Humanists normally meet on the third Tuesday of the month at Albany UU.

We discuss topics applicable to Humanism. Topics are decided by those present at the previous meeting and discussions among regular attendees. Look for details in upcoming issues of Weekly Preview and Sunday announcements, and on the Church DB humanist email list.

We welcome all, particularly those with any interest in agnostic humanism, atheist humanism, religions humanism, spiritual humanism, secular humanism, or you name yours.



## The John Cross Legacy Society

*Supporting the good works of Albany UU through planned giving*



To join the email list go to [members.albanyuu.org](http://members.albanyuu.org), ChurchDB Member Login. Log in, or create a password if you are a new user, click Groups, and add your name to the Albany UU Humanists. Or you may contact Don Odell ([odell.don@gmail.com](mailto:odell.don@gmail.com), (518) 482-4574), or the church office for assistance.

For further information on Humanism in Unitarian Universalism, please go to the UU Humanists website at <http://huumanists.org>. There you will find the UU Humanist blog, feature articles and commentary, and some related Facebook groups. There is also the American Humanist Association's website at <http://americanhumanist.org>.

### Walker Book Group

Join the Walker Book Group for a potluck and book discussion on Sunday, May 13, 2018 at 5:30 pm in Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome.

## Social Justice

### The Poor People's Campaign is coming to Albany – can you provide hospitality?

Beginning on Mother's Day (May 13) and for six weeks thereafter, thousands of activists will be traveling to Albany from throughout the state to participate in weekly meetings and actions in furtherance of the Poor People's Moral Agenda to combat poverty, racism, militarism and ecological devastation. If you are not familiar with this transformational national movement spearheaded by Rev. William J. Barber, learn about it at <https://www.facebook.com/aneppc/> or ask a member of SRC. You can help by hosting visitors in your home; need will be greatest on Sunday nights. If you are able to help, please contact Karen Kaufmann at [kkaufman@nycap.rr.com](mailto:kkaufman@nycap.rr.com) or (518) 477-9034.

### Caring Network

**If you need the services** of the Caring Network, **or to offer your services**, please call or text 518-512-9854 or send an email to [caringnetwork@albanyuu.org](mailto:caringnetwork@albanyuu.org)

**To submit your personal Joys and Sorrows** for sharing with the church community: write on a yellow card in the service or online at [members.albanyuu.org](http://members.albanyuu.org) (under Ministry, select Joys and Sorrows).

**Caring Network Coordinator:** Todd Thomas

We start with a welcoming shared supper which is followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages.

In May, we will discuss the classic *Nineteen Eighty-Four: A Novel* by George Orwell. This satire describes a future, alternate London under a totalitarian regime overseen by the ever-present Big Brother.

In June, we will discuss three short stories from Annie Proulx's *Fine Just the Way It Is: Wyoming Stories*. They are: *Them Old Cowboy Songs*, *Swamp Mischief* and *Testimony of the Donkey*

Contact Linda Hunt at [lhunt@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lhunt@nycap.rr.com) for further information or questions.

### Raise your voice for End of Life Choice NOW

The Assembly Health Committee held a hearing on the Medical Aid in Dying Act (2383A/3151S) on April 23 in Albany and will hold another on May 3 in Manhattan. The April 23 hearing, which corresponded with Lobby Day for Medical Aid in Dying at the Capitol, was attended by supporters from across the state, including many Albany UUs. UU Reverend Richard S. Gilbert of Rochester was among those giving oral testimony.

The Health Committee is still welcoming written testimony. You can email your testimony, by May 3, to Anthony Kergaravat at [kergaravata@nyassembly.gov](mailto:kergaravata@nyassembly.gov). Please contact us if you would like help preparing it. Some tips:

Write your testimony with a sense of the public audience, as it will be a public record. | Be sure to thank the Committee for holding hearings. | State your name and city or town where you live. | Be sure to say that you support the Medical Aid in Dying Act (2383A/3151S) and ask the Committee to pass it. | Explain why you support the Act. If your support is based on personal and/or professional experiences, describe your journey on the issue. | Take the high road, as the campaign to pass the Act is based on compassion and respect for personal decisions. | Emphasize the importance of personal decision making at the end of life, in consultation with doctors and loved ones, with respect for all religious beliefs. | You may want to mention that other states where medical aid in dying is available show an overall improvement in end of life care, including hospice and palliative care, because all options are discussed with terminally ill patients.

