

Albany UU Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting Sunday, May 19, 2019

- 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 to be presented at the meeting, may be picked up in the lobby starting Sunday, May 5. These will also be available at www.Members.AlbanyUU.org.

Absentee ballots are available for those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting; see information at right.

Read about the candidates below—or pick up a paper copy in the lobby beginning Sunday, May 5.

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 19, 2019. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 5 to Friday, May 17.

Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 17.

Contested Elections**

Board of Trustees

(2 to be elected for 3-year terms, 1 to be elected for 1-year term)

Zach Cunningham, Jan McCracken, Amie Jamieson
(Continuing Board Trustees: Meredith Andrews, Fred Eames, Nancy Shay)

Endowment Trust

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

Paul Moskowitz, Peter Schaeffing
(Continuing Endowment Trust members: Jeff English, Tom Mercer, Jon Newell)

Nominating Committee

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

Randy Rosette, Kelly Smith, Mike Babala
(Continuing Nominating Committee members: Mary Applegate, Sharon Babala, Pat Bailey, Al DeSalvo)

Uncontested Elections

Officers to be elected (1-year terms)

President..... Patti Jo Newell
Vice-President..... David MacLeod
Secretary..... Molly Daniels
Co-Treasurers..... Reese Satin, Seth Edelman
Ass't. Treasurer..... Kathy Harris
Religious Education Chair* Leah Akins
Social Responsibilities Chair* Matt Lesniak

Religious Education Council

(3 to be elected for 3-year terms)

Winston Hagborg, Jim Hutchins, Darnell Rohrbaugh
(Continuing REC Members: Paula Brewer, Michele Desrosiers, Liz Halvorson, Ela Kessel, Mike Myers)

Social Responsibilities Council

(2 to be elected to 3-year terms)

Crystal Papps, Mark Abendroth
(Continuing SRC Members: Michael Braunstein, Karen Kaufmann, Jean Poppei, 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

2019-20 elections

Officers

President: Patti Jo Newell

I am honored to be considered to serve as 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 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 serving as an officer on the Board of Trustees, as a member of the Covenant Team, co-chairing the Inclusivity Team, and working with each of those fine groups of people.



As someone passionate about the vitality of congregational polity, if elected to the post of 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.

Vice President: David MacLeod

I grew up in Upstate, NY and Connecticut, joined the Marine Corps from 1972-74, and attended the University of Buffalo. Between working as a designer/drafter for Naval



Architects and Marine Engineers, I attended a summer program in Landscape Architecture at Harvard. In 1982, I attended graduate school at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry to study land use planning. I began working for the New York Department of State in Albany in 1991 doing coastal resource management planning,

local government education, and community revitalization for neighborhoods affected by contaminated and

abandoned properties.

I joined Albany UU when my son Neil became old enough for RE. I have sung in the choir for nine years, performed in skits at the Annual Dinner, and served as MC for the Silver Bay Talent Show and Annual Auction. I am married to Debbie Reep MacLeod who is very active in the church, as well. I am looking forward to retiring from the State at the end of September, this year.

Secretary: Molly Daniels

I am excited for the opportunity to serve Albany UU as Secretary on the Board of Trustees. I have been on the Board for the past two years as a Trustee and on the Governance Work Group so I am familiar with the current initiatives. Prior to that I was Youth Advisor, on the Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Chair of the Religious Education Council, RE Volunteer and RE Council member. I was born and raised Unitarian Universalist and have attended several different congregations before settling with my family in Albany. My husband Mark and I joined this congregation in 2001.



Co-Treasurer: Reese Satin

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



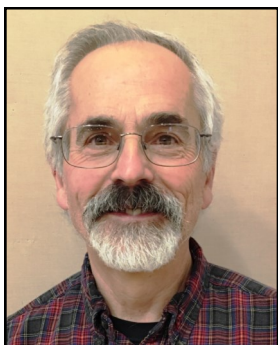
Outside Albany UU, I am Treasurer for the Walden Fields Homeowners Association and was Treasurer for Vanguard — Albany Symphony Orchestra.

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 Co-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.

Co-Treasurer: Seth Edelman

I have been a member for 29 years. I am currently the Assistant Treasurer. 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 closely with Reese Satin as Co-Treasurer



Assistant Treasurer. 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

Assistant Treasurer: Kathy Harris

I recently served as Albany UU's Treasurer for three years and enjoyed all the mechanics of the job. Annual balanced budgets and monthly Treasurer reports were available on time. I really loves numbers and spreadsheets. I look forward to working with the Albany UU Office staff, Treasurers and others involved in ensuring the fiscal viability of our wonderful institution, including those who donate their time, talent and treasure.



