From Our President

Cathy Seggel, LREDA President, (president@lreda.org) from her report to the membership 6/16 in Columbus, OH

I am honored to lead in service to our Liberal Religious Educators Association. It has been a blessing to interact with the most collaborative, wise, creative and dedicated board colleagues imaginable. Did I also say “fun?” I am inspired by all they continue to hold, including communications, resources, policies and practices. We are determined to support, advocate for and help evolve our profession and the field of UU faith development. The shifts in our culture and in life on our planet that I mentioned a year ago have not ceased. In fact they have grown. Religious educators of all stripes guide, teach, inspire, mentor and comfort children, youth and adults, we are on the pulse of a vital, needed, comprehensive family ministry.

In the last year, we have completely recreated LREDA’s communication system (huge kudos to Becky Brooks who did a lion’s share of that work.) And, we have worked happily and very effectively since January with the spirited Administrator, Kari Kopnick. A generous grant from the UU Funding Panel helped make this possible. We have also improved orientation practices for new Board members and more. Excellence in Shared Ministry Implementation Task Force 2 is alive and progressing with projects with priorities from past years’ work. Stay tuned. We are not done. My next goal is to help create a covenant between the professional groups.

I am proud of these Board goals for next year, focusing on needs and capacity:

• Aligning financial and human resources with LREDA’s mission, including strong stewardship and prioritizing our work.

• Strengthening relationships with LREDA chapters and between LREDA members, including direct connection to all professional religious educators and supportive actions through individual, chapter and good officer channels.

• Developing LREDA’s identity as the most accessible and comprehensive resource for professionals in UU Faith Development and Religious Education.

I worked, diligently, to insure a strong LREDA voice in our Association, in partnership with leaders in UUA Ministry & Professional Leadership, Lifespan Faith Development, Congregational Life, Church Staff Finances, Commit2Respond, UUA Board, Youth & Young Adult ministry, UUMA, UUMN, AUUA, UU Community Ministers, Member Professionals, the Fahs Collaborative and more.

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I represented you at the second *UUA Summit on Economic Sustainability of Ministry,* where the mounting challenges and opportunities of our era were examined, focusing on a design for unleashing the power of lay ministry and a re-energize and re-frame of the relationship of UUism with money, based on a robust theology of covenant.

You may have noticed some changes in our Professional Day programming at GA ‘16. There were three UUMA/LREDA joint events; a UUA Presidential Candidate Action, a Collegial Conversation and a Vespers service. That hasn’t been the case recently and it is worthy of note.

Let me assure you that our LREDA presence, as it has been for over 60 years, is recognized as one of collaboration and challenge, representing the membership and beyond in a belief that Lifespan Religious Education is the primary engine for the growth and health of our UU faith and the heart of our living tradition. Your LREDA Board is tireless in its efforts on your behalf. We are closely following the upcoming UUA presidential race and remain tuned in to relevant power and authority issues. It was a fulfilling and full year for me and your LREDA Board. We are full of positive energy for next steps with continuing and new members.

Thank you so much for your collegiality and inspirational soul work!

Cathy

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**Called to Serve?**

New this year, the Nominating Committee is responsible for filling not only the LREDA Board, but also all the members of the following committees: Endowment, 21st Century, Mentoring, Credentialing Scholarship, and the Diversity and Inclusion Team. This change in process centralizes leadership development with the goal of producing diversity in nominations. Committees are asked to notify the Nominating Committee of current or impending vacancies by December 1st. Applications for committee positions will be due one month after the deadline for the LREDA Board applications. In the meantime, if you have any questions or are interested in serving, please contact Kim Mason at kimamason@gmail.com.
Money, Death, Race and Sex:
Bringing the Spiritual Dimension to Tough Topics

In response to you, our members, and to the growing need within our communities and congregations, we are pleased to add the topic of race to our conference theme. Members of LREDA’s Diversity and Inclusion Team will work with a team of LREDA members, UUA staff and others.

