

Nominees for the UUAA Board of Trustees- Officers

Vice President: Margie Teall

"I was first introduced to Unitarian Universalism through the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, where I became their Director of Religious Education for two years before moving to Ann Arbor, where I joined the staff as the Assistant Director of Religious Education from 1995 to 1997. After stepping away from that position, I served on the Board of Trustees as the liaison from the RE Committee. I was on the Board through the move to our current location here on Ann Arbor-Saline Road.

My now-grown daughters, Clara and Gillian, both fully participated in SGD programs, including Coming of Age, and Clara and I were both fortunate to also participate in the Mothers and Maidens class that was offered at the time. I have attended several UU General Assemblies, which have shaped my own worldview greatly.

I have served UUAA in a number of other positions including facilitating Coming of Age, participating in the Arts and Aesthetics Committee, and working on the 150th Anniversary programs last year. I am also involved with a women's circle that started through our Cakes for the Queen of Heaven class. This women's group has been together for almost 20 years.

In 2000, I worked to get 100 Ann Arborites, including many UUAA members, to participate in the Million Mom March for sensible gun laws. The Ann Arbor chapter of the organization that developed out of that effort continued to meet for several years at this church.

In 2002, I ran for a seat on Ann Arbor's City Council and served as a 4th Ward Representative for six terms, totaling 12 years. I served on many councils and committees focusing on affordable housing, human services, and the environment. I now serve on the Board of Directors of Recycle Ann Arbor and am active in the National Wildlife Federation, League of Conservation Voters. I also work on issues of prisoner re-entry and mass incarceration.

I look forward to serving this Congregation again, as we enter a new era of leadership and service. Thank you for your consideration."

Secretary: Cathie Breidenbach

"My husband Hal and I moved to Ann Arbor almost six years ago and straight away joined UUAA because we knew that being part of an active UU church was an important part of our lives. We'd been members of the Birmingham UU church for 25 years and raised our three now-grown daughters there. So when I retired from Oakland University after 20 years of teaching Writing and Rhetoric, we moved to Ann Arbor, the town where we and three generations of our family had gone to school. It felt like coming home.

At UUAA, I've been involved with the UUSC Coffee Project, the Book Discussion Group, the Humanists, Round Robin Dinners, study groups, Family Camp with our grand kids, and the Khasi Hills Project. In June, I'll attend GA in Columbus, having been to three other GAs over the years, and in October, we'll visit the Khasi Hills with the UUAA group.

I love English country and contra dancing, theater, food (in all its aesthetic, health, and political aspects), camping, cross-country skiing, biking, acrylic painting, and travel-- a passion that began years ago as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia and has continued ever since. I look forward to serving UUAA as board secretary."

Nominees for Board of Trustees - At Large

Jim Schaefer

"My history with the UU community goes back about 20 years when my wife and I were searching for a spiritual community for our young family. Raised a Presbyterian, I found an open-minded community, principles I could believe in, and different words to all the hymns.

Over my time at UUAA, I have led the Coming of Age program for two years and was a mentor four times. I have helped plan almost all of the 16 men's retreats and have led the retreat two times. My wife and I taught the 8th grade Our Whole Lives sexuality class for four years which broadened my understanding of sexuality, gender, and relationships. The Congregation has supported me through my association with men's groups as well as providing meals and love during difficult times with my disabled son. In my non-UU hours, I make my living working for myself as an engineer programming machines to do various things. I love music and am currently learning to fiddle better, since my trombone playing discourages campfire sing-a-longs. As a board member I will advocate for programs and activities that will enable new and existing members to feel connected to each other. This Congregation has flourished over the years and I hope to help contribute to its continued success."

Laura Bolletino

"I'm from New York originally (born in Greenwich Village, grew up mostly on Long Island) and have been living in Ann Arbor more than 30 years; long enough that I'm practically an Ann Arbor native. I first attended a service at UUAA in 2007, during David Keyes' year as interim minister, and immediately felt that I'd come home. I've been here ever since, and I joined the church in 2008.

