

## **2016 Board Alternate Candidates**

**Jeff Palmer**

**Judith Granada-Dewey**

## **2016 Board Member Candidates**

**Nanci Armstrong-Temple**

I grew up in the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles and am a 3rd generation UU raising 4th generation UUs. I've taught Religious Education classes in different UU churches in Berkeley, Oakland, and Los Angeles both as a volunteer lay leader and as a paid professional. I am an experienced worship leader, storyteller and vocalist.

I am currently a BFUU Board member, on the Hospitality, Caring and Membership committees, a member of the Integration Council, and a co-creator of the middle adult group SpiritUUal Contemporaries (known as SpiCon).

It would be an honor to continue to serve on the BFUU Board of Trustees.

**Doug Chambers**

I am a musician and worked for many years at Cal Performances. I am currently the BFUU Board of Trustees Vice President and Chair of the Membership and Religious Education Committees. I also help as a Sound Tech for BFUU. I care about many causes, including Arts and Culture, Children, Civil Rights and Social Action, Economic Empowerment, Education, Environment, and Poverty Alleviation. Before I walked into BFUU I knew next to nothing about Unitarianism. I had noticed the chalice pictures on the walls of various churches where I attended community meetings in my native Massachusetts, but I didn't remember seeing them when I decided to visit the church that my daughters, Frida (then 8) and Arlo (then 5) liked going to so much. What followed was my membership in the choir, then the Fellowship band, then in-depth participation in the Religious Education Committee. Four years later, I have made the best friends that I have ever had. I have, indeed, transformed my very experience of friendship.

**Mike Gardner**

I was brought into the world by parents who imparted in me a sense of independence, self-reliance, and tolerance for other peoples' views. They also taught about the wonderful variety of the human species, a respect for life, and that leprechauns and fairies were my friends. Finally, Mom raised me with a high esteem for the Irish Republican Army. I have carried along in my life most of those ideals and views, and have added a few of my own.

Besides an academic life, I have enjoyed careers: astronomy, managing a communist bookshop and programming and managing in an IT department for a major health care provider. A few of the resulting blessings of my efforts are a wonderful wife, four beautiful kids, (you can flip the beautiful and wonderful) seven grandkids and three great-grand kids.

Throughout my adult life I have worked for the integration of all peoples in all of life's aspects, an end to war, struggling for freedom of thought and self-determination for all peoples, the end of monopoly capitalism and the establishment of socialism with full inclusion and democracy for all. To accomplish any of these, I've come to see that interdependence and cooperation coupled with respect for all things living and reverence for our mother earth provides us a successful pathway.

I'm still working on the leprechauns and fairies issues.

## **Frankie Hill**

I have been a member of BFUU since February 2014. Before arriving in Berkeley, I was a member of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence in Massachusetts for six years.

From the moment my partner Jean Marie and I were so warmly received at the Greeter's Table, to the Sundays with Rev. Joy and the BFUU Band, to the friendly entreaties to become more involved in BFUU's inner workings, to our excellent lay leaders and visiting speakers, to the groundswell of participation during and following the Discernment Weekends ...it was easy to fall in love with BFUU and go "all in" rather quickly, and it's been a crucial part of my life ever since. I feel at home here in a way that sets this congregation apart from any spiritual organization I've ever attended or joined.

I have served as a Board Alternate since October 2015, and am a member of the Sunday Services Committee, the Hospitality and Caring Committees, and the Discernment Task Force. I also co-chair the Interim Right Relations Committee with Pam Norton.

This next year will be a pivotal and exciting one, calling us to work together to name our strengths and further articulate who we are, what we need and what we can bring; to build on our internal leadership and support each other in the process. I hope for the opportunity to serve these processes, and our Beloved Community, as a Board member and however else I can.

## **Elayne Ryder**

Thank you for considering me for the BOT! I was raised a Catholic, with familial Baptist and Jewish influences. For many years, I was not affiliated with any religion; I explored atheism and all the things I didn't believe in, but, felt empty, so I began to wonder about what I did believe in and what would fill that emptiness.

As a long time humanist, nature is my spiritual source – and, so, when I discovered Unitarian Universalism, first, through BFUU, and then through visiting other UU churches, and most recently, studying for one year at Starr King School for the Ministry, I knew I had found my home. The UU Principles and church history, provide for me the missing element I was searching for, that deeper sense of connection with one another – that sense that, as individuals we are each valuable and at the same time, we are something more together in community. For me, this is regaining a religious sense or religious feeling without the trappings/dogmas of religions. I most especially love BFUU because of the down-to-earth, non-assuming environment that allows for a full blossoming of self within community; also because of that enduring sense that "we are our brother's (each other's) keeper."

This past year, I have enjoyed assisting in planning Sunday Services and serving as Worship Associate, serving on the Interim Right Relations Committee and being a part of the recent weekend discernment processes.

As a member of the BOT, I hope to use my skills of "both/and" thinking, passionately embracing the big picture of who/what we want to be, while the same time, collaborating with members and board members, to pay attention to the details that will make for a fulfilling experience for all at BFUU.