

# 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, Wellspring 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

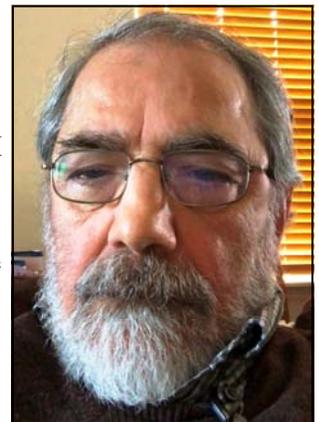


pre-schooler, and while I drifted away in my young-adulthood, I came back around and signed the membership book over 25 years ago. Lorraine and I were married in the sanctuary in 1992. As an engineer by training and an objective thinker by nature, I am well suited to play a role working for the Endowment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

---

## 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.

---