

Our Stories—David Floyd

David Floyd is a Wakefield resident and enthusiastic member of the UUCSC community since the early 2000's. He is an RN Case Manager in the Emergency Dept. at South County Hospital, where he has worked for 16 years. His interests are many and varied, and he is quick to say he is probably too diversified, but he is happy to share some of what makes him tick!

David was inspired to begin attending UUCSC after meeting our own Betty Kornitzer as part of a local group that attended an anti-war rally in Washington, D.C. The community was meeting at the American Legion Hall—and he found its services and practices much to his liking, with a combination of spirituality and the focus on social justice issues. And it has to be mentioned that he, like so many others in our congregation, just really liked the people he met at UUCSC. One initiative he participated in was to work along with Lisa Petrie and the church's Green Task Force to gain UUCSC's accreditation as a nationally recognized Green Sanctuary.

David considers himself a spiritual person, and while he was raised Methodist, and is quite familiar with the Bible, stoics like Marcus Aurelius and the Transcendentalists, another important spiritual book for him was Paramahansa Yogananda's *Autobiography of a Yogi*. That book made him realize that there is great insight and power found in the mystical spiritual traditions of both East and West.

David credits his parents with his interest in and call to community action, peace and justice. His father, Roger Floyd, was a Methodist minister, part of the Freedom Riders in the early days of the Civil Rights movement, who marched with Rev. Martin Luther King. His father for many years was a community organizer involved in inner city reform and civil rights activism in Connecticut. His mother, Joy, raised David and his two sisters to love creating art. She herself has worked for decades as a recognized Connecticut artist in found materials collage, and exhibited with David at UUCSC (thank you, Patience Peck). Born in New Haven, David attended the University of Connecticut where he received a BA in English, which provided the much-needed grounding in many great works of literature, and helped him with the somewhat useful skill of being able to string sentences together. He also worked as a writing intern at the groundbreaking art center Real Art Ways in Hartford.

In 1985, he made his way to California and worked in the natural foods industry. He returned to New England in 1992, landing in RI, and soon after, went to URI where he received a BS in Nursing in 1995. He worked for several years with the Visiting Nurse Association of RI, and spent three years as an Emergency Dept RN at Rhode Island Hospital (including during the horrific Station Fire). He worked there as he and his wife rehabilitated a sweet old house in Wakefield, built in 1898, that needed a lot of help. He then took a position doing Emergency Nursing at South County Hospital, where he has worked until now.

A love story: Back in 1998, living in the Hamilton area of North Kingstown proved to be fortuitous. At a neighbor's winter potluck dinner, David met Marjie Stevens who for 14 years had run the Meadowbrook Herb Garden in Wyoming and was now doing garden consulting. Quite the opportunist, and sensing someone special in Marjie, he decided that he, in the cold of January, needed immediate gardening advice. He soon fell in love not only with Marjie but also her three young children. They have been married for 21 years and the children are all now in their 30s. Marjie works as a science teacher at Middlebridge School in Narragansett, and teaches yoga at All That Matters. David and Marjie are thrilled that daughter Rosalinda and her two children, Mateo, age 5 and Julian, age 3 have recently moved back to Wakefield within walking and biking distance of their house. They see them as often as they can. Son Zander is an architect living in Michigan with his wife Desirae and 4 year old Indigo. Daughter Claire is a Physician's Assistant living in the San Francisco Bay Area with her partner Zach, an ER physician.

In 2008, David became more interested in local food and sustainability and improving local economies, in light of the growing concerns about fossil fuels. These interests led to him being involved in the creation of the South Kingstown Community Garden at Broad Rock Middle School. The organic garden has 44 individual plots and community flowers, herbs and berry bushes and supports the Jonnycake Center's Emergency Food Pantry. He loves working his own personal plot there, and loves gardening with his wife in their raised beds at home. He loves baking bread, and he and Marjie also have a fondness for hosting UU Dining for Dollars for wood fired pizza parties in the backyard!

His interest in music (along with his realization of the stellar acoustics in our sanctuary!) led to his directing of the Music at Lily Pads series of concerts, founded by Harry Buffum, which David produced for seven years. He says his years of running Music at Lily Pads was extremely gratifying and he is grateful that Johnnie Rodriquez took over the series, now called Music 'n More at Lily Pads and including poets and storytellers in addition to musicians. He is very hopeful that live concerts and events (and of course, worship!) can soon return to the UUCSC sanctuary.

On the cusp of retirement, he would like to spend more time on his personal pursuits. He has an interest in meditation, investing, loves reading non-fiction and some of the novels that Marjie raves about. He collects old musical instruments, the oldest being a wire-strung guitar from 1760. He is very proud of his Indian veena, for which he traded a guitar and a violin. He has yet to find a local veena teacher. He looks forward to returning to the violin lessons that had to be halted due to the pandemic, and also loves playing the English concertina. Yet another interest lies in photography, and in painting. Recently he has begun using the traditional method of painting with egg tempera.

David looks forward to the time when we can all be together again in the UUCSC sanctuary space, and is grateful for all the wonderful friends he's made there over the years.

Elizabeth Donovan, February 2021