

WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Words from Rev. David A. Johnson,
Interim Minister



2016

Some Dates of Note

11.3

Navigators Monthly Meeting

11.8

Election Day-
Get Out and Vote!

11.11

Veteran's Day-Office Closed

11.13

Post Election Candlelight Vigil

11.18

Family Potluck

11.20

St. Cecelia Sunday

11.24

Thanksgiving-Office Closed

11.25

Office Closed

Interim Minister's Letter: "Hats and Oars"

Here's a series of thought experiments: **Question One:** How many **HATS** have you ever worn, at one time or another? Throughout your life, how many roles, relationships, associations, obligations, and opportunities have you taken on and devoted your energy and resources to? Several hundred? Several thousand? An enormous number, I'm quite sure.

- **Question Two:** How many **hats** have you worn within the **past year**?
- **Question Three:** How many **hats** have you worn within the **past week**?
- **Question Four:** How many **hats** are you **presently** wearing? ("Presently" means precisely at this moment, and not two minutes ago!)

As I review my immense collections of **HATS** – past and present – I discover that they number in the thousands. Thankfully I have bid farewell to many hats which, while once serving me well, no longer are relevant to my life's current purposes and values. That still leaves an immense number of hats on my hat-rack. How shall I choose, from moment-to-moment, the particular hat which clearly signals to others -- and symbolizes for me -- my present role, my intention, and my focus? If I were to presume and announce proudly to others: "Of course I can multi-task; of course I can wear many hats simultaneously!" Under such a presumption, how faithfully would I be able to represent and serve the constituencies who are NOW on my radar screen and who now claim my focused attention?

Now let's consider a related sequence of questions: How many **OARS** have I had in the water, at one time or another, during my life? How many different courses have I set sail upon, and steered my ship toward a desired destination? Again, I have labored and sweated and pulled upon an enormous number of **OARS**. Now let's narrow this series of questions, just as we did before: How many of my **OARS** have I had in the water within the past year? How many within the past week? Within the past hour? At the present moment, how many **OARS** do I have in the water?



Continued on next page

Interim Minister's Letter Continued

Here's the point: At every moment I must focus. I must narrow my choice of **HATS** to wear, and my choice of **OARS** to pull upon – if I am to function purposefully and effectively. At every occasion, I must put aside on the hat-rack all of my **HATS** -- except the single hat which represents my role in the present moment. I must also take all my **OARS** out of the water, except the single **OAR** whose purpose and direction are congruent with the purposes of the others with whom I am sailing.

This is the most important purpose of “check-ins” at gatherings in many types of organizations: “Checking-In” allows every participant to declare to the group: These are the **HATS** which I have worn very recently, and these are the **OARS** which I have had in the water. I care about these **HATS** and these **OARS** very much. However, in order to focus I am putting these **HATS** on the hat-rack, and I am “shipping the **OARS**” that I have been pulling on. I am letting go these items so that I can give my fullest attention to the role which I have now before me, and our shared purpose.”

Here's my suggestion: Whenever you gather with ANY group that matters to you: Take time for a meaningful “Check-In”. The purpose is not to recount tales of triumph or tales of woe. The purpose is to name the **HATS** and the **OARS** which matter a lot to you, yet you are temporarily putting those roles aside so that you can now wear ONE HAT, and can pull on the ONE OAR, whose purposes are congruent with the agenda and purpose that this particular team has agreed-upon.

If you follow up on this suggestion, I will predict that you will discover some new responses to the question which I raised in my previous letter: ***Are we having fun yet?***

Thanks so much for the privilege of serving you in these fascinating times.

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister (2015-2017)

Candle-Lighting Vigil -- In the Wounded Aftermath of Electioneering **Sunday evening November 13, 5:30 pm, WUU Sanctuary**



In the aftermath of the strife-ridden presidential elections of 2016, we shall gather to light candles of healing, of hope, and of commitment: How might each of us devote the best of who we are toward re-building the principles upon which our nation was founded? How might antagonism and fear be replaced by respect?

