

## ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2016 - MAY 2017 UUCGT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The very devoted, energetic, idea-filled and caring members this past year are: Sherry Davis (joined Feb 2016), John and Pinkie Hoffman, Sue Pyne, Charlotte Shea, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts. Bryan and Penni Newlun resigned in September 2016. The Committee has met monthly - August, September, October and November 2016 and January, February, March and May 2017.

Working to fulfill our charge to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members, the committee organized and sponsored numerous activities and rituals this year:

- ★ **STAFF the Welcome Table** each Sunday - **NOTE:** Dottie Cain, Membership Committee Emeritus, often helps in this capacity.
- ★ **PROVIDE Greeters** for all Services - NOTE: Charlotte Shea took on this job June 2015. All new members are added to the Greeter List and encouraged to sign up.

Dates for the following activities were set at a meeting with Rabbi Chava Bahle, Sarah Montgomery-Richards, and Susan Sherman September 2016, in consideration of all schedules.

- ★ **ORIENTATION SESSIONS - for Prospective (and current) Members, 12 Noon - 1:15 pm Sundays**

History of UUCGT, Getting to know each other, Brief Q/A about UUism; ***Participating:*** Rabbi Chava Bahle and Membership Committee representatives

October 16, 2016 - 17 pre-registered, 14 attended

January 29, 2017 - 16 pre-registered, 8 attended

April 23, 2017 - Canceled, No registrants

- ★ **15 MINUTES WITH THE RABBI, 10:00 - 10:15 am Sundays**

Intended for individuals or small groups, no more than 3-4 people; Informal chats for prospective members who feel they already know Rabbi Chava or for busy families who find it difficult to schedule a separate one-on-one meeting with her; Also for people who have already been involved in a UU fellowship or congregation.

October 30, 2016

February 12, 2017

May 14, 2017 - Canceled due to no Orientation

- ★ **FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS**

The Committee adopted this program in which current members volunteer to answer questions, invite to UUCGT events, guide, and help integrate our newest members. The first set of Fellowship Friends and New Members were paired in June 2016.

## ★ **NEW MEMBER WELCOME SERVICES**

**June 12, 2016** - **Jamie and Paula Jo Kemler** and **Carol and Alan Ritter** were welcomed as new members. They signed the Member Book during the service, a tradition the Membership Committee hopes to continue *once Pledge Forms have been submitted* (March 2017 decision by Membership Committee and some Board members). Kemlers Fellowship Friends were Bryan and Penni Newlun (who have since left the congregation) and Pinkie and John Hoffman are Fellowship Friends for the Ritters.

**October 16, 2016** - New Members were Welcomed and their Fellowship Friends were acknowledged: **Barbara Conley and Gerald (Jerry) Schatz** / Hal Gurian; **Mark Dragovich** / John Hoffman; **Rebekah Fuller** / Jane Watts; **Carolyn Kelly** / Sherry Davis; **Jim Linsell** (had signed the Member Book in the office prior to the service) / Anne Hughes; **Kat Norman and Keith Anderson** / Ellie Smith and Charles Brackett; Geoff Norman - Anderson (15 year-old Associate Member, full membership at age 16); **Lynnette Rhodes** / Linda Fletcher; **Izzy and Mike Semrau** / Sandra and Mike McDonald; **Liz Swartzmiller** / Pinkie and John Hoffman. The New Members spoke a bit about themselves and signed the Member Book during the service,

**February 26, 2017** - **Laura Ciccone** / Laura Matchett; **Carolyn Kraw** / Rick and Chris Walter; **John LaBrie** / Judy Myers; **Gary and Nancy McRay** / Chris and Rick Halbert; **Mary Povolo** / Sherry Davis; **Rebecca Roper** / Ariel Love; **Kim Sibilsky** / Dottie Cain signed the Member Book and were welcomed into membership.

**New Member Folders** are assembled for each new member and presented to them at the service. Most of the forms included were revised and updated during the year, and this process continues as we continue to improve the information flow. The Committee chair works closely with office Administrative Assistant Susan Sherman on all processes, updates, communication, organizing materials for the Welcome Table and scheduling. Beginning October 2015, New Member Welcome Bags, including local food and paper products, were assembled for all new members. This is partially in lieu of not buying and serving cake at the receptions (decision made jointly with Hospitality Chair, LE Director and Membership Chair). However, the Membership Committee will provide special snacks and celebratory food on New Member Sundays.

Twenty-four New Members joined / were welcomed since June 2016. The Committee is aware of the deaths of two members and the resignation of two members during the past 12 months.

### **Other Membership Activities:**

Jane Watts facilitated the new 2017 Member and Friend directory made available beginning late March 2017.

Telephone and email communications as well as personal contact help us stay in touch with committee members, visitors and new members. **Welcome - Hope to See you Again Soon Postcards** are sent to all newcomers who fill out a Welcome Registry at the Welcome Table. Sixty-2 individuals filled out Welcome Registry forms to date since June 2016. Beacon articles are written each month and Flash articles as needed to keep everyone informed about

Membership activities and introducing new members to the congregation with short human interest stories.

A great deal of committee time and chair time has been spent on researching and writing New materials for the Welcome Table, New Member Welcome Folders and the UUCGT website.

**Budget:** \$375.36 of the budgeted \$480.00 has been expended to date by the Committee for Membership Supplies - locally and from UUA.

Submitted by Chris and Rick Walter, Co-Chairs    April 27, 2017