



2024-2025 Officer Nominees For the Board of Trustees

For one-year completing the term of Lisa Pacenza



Cara Haft (she/her) joined First U 23 years ago and continues to be nourished by the beautiful music and spirituality of our worship services and the warmth of our community. She served a term on the congregation's Board of Trustees from 2016-2019, and was Co-President with Patrick Gunn during that last year. Before joining the Board, Cara chaired the former Worship Committee and worked with Adam Podd to conceive of the Jazz and Pie fundraiser; helped coordinate the Community Seder for many years; taught two cohorts of Coming of Age classes; and helped out in the nursery or preschool classes when her sons, Ethan and Charlie Muller, were little. More recently, Cara served on the Committee on Ministry and Leadership Development Committee. She sings enthusiastically from the pews and joins the choir for special holiday services whenever possible, since making music with others is a special joy. A lifelong New Yorker, she is a middle-school English Language Arts teacher and lives in Boerum Hill, Brooklyn.

(For three-year terms ending in 2027)



Anne Calder (she/her) began attending First Unitarian in 2014, when she was seeking community and recalled her grandparents' commitment to their Unitarian congregation. She pledged her membership in 2019, and since has been serving on the Green Team. Over the years, she has enjoyed greeting churchgoers at the door, dropping into Craft Ministry meetings, and volunteering in the kitchen when opportunities arise.

Anne has her own residential interior design firm, which she's working to grow. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, gardening, crochet and hiking.



Vicki Antonini (she/her) began attending First Unitarian in November of 2017 when she was looking for a spiritual home after the US Presidential Election result. She has been a lifelong Unitarian Universalist in spirit but didn't realize there was a name for what she believed until she heard about it in 2016. She signed the membership book in the spring of 2018 and is honored to serve as a Trustee for the place that has been such a source of comfort and affirmation in the last six years. During her time at First Unitarian she has volunteered for Unifair, Folk and Feast (formerly known as Jazz and Pie), various fundraisers including our recent fundraiser for Anera,

and likes to pitch in whenever and however she can. She has enjoyed Adult Religious Education experiences including The History of Unitarian Universalism with Intern Minister Kevin Jagoe, the Shmita workshop series and varied book discussions including *No Other Gods* with Rev. Ana, *The Artist's Way* and more, including a current Chalice Circle group. She was a member of Rev. Karen Madrone's Internship Committee and currently serves as member of Intern Minister Rachel Schmitt's Internship Committee. She previously served as Co-Chair of the Weaving Social Justice Committee and currently serves as Secretary for the Women's Leadership Alliance. A lifelong public school educator, Vicki is currently in transition after a 29 year career with the NYC Public School system, having served as an English teacher, literacy coach, and high school assistant principal and principal.



Mark Weiss (he/him) and his wife Eva Rogals have been members of First U since March, 2012. He has served as a Coming of Age mentor and hosted children’s activities at many holiday parties. Their son Max (22), and daughter, Abigail (14 in May), have been active in the Religious Education program. Max participated through Youth Group, and Abigail is currently in Coming of Age.

Mark is excited to serve First Unitarian on the board, most of all because of the impact it has had on his life. First U gave Mark and his wife, Eva Rogals-Weiss, the gift of raising their children in an unconditionally supportive community of values aligned with their own. And it has led him to “finally embrace my own path toward faith and participation in a spiritual community”. Mark brings a breadth of work experience to the role, as both a senior manager and lead contributor in startups and established companies, with particular skills in software development, data analysis and motivating teams to complete challenging projects by working together.

For Clerk of the Society (second one-year term)



Maggie Norris (she/her) has been a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregational Society of Brooklyn since December 2021. Previously, she was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Jose, California for about 20 years. She has been an active member, with regular attendance at services and contributing to church community events, such as UniFair, Spring Auction, the Greeters group, the meditation group, and online discussion groups. She is planning to co-lead a further series of the UU History and Theology group later this year. She serves on the Board of the Women’s Leadership Alliance as a member-at-large. She is looking forward to joining Board of Trustees meetings as Clerk of the Society starting May, 2023.

Maggie lives with her family in the Crown Heights neighborhood in Brooklyn. She has recently retired from a career as a scientific and technical writer in the regulated medical products industry.

For Moderator (one-year renewable term)



James Goward (he/him) has been a member of First Unitarian for over 11 years. A Massachusetts native, Jim has called New York City home for 34 years. He is a lawyer who has worked at the N.Y.P.D, as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society, and is currently a prosecutor in the Bronx. He has served as the president of co-op boards for two successive buildings that he and his family have lived in. He enjoys playing music, roller blading and reading, (favorite authors include David Foster Wallace, James Joyce, and Stephen King).