If you would like to contribute to this service, either in planning or in participating, please gather with the Minister in Parker House at 5:00 pm on Wednesday afternoon November 09th, the day after Election Day.

Greetings from the Nomination Committee

It is that time of year again! The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates for positions on the Board, Committee on Right Relations, Trustees, Endowment, and Nominating Committee to be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2016. You may nominate yourselves or others. The Nominating Committee will interview candidates and current leaders to find the best person for each position.

All voting members are encouraged to consider whether they have the interest, time and experience to serve the congregation on one of these committees. The Nominating Committee is working hard to find the right people for this exciting time in the history of WUU. Please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee at lindalanehamilton@gmail.com if you would like to discuss available opportunities or offer nominations.

November Worship Schedule

November 6, 2016

9:45 am & 11:15 am

The Dodo's Dilemma:

"There Goes the Neighborhood!"

Rev. Dave Johnson, Interim Minister

Change happens. Some changes are healthy and live-giving. Others are traumatic – such as extinctions of entire populations or eco-systems. Extinctions apply to every living system – from global scale catastrophes to communities very close to home. Some extinction events are brought about through quirks or contingencies of nature. Others have been of our own making. Well, so what? Audre Lorde (1934-1992) wrote: "We were never meant to survive." Oh, really? If that's the case, why is "surviving" – rather than thriving – so often the pacemaker of our lives? I'll offer some observations from my former career, and from congregational ministry.

Our Membership book is open for signing on the first Sunday of each month. If you have completed Pathway to Membership sessions 1 and 2 or are transferring from another UU Congregation, please come forward at the end of the service on November 6th to sign our Membership Book, signifying your commitment to WUU.

November 13, 2016

9:45 am & 11:15 am

"Cordelia's Dilemma (Or: Vitreous Floaters)"

Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister

Shakespeare's legendary King Lear had three daughters. Two of his daughters (Regan and Goneril) were shrewd calculators and manipulators. They were skilled in techniques aimed only toward promoting themselves, and thereby to get whatever they wanted. They had an "app" for every conceivable deception already downloaded onto their devices. They used their predatory / charming qualities to hoodwink listeners, and bolster their success. (What does this mythical story have to do with anything, you may be wondering?)

Then there was Lear's third daughter, Cordelia. Cordelia's dilemma was this: She lived in authenticity. The thoughts and feelings of her heart often lay beyond the capacity of words to express. We shall re-visit Lear's story as a window into the last stronghold of love: The human heart.

November 13 is also Legacy Sunday:

The WUU Endowment Fund grows in two ways: through future gifts committed through estate plans and through cash gifts in appreciation or gifts in memory of a relative or friend. If you wish to receive gift credit for your donation to the November 13 plate collection, please bring a check, make it out to WUU and put in the subject line the name of the person in whose honor or memory you are making the donation. We will have gift forms and envelopes available with your Order of Service.

Pledges of a future donation from one's estate, or Legacy Gifts, provide donors with the opportunity to leave a legacy of support to our religious community that we all value. Members of the Endowment Committee will be speaking briefly on Sunday about growing the Endowment Fund, and members will be available after the services to answer your questions.

November 20, 2016

11:15 am-One Service Only

"St. Cecelia Sunday"

Led by Dr. Jamie Bartlett, WUU Director of Music

The Adult Choir will perform the Missa Sancti Joannis Nepomuceni by Michael Haydn MH 182. Michael Haydn (1737-1806) is the younger brother of Joseph Haydn. Born in Rohrau, Austria and joining the choir at the Stephansdom in Vienna at age 6, he spent most of his adult life in Salzburg in the Kapelle. His older brother thought him a far superior composer of church music, and his contemporaries believed his skill rivaled that of Mozart.

Come join the WUU choir and a chamber orchestra as they share the fruits of their labors with you in celebration of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians.

November 27, 2016

9:45 am & 11:15 am

"The Baha'i Faith"

Brett and Anne Breneman, Guest Speakers

Brett and Anne Breneman will share their B'Hai faith with us on November 27 at both the 9:45 and the 11:15 services as they explore the spirituality and origin of this peace-filled religion.