--Thayer Heath, Dave Munro, Nancy Willie-Schiff

# Amy Lent

has given her best to us for 16 years and now it's time to show our gratitude... with a party!

**Come celebrate:**

Friday, June 8

7:00 - 10:00pm

Albany UU at 405 Washington Ave.



**Fun! Food! Music & dancing, toasting and roasting!**

Beer, wine, and cake too!

Contributions of savory appetizers are encouraged and appreciated (food without forks, please)

**RSVP** by signing up in Channing Hall or by email to [office@albanyuu.org](mailto:office@albanyuu.org)

For more information, or to help with the event, please contact Tammy Hathaway (at church office) or one of the other organizers: Meredith Mercer, Bobbi Place, Jan McCracken

Help launch Amy into retirement with a memorable gift! Cash/check donations will be gladly accepted the night of the event or contact one of the organizers to arrange your contribution.



# Albany UU Annual Meeting

## Annual Meeting Sunday, May 20, 2018

- 10:00-11:00 **Service**
- 11:00-11:45 **Coffee Hour**
- 11:30-11:45 Parents take children to assigned rooms for **childcare** and sign them in with caregivers
- 11:45 **Annual Meeting** starts in Community Hall

Families needing child care should reserve space by calling the office at 518-463-7135 so that we will be prepared with sufficient caregivers and snacks.

Light snacks (for the adults) will be served during the meeting.

Copies of the proposed budget, and any resolutions to be presented at the meeting, may be picked up in the lobby starting May 7. These will also be available at [www.Members.AlbanyUU.org](http://www.Members.AlbanyUU.org).

Absentee ballots are available for those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting; see information on this page.

Read about the candidates here—And meet them in person at a Meet the Candidates reception after the service on Sunday, May 6.

### Absentee Ballots

Albany UU's bylaws provide for the use of absentee ballots for elections. They are to be used by members who are unable to attend the annual meeting on May 20, 2018. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 6 to Friday, May 18.

**Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 18.**

See page 19 for **information on resolution** to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

### Contested Elections\*\*

#### Nominating Committee

*(2 to be elected for two 3-year terms)*

Sharon Babala, Pat Bailey, Carol Butt, Ann Lapinski  
*(Continuing Nominating Committee members: Mary Applegate, Al DeSalvo, Bob Franklin, Kathy Hodges)*

#### Endowment Trust

*(1 to be elected for 5-year term, 1 to be elected for 2-year term)*

Jeff English, Larry Gambino, Jon Newell  
*(Continuing Endowment Trust members: John Cooley, Jan McCracken, Tom Mercer)*

### Uncontested Elections

#### Officers to be elected (1-year terms)

- President ..... Dick Dana
- Vice-President ..... Patti Jo Newell
- Secretary ..... Linda Hunt
- Treasurer ..... Reese Satin
- Ass't. Treasurer ..... Seth Edelman
- Religious Education Chair\* ..... Jim Hutchins
- Social Responsibilities Chair\* ..... Matt Lesniak

#### Board of Trustees

*(2 to be elected for 3-year terms)*

Meredith Andrews, Frederick Eames  
*(Continuing Board Trustees: Molly Daniels, Lee Newberg, Annika Pfluger, Nancy Shay)*

#### Religious Education Council

*(3 to be elected for 3-year terms)*

Leah Akins, Ela Kessel, Mike Myers  
*(Continuing REC Members: Elizabeth Baldes, Paula Brewer, Michele Desrosiers, Becky Edvalson, Sheila Gray, Liz Halvorson, Amy Jesaitis, Tracie Tilgner)*

#### Social Responsibilities Council

*(2 to be elected for 3-year terms)*

Michael Braunstein, Karen Kaufmann  
*(1 to be elected to 1-year term)*  
Zach Cunningham  
*(Continuing SRC Members: Jean Poppei, Elena Reynolds, Ann von Linden)*