This program is brought to you by the UUA Faith Development Office, directed by Jessica York. According to Jessica, “Our jobs as religious professionals would be easier if life were all flower bouquets and cotton candy. The children, youth, and adults we serve deal with harsh realities around challenging topics, and in their toughest times our ministry is most needed…

Often, we are called to support the children, youth and adults we serve through difficult times, as they explore areas of their lives not frequently acknowledged or talked about. Money, death, race, and sex are topics that affect all our lives, yet many consider taboo to discuss in ‘polite company.’ As a religious professional, you will be more effective in helping constituents if you have taken the time to evaluate your own relationship to sensitive topics. At this Fall Conference, we will take the time to check in with our spirits and delve into how these four topics affect our spiritual lives and our ability to serve professionally.”

continued...
The goals for the program include:

- Gaining tools and practice skills that can be used for confronting “hard” topics (not just these four, but many others)
- Understanding how dealing with your own relationship to sensitive topics helps you as a religious professional
- Being able to name what is religious about race, money, death, and sex; how our relationship with each affects our spirituality
- Experiencing firsthand that you can talk about hard topics and not only survive, but thrive
- Modelling and experiencing spiritual exploration of sensitive topics as part of a group
- Exploring the intersectional ties of these topics with each other and with the various identities we hold.

As each team meets and plans become available LREDA will post updates on the website. Keep checking! www.lreda.org

Money topic team will include: Pat Infante (planning only), Sara Lewis, Elizabeth Terry, Laurel Amabile, and Pat Kahn.

Death topic team will include: Gail Forsyth-Vail, Rev. Judith Tomlinson, Rev. Natalie Fenimore and Joy Berry.

Race topic team will include: Lauren Wyeth, Tracy Brenneman, Kenny Wiley, Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen, Liz Jones and Rev. Natalie Fenimore.

Sex topic team will include: Melanie Davis, Adam Dyer, Jessica Laike, and Kathe Larrick.

**Pre-Conference Education this year will be the new Family Ministry Training.** The program will be led by its authors, Leia Durland-Jones, Director of Faith Development and Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, Lead Minister, from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church UU in Charlottesville, VA.

According to Pat Kahn, Children and Families Program Director, Faith Development Office, “The new Family Ministry training is designed for shared ministry teams with the goal of helping religious professionals and congregations deepen and expand their understanding of “family” and creating a culture within congregations that offers support and resources for families.”

Several members have asked about the increased cost for the training this year. Often when we offer trainings or workshops we are able to utilize our fabulous UUA staff who have their own funds to cover travel and lodging. This year we are honored to have the authors of the program who are not UUA staff and are coming across country to provide this training and so there is an increased cost for this program. We hope many of you will be able to sign up for this training and we hope to have many shared ministry teams of minister and religious educator attend. If for some reason you cannot come as a team from your church, be aware this is designed for a team and you can bring this material back to your team.

*continued...*
The pre-conference training or “interactive UU learning experiences” (Religious Education Credentialing Program wording) does count for 15 hours of professional education and will be counted like a Renaissance Module toward credentialing.

Our guest Musician this year is Kellie Walker Hart. Kellie is the Minister of Music at Valley UU Congregation in Chandler, AZ and will be responsible for all music from Thursday night opening through Monday morning worship. We are very pleased she could join us this year.

The Odyssey speaker this year is Judith Frediani. Judith served the UUA for 28 years as Director for Lifespan Faith Development and Curriculum Director, overseeing the work of staff and the development of curricula, training programs, and other resources for lifespan faith development and multicultural, multigenerational competency in UU congregations. Judith has developed curriculum for all ages, including programs with a focus on anti-bias/anti-oppression and sexuality education. She was Project Director for Our Whole Lives and for the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith curriculum series.

And finally our Closing will be led by Rev. Anne Bancroft. Anne currently serves as Minister for Theodore Parker UU Church in West Roxbury, MA. She was President of LREDA from 2008-2011.

Dates for this conference are Thursday, October 20 through Monday, October 25. We are at the San Diego Hilton Resort and Spa www.sandiegohilton.com Please go to the LREDA website www.lreda.org for a link to register for your rooms, register for the conference and other information before September 20. For any problems with hotel booking please contact Bea Ann Phillips at bphillips@bplanning.net

Early Bird Registration cost is $390 pp before September 20. Scholarship information is available on the LREDA website.

LREDA Small meets at the hotel on Monday afternoon, and LREDA Large meets Tuesday. More details and registration online when you register for the LREDA Fall Con!
Bias, Prejudice & Stereotypes – What “Colorblindness” Prevents Us from Seeing

For the last couple decades, we have been told that being “colorblind” is the best practice in working with children across race/ethnicity. With the best of intentions, schools, faith-based and community organizations have focused on what we have in common and all but ignored what makes us different.

