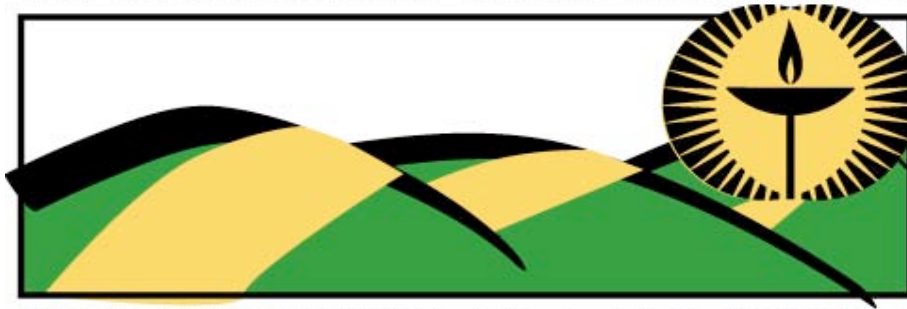


UU LEADERSHIP TEAM INSTITUTE



NEW HORIZONS IN LEADERSHIP

2008 Staff Bios

(in alphabetical order)

Laurel Amabile

TRACK Co-Leader: Stewardship



Laurel Amabile is a fourth generation UU and is currently serving as the Director of the Annual Program Fund in the UUA's Office of Stewardship and Development. Laurel and her husband Fred Amabile live in Yarmouth, Maine after living 12 years in Asheville, NC. Together they raised two grown daughters, Christine and Nicole, who still reside in North Carolina. Laurel began her years of service in 1989, as the Director of Religious Education at the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, ME, and later as the DRE at the UU Church of Asheville, NC. From 2000-2004, Laurel was co-employed by the Mountain's Learning Center for Leadership and the Thomas Jefferson District, UUA, active in lay and professional leadership development and consultation. She served as the Southeast Lifespan Program Consultant for the TJ, MidSouth, and Florida Districts, then as the Interim District Executive for the TJ District, before relocating north in 2006.

Rev. Nancy Arnold

TRACK Co-Leader: Worship Arts



Rev. Nancy O. Arnold served congregations in Connecticut and Ohio as a parish minister for seventeen years. Her roots in Unitarian Universalism are in Amherst, Massachusetts where she served as an active lay leader for ten years before studying for the ministry.

She is a 1984 Women's Studies graduate from UMass, Amherst, and a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. As a Life Change Consultant, she is currently providing a ministry of grief recovery, spiritual direction, personal growth, and hospital chaplaincy in Akron, Ohio. She will be relocating to Brooklyn, NY this summer.

Beatriz Bianco
LENS Co-Leader: Multigenerational Community



and I am very excited!

My name is Beatriz Bianco and I will begin my freshman year at Hampshire College in the fall. I will be majoring in art as advocacy with a concentration in film and theater. I attend the First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in Baptistown and I live in Clinton, NJ. On the Metro New York District Youth Adult Committee, I acted as intentional community outreach coordinator and touch group coordinator. I am a performance poet and photographer and I hope to intern at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Cambridge within the next couple of years. This is my first experience with UULTI

Ellen Carvill-Ziemer
LENS Co-Leader: Multigenerational Community



Ellen grew up UU in New Hampshire and now lives in Ohio with her partner Melissa Carvill-Ziemer. Ellen is in seminary, serves as a student minister at a small congregation, and works as the Ohio Meadville Young Adult and Campus Ministry Consultant.

Rev. Dr. Tom Chulak
TRACK Co-Leader: Congregational Growth



Theological Seminary. He currently serves as District Executive for the St. Lawrence and Ohio Meadville Districts.

Tom has been growing and building UU congregations for 30 years. In addition to growing our faith, his passion has been focused on UU identity and its implications for congregations and the wider world. He has served four congregations as their minister and worked for the UUA as Director for New Congregations and the UUA Growth Team. Tom served as a board member of the Alban Institute (a national organization that consults with congregations from many denominations) and has taught at two theological schools. He received a BA in Sociology from University of Wisconsin, and a Doctor of Ministry and an honorary doctorate at Chicago

Rev. Alison Cornish
LENS Co-Leader: Leadership as a Spiritual Practice



challenging historic buildings and sites.