They have traveled the world as missionaries and now reside in West Point, VA where they facilitate a home church. They also travel to Richmond to work among economically disadvantaged to spread the peace of their faith. They will be available after the 11:15 am service to answer questions.



Ministerial Search Committee

Search Committee Update

More than 100 WUU members and friends, including 20 children, participated in our search committee cottage meetings. Here is what you told us about the minister we hope to call.

Ministerial Profile

The Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists are searching for a minister who can lead and support us in our transition from a pastoral to program congregation. Based on a survey and cottage meetings, our congregation said they wanted a new minister who is open-minded, inspirational, flexible, engages in social justice, and supportive of religious education.

We are seeking a minister:

- Who acknowledges worship as the heart of our existence and understands our needs for services that are spiritual, inspirational, and intellectually stimulating.
- Who honors and celebrates theological diversity
- Who provides compassionate pastoral care
- Who values religious education for all ages
- Who is able to develop a teamwork atmosphere among the volunteers and paid staff
- Who will guide us towards a greater understanding and involvement in social justice and is active within the interfaith community
- Who will encourage us explore additional interdenominational activities in our community
- Who will help us develop greater cooperation within the context of UUA

We've included this information in our congregational profile, including the addition of the comments below.

We recognize that no single minister possesses strong talents in all areas of ministry; therefore, we are seeking a minister who feels a deep commitment to a shared ministry of mutual respect. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our hopes and dreams with you.

You can follow our search progress with this calendar:

✓	Early 2016	Settlement Rep visits
✓	April	Search Committee selected
✓	June	Search Committee retreat
✓	June – Aug	Planning
✓	Aug – Sept	Congregational survey distributed & tabulated*
✓	Sep - Oct	Cottage meetings*
✓	Oct	Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop*
	Nov 30	Congregational packet finalized
	Jan – Feb 2017	Packet exchange
	March	Pre-candidating at neutral pulpits
	March 30	Offer given to candidate
	April	Candidating Week
	April	Congregational Vote*

* Congregation involvement

Share the Plate



The Share The Plate Recipient for November 13 will be Avalon, A Center for Women and Children. Priscilla Caldwell, the Development Director, will give a brief message at the 11:15 service. Please be generous with your contributions to this worthwhile cause.

Avalon Center works to end domestic and sexual violence by breaking the cycle of abuse through prevention, education, shelter and support services in the Williamsburg area. Each year Avalon serves more than 600 people in our community. With your help, Avalon can continue to provide safety and support to our neighbors most in need. In addition to the Emergency Shelter Campus encompassing five acres and with housing for some 50 people, the Avalon Outreach staff provides counseling and advocacy to hundreds of survivors on an ongoing basis. Avalon offers a 24-hour helpline year round, staffed with trained advocates. About 300 people volunteer for Avalon in various ways each year. In addition to safety, support and advocacy, through education and prevention efforts, Avalon strives to create a stronger, healthier, more peaceful community. To learn more, volunteer or tour the campus, please contact Priscilla Caldwell at priscilla@avaloncenter.org, www.avaloncenter.org FB and Twitter: AvalonVA. For emergency help call the Avalon 24-hour helpline at 757-258-5051.

PS Please note that all checks intended for the Share the Plate recipient should be made payable to "WUU," with the agency name or "STP" on the memo line. However, if you miss STP Sunday – or forget your checkbook – you can send your check to the WUU office during the following week, or drop it in the plate the following Sunday. Thank you for your generous support.

FISH

(our local community's food & clothing pantry)



FISH is requesting beef stews and baking items



Please make sure packages are sealed and all "use by" dates are current. Thank you all!



Williamsburg
Learning Tree

There are a lot of wonderful Williamsburg Learning Tree classes still to come this year, running through mid-December. Check it all out at www.WilliamsburgLearningTree.org.

Wow, this is a new WUU chapter!!

Almost everyday, I stop by to observe how our campus is changing.

