

**Florida District Unitarian Universalist Association
Proposed Nominees to the Board of Trustees and
Leadership Development Committee
April 2013**

Sarah Ritzmann, Trustee at Large, 3 year term (2016)



Sarah Ritzmann is a lifelong UU and Jacksonville area native who has attended Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church since it was formed in 1990 - she was 5 years old. Hailing from a family rooted in the Universalist church, she is the 6th generation in a line of dedicated laypeople. Sarah is committed to the growth and prosperity of our faith and currently serves as the Membership Committee Chair and on the Worship Committee in her home church. She is an active member of YA and was one of the organizing members of their group. Sarah works in administration, focusing on proof reading and graphics for a local print marketing firm in Orange Park where she lives with her husband Jeremy and 2-year-old son Judah.

Diana Ovadia, Leadership Development Committee, 1 year (of a 3 year term scheduled to end 2016)



Diana Ovadia has been an enthused member of the University Unitarian Universalist Society (Orlando, FL) since 2009 and has served on their Membership Committee from 2010-2011. She is very excited to join the LDC and hopes to make an impact by serving the community to the fullest! Diana received her Bachelors of Science in Industrial Engineering from the University of Central Florida and will be starting her Masters Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Florida. She works at NAVAIR (Naval Aviation) in Orlando, FL where she resides with her fantastically spectacular husband, adorable shih-tzu mix children, and dearest mother. Her previous training is in the performing arts, from which her passion stems..., along with world travels/culture and food!

Roger Brown, Leadership Development Committee, 1 year (of a 3 year term scheduled to end 2016)



Roger joined Unitarian Universalism in Rochester, New York in 1962. He later joined the Webster Chapel, St. Louis, MO; St. John's, Cincinnati, OH; Toledo UU, Toledo, OH; congregations. Roger is currently a member of the UU Congregation of Greater Naples.

He has served the Naples congregation as Pledge Drive chair twice, Capital Fund Chair, Membership Committee Co-chair, board trustee and then three-time President of the congregation. Roger just completed his

most recent term as president three weeks ago. He served his previous congregations as board member and ministerial search committee. Roger also served the Florida District as board member for two years.

Roger has been married to Sandra for past 54 years. They have three married children and seven grand children. Roger is a retired CEO of a sales and marketing company specializing in the packaging industry and is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University.

These Leaders Are Continuing in their Current Positions



Ila Klion
Board President
Term Ends 2014

Ila is a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship

Harvey Heckes
Board Vice President
Term Ends 2014

Harvey is a member of the UU Church of Ft. Myers



Margie Manning
Board Secretary
Term Ends 2015

Margie is a member of the UU Church of St. Petersburg

Al Tweedy
Board Treasurer
Term Ends 2015

Al is a member of the UU Fellowship of Gainesville



Helen Leddy
Leadership Development Committee
Term Ends 2015

Helen is a member of the UU Church of Ft. Myers

Harry Lee
Leadership Development Committee
Term Ends 2014

Harry is a member of the UU Church of Tampa

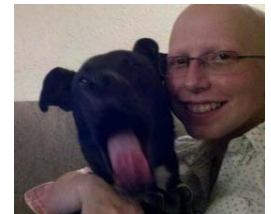


Judy Lehman
Leadership Development Committee
Term Ends 2014

Judy is a member of the UU Church of Tampa

Dani Slader
Leadership Development Committee
Term Ends 2015

Dani is a member of the Buckman Bridge UU Church



JOAN LUND
UUA Trustee, Florida District
2013 Annual Report

This is the last report you will receive from me, your Florida District UUA Board Trustee. After ten years on the national Board my term will be ending at the end of June. There are few words I can say that would adequately express my gratitude for the trust you put in me to serve as your Trustee. From the depths of my being **I thank you for your support and trust**. As you know the UUA Board will be fewer in number starting at the end of General Assembly and there will no longer be District Trustees. The Board will consist of eleven Trustees, selected by the UUA Nominating Committee. For a number of years I have served as the 2nd vice-Moderator (an elected position within the Board) and on the Committee on Committees. In the ten years of service I have chaired the Right Relations Team (formerly Anti-racist/Anti-oppression/Multicultural Team), and been on the Congregations Working Group. For those interested in the details of the BOT activities, minutes, committee reports, and related materials, the information is posted on the UUA BOT website at (www.uua.org/TRUS). As you know each month I write a Trustee Tidbits column distributed to your congregation's newsletter editor for inclusion in the newsletter or to be posted on a community bulletin board, and a lengthy report following each UUA BOT meeting. These can be found on the District web page. I can be reached at jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727.