The Rev. Alison Cornish serves the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork in Bridgehampton, New York. Alison was ordained in 2004, and has also served the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bellport, NY, and the Long Island Multi-Faith Forum. As both a lay leader and now as clergy, she has been a facilitator for numerous Board and Congregation retreats, a leader of workshops on worship and communication, and a guest preacher throughout the Metro NY District. Prior to entering the ministry, Alison was an historic preservation consultant; she now joins her two passions in her work for "Partners for Sacred Places," helping congregations of all denominations with their

Beth Dana
LENS Co-Leader: Multigenerational Community



Beth Dana served as the Youth Ministry Consultant for the Metro New York District of the UUA for the past year. From 2005 to 2007 she served on the UUA Youth Ministries Office staff, where she coordinated the two-year Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth. Beth has experience as a trainer, facilitator, consultant, and mediator for multigenerational groups through the UUA's Chrysalis Training Program, the UU Groundwork anti-racism training collective, and a variety of congregations and community organizations. She grew up at and continues to be a member of the First UU Society of Albany, NY. Beth graduated in May from New York

University and will begin studying for the ministry this fall at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

Melodie Feather
Track Co-Leader: Worship Arts

Photo and Bio Pending

Will Floyd
LENS Co-Leader: Multigenerational Community



Will Floyd is a lay leader from the Unitarian Church in Summit, New Jersey. In Summit he was co-chair of his youth group and worked with other lay leaders to make anti-racism a focus of the congregation. He also served on the Youth Adult Committee of the Metro New York District where he worked to build intentional community at youth conferences. In 2007 Will was elected to what would be the last YRUU Steering Committee (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists is the youth-directed organization that has been responsible for youth ministry since 1983). In this position, Will advocated for youth empowerment and anti-oppression work to be main

considerations in the current youth ministry transition process. In January of 2008, he volunteered at the Office of Youth Ministry at the UUA in Boston where he studied and researched UU youth history. Will currently studies Comparative American Studies and music technology and composition at Oberlin College and Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio.

Rev. Alicia Forde
LENS Co-Leader: Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multiculturalism



Rev. Alicia R. Forde serves as the Program Coordinator for Multicultural Congregations in the Identity Based Ministries staff group. Her ministry includes organizing congregational involvement in the Diversity of Ministry Initiative and encouraging the development of multicultural congregations, faith based anti-oppression, and social justice in Unitarian Universalist communities. Alicia lives in Longmont, Colorado where she enjoys approximately 350 days of amazing hiking and outdoor tea drinking weather.

Jan Gartner
Program Design Team



Jan Gartner, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, is thrilled to represent the St. Lawrence District on the UULTI 2008 Design Team! Jan is Director of Religious Education at First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. She earned the UUA's Credentialed Religious Educator designation in 2006, and is now a mentor in the Credentialing Program. Jan is the Good Officer for her chapter of LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) and is also this year's Convener for LREDA LARGE.

Jan enjoys responsibilities outside of the religious education domain, in particular, serving as a resource in the area of staff compensation and leading Radical Hospitality workshops for her own congregation and others. An enthusiastic first-time leadership school (EAGLES) attendee in 2004, Jan returned in 2006 when the Congregational Growth and Development School was added. At UULTI 2007, Jan participated in the Governance track. Jan lives in Pittsford, NY, with her husband, Mike Weinstein, three children, two cats, and an embarrassing amount of clutter.

Patricia Infante
TRACK Co-Leader: Congregational Growth and Program Design Team



Pat is the Director for Lifespan Faith Development in the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA. In her position she provides leadership and support to the 65 member congregations of the JPD in the areas of lifespan faith development, Youth and Young Adult ministries, religious education, and family ministries. She previously served the JPD as the Director for Growth and continues to share her passion and lend her expertise in fostering congregational growth, strategic planning, mission/vision/covenant work and stewardship.

She works closely with the Growth and Extension Committee in the award and administration of Chalice Lighter Grants.

Janice Marie Johnson
Program Design Team



Janice is a religious educator, curriculum developer and trainer and currently serves as the Director of Lifespan Education for the Community Church of NY. She believes that education is a spiritual practice. She is an active Unitarian Universalist leader working on the local, district and continental levels. Janice is an ardent believer in the power of the collaborative process and in interfaith dialogue. In all her world, Janice is most proud of her role as mom to artist and activist, Lehna Huie. Janice is inspired by her maxim: Masakhane - "let us build together."