- As I enter the campus, I see the new fences and plantings along our property and I see the changes taking place at Parker house.
- I park the car noting that the construction fences are gone and new plantings are all around the new wing.
- I walk into the new wing noting that we have permission to use the bathrooms, etc. The shiny floors have been mopped, the paint touched up, new carpeting was installed in the nursery, etc. Outside I love the looks of the lighting on the building. I understand there is more to come.
- Then, I look into the Narthex and see that much of the kitchen, narthex, library and nursery is in a pile on the floor. It is a bit shocking. Then someone walks by and I see and sense the excitement that this is indeed a new, exciting chapter. It's a chapter that many have waited for with expectancy. It's another reminder that this only happens once every generation or two!

The Board also marvels at what is taking place, and then I send out the agenda for the next Board meeting. It's a constant reminder that there is much on our plates. Our Task Force Teams are busy with transitions and the Board is busy with its work. In fact, the Board met twice in October--once for a special meeting to discuss Building Use Policies as well for the regular monthly meeting. We considered a range of items, some of which are still on the table.

- Thanks to the **Naming Task Force**, chaired by Roger Baldwin, for its recommendations on naming policies for our new spaces. No Board action yet.
- Thanks to the **Alternative Income Task Force**, chaired by Michael Coirin, for its work regarding new Building Use Policies and Procedures. Roger Baldwin and Michael intend to meet with various committees and teams to roll out these procedures. They include new volunteer positions, rental responsibilities and costs, use of facilities and grounds, etc.
- The Board accepted their recommendation to proceed with renting Parker to the **Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM)** to be used for transitional housing for families. This is another exciting development.
- The **Religious Education Development Team (CREW)** decided to move its entire Religious Education program into the new facility, thus not needing to use Fahs for its youth program.
- The availability of Fahs has opened to door to begin discussions with the **Quaker Church**. Currently, the Quakers are without a permanent home and the possibility of having a Quaker Meeting House on our campus is under discussion. We share so many values that there are new possibilities to have even more visibility and coordinated involvement in the Williamsburg Community.
- The Board will schedule a café conversation on these topics, date to be determined.
- At its meeting on Building Use, the Board authorized Austen Petersen, Religious Education Director, to be in charge of coordinating decisions with other groups about furnishing the McGiffert Wing and other spaces, keeping in mind the Board's intent of have multi-purpose spaces.
- Allen Cooke (BOF Chair) and Roger Guernsey, (Design Build Chair), have assembled a team to look at furnishing recommendations for the new Gathering Hall.

As a reminder, Board meetings are open to all. At each meeting, a different WUU member serves as Process Checker. It's an interesting way to provide feedback to the Board about its work. Let one of the Board members know if you would like to serve in this capacity.

Les Solomon
Board Chair



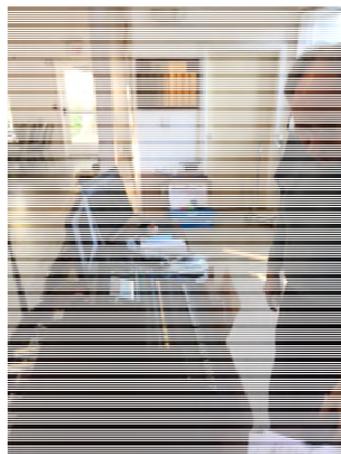
Do you see what I see?

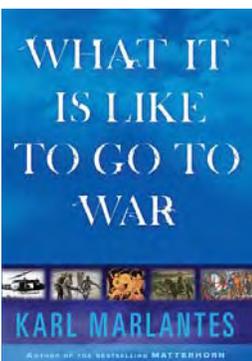
There is so much to report and thanks to all for changing the looks of the campus.