Trustee Work

Recently I was invited to Sarasota to reflect on my years as a Trustee, both highlights and difficult times. Their invitation prompted me to browse through ten years of Board minutes and some of my notes. Many decisions about budget and our national priorities have been made. One of the interesting observations I have made is how the Board culture has changed as Trustees termed out and new ones joined. But for certain during this entire time I have never worked with finer, more dedicated volunteer colleagues from throughout our denomination. And the real perk for me is the friendships now forever in my life.

It is long known that our UUA headquarters is outdated and inadequate for the work that needs to be done. In March we made the decision to move to a new headquarters in Boston's emerging Innovation/Seaport District in south Boston. This decision was made after many discussions and much work by Staff to find us a suitable new national residence, which would strengthen our Association spiritually, financially, creatively, and technologically. The Board feels the new location will be an excellent one as it will allow collaboration in a hub of hospitality and inclusion. We also authorized the sale of our buildings on Beacon Hill. There is much information and a few photos on our UUA website: uua.org.

The Board continues to discuss how and what might be recommended in changes to our annual General Assembly. In March we voted to send a request asking the Administration to provide a design that assures that no delegate or potential delegate be unable to go to GA because of financial limitations. The Board feels delegates need to be actively prepared to participate in the governance of our Association and genuinely represent their congregations and are willing and able to thoughtfully engage in the governance process. It is also important the delegate body

accurately represent our constituency and is democratically accountable to whom they represent. The Staff has agreed to present ideas in time for the April Board meeting.

Linkage with our member congregations has been a priority for the Board for several years. Conversations have occurred throughout the denomination and I have facilitated a number of these. Analysis of the work will be forthcoming to the Board in April but so far approximately ninety percent of the congregations interviewed believe the Global End “mostly” or “to a great deal” describes their congregations’ values. Our congregations and the individuals interviewed believe we need to increase the number of people served rather than increase the number of congregations. The work in linkage will be on-going until near the end of April, and hopefully I will be able to interview UUs at our District Annual meeting. Please contact me if you would like to have a conversation either in person or by phone. Please look at <http://www.uua.org/vision/gathered/> for more detailed information.

2013 General Assembly, Louisville, KY

This is very important event in our UUA life, our yearly continental gathering. There are many excellent reasons to attend GA this year, notwithstanding the great workshops, lectures, panel presentations, films, and worship services; it also is a major election year for our Association. The entire UUA Board of Trustees and the Moderator will be elected. The candidates for Moderator are Jim Key and Tamara Payne-Alex. Both are well-qualified. In March, 2013 I endorsed Tamara for compelling reasons. There will be a candidate’s forum where both Jim and Tamara will present their views and stands on our UU current issues and the future of our faith. The Ware Lecturer this year is Eboo Patel, founder and Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core, and international nonprofit building the interfaith youth movement.

The end of my term

With great assurance that strong governance of our Association will continue my term is ending. Being the Florida District Trustee has been a joyful, life-changing challenge for me. My greatest wish for each of you and your congregations is that you will continue to be healthy and strong, and will grow in the ways you and our UU values deem important. Please know that if you would like me to visit your congregation between now and the end of June I am amenable to trying to schedule a date. Farewell as your Trustee. May we always remain friends.

Florida District Dream Builders Update

Dream Builders was the primary initiative of the Florida District Board of Trustees in the 2012-13 year. The project had its roots in the Orlando Platform, came to life during a day-long conference Feb. 9, 2013 at First Unitarian Church of Orlando, and will be nurtured during the coming months and years by UU's throughout Florida.

Dream Builders is an outgrowth of the [Orlando Platform](#), the document developed by leaders of the Florida District and three other districts in the UUA Southern Region, in December 2010. It calls on our congregations to develop covenantal relationships and work collectively to put our faith forward, doing the religious work we are called to do.

