

Meet the Candidates

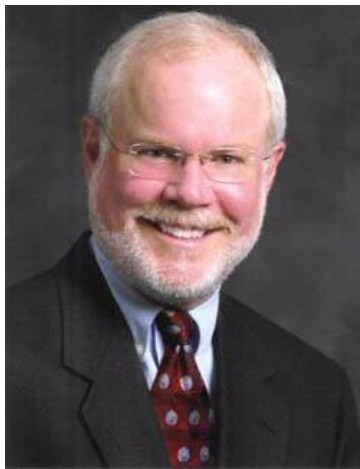
By Christine Webb-Curtis

Join us on May 1 to get to know the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee for election on May 15. Candidates will be available for a conversation, to answer any burning questions or simply to put a name with a face.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Margaret Wilcox, Vice-President

Margaret Wilcox joined UUSS in 2004 after moving from the Bay Area. Following a career as an educational psychologist, university faculty member and UC Extension administrator at the Berkeley and Davis campuses, she now is having fun as a volunteer with several organizations, including UUSS. She was previously UUSS Board Vice President, followed by two years as Board President. In addition to chairing the Membership Committee and the recent Building Project Steering Committee, she has been active with a variety of congregational committees and activities. Margaret and her husband, Wayne, have a daughter who lives with her wife in Seattle and a son who resides in Connecticut with his wife and daughter (and one on the way!).



Gordon Gerwig, Treasurer

Gordon Gerwig grew up in San Diego where he was first exposed to Unitarian Universalism. He first joined UUSS in 1980 when he was married in a ceremony officiated by Ted Webb and re-joined in 2006 after a brief spiritual walkabout. He has been a Board of Trustees member from 2012 to 2016 serving as Secretary from 2015 to 2016. He sings in the choir and appeared in exactly one Theatre One production. He is a volunteer tutor at Thomas Edison School. He has been married to Chris Gerwig for 36 years, is a proud father of three children and a proud grandfather of three grandchildren. Gordon works as a commercial lender for First U.S. Community Credit Union and is a graduate of UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and the University of San Francisco.

Janet Lopes, Secretary

Janet Lopes came to Unitarian Universalism in her late teens. She just wasn't aware of it at the time. A Unitarian Universalist minister performed her wedding ceremony (late 20's), but it wasn't until she had young children (mid 30s) that she felt it necessary to look for a spiritual home. She started attending the Coronado UU fellowship in 1994, implementing their first Religious Education program. After moving to Sacramento in 1997, she joined UUSS where she has served on music, nominating and search committees. She has been deeply involved with the Religious Education program at UUSS. She has studied Theater and Early Childhood Education and currently works as a Special Education Aide with Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. She is married to member John McMillan and has two adult children.





Kathy Bernard, Member At Large

My involvement in and commitment to Unitarian Universalism began 51 years ago (1965) when I joined the Pacific Unitarian Church in Palos Verdes. Since then, I have visited more than 60 UU Churches and Fellowships throughout the USA. In the late 70s, I became a member of the San Jose UU Church. Most recently, I was a member of the UU Fellowship of Grants Pass, OR, and was serving on its Board of Directors when I moved to Sacramento in 2013. Soon after moving here, I began attending UUSS and joined in 2014. I immediately felt at home. I have participated in many activities since joining and am currently serving as chair of the 2016 Fundraising Auction.

My professional career began rather late in life. At age 46, I earned an MSW from CSU San Jose and became involved in the development of affordable housing in the area. Eventually, my husband and I moved to Watsonville where I established and was executive director of Pajaro Valley Housing Corp., a nonprofit housing development agency whose mission was to create affordable housing for low-income families, especially Hispanic farmworker families. During the course of my career, I was able to create about 175 units of affordable housing and I am thankful every day for the opportunities I have had.

UUSS has a special place in my heart. I love the vision, the willingness to take risks and the enthusiasm of its members. I look forward to serving our congregation in the coming years in any way I can.

Carl Gardner, Member At Large

Carl Gardner has been a resident of

Sacramento since 1999 and a UUSS member since 2006. He is currently a Member at Large on the Board of Trustees, and a Worship Associate on the Religious Services Committee. Previously, Carl taught Religious Education at UUSS and was an adult advisor to the Senior High Youth Group. He is involved in the Gen X Boomers social group, and for several years has helped to organize the annual UUSS All-Ages Church Camp at Camp Norge. Carl is an attorney practicing health insurance law, and a parent practicing on a 16-year-old son.



Elizabeth Pataki, Member At Large

Born in late November in 1938, my spiritual life somewhat reflected the various colors of the season; finding the Unitarian Universalist Church brought stability and a home for my mind and soul. I started attending UUSS with the family in 1971 (Ford Lewis was the minister.) and Ted Webb welcomed our first two sons in 1973.



