

WUU *news*

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

October 2014



October's Theme is Truth Rev. Jennifer Ryu

Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant to affirm and promote, "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning." This is one of our Seven Principles.

As a reaction to fundamentalists who claim there is only ONE TRUTH, this principle leads our religious communities to emphasize the "free and responsible search" more than the claim of a particular truth itself.

Rather than wanting to arrive at the truth, we find the journey to be more meaningful. Rather than seeking to hold the truth firmly in our hands, we open our outstretched hands to the world to receive whatever comes. That doesn't mean that we just wander without ever arriving anywhere. An earnest search eventually leads to truths. When we are confronted with a particular truth, we are called to proclaim it with our deeds as well as with our words. We are called to do the truth in love and to speak the truth in love.

This fall, nearly 20 WUUs are meeting every other week, seeking truths about racism and their own white identity. Using the book, "Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice" by Paul Kivel as their guide, these UUs are practicing truth by sharing their experiences in a caring circle. They are speaking the

Mark Your Calendar

10.9

The Odyssey
Laughter Yoga

10.10

Social Justice-Kenya Night

10.11

Grounds Day

10.20

Membership Orientation

10.24

Fourth Friday Family Potluck

10.26

Rainbow Potluck

Continued on page 2...

Truth Article Continued ...

truth of their personal experiences, and they are standing with the truth of the ongoing effects of racism in our congregation, our town, and in our nation.

Truth is open to examination and always inclusive. If truth is used to shut people out, it is not truth. If truth is used to close the doors to more knowledge, it is not truth. May our community of faith continue to practice seeking truth, standing in truth, doing truth, and speaking truth in love.

Blessings,
Rev. Jennifer



October Worship Service Schedule

October 5, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Robert Coats

"Bend it, Twist it, Use it and Abuse it"

Truth can be elusive. It can be pliable, malleable, freeing and, at times, painful. Come join our guest preacher, Rev. Coats, for a discussion on finding our personal and spiritual truths and how we can find ways to live in community honoring our truths while at the same time respecting the truths of others.

The choir sings today, accompanied by our new pianist, Dave Robbins.

October 12, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"A School for Wisdom & Service"

All-Ages Worship Service:

Austen Petersen's Installation

Today we formally install Austen as our Director of Religious Education. There will be lots of music and storytelling as we consider the purpose of our programs for children and youth.

October 19, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Jennifer Ryu

"The Truth about Beauty"

The truth about beauty is that it can be found anywhere--even in midst of unimaginable evil or deepest despair. David Hamilton and Renee Kingan bring their musical gifts to this service.

October 26, 2014

9:15am & 11:15am

Rev. Kay Barré

"Just Say Boo!"

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to Halloween, our fear of death, and how the creepy traditions of the season may just be the best thing for us.

Today's guest preacher is the Rev. Kay Barré who serves as Associate Pastor at Williamsburg United Methodist Church. The UU Rhythmic house band will play today!

**Children of all ages are encouraged to dress up today!

News From Your Board



Autumnal Greetings from the Board.

We've put behind us almost a year of investigating an expansion plan and a financial plan to build it. Now a new season is upon us to put those two pieces together into final

forms. The Board thanks each one of you who took the time and made the effort to participate in this past Sunday's vote. Eighty-five percent of the 142 members who voted said "Yes" to a Capital Campaign and to engage Guernsey Tingle Architects to complete the Phase 1 design. By the beginning of winter, those tasks will be close to finished. And a year from now, construction could be well on its way, if you approve the final design and financial situation. Keep reading the BOF newsletters to see how things are progressing and what's next.

Three contracts have already been signed and delivered for work required in the acquisition of a Special Use Permit (SUP), which takes many months to secure from the county. The estimated cost for the work done by Guernsey Tingle Architects, plus an engineering consultant firm, a traffic study consultant and, of course, our own Design Build Team is \$30,300.

For WUU's healthy financial future, the Board has authorized a task force to study creative "alternative income streams," ways in which we can bring outside money into WUU. An initial report from this task force will be presented to the Board in December. If you have interest in such brainstorming and investigation, please contact me (Lola Warren at lolainva@gmail.com or 757-254-3520). The group will begin work soon.

In addition to caring for our facilities and finances, the Board cares about what is going on with each of you. The new Membership Team co-chairs visited

the Board this past week to share their plans for providing new member classes, keeping in touch with guests, for members who have drifted away, and, of course, for all the rest of us. I encourage everyone to sign up for circle dinners – a great way to get to know a few people during the year and enjoy breaking bread together – and to become involved in the activities of at least one ministry team.

