is! Work? Oh, yeah! Fun?
Double yeah! Satisfying?
Oh, my, yes yes yes!!!

Please join us. The leadership committee is already hard at work and would love you to come along for the fun.

Find details on the next page. You could treat yourself to a big helping of good feelings and joy.

In Fellowship,
Peg MacNicol

I've been a member of The Alliance “only” since 1999 or 2000, after I left a full-time academic career and started studying photography. (Big switch from academic nursing, I'll tell you!)

I got very involved in the life of the church when I was elected to the Board only three years after arriving in Portland (1988) and joining First Unitarian. Since then, I even served a term as Moderator.

I think I've served The Alliance in every office except programming, including being half of the very first co-presidents (along with Elsa Porter). Every role I've taken on, every meeting program, has been appropriately challenging, has widened my perspectives, and has kept me thinking.

We have a spiritual vision in our community of The Alliance. Thanks to the women who repaired workers' clothing to raise money to get the church started over 150 years ago, our vision has been to be as significant a presence in the city of Portland as we can be.

We continue this habit, if you will, primarily by mounting our annual Greens Sale. Over the years we have donated proceeds from the Greens Sale to projects that community service agencies deem important to their missions and with which we agree.

That's spiritual enough, but WAIT, there's more! We get to know each other better, get more creative as we share ideas in a caring way, as we execute our plans, as we see the look on the faces of folks who find JUST the thing they were looking for to give to Aunt Agnes or hang on their door or put on their table either to admire or to eat.

This year is by no means different. And what a group it is! Work? Oh, yeah! Fun? Double yeah! Satisfying? Oh, my, yes yes yes!!!

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MEMBER IN PROFILE: Ann Zawaski

Born in Brownsville, TX, Ann Zawaski lived for 8 years in this border town overlooking the Rio Grande. She could observe an everyday exchange of citizens, including her family, crossing via the pedestrian bridge. Surely Ann’s youthful observations spurred her later commitment to Immigrant Justice Action Group, “my main social justice group in this church.”

On behalf of immigrant justice, Ann maintains frequent vigils at the ICE building, registers new voters, and attends weekly naturalization ceremonies. She was a mainstay working last fall with First Unitarian Portland’s Respite Center providing sanctuary and supplies for the Sheridan asylum seekers. In the past 15 years Ann has traveled to Guatemala to witness to
the survivors of genocide, to Ecuador to learn about water rights and human rights abuses, and joined the humanitarian aid group No More Deaths, placing water in the desert for migrants attempting to cross the scorching Sonoran Desert.

After Brownsville and Miami, Ann attended the University of Florida for a few years before moving to Brooklyn “right after Woodstock.” She worked “just enough to get me along,” and met and married her former husband during this time.

Over the years Ann received cards from her Great Aunt Irma in Oregon describing our abundant forests and mountain trails. She moved to Portland in 1972 and easily passed a test qualifying her for the carpentry trade. “I’m a former tradeswoman!”

In 1980 Ann began work as an apprentice carpenter helping to construct the Bonneville Dam - ironically a project she had campaigned against. She learned on the job and experienced both resentment and encouragement from her male co-workers. This and other union jobs lasted over nine years.

In 1989 she took a carpenter position with the City of Portland.

You may find Ann savoring a strong cup of Italian java when possible and always eager to don hiking boots. You will find Ann’s genial presence here at First Unitarian and the Alliance often in the company of her spouse, Lena Lee.

Introduced by a mutual friend 20 years ago, they began attending this church together. Ann joined in 2006.

“I appreciate this church for its activism and the community I find here. It’s a place to find peace and solace in difficult times.” We appreciate you, Ann, for your faithful efforts to create a more just world!

SPECIAL PROFILE: Greens Sale Details!

Nitty gritty details about this year’s Greens Sale:

The big sale will be on December 8 & 15, primarily in Fuller Hall with a smaller presence in the Buchan atrium. We’re again offering the option to pre-order wreaths to be sent to family and friends, as well as specialty items for use at home.

These pre-order sales will be held in Fuller and Buchan on November 24 and December 1. In addition to those dates, attendees at our Alliance luncheon meetings in October and November will be able to pre-purchase those items.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at our October, November and December meetings so that you can offer up your special abilities to make this a very successful sale to benefit our church as well as a number of local social service agencies.

It always feels good when the income and its beneficiaries are announced.

Find us online: www.tinyurl.com/firstu-alliance