\*Ex-officio member of Board of Trustees

\*\*The bylaws call for the Nominating Committee to be contested

## Albany UU Annual Meeting: Candidates

### 2018-19 elections

#### Officers

##### **President: Dick Dana**

Since joining Albany UU more than 30 years ago, the community has been instrumental in guiding me to, and mentoring me in, positions of leadership and responsibility, for which I will always be grateful. I have had the opportunity and pleasure to serve in many leadership roles, from chair of the Music Committee, my first leadership role in the early 1980s, to co-chair of the Book Sale Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees for several years in the late 1990s, including two years as vice president in the early 2000s. More recently, I have served as chair of, in chronological order, the Personnel Committee, Albany UU's ARISE Core Team, the Refugee Resettlement Project, and the Stewardship Committee, before being elected vice president. Other committees I have served on include the Religious Education Council, Dream Catchers (preparing our latest 5-year plan), the Nominating Committee, and several incarnations of the New Building Committee (Emerson Community Hall). Most recently, I was asked by the Board of Trustees to explore introducing the Growth Through Service program here at Albany UU. Growth Through Service is a unique approach to volunteering that has the potential to greatly aid us in achieving our mission, and to make Albany UU an even more exciting and rewarding community to be a part of. If elected, I look forward to continuing to work with the Board on Growth Through Service as well as many other exciting initiatives that the Albany UU leadership is currently exploring, including changes to our governance structure.



##### **Vice President: Patti Jo Newell**

I am honored to be considered to serve as vice-president on the Board of Trustees. Albany UU has been central to our family for over two decades. I have learned and benefited most while active in the community, and have had the



privilege of doing so in a variety of contexts. From co-chair of the erstwhile Social Events Committee to earlier terms as trustee and vice-president of the Albany UU Board and ad hoc committee work such as Welcoming Congregation, Habitat for Humanity, Safe Congregation Policy to regular stints in various Religious Education classes, I've been impressed by the strength and vitality of our community. I am currently enjoying the challenges and rewards of chairing the Public Relations Committee, and working with both of those fine groups of people. As someone passionate about the vitality of a congregational polity, if elected to the post of vice-president, I would work to promote policy and program that would best reflect and serve the breadth of experience and need at Albany UU. These are exciting times for us as we continue to expand and grow, and I'd be honored to be a part of the leadership that helps us move in the direction we want to go.

##### **Secretary: Linda Hunt**

I meet all of the qualifications to serve and perform the duties of secretary of the Board of Trustees. I have been a member in good standing of this congregation since 1992. My prior volunteer experience shows my ability to act as clerk of the Board of Trustees and to keep a record of the proceedings of the Society and the Board. I have served as co-chair and have taken minutes for the Auction Committee during 2015-16. I took minutes for the Personnel Committee in 2014-2015. I also took minutes for the Religious Education Council during my service in the 1990's. I have developed and used listening, notetaking and writing skills in my former employment as an attorney, and in my retirement activities, including volunteer mediation. I have the necessary computer skills to arrange for the posting of minutes of the Board and congregational meetings. Based on my organizational skills and records management experience, I am qualified to act successfully to ensure the preservation of historically significant records of the Society.



##### **Treasurer: Reese Satin**

I've been at Albany UU since 1989 and served in many elected and unelected leadership roles as well as per-

formed those non-leadership functions that hold our community together. My financial work at Albany UU has been as Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee and



the Endowment Trust, and playing a leading role in arranging and developing the financing of the building expansion. I am also Treasurer for UU Weekend at Silver Bay.

Outside Albany UU, I am Treasurer for the Walden Fields Homeowners Association and was Treasurer for Vanguard — Albany Symphony Orchestra.

I believe an organization’s true values are expressed in how it uses its financial resources. I believe our budget presents a different picture than our Mission Statement. If elected Treasurer, I will work to conserve and use Albany UU’s resources more effectively, consistent with the office of Treasurer and the Society’s mission.

