



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

New Member Spotlight



Helene Leichter has been a UU for about 40 years. She was a member of UUFW in the 1980s before we had a settled minister or our Fellowship Hall. When asked why she came back, she said she decided to reconnect after

visiting our table at Earth Day. Her experience confirms the value of UUFW being a presence at community events.

Helene was born in Brooklyn NY. She met her husband Al in high school, and they married when she was 18 and he was 20. She is proud that after 60 years, they are still together. They have two grown children and two grandsons, who are now in college.

The couple moved often in their early years, and Helene would enroll in college in each place they lived. It took about 17 years, but she never gave up and graduated from JMU with a degree in Geology and a 4.0 GPA. This is another source of pride for Helene, as she was told that learning disabilities, ADD, and a hearing impairment would prevent her from achieving this goal. Later she went on to get a master's degree from Virginia Tech in vocational and technical education for people with special needs.

Helene had a diverse career, having worked as a bookkeeper, bank teller, and a customer service representative for the IRS. She also taught high school earth science and was a teacher and counselor at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center.

Now as a retired person, Helene enjoys walking her dog, reading, working in her garden, having lunch with friends and trying to knit.

Annual Meeting, 2026

The business meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, June 14. The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Nash after a potluck lunch of finger food and a head count to ensure a quorum. The congregation voted to approve the minutes from last year's meeting and the budget that had been presented the previous Sunday. Madeleine Dupre was elected Board vice-president. Gareth Bartholomew, Steve Keller and Annie Garrison were elected to be new members at-large. They will be joining incoming president Jean St. Clair and returning Board members, Clint Nicely and Mike Drumheller. Suzy Huston was voted in for another term as trustee.

Marilyn thanked the outgoing board members, Peggy Anders, Nancy Trimble and Margot Kephart for their contributions to the congregation's governance, and she also expressed appreciation for all of the ministry



team leaders, community service volunteers and everyone who gave of their time and talents to our beloved Fellowship this year. Before the meeting was adjourned, Jean presented Marilyn a gift of appreciation for her excellent leadership.