- First, thanks to **Dave Neiman** for volunteering, with some arm-twisting, to become the new Campus Improvement Team (CIT) chair. Dave is well suited for this important responsibility: Housing Partners and CIT volunteer, Building our Future team member and Board member. As CIT chair, he has a *huge* job—transitions, continuous campus improvement, staffing/contracting for campus services, etc. and he will need our help. Please let Dave know he can count on you to help.
- **Jessica O'Brien** reached out to her Social Justice contacts about priming the exterior of Parker. Within a few hours her crew had the job done. Now to apply the final coat so Parker will resemble the rest of the campus buildings. Thanks **Juan and Isabela Riofrio, Sid Ghose, John Parman, John and Katie Lopresti, Brian and Elliot Beach, Jim Hall, and Jessica!!!**
- **Franz Gross** and **Allen Cooke** arranged for 20 folk to move boxes, cabinets, shelving, etc. out of the narthex, kitchen, library, and nursery. The items are temporarily stored in the McGiffert wing until we can sort it all out. Before all of this happened, many other volunteers were involved to clean out and pack the kitchen, library, and nursery cabinet contents, then another crew came in to dismantle the cabinets. All the cabinets will be repurposed in either Parker or the storerooms. Some of the library cabinets donated by the Michael and Genevieve McGiffert will find a new home in the Worship Associates storage area. (Pictures)
- Thanks to **Jim Henion** for his generous gift to update our Audio system. It's pretty impressive. And thanks to **Jim Hall** for helping Jim set up the system.
- Thanks to the **Craig family** for their work to update the canopy for the Parker outside entrance. By the way, the two big sliding doors in the Sanctuary will be repurposed in the Craig's new home.
- Thanks to all for their generosity during the **Capital Campaign** to help us update our campus in so many ways—Parking, new trees and scrubs, sidewalks, HVAC systems, new space. The campus really does look different with the improvements along Ironbound Road and around the buildings.
- Thanks to **Nancy Carnegie** for coordinating the work to water the Japanese maple. It suffered during the hot, dry spell in August.
- Thanks to **someone** for doing just a bit more work on the paths in the Meditation Memorial Garden. I know there are **many someone's** who have been doing a lot of volunteer work that I don't know about.

