



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

Barbara Wright: UUFW's Longest Active Member

Very few Unitarian Universalists of a certain age have been with our faith tradition for their whole lives, especially within our congregation. Barbara Wright is one of these rare individuals. At age 78, she has witnessed the merger of Unitarians and Universalists into a single denomination, and she has participated in the maturing of our Fellowship since joining in 1966 when a small group of people were meeting for lay-led services in what is now Chalice House. When Barbara was a girl, her family drove 40 miles every Sunday to attend the First Unitarian Church of Richmond. Their minister, who went on to lead the denomination from Boston, wore robes and preached in a very formal way. Like most UU churches today, they had coffee afterwards, but it was poured from a fancy silver service into china cups. A highlight for Barbara and her sister Roberta was, once a month, going to a restaurant with the family after the service.

As we reflect on the achievements of women during Women's History Month, it is important to honor the contributions of those who are not famous but who nevertheless have challenged the status quo. Barbara Wright is one of them. She operated her own dressmaking business while raising her three sons, one of whom was disabled. This son passed away in early adulthood, and a few

months later, her husband died of a brain tumor. These losses did not keep Barbara from moving forward. In her late 50's Barbara went back to college and earned a degree in history from Mary Baldwin. Her senior thesis on the Civilian Conservation Corps in Augusta County so impressed her professors that it was submitted for publication by the Augusta Historical Society.

Today, Barbara continues to be engaged in working and learning. She has been employed as a group leader for Road Scholar for the past 11 years. Ten times each year she leads groups of people for



four days as they learn about the plays of Shakespeare, visit Civil War sites, enjoy the Staunton Music Festival and explore the history of the Shenandoah Valley. Often Barbara is busy guiding her groups from early morning until late at night, but she loves getting paid to learn and meet interesting people, and she has no plans to cut back.

Barbara lives in Staunton with her partner of 17 years, Dave Rudiak. They met at our Fellowship! Her sister Roberta has recently moved to our area, giving them the opportunity to be close after many years apart.

Pledge Drive Ends on March 14

As of Tuesday, March 6, pledges received total \$64,720 from only 28 pledge units. With just a few days to go, we have a lot of ground to cover if we are going to reach our goal of \$142,000. If you need a pledge form, you can download one [here](#).