We know today that these practices have failed communities of color. Current research shows that this practice is directly linked with the education gap and the separation of communities. When we don’t “see” color, we also don’t acknowledge racism, stereotype threat or the harmful effects of failing to understand life experiences different than our own. In the case of white allies, this practice inherently discounts or questions the experiences of people of color.

This interactive workshop will help each participant take a look at the practices within their own congregation and identify ways in which they may reframe their work with volunteers and children. We will dive into current research and look at the ways humans internalize bias, prejudice and stereotypes as well as the effects this has on each of us. AMAZE provides research-based, practical tools to help adults discuss bias and bullying with children at an age when attitudes and ideas are being formed.

Participants will also receive information about resources they can bring back to use within their own congregation to deepen racial justice work. The workshop will focus on doing this work with children – from talking about current events to embedding racial justice work within your religious education programs.

Our Presenter: Nancy Michael is the executive director of AMAZE, a nonprofit organization that has been working with adults to embed anti-bias education in schools, early childhood programs and faith-based programs since 1996. Nancy has 20+ years in program development and has presented trainings and workshops at the national conferences for the National Association for Early Childhood Education, Head Start, National Association for Multicultural Education, National Association for School Social workers, National Black Child Development Institute and the White Privilege Conference. Learn more about AMAZE at [http://www.amazeworks.org/](http://www.amazeworks.org/).
Participating in a Methodist church school, Sunday visits with her family to neglected housing areas in New York City, hands-on experiences related to poverty and race during college, student teaching in Dewey’s Lab School at the University of Chicago, and promoting K-12 citizenship education in schools are just a few of the early opportunities that informed Susan Archer’s world view. As a DRE Susan served the UU Congregation in Lincroft, NJ which later ordained her as Minister of Religious Education.

After leaving Lincroft, she was asked to serve as the first full-time UUA district religious education consultant. She collaborated with Rev. Howell Lind, district Executive in the Metro New York District to lift up the importance of religious educators and parish ministers working together. As a district team they modeled what congregational leaders could do to create vibrant and healthy faith communities. This work deepened Susan’s educational philosophy that emphasized: HOW WE ARE WITH ONE ANOTHER MATTERS, and TEACHES - whether in classrooms, congregational life, districts, or other institutions.

After leaving district work she served Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda, MD - a large congregation and a new challenge. While using written curricula she also emphasized that the most important curriculum was the community that volunteers could create with the kids’ help. Such communal experiences are undoubtedly important but the value doesn’t stop there. Repeated week by week, year by year, they build institutions of strength. Strong healthy institutions provide for our children and youth places of dependable love and care in which they can thrive. That environment supports the children and youth through their complex journeys of faith and human growth, through stages of trust, empathy, and a sense of competence that give them confidence that they can affect change and make a difference. Loving institutions provide a platform for learning how to respectfully agree and disagree with others because the community they interact with makes it safe to do so. And then these amazing kids, of which the whole congregation is both proud and enriched, further strengthen the institution. It’s a wonderful cycle.

Thirty years after beginning her journey as a religious educator Susan retired to North Carolina to be near her children. She volunteers with K-1 children in a local school supported by the UU congregation where she is now a member. She continues to enjoy her fellow professionals. Part of that is mentoring which includes her own learning from newer religious educators! She continues to travel with other retired religious educators and returned to Iceland this summer. Susan has always and continues to inspire us with her mantra How We Are with Each Other Matters! Visit the LREDA website to read more about Susan’s ministry of religious education found in her Odyssey.
Greetings!

Thank you for making the Chapter Matching Challenge a great success! Your efforts resulted in increasing the Endowment Fund by over $70,000, including the $35,000 in matching funds contributed by a generous donor. In addition, nearly $6,000 has been paid out to the ten chapters that made their challenge goals.

LREDA Endowment Committee has happily welcomed two new members — Emmie Schlobohm and Jennifer McGlothin — and has bid an appreciative farewell to Patti Withers, who chaired the LEC since the campaign visioning began over three years ago. After several years serving on the LEC, John Cavallero now serves as chairperson.

During the upcoming Fall Conference, we will be celebrating the culmination of the LREDA Endowment Campaign, which has raised over $565,000 in gifts, pledges, and planned gift intentions to date. But growing our endowment doesn’t stop there!

Gifts from individuals and congregations are still heartily encouraged, in the hope we can reach the $600,000 mark by the time we gather for Fall Conference.

