LEADERSHIP NOTES: Treasurer

I am told it is because Eric Terrell thinks outside the box that I was asked to be treasurer, coming on in February two years ago to complete the term of Ken Wheeler, even though I was not yet a member of The Alliance! All I knew about The Alliance was that most of my friends at the church were never available socially (or for my yoga class at the church) if it was a first Wednesday. I heard the programs were too good to miss!

I'm so glad I said yes. Being treasurer is one of the best ways to meet everyone in The Alliance! Everyone coming in the door picks up their name tag and steps over to my check-in table to pay for lunch or coffee. My trusty and regular helper, Penny Moody, checks names off on the reservation sheet as I make change. We get to match your face with your name (even before the on-line directory went live). I have also gotten to know church office staff much better.

If money is involved, I'm involved. Beyond receiving and counting money, I keep an eye on receipts and expenses and report to the Leadership Team and the membership. I help with the Greens Sale cashing. At every leadership team meeting I give a summary of meeting attendance, total membership, and cash flow. I communicate with each chairperson at budget time to assess what funds will be needed for the next year. As they say, if you want to know about an organization, follow the money! How is it raised? How is it spent? What are priorities? I am happy to say that we are a remarkable group of responsible and compassionate people.

I love being on the Leadership Team. Everyone is amazing in their commitment, their organizational skills, and how they bring their soul to the work. And the team building that is included in meetings has deepened my connection to everyone there.

In Fellowship,
Linda Nelson

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Karen Shawcross

When Karen Shawcross settled in Portland in 2001, she felt hopeful this move would be permanent. Not yet retired, her life and careers transported her from her birthplace in New Orleans, to Boston, the Bay Area, and San Diego. It included two marriages and raising three children, the achievement of academic degrees and an extensive range of professional skills. “Each crisis meant coping with change and reinventing my life.”

Karen moved to Boston to work as secretary at a real estate development and management firm and rose to Vice President while also attending college, earning a BA and then a Masters’ Degree from Lesley College, and volunteering as counselor at a nonprofit. She then moved to San Diego to join Bank of America as national marketing director for the manufactured housing division. She moved on to San Francisco to develop new national programs using bank resources to help people move from welfare to work. When a bank merger threatened her job, she dyed her grey hair and became Senior Vice President!

Her last professional job – in Hillsboro – gave her “a sense of destiny and calling to the work.” As Director
of Bienestar, a nonprofit combining affordable housing with social services, she helped to create “a model for 508 farmworker and working-poor Latino families to navigate a path out of poverty that really works.”

Indeed, Karen’s work resume reveals much that is impressive about her. But, her ‘story,’ like our own, can hardly be limited to her work experiences. She is a voracious reader, a seeker of nature, and a pastel painter. She admits she “marvels at my three children” whom she raised amidst various transitions, and is proud of five grandchildren. She “sat at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in the 50’s, marched in Washington for nuclear disarmament, and is ready to do it all again.”

Karen joined First Unitarian in 2011. We are now the fortunate beneficiaries of her invaluable work and life experiences: Karen serves on our real estate development task force as it examines future options for our downtown facility; she has served on the Lay Ministry team for five years; she served as co-facilitator of a Wellspring class and offers companionship as a founding member of Spiritual Directors. How fortunate we are to welcome Karen, who joined The Alliance this year!

MEMBER IN PROFILE: Lucy Garrick

When retirement in 2017 freed Lucy Garrick from the daily work regimen she had followed for many years, she felt the loss of social contacts, especially with others whose values were consistent with her own. Though raised Catholic, Lucy had married years before in a Unitarian church and she recalled finding compatibility with the church’s non-dogmatic principles. Born in Modesto, in the Central Valley of California, she moved to the Bay Area following her marriage and attended the University of San Francisco to earn a BS degree in Information Systems. Later she graduated from Antioch College with a Masters’ Degree in Organizational Psychology.

When she moved to Portland, she worked for an internet start-up firm, and served also on the Board of Northwest Academy. Just before retirement she worked for the consulting firm of Price Waterhouse Cooper.

Lucy’s work record, as well as her academic choices, tell a great deal about Lucy’s interest in working with groups. Her Organizational Psychology studies focused on the ins and outs of guiding groups going through transitions. Today, Lucy does plenty of that, as well as enjoying the social connections as facilitator of the newly -named group, Aging Together. The group meets monthly and is open to new members. She has also completed a year with Wellspring 1 and has undertaken teaching the 5th and 6th graders with our Learning Community.

These are busy retirement years, but Lucy still gives time to artistic expression; her large, abstract, acrylic paintings brightly color her walls. We welcome Lucy to the Alliance! She is one of our many new members who offer cheerful volunteer service. She practices what she professes, “We all need to give back!”

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