I graduated from Keuka College with a degree in nursing in 1960 and got an MA in Counseling Psychology in Hawaii where I met my husband, Dennis Hubbard. Since I was working as a Registered Nurse alternately in education, ICU, Public Health, pediatrics or psychiatry, our attendance in other locations and Sacramento was sporadic until my husband and I retired in 2009. Then I was able to join the UUSS Book Club, the Alliance and take part in various

spiritual groups or classes.

I was on the Board of Directors of CA Nurses Association (CNA) for several years and still am active in that organization, as well as the Sacramento Labor council and the CA Alliance for Retired Americans. I believe these experiences and the support of the UUSS community will help me as a Board Member.

Sally White, Member At Large

Sally White hails from Caribou, Maine, a town on the border with New Brunswick, Canada, sharing all the winter weather!! She moved to California in 1977 and calls California home. She has a BS in Marketing from Notre Dame du Namur, Belmont, CA, and an MBA in International Management from Golden Gate University. A 22-year career in management at Hewlett Packard Company took Sally across this incredible country and around the globe, introducing her to the many cultures of the world. She has two grown sons and five incredible grandchildren, three of whom live near her in Roseville. Currently semi-retired, Sally substitute teaches Pre-K through 8th grades in the Roseville school system-another incredible experience. Her board experience includes several nonprofit organizations: United Way, Soroptimist International, AAUW, Chamber of Commerce, Arts Council of Placer County and Trinity Episcopal Church. Sally joined UUSS in 2015 and initially volunteered for the Religious Education committee. Currently, she is part of the Marketing Committee, the Adult Enrichment Committee, the Senior Fellowship team and is a co-facilitator for a Spiritual Deepening Circle. "I was looking for a spiritual and intellectual community and knew this was it the moment I walked into my first Sunday Service/Fellowship. The time to dive in and contribute to this new community is now. It is an honor to be asked to serve as a Member-at-large for the Board."



PROGRAM COUNCIL



Deirdre Downes

Deirdre Downes has been a member of UUSS since early 2010. She sings in the choir and is a Grasshopper. She was elected to Program Council in 2014 and has served as Program Council Chair for the past year. She was a UUSS Worship Leader/Associate for four years and served as Co-Chair of the Religious Services Committee from Fall 2011 to Fall 2014. Deirdre is retired but her checkered work history includes years as a paperback writer, elementary school teacher, stay-at-home mom and part-time technical editor of CEQA documents. She is an avid hiker and reader, yoga enthusiast, newish golfer and perennial cat lover.

Peggy Makie

Peggy moved up to Northern California from San Diego where she had been a UU member for several years. One of the first places she visited in Sacramento was the church here, and in 2012 she became a member. She helps coordinate Soup Sundays (October to March) with Cassandra Sove, and belongs to the Howards' Ministry Circle. In the work world she is employed by Kaiser Permanente as a Medical Librarian at both the Roseville and Morse Avenue locations. She loves living in Fair Oaks where the chickens freely roam around the village, and the area has more of a rural feel to it. Spare time hobbies include drawing and photography.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE



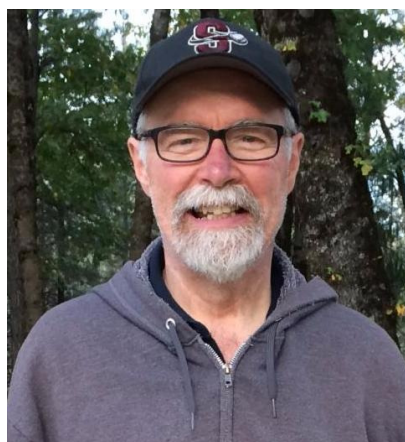
Lauren Davis-Todd

Lauren is a recently retired elementary school teacher with an MS in education counseling in addition to a BS in education. She has been a member of UUSS since 2008, but became a UU in her early 20s. In support of UUSS, Lauren and her husband Chuck served on the Stewardship Team for a year, followed by three years as co-chairs.

Lauren enjoys bringing a main dish to Family Promise at every opportunity, taking adult enrichment classes, serving soup, buying and selling at the Service Auction and growing vegetables in UUrth garden for several years. She enjoys caring for her three grandchildren, all under the age of two, and loves to travel with Chuck. She's delighted to have the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Denis Edgren

Denis Edgren has lived in the Sacramento area for 28 years and is a 17-year member of UUSS. He attended Unitarian Universalist churches in Hawaii and Monterey in addition to UUSS. Until 1998, Denis served in the US Navy as a Naval Flight Officer, and he recently retired after working for a Global Investment Management company. He is currently chair of the Finance Committee and finishes his term as UUSS Treasurer in June. Denis has served as an adult volunteer teacher in almost every age group of RE, including Junior High and Senior High Youth Groups. He is married to Karen, and together they have two sons and a daughter and three young grandchildren.