I've been involved in the church in a variety of capacities: in Interweave, the Denominational Connections Team, the Leading with Love class, a Chalice Circle, etc. I went on the church's pilgrimage to Transylvania in 2011. I've gone to General Assembly six times, including twice as an off-site delegate. I've thought for several years that I'd like to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees someday, and this feels like the right time.

I enjoy puzzles and reading, especially science fiction and fantasy, and I'm interested in history. When inspiration strikes, I write funny songs. I love to travel, and I have ambitions of de-cluttering my house."

Tricia Mooney (second 2-year term)

Tricia is a life-long Michigander. She attended the University of Michigan, where she majored in mathematics and met her husband Pete. Trish currently works as an actuary/computer programmer, specializing in software used in calculating employee benefits.

Tricia and Pete have been attending the Congregation regularly since 2001, after going on a several-month "church crawl". Tricia has taken various adult classes at UUAA. She began teaching SGD classes around 2005 and enjoys spending time with the children in her classes. Since 2003, she has also been on the Webtech Team, which helps to maintain and design the Congregation's website. Tricia has also served as entertainment chair for the annual auction fundraiser. Most recently, she has been on the Board of Trustees for the last 2 years and is excited to remain on the Board to help UUAA through the ministerial transition.

Outside of work and church, Tricia loves music, both playing the piano and attending performances of various styles of music, with jazz being her favorite. She creates stained glass and mosaic artwork, and enjoys old-fashioned wood jigsaw puzzles. Tricia is a fervent animal lover, supporting the Humane Society and other animal charities. Her greatest passion, however, is for the Michigan men's basketball team. She attends every home game and watches every away game. Go Blue!

Nominees for Leadership Development Team:

Elizabeth LaPorte

"After years of searching for a place to explore my spiritual beliefs in a community with others, I found UUAA. At the time I signed the membership book, Reverend Gail was still new as Senior Minister and CEO. Interested in volunteering, I began with the Sunday Welcome Team as a greeter. Recently, I completed four years of service for the Board of Trustees, and served as president for a year. In addition to my experience on the board, I bring to the table nearly 30 years of experience in communication and public outreach, planning, program management and evaluation, developing procedures, meeting facilitation, and a strong history and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. While serving on the board, I became increasingly interested in leadership development. Communicating how we lead and cultivate good leaders is key to the future of this Congregation. I look forward to contributing my time, in collaboration with others on the LDT, to recruit potential board candidates and promote leadership at UUAA.

Outside of UUAA, I began working at the University of Michigan in 1988, about the same time I met my spouse. Currently, I am a Science Outreach Manager at U-M focusing on the intersection of sustainability and water quality, climate, engineering, urban planning, and other disciplines. When it comes to sustainability outside work, I walk the talk. At home, we have naturalized an acre, reducing mowing by planting trees; compost and recycle as much as possible; grow our own vegetables; and conserve energy. All of these efforts are ingrained in how we live and are part of our commitment to future generations."

Dee Dishon (second 2-year term)

"I started attending UUAA in February 2011 after moving back to Michigan from the DC area. I joined the church in May of that year and was a member of the Chalice Singers for 2 years. I have been on the Alpha House planning committee as well as the Auction Planning Team. For the last two years, I have been member of the Leadership Development Team.

I grew up in the Baptist and Methodist churches. My experience in leadership in Unity of Fairfax, as well as the UU Congregation of Fairfax, included the choir and Board of Directors, as well as leadership roles in auctions, fellowship, and welcoming new members. I bring skills of communication, cooperation, group process, and presentation skills not only from my career as a teacher and an educational consultant, but also from my 15 years of living in co-housing. I am now retired and devote a great deal of my time to various areas of leadership within the Touchstone community.

I have been honored to be a member of the Leadership Development Team for one two-year term and trust that my continued participation will be of benefit to UUAA leaders in particular and the Congregation in general."