**Assistant Treasurer: Seth Edelman**

I have been a member for 28 years. In the past, I was a Treasurer, member of the Board, chair of a number of committees, member of the Nominating Committee, etc. I am a retired State manager with significant experience in budgeting, revenue management and contracting. I am pleased to volunteer for this necessary job and look forward to working with Reese Satin as Treasurer.



**Trustees:**

**Meredith Andrews**

I have been a member of Albany UU for 16 years, but I have been a UU all of my life. My family moved to Albany in 2001, and I joined Albany UU soon thereafter.



Since then I have taught Sunday School and have been a member of several committees. I helped with the Seder for several years, and have been a member of the Committee on Professional Ministry, UU Weekend at Silver Bay Committee, the Worship Cabinet, the Stewardship Committee and the Nominating Committee. I look forward to serving on the Board of

Trustees. I bring to the Board my perspective as a mother with children who have been in the RE program, as a teacher for many years, and with the experience of being a lifelong Unitarian Universalist.

**Frederick Eames**

I am a nearly-retired physician (radiologist) who has been with Community Care Physicians and Albany Medical Center since his training was completed in 1984. I grew up near Utica, then settled in Delmar after college, medical school, and marrying my Pittsburgh-born wife Barbara. We have 4 children and 5



grandchildren, all living in the Northeast. After attending Delmar Presbyterian Church for many years, I joined Albany UU in 2008 and have been happy to feel included in this community of free-thinking, sharing, caring, open-minded people who are committed to a vision of loving and responsible activity in the local and world community. At Albany UU, besides regular attendance of Sunday services, I am a frequent participant in the morning Meditation group, and a frequent volunteer usher and coffee host. I have been an SRC member, and am a ‘liaison’ to the CDAUH (Capital District Association for Universal Healthcare.) I am active in the chorus of the Mendelssohn Club of Albany, and am a past-president of that group. I am proud to be a Winter-46er of the Adirondacks! I am on the Board of Directors of Koinonia Primary Care, Inc, Dr. Robert Paeglow’s clinic in the West Hill neighborhood of Albany. My wife and I are also on the Board of Directors of the Cotillion ballroom dance club.

**Religious Education Council Chair**

**Jim Hutchins**

I have been a member of Albany UU for over 15 years. My spouse, Laura Churchill, and I have 3 children: Alex, Zoe, and Charlotte. All three attended Albany UU’s RE Program. I have always appreciated the Religious Education Program and how it has helped my children develop into ethical, compassionate and open people. I have taught RE myself each semester since we joined Albany UU. Inspired in part by my experiences with teaching RE, 9 years



ago I became a middle school science teacher. As a beneficiary of and long-time participant in Albany UU’s RE Program, I would welcome the opportunity to serve as chair of the Religious Education Council.

### Religious Education Council Members

#### **Leah Akins**

I and my family (Matt, Eliza, and Flora Schlesinger) have been attending Albany UU for the past six years. Eliza



and Flora are growing up and flourishing in the RE family. I have been an RE teacher for the pre-school-4th grade classes. I believe that giving our children the opportunity to explore their beliefs and values in a supportive, inclusive

environment is a priceless treasure of the RE program. I look forward to helping care and nurture this treasure with the RE Council.

#### **Ela Kessel**

Albany UU’s Religious Education Program has been a part of my life for the last nine years. I have watched my two kids go through Sunday School, OWL, and now Rite of Passage. Whether I was assisting in Sunday School, talking to other parents, or participating in Children’s



Chapel, I always felt fortunate that our kids have the opportunity to grow up surrounded by this caring, inclusive and open-minded congregation.

As a school social worker, I spend my days helping children who struggle socially and/or emotionally. Many of my

students and their families face issues related to poverty, social inequality, and lack of resources.

UU ideas of inclusion, fairness, social justice are inherently woven into my personal and professional life and remind me daily of our responsibility to work for the change we want to see in the world.

I am excited to be joining the Religious Education Council to continue this work and to be a part of a program I have learned to value greatly over the years.

I live in Delmar with my husband, Tyler, and our two children, Zosia (15) and Henryk (15).

