

## Getting to Know Our UUCSC Board of Directors- Linda Dupuis

Serving on the UUCSC Board of Directors can be time consuming hard work. What makes it worthwhile is serving with interesting people like Linda Dupuis. Linda and I took some time to get to know each other a little better and I want to share some of what I learned with our congregation.

Linda is currently finishing up her term as UUCSC Board Clerk and she has done a fabulous job. I don't know how many times over the past year I have looked back at our meeting minutes and been able to find exactly what I was looking for, and she does them in large print! Linda has served our community in so many ways that I will probably fail to mention one or two. I first met her when she convinced me to let her take my picture for the Congregation's Directory, that is not an easy task. Can you imagine taking the pictures and compiling the information for all of our members and friends? It must be like herding cats! A few years ago, during a snowstorm, Linda sat in her recliner for days inputting the information. She has also served as a greeter and helped Val Follett with clean-up for coffee hour. I didn't realize that her son built our handy name tag tower in the vestibule. In addition to serving as our Clerk, Linda is a member of both the Communications and Membership Committee. You may also see Linda pushing a wheelbarrow around and weeding our amazing garden in the front of our building. We will miss her serving on the board but I know she would be willing to train her successor. If you are interested in taking over as clerk for UUCSC please see Sandy Ketrow as she is putting together the slate to fill the open positions.

I asked Linda how she found our congregation. The short answer is- the phone book. For those of you who may not remember what life was like in 2011, those are big heavy books that people used to use to find locations and phone numbers- imagine that. Before attending a service, Linda took a ride down to check us out. She saw a woman in the parking lot and asked her if she knew anything about the congregation. It turns out that she was speaking with the one and only Rev. Betty Kornitzer. She became a member soon after she started attending services. She appreciates the relaxed and friendly atmosphere she has found at the UUCSC. Like so many of us, she has found her spiritual home here.

However, Linda didn't just stumble upon UUCSC. She had done a lot of inquiry and research about religion and spirituality over the years. After raising a son and daughter and wrapping up her long career as a nurse, she had some time to think about finding a spiritual home. She had grown up in the Episcopal Church but she wanted something different. She is a naturally curious, adventurous and inquisitive person. She has taken advantage of over 30 *Road Scholar* trips over the years. One of the most memorable was a trip to Iowa visiting different religious communities, like the Mormons, the Amana Communities and the Maharishi Vedic City. Not long after, she was introduced to *Unitarian Universalism* during a Humanism Course she took in Vermont. One of the instructors was an atheist and at the same time a warm spiritual person. Linda found that interesting and refreshing.

Now that Linda has found her spiritual home, she spends her time working to build our community and keeping us connected. She continues to enjoy travel and adventure. While many people plan

trips to warmer destinations, Linda will be jetting off to Alaska to visit her daughter. She also enjoys photography. I hope you caught her installation of photographs back in December, beautiful shots of rushing water and glowing, warm light. She frames them herself. She has also taken several OLLI programs (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) exploring memoir and creative writing. Now she will have some extra time to pursue those interests.

We at UUCSC are fortunate that Linda did not choose to study levitation with the Maharishi Community or join the Amana Colonies of Iowa. I am glad she is a part of our beloved community.

*Natalie Herbermann, March 2020*