After the endowment campaign wraps up, the work of the LREDA Endowment Committee and Director of Development continues. The emphasis with shift to promoting giving that sustains the LREDA Endowment over time: recurring monthly or annual gifts, bequests and other forms of planned giving, congregation special offerings, and gifts made in honor or memory of religious educators.

If you would like further information about any of these means of contributing to the endowment, go to the LREDA website: [http://www.lreda.org/donate](http://www.lreda.org/donate) or email: endowment@lreda.org

Laurel Amabile, Director of Development
Greetings to all, from my new position in the Office of Church Staff Finances!

In my previous role as Professional Development Specialist, my broad mission (as I framed it) was to nurture religious educators and musicians into well-equipped, spirit-filled professionals who serve and lead in right relationship with their colleagues and their congregation. It was a joy and a privilege to assist you in deepening your knowledge, honing your skills, and developing your amazing natural talents to be the best religious educators you could be!

Many of you are blessed to work with supervisors and church leaders who enthusiastically encourage and materially support your professional growth. In some cases, though, I am aware that your congregational circumstances are limiting you.

For instance:
• You may not have sufficient hours or professional expenses to take advantage of continuing education offerings.
• You may not be part of a staff team that values ongoing professional formation.
• Your congregation may be unaccustomed to treating the religious educator as a key member of the professional staff.
• Your congregation may be weary and wary due to staff conflict and turnover.
• Frequent lay leader changes and/or lack of training may mean that the basics of supporting staff are not known or not practiced.

With these challenges and others in mind, I’m excited to shift my focus from helping church staff be great employees to helping congregations be great employers. The mission of the Office of Church Staff Finances (OCSF) is to help congregations live into the principles of our faith through their employment relationships and to equip ministers and church staff for financial competence.

If you are in the UUA retirement plan or if you participate in any of the UUA insurance plans (health, life, long-term disability, or dental), you are supported by my fantastic OCSF colleagues. My position includes overseeing our Compensation Program and advising on sound staffing practices, starting with guidance on hiring and onboarding new staff. (Note that From Starting to Parting has moved with me.) Some of this is familiar territory and some is very, very new – such as the details of clergy compensation and tax law.

As my position begins to take shape, I would love to hear your ideas about how I can help congregations and professionals in the areas of compensation and staffing. You can reach me at jgartner@uua.org or 585.301.6782. (I am still telecommuting from my home near Rochester, NY.)
Board Notes
Andrea James, LREDA Secretary, (secretary@lreda.org)

Your LREDA Board meets monthly via zoom and holds three in-person meetings each year: at Fall Conference, in the spring, and at General Assembly. Here are some highlights of our LREDA and Board work since the last issue of our newsletter:

- The LREDA Board was proud to affirm in June a revised Code of Professional Practices https://lreda.memberclicks.net/code-of-professional-practices. We encourage you to get familiar with and live the updated Code, share it with your congregations and ministerial colleagues, and discuss it in your chapters. The Code will be reviewed every two years, and we welcome your feedback. Gratitude to Meagan Henry, Professional Support.
- We welcomed and provided orientation for three new Board members, Lily Rappaport (Continental Events), Annie Scott (President Elect), and Andrea James, (Secretary).

From your Administrator
Kari Kopnick, LREDA Administrator (admin@lreda.org)

Does your LREDA Chapter meet via web video conference? Would you like to use Zoom to reach across the miles for your LREDA chapter? The LREDA Zoom web conference account is available for use by Chapters and other LREDA groups. Contact our administrator to schedule your meeting. Not familiar with Zoom? Kari will be happy to give you a quick orientation to running an efficient and effective meeting using Zoom.

LREDA Board (L to R, standing) Leah Purcell, Lily Rappaport, Meagan Henry, Karen LoBracco, and Annie Scott. Seated: Andrea James, Cathy Seggel, and Robin Pugh
What's New on lreda.org!

As before, members can view and search within an up-to-date directory, renew their membership and register for events online, make changes to their profile, and upload a profile picture.

- New this year: members can, at any time, view and print past invoices and financial transactions, including donation receipts, within the Profile section of My LREDA.
- Members can self-adjust privacy settings and contact preferences, as well as elements of their own profile.
- Anyone can perform a comprehensive search of the site to find resources and information. (Members’ data and Members Only sections of the site are not accessible to the public.)
- A public LREDA calendar is available to view. If your chapter would like to advertise programming or meetings, contact Kari to post a listing on the calendar.
- Communication is easier than ever with new lreda.org email addresses for chapter chairs, key volunteers, and staff and consultants.
- In the interest of accessibility and transparency, you can now view past minutes and LREDA meeting highlights at your leisure.
- Each chapter has their own publicly accessible page. Contact Kari to discuss how your chapter page might best be of use to your members. And don’t forget pictures!

