UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 4
Join us for our first meeting of the 2019-2020 year. Watch for a summer mailing with details of our upcoming fun, challenging and eye-opening programs.

LEADERSHIP NOTES: CO-PRESIDENT

Transitions are always an opportunity for reflection. As I end my two-year term as your Co-President, I have been reflecting on the growth and change of The Alliance over my past 15 years of active membership.

In December of 1865 seven women gathered in Portland to form a Ladies’ Sewing Society to “promote the cause of Liberal Christianity.” These women were the founders of First Church and the Sewing Society was the precursor of today’s Alliance. While much has changed in the intervening years, much remains the same. The Alliance now welcomes women and men members of First Church and is stronger for this. **We are the place where active congregants come in fellowship to grow, learn, give, and break bread.**

Look around—you are in the company of: members of our church’s Board of Trustees and its many choirs; leaders and teachers in both the Adult and Children’s Learning Communities; active leaders and participants in Wellspring, Quilts of Love, the Knitting Circle, the Beacon Bookstore, the Annual Auction; members of social justice programs, Women’s Circles and the Men’s Community. We are an important part of the heart and soul of First Church.

This past year has been filled with wonderful programs, with a special focus on Social Justice—thank you to Suzanne and Carolyn. Our Greens Sale allowed us to contribute to many outstanding community organizations and to give back to First Church. Thank you Barbara Morrison and the many others who made our Greens Sale so successful. Thank you to Mabsie Walters for chairing our Fund Allocation committee.

Our luncheons have been delightful and varied. The creativity and organization of Ruth and Kathleen are much appreciated. Our website is in the best shape it’s been in years—thank you Jim Smith. Marty and Linda have worked hard to smooth out our meeting registration and membership activities, and Linda has kept us financially strong. Lena has recorded the work of both your Leadership Team and our meetings—adding to the over 150 year history of The Alliance.

There are two people who I must especially thank—Jan Wolf, my former Co-President, for her mentorship, and Nancy Panitch, my current Co-President, for her joy, dedication, and friendship.

It has been a true honor to serve.

Yours in Fellowship,
Veronica Williams

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Linda Craig

The middle of three sisters, Linda Craig was born in Storm Lake, Iowa, a small community in which her father would spend 63 years farming. She remembers bicycling three miles to visit her friend, baking afternoon sweets for the hired men, fishing for blue gills, and piano lessons. In the evenings she and her father might ride their Shetland ponies back to the fields.

She left Storm Lake for the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls where she majored in math and worked first for American College Testing as a secretary “because I was a fast typist.” In Iowa City she earned a Masters in Statistics and Educational Measurement and met her first husband (now deceased). Thumbing through an almanac, they chose Portland as their new location—for its symphony and environment. After an awful job as an evaluation specialist with Portland Public Schools, Linda landed at OMSI.

JOIN US!
For $20 a year in dues, members are enriched by fellowship, learning, and service to the First Unitarian community.

To join, pick up a form at the Welcome Table during a monthly luncheon or contact Membership Chair Marty Anderson.

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May 2019

Fellowship
Linda Craig, continued

Work at OMSI led to the Hancock Field Station, where Linda discovered fossils and her love of birding. “It was my milestone job,” she says, and the natural world continues to stir her curiosity. She spent 25 years as an accountant, including five years in her own company. Living for a period in Washington County, Linda participated in UUCCWC (Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County) and met her second husband, Jim Kimball, who died in 2007.

These days Linda serves on the Xerces Society Board, provides piano accompaniment twice-weekly for the Rosa Parks Elementary BRAVO Youth Orchestra, and enjoys travels, especially birding tours. She and partner, Kahler, have gone birding to Belize, Costa Rica, and Portugal, to name just a few places.

Linda joined First Unitarian Church in 2008. Three times she has attended or served as delegate to our General Assembly, “because I really want to understand how our denomination works.” She co-chairs the First Church Nominating Committee and commits passionately to Community for Earth; “We must not lose the incredible beauty of this planet!” Her focus on the vision of our church is just as thoughtful. “In this wonderful, diverse city, how do we manage to be a welcoming church?”

This July Linda will attend Summer Fishtrap, a writer’s conference in Wallowa County. Inspired by teacher Kim Stafford, she will probe the mysteries of poetry. “I am a rank beginner,” she admits, but that has never stopped Linda!

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Sally Snyder

The Alliance has caught one of its newest members on the fly; Sally Snyder joined in 2018 at Peggy Snyder’s (no relation) suggestion. They lived next door to each other years ago at Duke University. Sally has been exploring Portland for the last five years while her husband of many years prefers to remain in their Boston home “doing his thing.” She’s enjoying living beside her daughter, son-in-law, and small grandson in a small apartment that’s easy to clean.

And—she’s doing her thing too. Though Sally’s never described herself as athletic, she’s paddling with an all-female Dragon Boat team that won a gold medal in a Victoria race! She has sailed around the San Juan Islands with friends, and even bought a car that could fit her kayak inside.

With a personal guide, she kayaked around Elba Island, and cycled through Tuscany on a bike tour. Understatement of the year—“I always like to try something new.”

Sally was born in eastern Texas and lived there briefly before her family returned to the Maryland/DC area at the end of WWII. She remembers marching as majorette with her high school band in President Kennedy’s Inaugural Parade. “It was cold!”

Then she was off to Duke to earn a nursing degree. She spent eight years working in pediatrics and public health in both the Netherlands and Washington DC. She met her husband while pursuing a master’s degree, and they settled in the Boston area to raise their four children.

Three times a week Sally shares her love of reading with diverse groups of K-3 children, some immigrant, all in need of reading support. She reads, they write stories of their lives and publish. “It’s great fun!” Some of her own favorite books include The Boys in the Boat, The Warmth of Other Suns, and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. “DNA fascinates me, how far we have come in learning about the forces of life and how many new questions have been uncovered.”

Sally knows. “I’m in the gypsy stage. I’m trying as many things in my 70s as I can.” While she and her husband talk about selling the old house, she plans the next trip; she’s just returned from touring Arizona with a friend. “It’s nice to be free!”