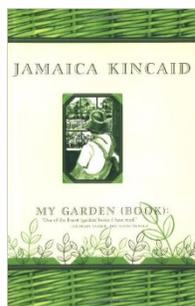
The Board wishes you a good October while you enjoy Fall activities along with the crisp autumn air.

Using the words of Eileen Karpales (a WUU interim minister in '92/'93), slightly altered,

"May the rain fall lightly on [your]house,
The sun shine warmly, the winds blow softly,
And bless it as a place of joy and peace."

-Lola Warren, your Board President

Third Wednesday Pathfinders Book Group



Next meeting: October 15th at 12:00 Noon in Fahs House. This month's book is: "My Garden (Book)" by Jamaica Kincaid



Share the Plate Sunday, October 5 - Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels

Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels will receive the Share the Plate donation on October 5. WAMOW provides home-delivered professionally-prepared nutrition as well as smiles, social interaction and a daily routine to over 100 people who are unable to obtain or prepare a hot nutritious meal for themselves as a result of aging, physical or mental impairment or the inability to shop for themselves. Volunteer drivers have been delivering midday meals Monday through Friday for 39 years. WAMOW is most appreciative that we have included them in our Share the Plate outreach. Please be generous.

Williamsburg Area Meals Wheels

To learn more about the Share the Plate program and to nominate a local charity or non-profit, email stp-at-wuu.org.

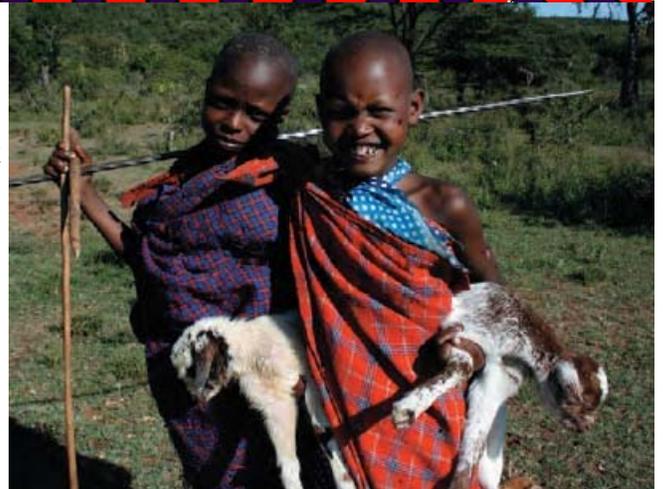


The United Way Greater Williamsburg/Community Resource Center and Agency Partners assist our homeless and precariously housed neighbors to find housing. They are need of some items to furnish the houses. If you can donate good used or new items, please place them in the marked box next to the Fish Wagon in the narthex any Sunday in October.

- Household goods: plates, cups, and glasses; silverware; pots/pans; utensils; trash cans; strainers; etc
- Soft goods: sheets (all sizes); towels; comforters; rugs, etc

10/10 Kenya Night Potluck

Join us at 6pm for a potluck and program about the work that Camilla Buchanan and Debra Hill have been doing in Kenya with the Maasai American Organization (<http://www.maasaiamerican.org>), working to improve health and education in the Maasai Mara region of Kenya. The Dream Shop of Eastern State Hospital will have African crafts available for sale.



Thoughts on Gifts and Giving

What does it mean to make a gift to WUU? Is it the same as any other gift to the nonprofit of your choice? Kerry and I support several nonprofits in the Williamsburg area and are beginning to consider end of year gifts once again. I find that my gifts of time, talent and treasure to WUU are more than a tax write-off or something that makes me feel good. It is instead an investment in our community of faith and mission. Those gifts also provide us with much in return, often unexpectedly.

Webster's defines "gift" as "something given voluntarily without payment in return." The difference for me between my support of WUU and many other worthy organizations is that I'm not giving to keep the lights on – I'm giving to keep minds open. The mission of WUU calls me to think, the ministry and leadership inspire me to act, and the track record of good governance give me comfort in my gifts. The gifts I receive by participating are the unexpected payment in return.

As I write this, I am reminded of Jennifer's stirring sermon on the Sabbath and how we can be more intentional in our use of time. I am also reminded of the many lives touched by being a part of our community and how we are enriched by each others' stories and experiences as we gather after a service or in small groups. Our participation in WUU brings us many gifts that were not expected when we first started attending. I did not expect to be personally inspired when Kerry and I joined to give our daughters a non-dogmatic religious grounding. And yet Kerry and I have stayed involved after our daughters have grown and moved away.