The Florida District BOT determined early on that we would focus our efforts on this concept, and developed it through more than half-a-dozen meetings, both in person and via conference calls. At a November board meeting, Florida District trustees developed an elevator speech for Dream Builders:

Dream Builders affirm we are stronger together than apart and bring us together to see over the horizon we currently know to build the legacy of our faith in the world.

They do this by:

- *building connections between our congregations*
- *developing cross-congregational connections*
- *and being visionary with regard to our Unitarian Universalist faith.*

The District BOT invited Peter Kandis, Vice President, UUA Southeast District Board, and Dean, Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience, as facilitator for a day-long conference, with an opening address provided by Rev. Kenn Hurto, lead executive, UUA Southern Region.

On Feb. 9, nearly 60 Florida UU's from 20 congregations, as well as Southern Region staff, gathered to share stories about what it feels like to be connected to other UU's, and to imagine the work we could do together. We envisioned congregations joining forces on projects such as discussions on gun control and pushes for marriage equality and farmworkers' pay, to collaborating on growing Unitarian Universalism membership in congregations and district wide.

After we talked about the exciting possibilities ahead, several strong ideas emerged for next steps, including improved communications about the good work congregations are doing and how they might share that with others in the District.

There will be an April 13 workshop at the District Annual Assembly for further discussions of the next steps. The District BOT invites you to help build the dreams that will strengthen Unitarian Universalism in Florida and beyond.

Margie Manning
Secretary, UUA Florida District Board of Trustees

**Young Adult & Campus Ministry
Steering Committee
2013 Annual Report**

Mission:

To provide support to current Young Adult and Campus Ministry groups, as well as foster the formation and growth of new Young Adult and Campus Ministry efforts.

Current focus:

- Locate and engage currently active Young Adult & Campus Ministry group's with-in the Florida District and congregations looking to begin these vital outreach ministries.
 - This will allow us to determine the current state of Young Adults & Campus Ministries with-in our District and will allow us to target and assist with any existing needs.
 - By identifying Campus Ministries groups, this will also allow us to assist Campus groups by providing a link to the larger faith that may not have been adequately supported in the past, while also allowing us to have an adequate count of members engaged in Unitarian Universalism that falls outside of the traditional "brick and mortar" Congregation.
- Act as a clearinghouse for existing outreach groups and congregations through the creation of guidebooks, marketing materials, centralized contact information, and logistics assistance.
- Provide a centralized communications for geographically separated Young Adult and Campus Ministries groups to connect and deepen their bonds with one another, through building an online presence on Facebook and other Social Media outlets, as well as providing a presence at District/Regional events.
 - This is somewhat already in action, as Jeremy Ritzmann has worked with Tim Atkins, a YA leader at the UU Church of Atlanta, in creating the "*Southern Region Young Adults Lab*" on Facebook that has grown significantly.
- Engage Youth Leadership to adequately determine the needs of our faith's youth when bridging from youth ministry groups to young Adult ministry groups.
 - This will allow us to also learn from this groups long standing success in leadership development, in the way of best practices
- Begin working with District/Regional staff, other Young Adult leaders with-in our region, and other Young Adult/Campus Ministry group's, such as CUUYAN, in developing a regional Young Adult/Campus Ministry Conference.

Going Forward:

Though this governance year got off to a slow start, we are now picking up steam in the work of unifying a district-wide Young Adult and Campus Ministry presence. These groups are growing at a decent pace in our district, and indeed in our region. During the next fiscal year, we are aiming to have completed the current tasks that are focused on providing a solid framework that will create a sustainable model in the years to come.

Jeremy Ritzmann
Steering Committee Chair

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida Annual Report March 2013

The year 2012-2013 is one of major outreach for our Legislative Ministry in Florida, and strengthening of our partnerships with other organizations. It is also a year of transition to an independent fiscal structure, as a result of the regionalization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our outreach efforts have sparked partnerships with the UU Service Committee (UUSC), UU Ministry for Earth (UUME) and public interest organizations around the state involved in immigration and worker justice, climate change, and voters' rights. We are finding point persons for legislative updates in each of these areas. Personal contacts of our Steering Committee members with our liaison congregations along with email outreach have drawn Unitarian Universalists statewide to two major events: the Healing Our World conference in Orlando February 15-16, 2013, and our annual UULMF Legislative Day, March 18-19, 2013. Successful marketing for these events may be key to increasing our congregational memberships over time, the involvement of Unitarian Universalists statewide and our effectiveness in impacting legislation.

