

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

A Welcoming Congregation

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Key People at FUUSA

Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore serves the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany as minister. Before coming to Albany in 1999, Rev. Trumbore served in Port Charlotte, Florida for six years and three years in a consulting role in Niagara Falls, New York, the congregation in which he was ordained. He received his education for ministry in Berkeley, California at Starr King School for the Ministry. He is President of Iroquois Chapter of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, past President of the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship and Facilitator for Still Forest Pool, a new organization supporting teaching of Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction in the Capital Region. He is past President of a Capital Region faith based community organizing project called ARISE, A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment. He is also active with the West Hill Minister's Fellowship, Interfaith Impact and Family Planning Advocates. Rev. Trumbore is married to Philomena Moriarty Trumbore and together they have a son named Andy born in 1992.

Linda Way was elected President of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany in the spring of 2008. She has been an active member of the congregation for over 35 years, most recently serving as Vice President and co-chair of the Canvass Committee. Over the years she has served on numerous councils and committees – among them the Board of Trustees, Capital Campaign, RE Council, Social Responsibilities, Religious Services, Caring Network and the Search Committees for both our current minister and RE director. Both she and her husband, Terry, had children who attended RE when they were youngsters.

Linda taught high school English for over 25 years at Columbia High School in East Greenbush. Teaching was a career that she came to after a few years with New York State and then being home with family. For almost all her adult life, says Linda, Unitarian Universalism has been a touchstone of meaning and inspiration. In her words: “We are the beacon of liberal religion in the capital district, and we have much to offer both to each other and to the larger community.”

Leah Purcell is serving her second year as Director of Religious Education for the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. She graduated Vassar with a degree in psychology and has been a teacher, co-administrator and teaching assistant in both public and private schools. She has also served in leadership roles supporting and organizing volunteers in various political and community organizations. Currently she serves as a trustee of the Valley Falls Free Library.

The Purcells, Leah - her husband Kevin and daughters Molly and Nora - came to FUUSA in the mid-nineties when the girls were little, looking for a spiritual home in which to grow as a family. Leah has taught Sunday school, served on the Religious Education Council both as a member and as chair, served as a youth advisor and helped organize UUA sponsored youth programs. She is a member of the Liberal Religious Educators Association and is enrolled in the UUA's Religious Education Credentialing Program.