David Libby

David Libby has been a member of UUSS since 1990. He and his spouse, Sally, were married here in 1991, the Rev. John Young officiating. He served as the chair of the Nominating Committee in 2009-10. David, an IT professional, is retired from State service but still works part-time as a retired annuitant. Over the years, he focused his energy mostly in the religious education program, but also served on the Religious Services Committee and in the Lay Minister program. He will serve with gratitude and a sincere desire to do what's best for our beloved congregation if elected this year!

Nancy Lust

Nancy and Dave joined UUSS in the late 70s when they lived in Georgetown. They became active in the late 80s when their family moved to Carmichael. Their son and daughter attended Religious Education.

UUSS became their spiritual home and loving community, their place to learn, socialize and build lifelong friendships. Nancy has served as a Worship Leader, served on many committees and continues to actively support church programs. She appreciates being a candidate for the Nominating Committee for the coming church year.





Eric Ross

Eric has been a UUSS member since 1986. He was raised a Universalist in West Hartford, CT. Over the years, he has been a teacher with youth RE, been a Worship Associate and served twice on the Board, most recently from 2011 to 2014. He currently serves on the Fund Raising Strategy Team (FRST) and Stewardship Committees. Recently retired from state service as an Administrative Law Judge, he and his wife Karen (also recently retired) are enjoying more time for travel, hobbies and friendships, including lots of reading. He has two adult children and one grandchild.

Larry Thomas

Larry has been a member of UUSS for six years. He and his wife Suong came to the Sacramento area from Virginia where they had been members of the Arlington Unitarian Church for many years. Larry retired from the US State Department after a foreign service career and later from community colleges in Virginia and Maryland. At UUSS he is a Grasshopper and a participant in Ted's Web and the book and men's groups. Larry and Suong have a son, daughter and one grandchild who live and work in the Washington, D.C., area.



Christine Webb-Curtis, Chair

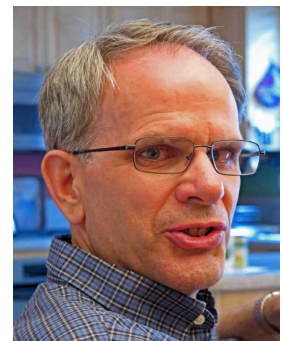
Chris was raised a Universalist in New England and upstate New York and active throughout her youth in Unitarian-Universalist activities. After a stint in the Peace Corps, she moved to San Francisco, then to Sacramento. She attended the San Francisco UU church intermittently until moving to Sacramento and joining UUSS. Her two younger boys attended Sunday school at UUSS where she served on the Religious Education Committee and taught Sunday school. She was a member of the Search Committee that brought our former minister, Doug Kraft, to UUSS. Following that, she continued on the Committee on the Ministry for many years. When the preparation of the Unigram once again became the responsibility of members, she and others worked as editors. She continues to work on the Unigram. She has worked on the fundraising auction for several years and served on the Nominating Committee in 2012. She retired from the state

where she worked in the areas of affordable housing and social services. While she continues to work occasionally, she fills her time with the challenge of writing and continues to travel with her husband- especially to France.

ENDOWMENT TRUST

Fred Deneke

Fred joined the Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUCC) in 2007 after moving to California from Michigan, and was facilitator of the UUCC Men's Group and a member of the discussion group, Daytimers. After UUCC suspended services, he and his husband



Jim joined UUSS in 2014. Fred has been treasurer or president of three nonprofit community organizations. He has been a full-time college biology professor for 27 years, including the past 10 years at Cosumnes River College. In his spare time, he reads on an array of subjects, is continually bemused by feline antics, strives to have garden play (contrasted with yard work), enjoys local live theater, hones culinary skills and explores natural wonders of the world. Fred would be pleased to use his diverse interests and ability to ask thoughtful questions while serving on the Endowment Trust.

COMMUNICATIONS FACILITATOR

Colene Sawyer Schlaepfer

Colene, along with her husband Fred, has attended UUSS since 2001. She attended other churches but this has become a real church home since moving from San Jose. She was very active in the whole process of planning and completing the new building and is thrilled with the result. She is a Marriage and Family Therapist and enjoys practicing with her husband, specializing with couples. She has four children, eight grandchildren and one and a half great grands. Colene has been Communications Chair before and encourages anyone with a suggestion about the church to contact her so she can talk about it with you and communicate it appropriately for action as needed.

