

FIRST UNITARIAN  
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY  
**BR**  **KLYN**  
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

## Transforming Lives

**Pat & Jay Lawrence**

(Members since March 26, 2017)



**Jay:** In October of 2016, I hit the lottery and was offered a job with Google. We had lived outside of Boston for 26 years and the position was in New York. The kids were grown and gone, so we pretty quickly decided to take the job.

**Pat:** We had been Unitarian Universalists for about 7 years so, while in town looking for housing, we walked over to First U just to see the church. When we arrived, we were surprised to see that there was a vigil going on. This was the evening of Wednesday, November 9, 2016. The day after the election of Donald Trump. The community had come together to provide support for one another and discuss the impact of the election. We came in, sat down, and joined in the dialogue.

**Jay:** We immediately felt at home. When the service ended we were warmly greeted by Garnett, Kevin, Shari, and others. We also met Adam and found out about how to get involved in the choir. If you don't know it, the answer is just show up at 9 a.m.

**Pat:** The next 2 months were a whirlwind. At the end of it, we had left behind our home, 3 cars, our stuff, my non-profit children's theatre, our church, and many dear friends. One blessing was that we knew First U was waiting for us with open arms. The first Sunday we lived in Brooklyn, we showed up at 9 a.m. and were warmly integrated into the choir. We stood up as newcomers and introduced ourselves and met what seemed like 100 people at coffee hour.

**Jay:** Despite having our entire world turned upside down. We now had an instant group of friends. We could get involved with like-minded people on social action and fundraising and had a community with which we could continue our spiritual growth. First U had made Brooklyn feel like home.

February 4, 2018