#### **Mike Myers**

I have been an active member of Albany UU for about ten years. In addition to serving on the nominating and ministry committees this past year, I have taught RE, been parliamentarian at annual meetings, and worked on the mission statement team in 2014. I enjoy attending church services and events with my wife Anne Savage, and children Katie and Alex Myers.



### Social Responsibilities Council Chair

#### **Matt Lesniak**

I am a long-time Albany resident and a relatively new member of Albany UU, having joined in 2014 with my



partner Vanessa Cayford. I served on the board of the Homeless Action Committee (HAC), an advocacy and service organization focusing on harm reduction for people in Albany. Vanessa and I met while working with HAC in an overflow shelter and on the outreach van.

We would like to instill in our daughter, Julia, the privilege and

dignity of helping others.

The Albany UU community is incredibly gifted and the SRC has an important role to play in helping it in make positive change in the world. I hope to forward that spirit and that work by serving as chair of the SRC.

### Social Responsibilities Council

#### **Michael Braunstein**

I grew up in the Deep South where my liberal politics were cemented by watching the coalition building that was necessary for the success of the civil rights movement and also the Southern Baptist/KKK coalition. I view the only way for society to progress is by engaging with and including our



neighbors in the discussion and progression of society. During my years as a newspaper reporter I observed the politics of constituencies first hand, and during a decade in New York City I observed the disorganization of the activist community first hand, starting with attending lectures up to Occupy Wall Street. I also had numerous experiences working with and for the other group, the one percent while living in Rockland County and New York City. Building a better society for all of us is an imperative for societal survival.

**Zach Cunningham**

I and my partner Kelly Smith joined Albany UU in early 2017, and we have been attending since we moved to Albany in 2015. This is my first venture into service at Albany UU, and I look forward to giving back to a community that has welcomed me so warmly. I have spent most of my adult life fighting for social and economic justice as a teacher, a universal healthcare advocate, and a labor organizer. I currently work as an educator with a statewide union based in Albany.



On the Social Responsibilities Council, I am excited to work on projects that advance environmental sustainability and promote racial justice. I also hope to continue providing meaningful direct service opportunities in the area for Albany UU members. In my free time, I enjoy playing music, reading, and exploring the natural beauty in our region.

**Karen Kaufmann**

I joined Albany UU in 2009, largely because of this community’s fundamental commitment to social responsibility, and quickly gravitated toward SRC as a means of taking action to “give back.” I have been proud to serve SRC as both elected member and chair, participating in and helping coordinate numerous worthwhile projects such as storm relief trips and the Sheridan Prep playground, maintaining ongoing direct service to the homeless and



FOCUS food programs, and sponsorship of presentations and discussions that raise awareness of racism, poverty and justice issues among our congregation and community, including parole justice and refugee and immigrant issues and peace and environmental advocacy. I have been heavily involved in advocacy of social justice issues to governmental policymakers through FOCUS Advocacy and Interfaith Impact, maintaining liaison with SRC. Advocacy has been a particular interest of mine after a career as a state government lawyer.

Besides SRC, I have greatly enjoyed participating in Albany UU programs such as Small Group Ministry, Well-spring and Beloved Conversations, as well as workshops and other lifespan learning opportunities. I currently also serve on the Personnel Committee, Inclusivity Team, Sanctuary Committee, and Green Sanctuary. I hope to continue close involvement with SRC activities as an elected member for a new term, combining service with personal spiritual growth.

**Nominating Committee**

**Sharon Babala**

I’ve been a member of Albany UU for about 20 years and have served in many different capacities. Currently I’m finishing up a 5 year term on the Endowment Trust. My previous (and some current) activities here are Auction Committee, RE, Receptions, Caring Network, Pastoral Care, Ministerial Intern Committee, Fun Dance party, Wellspring, a little bit of stewardship, announcer and service leader. I’m interested in becoming a member of the nominations team to work with you in building leadership and growing a caring inclusive community that will exist 100 years from now.