Structural Accomplishments

- The UULMF Steering Committee enhanced its structure by establishing the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer at its Annual Meeting in September, 2012.
- We received an extension on our grants from the UU Fund for Social Responsibility until May 31, 2013 to continue our capacity building efforts in Florida.
- After being tasked to create an independent fiscal entity, and exploring options used by other UU State Advocacy networks, UULMF is in process of setting up a 501(c)(4) organization and hiring its own bookkeeper.
- We added Steering Committee members from Orlando and from Miami and realigned our liaison congregation coverage of Florida congregations. With the transition of two Steering Committee members anticipated in the fall of 2013, we may have three open spots in our leadership for interested Unitarian Universalists.
- We adopted a list of responsibilities of Steering Committee members and clarified roles of lay and clergy members. Both are important to our growing ministry whose work is based on our Seven Principles and whose mission is to empower the voice of Unitarian Universalist values in the public arena.

Outreach

- UULMF Steering Committee members promoted our ministry and participated in events throughout Florida. In support of our three core issues for 2012-2013—Revitalizing Democracy, Immigration as a Moral Issue, and Climate Change--we registered voters, hosted forums on the 11 amendments on the 2012 November ballot, attended the Southern Convergence of Move to Amend in Gainesville in December, 2012, and participated in the Progressive Fest of the Space Coast Progressive Alliance, meetings of the Florida Immigrant Coalition, the 200 mile march of the Immokalee Workers, a conference sponsored by the SW Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, and Cluster meetings in the West Central Cluster, the Northeast Cluster, and the Southeast Cluster of Florida.
- UULMF co-sponsored a major statewide conference in February, 2013 with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard called Healing Our World and Ourselves (www.healingourworldandourselves.org) that drew attendance of 116, including representatives from 25 of the 45 Unitarian Universalist congregations in Florida. There UULMF presented its history and accomplishments, included speakers from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC), the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUME), and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), and added 112 people to our social justice contact list.
- We lobbied our state legislators and their staffs at our March 18-19 Legislative Day in Tallahassee. As a result of marketing efforts for Healing Our World, UULMF had the best attendance ever at Legislative Day: 30 Unitarian Universalists from 11 UU congregations in Florida came to our state Capitol in Tallahassee for lobby training and meetings with legislators.

Handouts with the latest information on specific bills on our core issues were provided, plus information on two special requests on Wage Theft and Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. We are following up with Action Alerts on those bills during the remainder of the 2013 Florida Legislative session in April.

- To streamline communications, UULMF merged our email lists and included church offices and Presidents on our notices to increase visibility about our work. Our social justice e-list increased from 157 to 325 statewide.
- We publicized the opportunity for UU congregations to apply for a community radio (LPFM) license by the October 15, 2013 deadline of the FCC, and consulted with several congregations about the possibilities. Broadband internet radio has appeal to some.
- We provided scholarships for high school Peace Jam teams (see www.peacejam.org) in three cities with Unitarian Universalist congregations that have high-school age students, to encourage social justice efforts for peace among UU youth.
- We encouraged the UU Church of St. Petersburg to create a DVD of their immigration play called "Arizona is Our Town", which we plan to link to our new website.
- We are writing a monthly article for *The Breeze*, the newsletter of the Northeast Cluster, the largest Cluster in Florida, with 14 UU member congregations, and publicizing our work in the Southern Region newsletter.
- We are researching state of the art email marketing programs to create a UULMF newsletter of our own.
- We are researching designs for a new UULMF website that will be a resource of information, interactive, and readily updatable.
- We participate in the nationwide conference calls of the UU State Advocacy Networks (UUSNS), seek advice from established networks, and offer help to emerging UU Legislative Ministries in other states. We seek opportunities to partner on national issues of common interest. Two of those relating to our core issues in Florida are immigration reform and Move to Amend—a key to revitalizing American democracy.
- We have just been asked to partner with the UUJEC (UUs for a Just Economic Community) to present an Action of Immediate Witness at the 2013 UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY to promote the Move to Amend coalition's proposed 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution that says corporations are not persons and money is not speech. (See www.movetoamend.org)

The potential for our work together for justice, guided by our Seven Principles, is great.