Trustees:

Zach Cunningham

I have been an Albany UU member since 2017. Since joining, I have been active in the life of the congregation and served on the Social Responsibilities Council for the past two years. During this time, I helped to draft and pass the 2018 resolution establishing Albany UU as a sanctuary congregation.



Over the past few months, I co-facilitated interviews with several congregants as a part of Rev. Sam's evaluation process.

Through this process, I have learned more about the congregation and formed stronger relationships with several church leaders. Currently, I am

working to deepen my spiritual connection to UUism through the Wellspring program.

Since moving to Albany in 2015, I have served as a labor educator with the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA). I am also president of the United Union Employees-New York, which represents over 100 staff members at CSEA. I am a proud resident of the City of Albany, where I live with my wife Kelly and dog Rocky.

Amy Jamieson

I joined Albany UU in early 2017, not long after moving to Albany. Since joining I have participated in the Stewardship Committee and Conversation Leaders, and helped to organize the wine and cheese fundraiser. Meeting new and long-term members is something I love to do, so have also enjoyed serving as a greeter and introducing people to Albany UU at Getting to Know UU. I am committed to Albany UU and its future, and am appreciative of the opportunity to contribute to the congregation by serving as a Trustee.



Outside of Albany UU I work as an attorney at the New York Independent System Operator and volunteer as a homework helper at The Refugee Welcome Center. I love living in Albany with my husband, Rick Piet, and four cats.

Jan McCracken

I grew up in this congregation, attended Sunday School throughout my childhood, was active in youth group (LRY) and arranged my teen years around youth conferences and Unirondack. I suppose my profile might position me as one of the "old guard," but not yet wise elder!



With deep respect to our traditions, I also yearn for the evolving door to be open, to new faces, ideas, perspectives, and innovation. Since this has been my religious home for decades, my portfolio is thick with experiences and activities. Let's have a cup of coffee or glass of wine, and I'll gladly bore you with

the details! I have been on the Board in two capacities; first as RE Chair and second as Secretary. This time, I am eager to serve as a "regular" Board member. I am excited

about the prospects of a reformed governance system and looking forward to supporting a congregational Covenant in the making. I feel committed to the diverse ways we explore and act for social justice and take care of each other. I strongly support our RE program of which I am a life-long fan. I enjoy the partnership with our awesome staff, who dazzle me with their commitment and integrity. With gratitude to be asked to serve the congregation as a Board member, I will do my best which is the best I can do!

Religious Education Council Chair

Leah Akins

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



and Flora, now 10 and 7 years old, are growing up and flourishing in the RE family. I have been an RE teacher for the preschool-4th grade classes and served on the REC for the past year. 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 am a land use planner with the New York Planning Federation, a Girl Scout troop leader, Board member of Tivoli Lake Preserve and Community Farm, passionate about environmental and social issues, nature and crafting lover, and a jack of all trades i.e. a mom. I look forward to continuing to help care and nurture our UU youth programs as the RE Council Chair. Watch out the two Leahs are joining forces!

Religious Education Council Members

Winston Hagborg

I am a retired school psychologist and have been a member of Albany UU for 30 years. I have served as an RE Teacher almost every year and a Mentor three times in the Rite of Passage Program. Both my adult children participated in our excellent RE Program which I appreciate and hope to assist in serving on the RE Council.



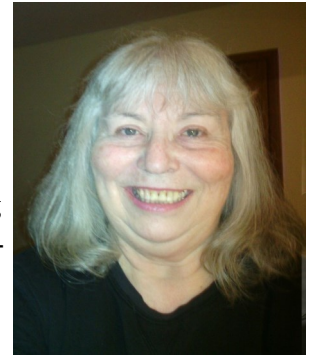
Jim Hutchins

Jim Hutchins, and his spouse, Laura Churchill, have been members of Albany UU for about 20 years. Their 3 children (Alex, Zoe, and Charlotte) were all participants in the RE Program. Jim has served as an RE teacher/guide continuously since 2000. He has served on the REC since 2015 and has served as Chair for the past 2 years. Jim works as a 7th grade Science teacher in the Greenville School District



Darnell Rohrbaugh

I started attending Albany UU in 1983 because of the RE program. I wanted my children to have the moral and social values I was teaching them reinforced. I wanted them to be introduced to spiritually and religion in a way that let them experience, explore and decide for themselves what they believed and practiced. I wanted them to feel part of a welcoming community. I brought my grandchildren for the same reasons. My commitment to the RE program meant I volunteered in RE, teaching at least part of the year for many of the years since. I have taken some years off and it has been a joy watching the children grow up here. Professionally, I am a retired teacher spending most of my teaching career in special education. I have served on the RE council in the past and will continue to support our children by serving on the RE council again.