What motivates you to give to WUU? Whatever the reason, your investment in the future of our faith community is sound. Thank you for your gifts...and for the gift to each of us that keeps on giving.

Peter Mellette, for the Stewardship Committee



Food For FISH

(FISH is our local community's food & clothing pantry)

For Fish during the month of October let's do breakfast items: cereals hot and cold (small to medium sizes) and individual boxes, juice, breakfast bars, pancake mix...non perishables items of course. Please look for the Red Wagon to put your items in.

Again this year, we will be collecting NEW socks and underwear (all sizes) for the holiday. Our church has always been a good friend to Fish and they continue to appreciate all of our contributions.



Religious Education This Month

What an exciting month October is! Williamsburg Unitarian Universalist's theme for October is truth and beauty, and the children and youth will be exploring this idea in their Religious Education classes. Our committed volunteers will prepare classes for four different age groups, lower elementary, upper elementary, middle and high school.

Have you read our program guide? You can find the .pdf on our website www.wuu.org.

Lower Elementary School

October 5th

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. — Maya Angelou, poet and author

In this session, children use positive words and actions as they learn and live our First Principle, affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Participants will discover that these attitudes and actions are also taught in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

October 12th

This Sunday will be an all ages service. Join us in the sanctuary!

October 19th

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, "What! You too? I thought I was the only one." — C.S. Lewis, British novelist

This session explores how every friendship is surrounded in love. To make a friend is to discover ways we are alike. To meet new people and look first for how we are alike, rather than different, can be a challenge.

October 26th

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This session introduces the second Principle, that all people should be treated fairly, and that through this teaching we learn what it means to forgive. Kindergarten and first grade children will have experienced some form of forgiveness, either in the forgiving or being forgiven when they have said or heard, "I'm sorry."

Upper Elementary on next page



Upper Elementary School

October 5th

Truth, like surgery, may hurt, but it cures. — Han Suyin, writer, "A Many Splendored Thing"

The Blake covenant asserts that we "seek the truth in love." This session offers the story of Unitarian Universalist minister David Pettee, who sought the truth about his family's history of owning slaves. In finding truth, he found pain, but also joy and healing. The children discern truth from lies in a game, and express the "tied together" theme of this program by weaving a God's Eye, an emblem of true seeing.

October 12th

This Sunday will be an all ages service. Join us in the sanctuary!

October 19th

Love is something if you give it away, you end up having more. — Malvina Reynolds (from the song "Magic Penny")

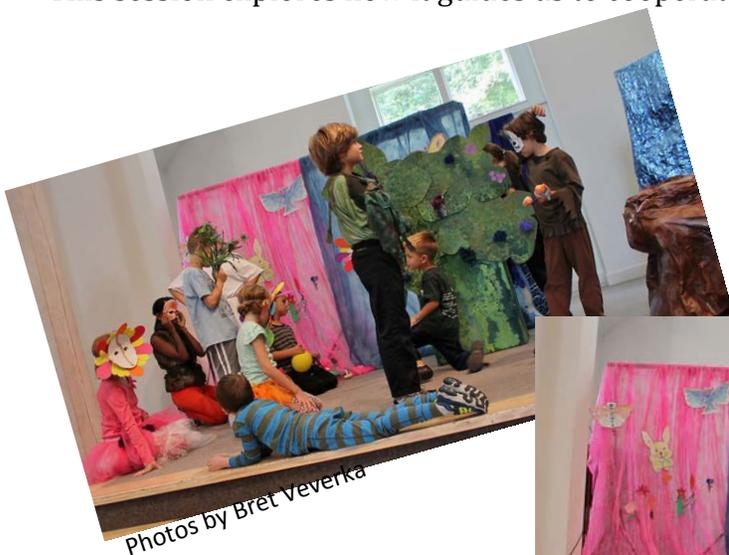
This session explores the essence of a beloved community as sharing the good times as well as the bad with each other; this is what creates a true spirit of love in a religious community. When people are tied together by the spirit of love, we share the ordinary moments of life as well as the momentous occasions. When love is the basis of a shared experience, we are motivated to overcome conflict and reach out to help one another. Therefore, when love is the spirit of the congregation, our religious community helps us, each and all, to grow and to support one another in both good times and bad.

October 26th

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. — Hebrew scripture, Leviticus 19:18

Commonly known as the Golden Rule, the ethic of reciprocity appears in some form in every major religion—Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam—as well as in many other traditions. We can consider the ethic of reciprocity a universal value on which people of diverse faiths can agree. This session explores how it guides us to cooperate, for the good of all.