Rev. Hope Johnson
Chaplain



Rev. Hope Johnson is Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau. This congregation is the 2007 recipient of the UUA's and Metro NY District's Eugene Pickett Award for Growth. Hope's current service includes Chair, UUA Nominating Committee; Member, UU Ministers Association (UUMA) Executive Committee (Portfolio: Committee on Ministry: Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression/Multiculturalism); Jubilee World Trainer (UUA); Good Offices Person (UUMA); UUA Presidential Co-Awardee for Volunteerism, 2006. Member, Anti-Racism and Diversity Committee (ARDC) MNYD (Co-Chair through June 2008). Hope is a 'people person'

with high energy for all that she does because of her abiding commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Stefan Jonasson
TRACK Co-Leader: Governance



Rev. Stefan M. Jonasson has been the Director for Large Congregations at the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1999 and, before that, he served the UUA as a District Executive and growth consultant. A respected authority in the field of organizational development for congregations, his passion for UU history enables him to combine the best of our tradition of polity with the most innovative modern insights about governance. He is based in Winnipeg, Canada, where he lives with his wife, Cindy, and their two talented daughters.

Paula Cole Jones
LENS Co-Leader Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multiculturalism



Paula is a management consultant specializing in group facilitation, diversity and quality improvement processes. She was called as a consultant by her home congregation to co-facilitate a process of reconciliation, which led to the founding of ADORE, A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity, and subsequently nine years of involvement as a leader in antiracism. At the national level for the UUA, she has been part of the development team and now the Lead Consultant for JUUST change, an anti-oppression consultancy program for UU congregations. In addition to being a facilitator for Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshops, Paula is co-chair of the Baltimore-Washington Region growth committee's Diversity Team and a member of the JPD Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Team. She is a past president of DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries) Steering Committee. Paula is married to Dr. Albert Jose Jones, former provost/VP Academic Affairs and professor of marine and environmental sciences at the University of the District of Columbia. He is also a co-founder of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers and a Master Instructor in TaeKwonDo. Paula holds several scuba diving certifications and has earned over eighty trophies in martial arts competition. She and her husband have traveled the world and enjoyed the diversity of many cultures in their pursuit of top dive locations.

Karen Lapidus
TRACK Co-Leader: Lifespan Faith Development



Karen has been a religious educator for 22 years, serving both small and mid-sized congregations. In addition, she has served for more than six years as the Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development for the Ohio Meadville District. Karen is a Renaissance Program module leader and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Religion with a focus on Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She lives in Youngstown, Ohio with Larry, her husband of thirty years and plays clarinet with the Youngstown Area Community Concert Band.

Andrea Lerner
Program Design Team/Resource Coordinator/Librarian



Andrea is the District Executive for the Metro NY District, serving 51 congregations in NY, NJ, PA and CT, and previously served as the Program Consultant for Metro NY for 4 years. Before joining the UUA District Staff, she served three congregations, ranging in size from 250 to 700 members, as Director of Religious Education and also served as a mentor to several religious educators from small congregations. She served on the board of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) for five years and on LREDA's Professional Standards Task Force and its Integrity Team, which worked to dismantle institutional racism and oppression. She has been a UUA Renaissance trainer for nine years and was also trained to facilitate the Covenanting process. Andrea has completed the Alban training course, Consulting for Vital Congregations, as well as the Healthy Congregations training course. She is also known for being the "Answer Grape".

Rev. Phil Lund
TRACK Co-Leader: Lifespan Faith Development



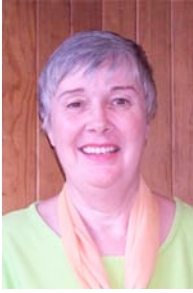
Rev. Phillip Lund has served as religious educator at Unitarian Universalist congregations in Bloomington, Indiana, New York City, and Chicago, Illinois. He did his Parish Ministry internship at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Rockford, Illinois, and was the Practicum Minister at Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship in Ripon, Wisconsin. A graduate of Meadville/Lombard Theological School, Phillip is currently the Lifespan Program Director for the Prairie Star District.

David Munro
TRACK Co-Leader: Governance



Dave attended EAGLES, the St. Lawrence District leadership school, in 2000, and then served on the staff from 2001-03. After a hiatus of a few years, Dave rejoined the EAGLES staff in 2006, focusing on the Congregational Development and Growth component of the program. Last summer, Dave assisted Pacific Northwest District Executive Janine Larsen in presenting the Governance track at UULTI. Dave was married to Eileen Hoffman in the Buffalo UU church in 1982. They have two children, Jamie and Julie (22 and 20), who have "graduated" from the religious ed. program. Dave has just completed his third (and final!) year as president of the Albany NY congregation. He was recently asked to serve as chair of the SLD's "Future" team, which is charged to develop a long-range plan for the district. Professionally, Dave is an environmental/energy lawyer for New York State and a part-time clinical professor at Albany Law School.

Frankie Price Stern
TRACK Co-Leader: Stewardship



Frankie assists congregations with stewardship because she wants UU congregations to be here for more and more future 'discoverers' like herself. Her work as a UUA Stewardship Consultant is focused on ensuring congregations can fulfill their missions and continue to provide room in the welcoming spiritual homes everyone needs. Her experience tells her this does not easily happen without careful leadership.