- Members can join “Circles” (like facebook groups) to connect with other chapter members, LREDA colleagues with shared identities or interests, and more. To find a list of available circles, navigate to “My Profile” from the My LREDA menu tab (visible only after login) and find “Circles” under “My Features”
- You'll find curated content to support you in your work, such as Racial Justice Resources https://lreda.memberclicks.net/racial-justice
- Congregations can easily post employment opportunities or purchase a contact list for the purpose of advertising open positions, and members can view employment opportunities, all organized under our Employment tab.
- Forums provide an area to store resources provided by members like you. A combination of the LREDA e-list and a facebook group, you can ask questions, upload resources and search easily for saved files.
- You'll find the newly-launched LREDA Blog under "About", featuring videos and news.
- As always, LREDA makes it as easy as possible to donate to support the work of professional religious educators through the advocacy of LREDA.

If you have questions or feedback about the website, please contact Board Secretary, Andrea James (secretary@lreda.org)
As religious professionals, you are likely concerned by the ideological divide and xenophobic, inflammatory rhetoric in the news and in our communities. The need for collaborative work between groups of different faiths to heal ailing society is growing stronger every day. The Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School has developed a curriculum, We Who Defy Hate: An Interfaith Preparation for Social Justice Action, a companion tool to the soon-to-be-released PBS documentary co-directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky, Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War.

The Fahs Collaborative curriculum, co-written by social justice educators Dr. Jenice L. View and Dr. Mark Hicks, is designed to create a conversational space for people of different faith traditions who seek common ground and solidarity in the service of social action. Hicks notes "Today, we see lots of evidence of how difficult it is for faith communities to reach across cultural gaps. We have found that good intentions are not enough; faith communities need specific strategies in order to re-learn how to bridge those gaps." View adds, "While the Sharps were truly heroic they were also regular people, capable of the same courage and contradictions as we. The work that is to be done-interfaith social justice action-is available to all of us if we choose it." The curriculum's detailed, experiential exercises model how faith communities can collectively reassess their commitments in order to act-and challenge others to act-each day from a place of moral courage and good will.

PBS executives are projecting five to seven million viewers will see the documentary in September. Take a look today to see if this curriculum might support your work during the upcoming church year. It is available to download at Meadville Lombard Theological School's website www.meadville.edu, as well as at the film's official website www.defyingthenazis.org.

http://myemail.constantcontact.com/News-from-the-Fahs-Collaborative.html?
How can congregations support their religious educators in the process of credentialing?

Have you been or are you currently in the RE Credentialing Program? What would you have liked your congregation to have known about the process? What are your ideas for ways that congregations to support a religious educator while they are preparing their portfolio and preparing for their meeting with the Religious Education Credentialing Committee?

For example, my congregation held a “Commissioning Ceremony” for me during a Sunday service at the time I entered the program. With input from district staff, the minister shared with the congregation not only how the congregation would benefit once I was done, but also talked about the rigors of the program. He explained that since I would need time for study and that I’d be away more often for trainings, I would not be so easily available to them for a few years. One of our colleagues told me that her congregation gave her a sabbatical to finish up her credentialing work.

Send your ideas to me at prodev@lreda.org or join my forum “Help me to help congregations support their religious educators in the credentialing program” in the members section at lreda.org. Help me gather ideas for congregations large and small, and with resources great and small, and for congregational leaders with varying understandings of the credentialing program. I’ll use your ideas to create a document to send to congregations on “how to” as their religious educators enter the program. Thanks!

Credentialing Scholarships Available!

Are you in the Credentialing program and could use some financial assistance with trainings? The Credentialing Scholarship Committee has money for that! Scholarship money can be used for registration fees, travel, and lodging. The next open application period will be October 1 - Nov 15, 2016. Check out the criteria and application on the LREDA website. Questions? Contact Beth Irikura birikura@rruuc.org or Tracy Beck DRE@ucdsm.org or chat with us at Fall Con.
Greetings, LREDA colleagues,

I’ve enjoyed credentialing conversations with some of you at General Assembly and others of you at RE Week at this Mountain this summer. I am always happy to talk with you about questions, concerns, and ideas regarding the professional path of religious education credentialing through our Unitarian Universalist Association. The Religious Education Credentialing Committee’s goal is for credentialing to be as accessible, equitable, doable, and impactful as possible. Your feedback helps us keep on moving in the direction of that goal.