Middle School on next page



Photos by Bret Veverka



Photos from our Summer Arts play "The Bursting Bush"



Middle school will be exploring different aspects of truth and beauty.

October 5th

We'll explore one aspect of truth and beauty through the lens of the quote "*We need not think alike to love alike,*" by Francis David

October 12th

This Sunday will be an all ages service. Join us in the sanctuary!

October 19th

The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world. — Marianne Williamson

This session explores pathways to forgiveness along with the idea of covenant. Repairing a broken covenant takes sincere intent and deliberate practice. How can that be done, and how can we as justice makers help our community along that path?

October 26th

If you look closely at a tree you'll notice its knots and dead branches, just like our bodies. What we learn is that beauty and imperfection go together wonderfully. — Matthew Fox, theologian

Humans are imperfect. We are each uniquely made and live our lives uniquely. Yet we often compare ourselves to others, finding a standard of perfection against which we undoubtedly fail. Lacking a skill or feature we wish we had, we may feel incompetent or inadequate. We forget to value our capacity to learn, grow, and contribute to our communities in our own unique ways.

Yours In Joy,

Austen Petersen



WUU Members participate in the United Way Day of Caring



Everybody squeeze over a little! There's plenty of room at your table for one more guest. Of course there is, and you are ready with your box, right? Austen is working with the RE kids to create boxes, but if you don't have anyone in RE right now, not to worry. You can create a box, or a jar, or a bowl. The point is: everyone needs a place on the table to put money to feed the **Guest at Your Table**, an annual fundraising and education program that supports UUSC's human rights work. For forty years, GAYT has been the practical expression of our collective belief in human rights, beginning with the right to food.

As you sit down to a meal – doesn't matter, breakfast, lunch, or dinner – think about the food you will share with her or him. Can you spare enough extra for a hungry guest? Picture in your mind milk for a little child, meat for a father, vegetables the woman has no way to provide for her family. During the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas, offer something at every meal for the guest you are privileged to host. For many years, I have become too accustomed to this annual effort, finally descending into a somewhat mindless check-writing exercise at the end of the fund drive. Not this year. When I watch world news every day, I know I must pay attention. I must care enough to share what I have, little or much, for that is the only path to peace. In summary, this is the proposed schedule:

- Put box or jar or bowl on your dining table on or about November 2nd
- Bring your collected donation to church November 30th
 - You can choose to bring it as it is, put it in a sturdy envelope or convert it to a check made payable to WUU.
- All donations will be combined and sent by Suzanne, our financial assistant, to UUSC in a single check.

WHAT IS GUEST AT YOUR TABLE?

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports UUSC's human rights work. We invite everyone to take part: individuals, families, small groups, congregations, and community organizations.

This year marks Guest at Your Table's 40th anniversary! Over the decades, Guest at Your Table has raised millions of dollars for human rights projects that have made a real difference in people's lives.

WHAT IS THIS YEAR'S GUEST AT YOUR TABLE THEME?

This year's Guest at Your Table theme is food sustainability: ensuring that people have sufficient, affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food to eat and that it's produced in a way that doesn't damage the environment. Our educational materials highlight projects in Haiti, Kenya, and Honduras that illustrate how sustainability initiatives, when done well, have multiple benefits. Our *Stories of Hope* highlight economic justice, educational opportunities for children, community responses to climate change, and other advancements for human rights.

- See more at: <http://www.uusc.org/guest-at-your-table-for-beginners#sthash.uFjmrUAt.dpuf>

Meet Our New Pianist...Dave Robbins



Dave Robbins grew up Chesapeake, Virginia, and studied music at the Shenandoah Conservatory (B.M. Piano Performance) and the New England Conservatory (M.M. Piano Performance). He worked in Boston as a pianist for the Handel & Haydn Society, Boston Ballet, New Bedford Symphony, and Unitarian Congregation of Mendon & Uxbridge, where he was the music director. From time to time, Dave has performed with the Virginia Symphony, such as in 2013's *Nutcracker*. In 2012, he accepted a job at the Richmond Ballet and moved to Richmond, where he is also on the faculty of the Academy of Music and is an Assistant Director for Classical Revolution RVA. In his spare time, he plays live improvised accompaniment for the Coalition Theater, an improv comedy theater.