To paraphrase Ben Franklin, "The work we do separately is small compared to what we may do collectively."

Kindra Muntz, Steering Committee Chair
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Florida
www.uulmf.org
941.497.1764

This ministry is made possible in part by a generous grant from the
Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility

UULMF Steering Committee members:

Kindra Muntz, Venice, Chair
Steve Segner, Ormond Beach, Vice-Chair
Martha Hartgering, Orlando, Treasurer
Rev. Meredith Garmon, Gainesville
Gerald Goen, Tarpon Springs
Rev. Bud Murphy, Ormond Beach
Glenn Rogers, Vero Beach
Barbara Sterling, Tallahassee
William Turner, Miami

**The Northeast Cluster of the Florida District
of the Unitarian Universalist Association
Annual Report - April 2013**

The Cluster shall act as a service organization to promote leadership among the member societies (fellowships, churches) and to stimulate and exchange ideas. It shall be religious, charitable, educational, social and nonprofit.

Northeast Cluster of the Florida District

Coordinator: Martha Hartgering, posturenurse@yahoo.com

Advisor: Rev. Bud Murphy

Cluster Website: <http://necluster.uufg.org/>

First Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia, DeLand

Unitarian Universalist Church of Lake County, Eustis

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Gainesville

Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, Jacksonville

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Society, Jacksonville

Community Unitarian Universalist Church, New Smyrna Beach

Mosaic Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Orange City

First Unitarian Church, Orlando

University Unitarian Universalist Society, Orlando

Unitarian Universalist Society of the Daytona Beach Area, Ormond Beach

All Souls Unitarian Universalist, Palatka (emerging)

Friendship Fellowship at Pineda, Rockledge

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine, St. Augustine

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County, Summerfield

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, Vero Beach

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard, West Melbourne

Northeast Cluster congregations were encouraged to attend and support the following events:

- **CIW Summit**, UU of Port Charlotte, November 2012
- **Working Together for Farm Worker Justice**, January 2013, First Unitarian of Orlando
- **Healing the World and Ourselves**, February 2013, UU Brevard and UULMF co-sponsors, at First Unitarian Church of Orlando

Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 27, 2013, *When Might Applying for a Grant be the Next Step for your Group?* Speaker: Marilyn Donnellan

The **Northeast Breeze** newsletter is edited by Joyce Levi of Vero Beach and Chris Reid of University UU, with technical assistance by Jack Kulas in Gainesville. Each month 213 newsletters are e-mailed, some going to couples, and some to administrators and congregation leaders who hopefully forward them to congregation members. The Breeze can be downloaded at <http://necluster.uufg.org/>. Average pages per month: 14; average photos included: 30; average contributors each month: 11, number of issues per year: 12

We consider the Breeze an important way to engage, share, cooperate and learn from one another.

Martha Hartgering
Northeast Cluster Coordinator

Southeast Unitarian Universalist Cluster 2013 Annual Report

The SE UU Cluster had its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2012 at River of Grass UU Congregation in Davie, Florida. The Meeting focused on "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling", the UUA's Study Action Issue for 2012-2016. Keynote speakers were: Jane Caputi, Ph.D, Professor, Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Florida Atlantic University; and Jessica Halperin, Women's Issues Program Associate at the UUA's Washington Office. And Rev. Kenn Hurto, Lead Executive to the UUA Southeast Region, spoke on "What does District reorganization mean to local congregations?"

On Saturday, March 2, the SE Cluster was proud to be a partner in presenting the South Florida Climate Action Conference at the UU Fellowship of Boca Raton. We joined members of the scientific-technical, faith-based, government, and activist communities in SE Florida to work together to learn about and implement the SE Florida Regional Climate Action Plan. The plan addresses how we can mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its consequences.

Steve Jens-Rochow
President, Southeast Cluster