Heads up on a couple of things:

• First, transcripts are no longer required for you application materials. The Religious Education Credentialing Committee, at its spring 2016 meeting, decided that we no longer want to make a distinction between the various life paths that may have brought you to your religious education role—education, life experience, and service. We will be developing a checklist for you to indicate the backgrounds you bring and will ask you to provide a brief written account (under 300 words) of the major experiences that have prepared you for religious education. The UUA website does not currently reflect this change. Hang tight. We are between UUA personnel, with the departure of Professional Development Assistant Jan Gartner and will make these updates as soon as we are able. For right now, just don’t spend any money on transcript requests and don’t sweat not having a college degree. If you would like more information, feel free to contact me.

• Applications for the religious education credentialing program are temporarily on hold, waiting for Jan Gartner’s replacement. We will begin accepting applications as soon as that person is in place, likely by early October.

I look forward to seeing many of you at LREDA Fall.

Meanwhile, may your church year start-ups be strong and set the stage for a year of meaningful and enjoyable religious education ahead.

In faithful partnership,

Rev. Tandy W. Scheffler, CRE-M
Chair of Religious Education Credentialing Committee
tandyscheffler@gmail.com
Credentialed Religious Educators

Associate Level

Beth Havlik, Director of Spiritual Exploration at Community UU in Brighton, MI

Credentialed Level

Kathy Smith, DRE, Community UU Church of Plano, TX
Linnea Nelson, DRE, UU Congregation of Fairfax, VA
Beryl Aschenberg, DRE, First Unitarian, Milwaukee
Meredith Olson, Interim DRE, North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield, IL
Austen Petersen, DRE, Williamsburg (VA) UUs
Rev. Jonathan Rogers, Minister of Lifelong Learning and Growth, UCC, Atlanta, GA
Sheila Schuh, DRE, First Unitarian Church, Rochester NY
Teresa Honey Youngblood

Master Level

Gabrielle Farrell, Lifespan Religious Educator, River Road UU Congregation, Bethesda, MA

Other

Amber Peterson, DLFD for the UUs of Southern Delaware in Lewes, DE, officially entered the program in May.

Congratulations to all!
Retirements

Cindy Leitner is enjoying living in a forest, watching clouds move over majestic mountains, and visiting her delightful grandchildren after serving for eight glorious years as LREDA’s Administrator. Cindy’s career in religious education spanned more than 30 years and she says, “The universe is still filled with wonder and awe.”

Alice Springer, Dir. of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at the UU Congregation of Santa Fe, NM, retired on June 30 after 17 years in Santa Fe and 22+ years as a member of LREDA. While she intends to take a breather from professional faith development work, she expects to be involved again at some point. And she says, “I will be a lifetime LREDA member because after all, my LREDA colleagues have been my life blood through these many years!”

In December, 2015, Lynn Garmon retired from her position as Director of Lifespan Faith Development at the UU Church of Binghamton, NY after nearly ten years. Prior to that she served the Unitarian Church of Norfolk, VA for five years. Lynn also served LREDA as a good officer and as treasurer of the Seaway Chapter.

Ann Willever, who began her career as Religious Educator at the First Universalist Society in Franklin, MA, marked her retirement at GA in June. Following her ordination as an MRE, she served as interim MRE at First Parish, Concord, MA, then she returned to Franklin to serve seven years as Family Minister. More recently she served as interim minister at Bell St. Chapel in Providence, RI and at All Souls Church in Brattleboro, VT. She now is affiliated with the Franklin church as a Community Minister so she can continue her advocacy for social justice, and she is a Life Member of LREDA.

Chris Parker retired as DRE of the UU Church of Nashua, NH in 2014 following 29 years of service.

Sally Daab Armstrong retired as DRE of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT. after five years of service. She says she wishes she had found this ministry earlier—or that she was younger!

Other Transitions

Rev. Tandi Rogers has left her position as an Innovation and Network Specialist to join the Pacific Western Region as a Congregational Life Staff Specialist. She is also adjunct faculty at Meadville-Lombard, teaching Religious Education for a Changing World.