Les Solomon

Retired CIT Chair



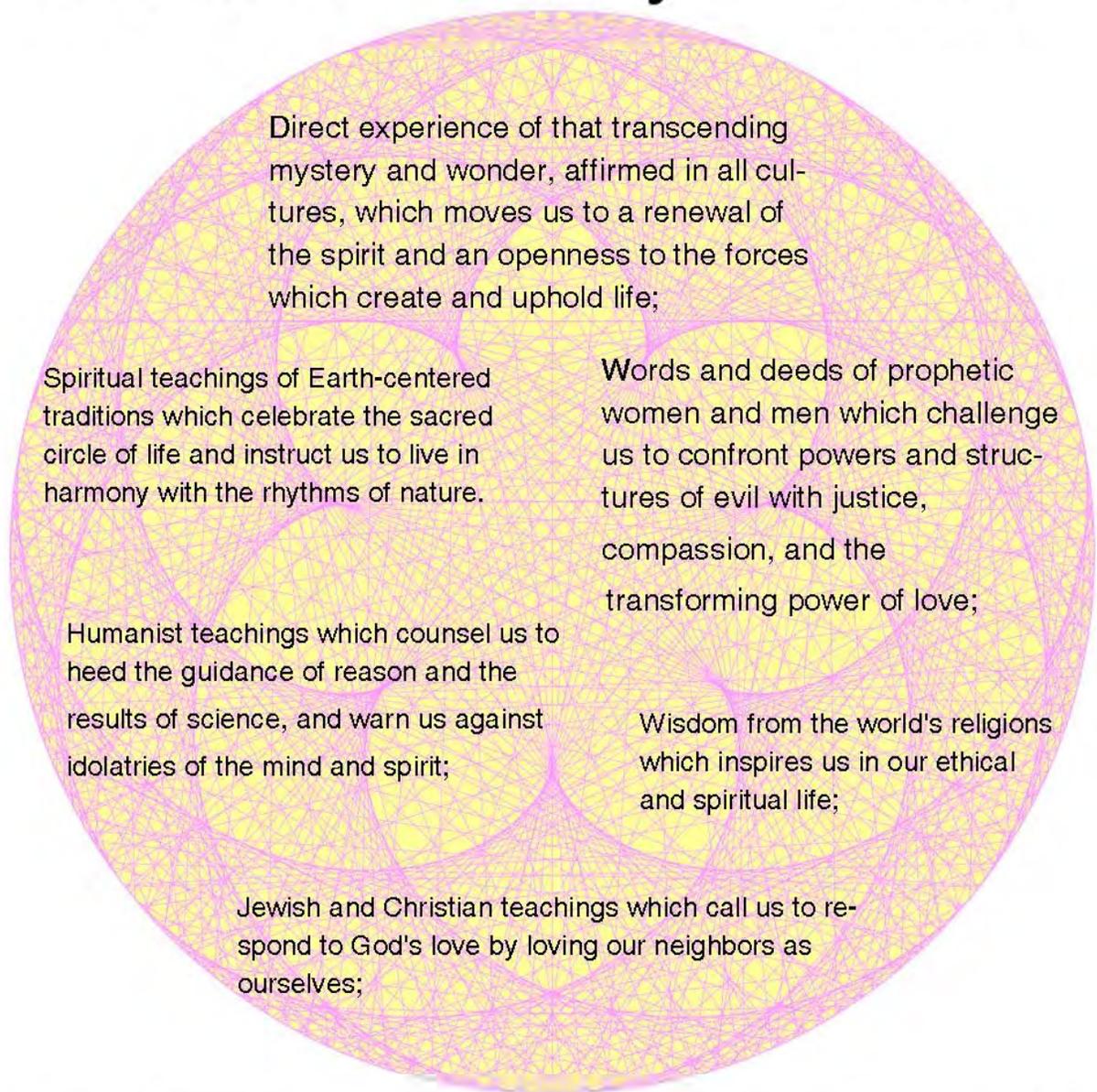


Pathfinders Book Group

The group chooses a book that explores the author’s spiritual journey or understanding of the human condition. Group members bring their lunch and we use the book as a springboard for what always turns out to be a spirited discussion of personal reactions.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, at noon in the sanctuary. We will be discussing What It Is Like To Go To War by Karl Marlantes. Come and join us –and bring a friend! We welcome new members and ideas for new books to read.

The Living Tradition we share draws from many sources:



Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one other our mutual trust and support.



WHEN:

October 6th
November 3th
December 1st
1:00 - 3:00 pm

WHERE:

**St. Martin's
Episcopal Church**
1333 Jamestown Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23185

COST:

FREE!

Are you 60 or better? Stay informed and active!

The Faith Community and Peninsula Agency on Aging's Williamsburg Resource Center are sponsoring an afternoon out. Bring your Williamsburg friends or come make new ones. Join us for a short presentation, snacks, and prizes.

October 6th: Making Your Home Safe for Aging in Place

November 3th: Gadgets and Services That You Love: Have Them Come to You!

December 1st: Organizing and Downsizing on Your Terms

Open to Williamsburg community residents 60 or better. Caregivers are welcome.

Join us for this fun event!

Questions? Call:
(757) 229-1111 ext.115



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Pat Hoppe, Newsletter Editor

Office Hours

The WUU office is open:

- ◆ 8am-1pm Monday - Friday

Rev. Dave Johnson has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday -Thursday

Austen Petersen, Director of RE, has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday - Thursday.

Sometimes these times change due to meetings, vacation, etc.
Feel free to call first (757) 220-6830 to check our availability.

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.)



November Birthdays

November Anniversaries

- Dave and Virginia Banks
- David Hamilton and Linda Lane-Hamilton
- Phyllis and Jack Hostetter
- Dan Moore and Natalie Miller-Moore
- Joelle Griffin-Russell and Penn Russell
- Steve and Lynn Savoie

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| David Benson | Chris Llewellyn |
| Livia Berning | Joan Lucera |
| Susan Dexter | Kaya O'Brien-James |
| Autumn Elim-Durden | Roger Romero |
| Sean Elim-Durden | Penn Russell |
| Robert Field | Lynn Savoie |
| Cindy Frezek | Megan Tschannen-Moran |
| Jim Hall | Lola Warren |
| David Hopkinson | John Whitley |
| Pat Hoppe | Pat Winter |
| Sally Kellen | |