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 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

Mark Abendroth

I have been active in social movements since the mid 1980s, when, as a graduate student at Syracuse University, I participated in demonstrations calling for the university to divest from funds that supported South Africa's racist apartheid system. I work as an associate professor of education at SUNY Empire State College. I enjoy singing in the Albany UU choir and the Justice Singers of the Capital Region. I live with my wife, Liliana Abendroth, in Albany.



Crystal Papps

I have been a member of Albany UU for 2 years. I have a husband, Sean, and an 8-month old son, Liam. I work as a nurse at Albany Medical Center and currently reside in Rensselaer, having lived in the Capital Region for 16 years. I am originally from a very small town in the Adirondacks called Star Lake and while I miss small-town life, have definitely gotten used to the convenience of city living! In my spare time, I like to knit. I am excited for this opportunity to serve our community, and to get to know some of you a little better!



Nominating Committee

Randy Rosette

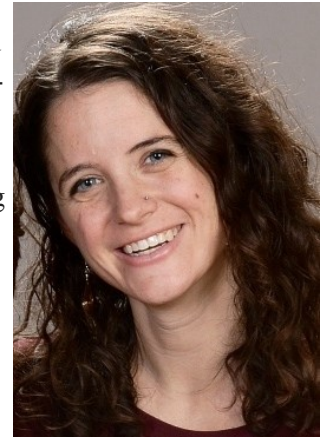
When I arrived on Albany UUs doorstep in 1992, I was pleased to see a few familiar faces from my work environment at a local pharmacy clinic. Little did I realize that my husband and I would make Albany UU our



"community" and spiritual home. Since then, I have been honored to serve as Secretary and Board member, as well as on the Personnel, Nominating, and Finance Committees. My past involvement as RE teacher, Rite of Passage mentor, AYS/OWL and youth group leader was rewarding and allowed me to keep in touch with our younger participants. Currently I serve as a Pastoral Care Associate, Religious Services Committee member, Music Associate, and Summer Service Coordinator. I also enjoy working with the Auction committee and you will often see me selling soup and hot fudge as well as singing my heart out in the choir. Outside Albany UU, I practice as an independent pharmacist and manage my music performance business.

Kelly Smith

I joined Albany UU, with my husband Zach, two years ago with the intention of deepening my spiritual journey. Since then, I have participated in the Covenant Committee and Meaning Matters. I am committed to finding the strengths and gifts in others and hope to utilize this skill on the Nominating Committee. With a desire to increase the diversity in leadership and committee membership at Albany UU, I hope to help encourage and empower the next generation of Albany UU leaders. I live in the Pine Hills neighborhood of Albany with my husband and dog and teach fourth grade in New Lebanon. You can find me this summer at the dog park or trying to weed my way through my first community garden plot.



In the upcoming election, I ask you to consider me for a position on the Nominating Committee. I would like to help find the "right" candidates to serve in the varied capacities that are required to keep Albany UU a strong and vigorous community. Thank you.

Mike Babala

I have been an Albany UU member for over 20 years and served as the assistant treasurer for four years. Currently, I am a member of the Building and Grounds and Garden Committees. I am also a member of the Choir. I have administrative work experience from NYS Dept. of Health and in two hospitals. My educational background is an MS in Health Administration from Russell Sage College and a BS in psychology from SUNY Oswego.

**Endowment Trust****Paula Moskowitz**

I have been an active member of Albany UU for over 25 years, serving on various committees and councils including Religious Education, Nominating, Receptions, Public Relations, Gardening, Auction, and the Get Connected Activity Fair. I also served on the committee that worked with the architect for Community Hall during the planning and construction phases.



During my professional career I administered a state government contract program valued at over \$2 billion, thus gaining an in-depth understanding of fiscal responsibility.

As an Endowment Trustee, I would bring my combined knowledge of Albany UU and the larger world to help manage our endowment finances selectively and prudently for continued growth of our community and its priorities.

Peter Schaeffing

I am an Albany resident and a Albany UU member along with my wife Ali and daughter Patsy. I work in community development finance. My company, High Impact Financial Analysis, helps nonprofit loan funds, foundations, and others invest in affordable housing, school facilities, and economic development in low income areas. I am currently on the board of the South End Improvement Corporation.