Your Membership Co-Chairs



L to R: Catherine Nye Laarhoven, Carolyn Greathouse, Carolyn Wilson

Catherine Nye Laarhoven joined WUU in December of 2012. She is the Co Chair of both the Yard Sale Committee and Membership Committee. Catherine has been married for 16 years to her husband Jim, and has two amazing children, TJ and Julia. In her free time Catherine enjoys painting, art, genealogy, and spending time with her family.

Carolyn Greathouse joined WUU in June of 2010. Carolyn was raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She and her husband met in first grade and were married after college. They have two daughters together. One lives in Williamsburg, which is why she moved here five years ago after her husband of 40 years died. Her other daughter moved here to spend the last two years of her life fighting cancer. She enjoys spending time with family and keeps busy by being involved in WUU, Blooms that Brighten, and League of Women Voters. She continues continuing to learn by attending plays, book clubs, lectures and traveling. She is grateful for her extended "family" here at WUU.

Carolyn Wilson and her husband Jack Bachner joined WUU in November 2013. Carolyn was a member of the Northwest UU Congregation in Atlanta for 22 years prior to moving to Williamsburg. During her time at Northwest, Carolyn was active as Community Ministry Team Co-leader, focusing on Fellowship and Care Corps. She also served on Membership and Stewardship teams, the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee while at Northwest UU.

WUU October Calendar

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

- 10:00 am, Membership Leaders Mtg, Library
- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, October 2, 2014

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm, Navigators Monthly Meeting, Fahs

Saturday, October 4, 2014

- 4:00 pm, UURhythmics Rehearsal, Fahs House

Sunday, October 5, 2015

- 9:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:30 pm, Caring Team Meeting, Fahs House
- 4:00 pm, YRUU, Sanctuary

Monday, October 6, 2014

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Creative Arts, Fahs
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

- 4:00 pm, Stewardship Committee, Parker House

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, October 9, 2014

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am, The Odyssey, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Laughter Yoga, Sanctuary

Friday, October 10, 2014

- 6:00 pm, Social Justice-Kenya Night, Sanctuary

Saturday, October 11, 2014

- Grounds Day (details TBA)
- 9:30 am, Social Justice Council Meeting, Fahs

Sunday, October 12, 2014

- 9:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:15 am, Meet the Minister, Library
- 12:30 pm, Visiting Stewards Training, Sanct.
- 2:00 pm, Conversation on Race, Fahs House
- 4:00 pm, YRUU, Parker House

Monday, October 13, 2014

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Creative Arts, Fahs
- 5:00 pm, CC Meeting, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

- 7:00 pm, Worship Team Meeting, Fahs House

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

- 12:00 pm, Pathfinders Book Group, Fahs House
- 4:00 pm, Board Governance Meeting, Parker
- 6:00 pm, Finance Committee Meeting, Fahs
- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, October 16, 2014

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary
- 7:30 pm, Leadership Team Meeting, Fahs House

Sunday, October 19, 2014

- 9:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm, YRUU, Sanctuary

Monday, October 20, 2014

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Creative Arts, Fahs
- 5:30 pm, New Member Orientation, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 23, 2014

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm, Laughter Yoga, Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm, Membership Team, Fahs House

Friday, October 24, 2014

- 6:00 pm, 4th Friday Family Potluck, Sanctuary

Sunday, October 26, 2014

- 9:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 am, Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:30, Rainbow Potluck, Fahs House
- 4:00 pm, YRUU, Sanctuary

Monday, October 27, 2014

- 10:00 am, Gayle Henion Creative Arts, Fahs
- 5:30 pm, New Member Orientation, Fahs House
- 7:00 pm, Buddhist Meditation, Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

- 7:00 pm, Board Meeting, Fahs House

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

- 7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursday, October 30

- 10:00 am, Meditation, Sanctuary



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

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Jennifer Ryu, Minister
Lola Warren, President
newsletter@wuu.org

TIME SENSITIVE

CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name. We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact Endowment@wuu.org.

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at office@wuu.org.)



October Anniversaries

Cindy Frezek and Sally Fisk

Ana and Ralph Romero



October Birthdays

John Bensel

Lily Bolling

Ellen Busching-Randolph

Ann Jo Cosgrove

Dave Cosgrove

Ben Dorsett

Judy Flores

Susan Fournier

Carl Friedrichs

Aly Haynes-Traver

Beverly Levinson

Ivonne Luchs

Ülkü Nouri

Bobby Oliver

Ralph Romero

Jennifer Ryu

Liz Snyder

Roy Snyder

Joan Sprigle-Adair

Dawn Traver

Larry Ventis

Susan Whitley

Chris Wilcox

Tallie Winter