**Pat Bailey**

As a lifelong Unitarian; first in Shaker Heights, Ohio and since 1982, in Albany UU, I remain a Unitarian in mind and heart. I have been a consistent supporter, both financially and physically of Albany UU and I have been the Historian and Archivist since 2014. I continue to sing with the choir as I have since 2008. My other Com-



mittee activities include working on the Auction Committee, the music committee and on previous years' Stewardship committees.

I am retired and my work history includes 35 years in the Credit Union Industry and for the last 16 years as the CEO of the Columbia Green FCU in Hudson, NY. I have a BS from the University of Cincinnati. Other outside activities include; The Southern Rensselaer County Rotary Club where I am currently the Secretary and the Friends of the Nassau Free Library as Treasurer. I look forward with optimism on the future of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Albany.

**Carol Butt**

I have been a friend or member of Albany UU for over 40 years, previously served on the Social Responsibilities



Council, RE Council, taught RE, had two children grow through Albany UU from nursery to senior high school, managed the blanket box for many years, tried to get our leftovers to the shelters and attempted to connect things we no longer need to those who need them. I have been an active member of the Green Sanctuary Committee and engaged with all ages, including

RE classes, on green issues. I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee.

**Ann Lapinski**

I have been a member of Albany UU since 1990. I have been active in the congregation in various ways including teaching RE, RE Council, membership committee, growth through service, coffee hour organizer and, most recently, participating in and facilitating Wellspring. I am happy that this congregation is my home.



**Endowment Trust**

**Jeff English**

I am Jeff English (not to be confused with brother Ben

English, who is a member of the Board of Trustees). My association with Albany UU began in 1956 when I was a

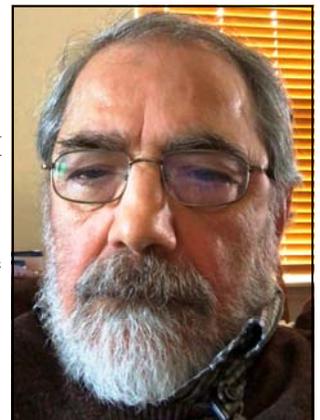


pre-schooler, and while I drifted away in my young-adulthood, I came back around and signed the membership book over 25 years ago. Lorraine and I were married in the sanctuary in 1992. As an engineer by training and an objective thinker by nature, I am well suited to play a role working for the Endowment Trust. The endowment is a founda-

tional financial tool to support Albany UU's long-term mission and is therefore essential to be managed with a rational approach and a view deep into the future. I will bring a steady hand to the responsibility to build the endowment's asset value, balanced with maintaining ethical standards in alignment with UU principles.

**Larry Gambino**

I have been a member since 1991. I have served on the board of trustees, SRC, the finance committee and was chair of the accessibility committee. I have taught in the RE program and mentored a student in the Rite of Passage program. I have ushered led services and given summer services.



I believe I have the necessary skills to administer the endowment trust. I am familiar with financial instruments and have reviewed proposals.

**Jon Newell**

I have been a member of Albany UU since the middle years of John Corrado's ministry. I have served on the Personnel Committee, the Canvass Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Looking Forward Campaign, the Mission Statement Task Force, and the Board of Trustees. I co-chaired the Conflict Management Committee in 1995, and was President from 1996



through 1999. I claim no special knowledge or experience in investing or managing money; I'm a Professor of Engineering with experience spending other people's money. I

do think I understand Albany UU's people and goals, and I expect I can bring some judgment to the work of the Endowment Trust.

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## SHALL WE BE A SANCTUARY CONGREGATION AGAIN?

### Congregational Vote on May 20, 2018

In 1984, the Times-Union reported that the First Unitarian Society of Albany (as we were then known) had publicly declared ourselves to be a Sanctuary Congregation, had partnered with the Albany Friends Meeting (Quakers), and were risking civil disobedience to offer sheltering to Central American refugees who were at risk for deportation back to the violence in their war-torn home countries.

Today we are again witnessing the enforcement of immigration policies that many of us view as unjust and inhumane, whereby certain ethnic groups are targeted, families face being torn apart, and long-term and productive community members face deportation to home countries where they are virtual strangers. This situation calls us to consider acting upon our Unitarian Universalist Principles by again invoking the concept of Sanctuary Congregation, which includes many forms of support to, and solidarity with, undocumented people.