She and her husband both worked for IBM for about 30 years and moved 8 times, joining UU congregations each time, including the three years in Paris. (Yes, there is a Paris UU congregation.) Since she took early retirement in 1996 at the age of 52 she has got a tremendous satisfaction from being part of the leadership, finance, and planning teams at her own congregation, and also from her work since 2001 as a UUA Stewardship Consultant and a District Compensation Consultant.

Rev. Susan Ritchie
LENS Leader: History of UU Public Witness and Social Action



Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie has served as the minister of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center, Ohio since September of 1996. She holds a PhD in Cultural Studies from the Ohio State University, and a Divinity degree from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, where she very occasionally teaches UU History and Theology. Ritchie is published widely on the topic of Unitarian Universalist history and identity, and also religious cultural studies. During the fall of 2008 she will be in residency at Starr King School for the Ministry as Visiting Professor of Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Identity. She has been selected to deliver the Minns Lectures in Spring 2009.

Ritchie is Chair of the Midwest Subcommittee on Candidacy, Chair of the Ohio-Meadville Commissioned Lay Leader Committee, and continues in her tenth year as volunteer chaplain and counselor to the Capital Care Women's Clinic. Ritchie is proud to have grown up as a third generation Unitarian. She lives in Columbus, Ohio, with her partner Donna and English Springer Valentino, where she enjoys madly competitive amateur tennis and foolishly ambitious cooking.

Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris
Lens Co-Leader Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multiculturalism



Tracey is a Minister of Religious Education and is serving as Director for Congregational Services at the UUA: she manages programs and works with staff to challenge and assist our congregations of all sizes to live up to their potential as liberal religious communities. Tracey came to the UUA staff following years of professional RE leadership at a wide variety of congregations. Her educational background includes a Doctor of Ministry and Master of Divinity degrees from Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN and a certificate from the UUA Independent Study Program for Ministry of Religious Education (now the Modified Residency Program of

Meadville Lombard Theological School.) She became a UU following a conversion experience at the time of her grandmother's death on Easter 1971: having recently discovered the Unitarian Universalism, and in need of solace and understanding, she had to decide whether her native Southern Baptist Church could minister to her or whether her newfound UU faith was where she could find what she needed. At the UU church in Lynchburg, VA, that Easter Sunday, she found the saving message she was searching for.

Rev. Art Severance
Chaplain



Rev. Art Severance served the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio for 16 years and helped them grow big enough to build a beautiful new sanctuary in 1997. He has also been active in growth work in the Southwest District, serving as one of the 2 Ministerial Settlement Representatives working with churches in search of new ministers. He is a guitar playing folksinger, songwriter and describes himself as “a mystical humanist on the cusp of naturalistic theism.” He worked as a counselor in various residential treatment centers before he entered ministry, so he has a lot of counseling experience. He has been serving the East Shore UU Church in Kirtland, Ohio since 2007 and lives in nearby Mentor, OH, with his wife, Cathie; his 3 beautiful grown daughters live in San Antonio.

Claire Sexton
LENS Co-Leader: Multigenerational Community



Claire Sexton has been the Young Adult and Campus Ministry (YACM) Consultant for the Metro New York District since July of 2007. Prior to her appointment as YACM Consultant she spent 4 years as a volunteer for the Continental UU Young Adult Network (C*UUYAN) as a conference planner, and on the Southwest UU Young Adult Network (SWUUYAN) Board, as the President. Claire is originally from Texas and moved to Brooklyn NY to pursue a master's degree in Visual Arts Administration at New York University, which she completed in May of 2007. Since January 2008 she has also worked as the full time Communications Coordinator for the nonprofit art space Art in General.

Cindy Simerly
Program Design Team

Cindy brings expertise in organizational behavior and leadership development to UULTI. After receiving degrees from Baldwin-Wallace College and Bowling Green State University and working in human resources management in the private sector, she is at Lakeland Community College where she is now a management professor, department chair, and college curriculum chair. Her experiences range from human resources and talent management to experiential, accelerated, and adult learning. Cindy holds a certification in leadership development from Phi Theta Kappa and is beginning her second term as board chair of East Shore Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirtland, Ohio. Additional lay leadership work includes small group ministry facilitation and training and church finance. Cindy lives in Concord Township, Ohio with her husband, son, and their two labs.

