

FIRST UNITARIAN
CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY
BROOKLYN
A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Nominees for the Board of Trustees – Class of 2022

Retiring Trustees: Patrick Gunn, Cara Haft, Waciuma Wanjohi



Andrew Bongiorno - Andrew was born in Brooklyn and raised Catholic, left the Church after confirmation and wandered the wilderness without a spiritual home until his soon-to-be-wife Becky Huffman introduced him to FUUB in 2006. Andrew has served on the Finance Council and Weaving the Fabric of Diversity, has been a lay worship leader, occasional usher and frequent member of the cleanup crew at Unifair. His day job is commercial loan officer at a bank in Midtown Manhattan and his most important job is father to his two beautiful children Daniel and Lily. Andrew can be found reading non-fiction books, watching BBC nature documentaries and trying to learn some Spanish in his spare time.



Amit Mehta - Amit was born in upstate New York to Indian immigrants who raised him Hindu. He grew up from the age of seven in the suburbs of Houston, TX. After a period of atheism, today he identifies loosely-spiritual Hindu-UU. Amit trained as a scientist, earned his PhD in Biophysics, and now works in managing machine learning efforts in banking. He commutes to work in midtown Manhattan on inline skates. Amit and his wife Marci live in Brooklyn with their mischievous twin daughters Artemis and Aranyani, now toddlers whose naming ceremony, which included Hindu and Unitarian Universalist rituals was held at First Unitarian Brooklyn, their family's spiritual home. Amit is proud to be one of this year's lay worship leaders.



Colleen Olson - Moving to Brooklyn in 2008 to be an active part in their grandchildren's lives, Colleen and her husband, Dwight, have lived in ND, WY, OK and OH. Each location included a different religious affiliation and quest to learn and connect. She and Dwight have two sons and 4 grandchildren. Colleen has an MS degree in Child Development and spent her professional life working with children, families and teachers. At First U she joined the Woman's Alliance book group and leadership board to promote the unique contributions and challenges of women. She coordinated the Women's Film Series for two years connecting the series with the women's studies/media department at St. Francis College. Since joining as a society member in 2015 she has helped with religious education, Phoenix Rising, Immigrant Solidarity and recently has focused on activism related to climate change.

Nominees for the Leadership Development Committee – 2-year term

Retiring LDC Members: Mary Most, Edwin Lord



June Wohlhorn - June, a Brooklyn native, lives in downtown Manhattan at the foot of The Brooklyn Bridge. She became a member of FUUB because of its warm welcome to each individual, including kids who she loves to work with. (And as a former Catholic, the Tiffany/Angel windows were a bonus.) She's been chair of the RE committee twice, is currently on the council, been a mentor, and taught for many years from kindergartners to adults. June also served on Search and First Forward committees, helped with Auctions, Unifair, and wherever a hand was needed. June is retired from a career in advertising which she enjoyed as she got to blend the creative with the pragmatic while learning about lots of different industries. She's looking forward to being able to attend services in person again when the lift is put in.



Patrick Gunn – Patrick has been attending First U with his wife Laura and their children since 2006, during which time the congregation has become an important part of his family's life. Patrick has volunteered as an RE teacher, was certified and has taught OWL classes for two different age groups, has served a term on the Committee on Ministry, and most recently was co-president of the Board of Trustees. Patrick was chair of the Committee on Ministry appointed Conflict Management Team to develop and implement a revised Conflict Management Policy for the congregation. Professionally, Patrick is a managing partner in a private investment firm that focuses on media and entertainment. He has spent over twenty years in various roles throughout the film and television business, as a producer, studio executive, and manager of content libraries.

Nominee for Clerk of the Congregation – 1-Year Term (Third Term)



Bruce Wilde – Bruce is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. He joined First U promptly after moving to New York in 1990. Bruce sings in the choir and served on the Forward First Governance Team.. Bruce was instrumental in the recent project to revise our congregation by-laws. You'll also see him working on UniFair and the Auction. He also helped his wife Coco launch First Acoustics, the folk music concert series that began as a part of First U but has since developed into an independent not-for-profit. Bruce and Coco have raised their daughters Vanessa, Vivian, and Vera at First U.

Nominee for Moderator – 1-Year Term (Second Term)



Mike Alcott – Mike has been a member of First Unitarian Congregational Society for the past twenty years. He and his wife, Sara, have been active in the congregation throughout much of that period. Both of their children were raised in First U's religious education program. Mike has served as President of the Board of Trustees, on the Finance Committee, and on the Committee on Ministry. He is most proud of serving on two search committees that resulted in Ana Levy-Lyons becoming our Senior Minister and Meahan Henry becoming our Direction of Educational Ministries. Mike and Sara have lived in the Ditmas Park neighborhood of Brooklyn since 1999. He has worked for the NYC Department of Education for the past thirty years, including the past three as a high school Superintendent.

Leadership Development Committee

Sean Fischer – Chair

Enza Itri

Edwin Lord

Laura Manos-Hey

Mary Most