Following an informational forum this past January presented by Terry Diggory of the Saratoga Presbyterian congregation, a Sanctuary Team began meet-

ing and researching the issues surrounding the concept of Sanctuary Congregation, including consulting with experts in immigration law. The Team developed a draft Congregational Resolution, conducted three Congregational Conversations, and refined the Resolution for presentation to our Board of Trustees, which on April 19 endorsed the Resolution for consideration by the full congregation at our Annual Meeting on May 20. **The text of the Resolution is available at:** [http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/pdf/sanctuary\\_resolution\\_final\\_2018.pdf](http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/pdf/sanctuary_resolution_final_2018.pdf) or just go to [members.albanyuu.org](http://members.albanyuu.org) and find the link on the home page.

Please read and reflect upon the Resolution in preparation for the vote at our Annual Meeting. If you have questions or want more information about this issue, feel free to speak with a member of the Sanctuary Team: Eileen Casey-Campbell, Matt Lesniak, Jean Poppei, Dave Munro, Elizabeth Berberian, Arlene Gilbert, Jerry Deighan, Winston Hagborg, Deb Dewey, Zach Cunningham and Karen Kaufmann.

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## Contact Us

### Board of Trustees 2017-2018

#### Officers

Dick Dana, President  
Patti Jo Newell, Vice President  
Kathy Harris, Treasurer  
Linda Hunt, Secretary

#### Trustees

Al Berzinis  
Molly Daniels  
Lee Newberg  
Jon Newell  
Annika Pfluger  
Nancy Shay

#### Ex-officio Members

Sam Trumbore, Minister  
Jim Hutchins, Chair, Religious Education Council  
Matt Lesniak, Chair, Social Responsibilities Council

#### Elected Officer (not on Board of Trustees)

Michaela Pochily, Assistant Treasurer

### Staff

#### Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore, strumbore@uumin.org

#### Church Administrator

Amy Lent, alent@albanyuu.org

#### Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell, dre@albanyuu.org

#### Music Director

Dr. Richard Porterfield,  
music.director@albanyuu.org

#### Ministerial Intern

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eoconnorcasey@gmail.com

#### Administrative Assistant

Tammy Hathaway, office@albanyuu.org

#### Custodians

Cameron Holloway  
Izzy Wright

### First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

**Phone:** 518.463.7135

**Address:** 405 Washington Avenue, between Robin Street and Lake Avenue, Albany, New York 12206

**Main entrance** is on Washington Avenue. Rear entrance is on West St. Both have ramp access. The building is fully handicapped accessible.

**Parking:** Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) Albany UU has permission to use the University at Albany's Hawley Parking Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue.

#### Office hours

*September-June:* Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00

*July-August:* Monday–Thursday 9:00-1:00

#### Websites

*General:* [www.AlbanyUU.org](http://www.AlbanyUU.org)

*Resources:* [www.members.AlbanyUU.org](http://www.members.AlbanyUU.org)

#### Building use

To **reserve a room** for an Albany UU activity, contact Administrative Assistant Tammy Hathaway (518.463.7135 or [office@albanyuu.org](mailto:office@albanyuu.org)).

To **rent hall or classroom space** for a personal or non-Albany UU activity, contact Church Administrator Amy Lent (518.463.7135 or [admin@albanyuu.org](mailto:admin@albanyuu.org)).

#### Regular meeting days

*Check current calendar for time and location*

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday

Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday

Religious Education Council, 1st Monday

Social Responsibilities Council, 3rd Sunday

**Windows** is the newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. It is published monthly, except July and August, in the offices of the Society at 405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, and distributed to members and friends of the Society. Church office phone is 518-463-7135.

*Editor:* Amy Lent

*Send submissions for all publications to:*  
[Windows@AlbanyUU.org](mailto:Windows@AlbanyUU.org) or to the church office.

#### Publication deadlines

*Preview email:* 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

*Order of Service:* 9:00 a.m. Thursdays

*Windows:* 9:00 a.m. 3rd Friday of the month

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