Frances Sink
LENS Co-Leader: Leadership as a Spiritual Practice and Program Design Team



Frances Sink is delighted to be able to share her love of congregational life and her commitment to helping congregations develop their potential as sources of deepening spirituality, healing, and transformation for our culture today. Professionally employed as a clinical psychologist, she is also an adjunct congregational consultant for the Metro New York District with an emphasis on congregational change, leadership processes, and right relations. To this work she brings many years of lay leadership experience in a variety of capacities, including board and search chairs, in The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT. She is currently a student at Yale Divinity School and is a Candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry. She and her husband, Victor Olsen, live in Wilton, CT and are about to become empty-nesters as they send their son Peter off to college in August.

Rev. Dr. Richard Speck
LENS Co-Leader: Congregations as Dynamic Systems



Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke, Richard has developed a series of workshops in which congregational teams are trained to use systems analysis to diagnose and improve or restore the health of their communities. Currently the District Executive for the Joseph Priestley District, he has previously served as minister and music director to the UU Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL; and is also a national leader of the UU Musicians Network. He was an active lay Unitarian Universalist for many years in Alabama before graduating from Meadville/Lombard Theological School with a Doctorate in Ministry in 1990. Richard's career before the ministry was as a respiratory therapist, with an MA in health care administration. He left health care to pursue new avenues of serving humanity through the ministry.

Rev. Tracey Sprowls-Jenks
LENS Co-Leader: Multigenerational Congregation



Tracy Sprowls Jenks has been the Religious Education Minister for the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood for three years. She has previously served Community Church as an Associate minister and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Montgomery as their minister. She has 18 years of RE experience both as a volunteer and as a professional. Her passion is spiritual growth through worship, learning and serving together in a multigenerational community. Outside of congregational and denomination work, Tracy enjoys hiking, knitting, cooking and visiting friends and family. She lives in Ridgewood with her husband, David, her son, Izaac, and three cats.

Rev. Joan Van Becelaere
LENS Co-Leader: Congregations as Dynamic Systems



Rev. Joan Van Becelaere is the District Executive of the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA. Prior to this position, she spent 13 years in theological education at the Iliff School of Theology, Denver CO where she was Vice President for Student Services and taught UU Polity and History. Her other positions include Assistant Director of International Education at the University of Colorado-Denver and personnel and retail division manager for Mile High Comics (the nation's largest!). She has an MDiv from Iliff School of Theology and an MPA from the University of Colorado-Denver. Her BA is in Theatre and Communication Arts from Lindenwood University, St. Charles, MO and she has been engaged in doctoral work on leadership development in the church with Wisdom University in Oakland, CA. Joan has been teaching leadership development for over seven years, including four years as one of the main presenters at the Russel Lockwood Leadership School in the Mountain Dessert District. She is trained in Open Space Technology, Appreciative Inquiry, and Healthy Congregations techniques. And in her spare time, she loves to perform Dr. Seuss stories.

Douglas Zelinski
Dean and Program Design Team



Doug is the Program Consultant for Leadership Development for the Metro New York District of the UUA. He honed his skills during 20 years of organizational development work with human service nonprofit agencies and city and county government. His experience ranges from program evaluation and metrics identification and management, to board development and community-wide planning. He is familiar with the challenges of many congregational lay leader roles as he has occupied many of them during his time with the First UU Church of Columbus, Ohio. Doug lives in Wayne, New Jersey. His partner of fourteen years, Steve Shack is an elementary school teacher for the Columbus City School system.

By Staff Role

Dean: Douglas Zelinski

Program Design Planning Team: Ed Cohle, Jan Gartner, Pat Infante, Janice Marie Johnson, Andrea Lerner, Cindy Simerly, Frances Sink, Rev. Joan Van Becelaere, and Doug Zelinski

Resources Coordinator/Librarian: Andrea Lerner

TRACK Co-Leaders

Congregational Growth Rev. Tom Chulak and Patricia Infante

Governance: Rev. Stefan Jonasson and David Munro

Lifespan Faith Development: Karen Lapidus and Rev. Phil Lund

Stewardship: Laurel Amabile and Frankie Price Stern

Worship Arts: Rev. Nancy Arnold and Melodie Feather

LENS Co-Leaders

Congregations as Dynamic Systems: Rev. Joan Van Becelaer and Richard Speck

Leadership as a Spiritual Path: Rev. Alison Cornish and Frances Sink

Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and MultiCulturalism: Rev. Alicia Forde, Paula Cole Jones and Rev. Tracey Robinson-Harris

History of UU Public Witness and Social Action: Rev. Susan Ritchie

Multigenerational Community: Beatriz Bianco, Ellen Carvill-Ziemer, Beth Dana, Will Floyd, Claire Sexton and Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks,