



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## New Member Spotlight



**Jean Fraser** is among those who sought out UUFW for comfort and support following the 2024 election. Fortunately for us, she kept coming back and signed

our book following the New to UU class on May 31. Until this point, she had drifted away from religious affiliation since being raised in a Catholic family.

Jean grew up in Connecticut, but as an adult she moved around quite a bit due to her husband's career. Before retirement, she had her own career as a paralegal/legal secretary, a field where she could always find a job wherever they lived. Her most recent job was as a paralegal for a firm in Harrisonburg. Jean's husband passed away ten years ago, and she currently lives near Stuarts Draft with her three dogs and two cats.

Jean loves the outdoors. She is an avid hiker, biker and kayaker. She also loves traveling and is a fan of Road Scholar trips. Her most memorable adventure was an organized biking trip to Southern Italy. She is also active politically and enjoys reading and going out to eat with friends. Since 2013 Jean

has been a regular volunteer at the Shenandoah Valley Animal Service Center in Lyndhurst.

Jean looks forward to getting in involved in UUFW activities and perhaps will help us organize some group hikes in our area.



**Tom and Silvia Gederberg** moved to Staunton from Houston just over a year ago. Their move upon Tom's retirement was

an effort to get away from Houston traffic and Texas politics, and to be closer to relatives on the East Coast.

Silvia was born in Muskogee, OK and moved with her family to Lubbock, TX. After several efforts to find her career path, she earned a degree in library science from the University of Texas and landed a job at the Johnson Space Center, where she worked with NASA video collections for more than 20 years. She designed their database for how to catalog images in their historic film collection.

Tom is something of a self-made man. He was the only child of adoptive parents, who both passed away when he was still quite

young. An associate's degree in computer science led to his first job as an assistant in engineering for Honeywell. A colleague recognized his potential and encouraged him to get a degree in electrical engineering by going to night school. Honeywell, one of the big NASA contractors, then sent him to California to work on the Space Shuttle. He continued his career with another NASA contractor, Boeing, at the Johnson Space Center working on computer simulations for the Space Station program.

Even though they both worked at the Space Center, they actually met at a Democratic Party Christmas social and married in 2007. Silvia jokes that before joining UUFW, their only religious activity was Democratic Party politics.

Silvia loves gardening and landscaping with native plants. She has a special interest in observing and identifying insects, and they are both avid birders. Tom is also a fan of astronomy and has joined an astronomy club. Their most important family member is their dog Yoshi.



**David Lista** found UUFW by driving by. Curiosity led him to do some research, and he liked what he found. But it was not until after his

mother passed that he decided to come in.

In 2019, David returned to Waynesboro, where he grew up, after 30 years living in

California. He is single but has been married in the past. Throughout his life, David has worked as a building contractor and is currently working for a family business with connections to his family. His boss's mom actually baby sat him.

David is a seeker of meaning in life and has experience with various religious paths, but he leans toward Buddhism. He has been very pleased to discover Unitarian Universalism and is drawn to our shared values versus a creed and our commitment to social justice. He believes in service and volunteering. Even though he works full time, David has already participated in a number of UUFW outreach and community service activities.

For fun, David enjoys biking, reading and playing music. He has experience singing in a band. Though he considers himself to be shy and reserved, his enthusiasm for learning and making connections is apparent.



*At least 10 UUFW members joined an estimated 1500 protesters in Staunton on No Kings Day, June 14. Stephen and Kristin Maxwell and Tom and Silvia Gederberg made a huge sign for cars on I81 and received many honks of support.*

This is the last regular issue of the UUFW newsletter until September. There will be a special summer issue next week to introduce the congregation to the remaining five new members. We will officially welcome them in July.