On August 1, Lyn Marshall began a new role as the Minister of Lifespan Faith Development at the UU Church of Concord, NH. She previously served the congregation as intern minister and assistant minister. As someone who came from a teaching background, she is “thrilled to be able to meld [her] passions into one amazing job.”

Layne Richard-Hammock, CRE, having served West Shore UU Church in Rocky River, OH for two years in an acting position with an interim portfolio, is now settled as their Director of Lifespan Faith Development. This is the fourth congregation Layne has served.

continued..
Jan Gartner, who for the past five years has been Professional Development Specialist at the UUA, is now Compensation and Staffing Practices Manager in the UUA’s Office of Church Staff Finances.

Robin Slaw, who has served four years as the DLFD at Central Unitarian Church in Paramus, NJ, will now be serving the UU Congregation of Columbia, MD, as their Director of Religious Education.

Catherine Farmer Loya, who for 13 years was the religious educator for the UU Community Church of Santa Monica, CA, is the new DLRE at the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, KY.

Dayna Edwards will be serving the UU Congregation of Rockville, MD as their full time religious educator. She formerly was Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration at Paint Branch UU Church in Adelphi, MD.

This spring Sarah Martin became the settled DRE at the UU Church of Buffalo.

Honors and Celebrations

Charlotte Lehman, Acting Director of Children’s Religious Education at the First Church in Belmont (MA) UU, has received preliminary fellowship with the UUA and for the next 1-2 years will be serving the UU Church in Tallahassee, FL, as their interim minister. This summer she will be visiting the partner churches of both Belmont and First Parish Concord, and she looks forward to singing with Transylvanian Unitarians.

Danielle Bannister is celebrating ten years as Director of Religious Exploration at the UU Church of Belfast, ME.

Pat Infante, CRE, currently Congregational Life Staff Generalist for the Central East Regional Group, has been named DRE Emerita by the UU Church in Cherry Hill, NJ, where she served from 1997-2006. Pat thinks she and her mother, Mary Ella Holst-Zippel, are probably the only mother-daughter DRE emerita duo in UUdom!

Kathy Underwood DRE of the UU Church of Elgin, IL, is marking 20 years of service to that congregation.

On February 1 Lynn Sabourin, DRE, celebrated 35 years with the North Shore Unitarian Church in West Vancouver, BC.

On October 4, 2015, Lane Campbell was ordained as Minister of Religious Exploration by the First UU Church of Columbus, OH.

Natalie Fenimore received final ministerial fellowship from the UUA. She is Minister of Lifespan Religious Education at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY and is a former president of LREDA.

Thomas Pistole, CRE and retired DRE from Durham, NH has completed 45 years on the faculty of the University of New Hampshire and is honored to be serving on the New England Region’s Ministerial Transitions Team.
Treasurer’s Notes
Karen LoBracco, LREDA Treasurer
(treasurer@lreda.org)

Even though the weather still says “summer”, the mood is shifting from restoration to ramping up for another active year. But before we get so immersed in the new church year, let me pause to thank each and every one of you for being a member of LREDA! The support, experiences, time and money you share makes a difference to Unitarian Universalist religious educators in a multitude of settings all over the continent.

Here are a few noteworthy recent accomplishments from my perspective as LREDA Treasurer:

- Your Board is seeking out and developing alternative sources of funding beyond member dues. A $3000 grant from the Unitarian Sunday School Society (USSS) will help record major presentations at our upcoming Fall Conference, and the $10,600 grant from the UU Funding Panel paid for a major upgrade in our website and media presence.
- A $35,000 matching grant from a generous donor inspired individuals, congregations, organizations and chapters to meet the challenge and thus bring in an additional $70,000+ to the Endowment Fund. An added gift for chapters meeting their goal was a cash bonus!
- Every quarter we receive a check from the UU Common Endowment fund of $4000+ which is reinvested in the profession - funding innovative 21st Century Fund projects, scholarships to attend Fall Conference and support for our denominational advocacy.
- In considering how LREDA’s resources of time and money should be allocated, your Board puts connecting members – to each other and to resources and support – as the highest priority. Advocacy is also right up there, with LREDA having a seat around many virtual tables in areas that influence our members and our world.

Thank you for being a LREDA member! All of us on the Board welcome your involvement and suggestions on how to make our professional association better than ever!

Karen LoBracco, Treasurer

About LREDA...

The center of our work as religious educators is belief in the transformative power of educating through our Unitarian Universalist faith.

LREDA is an anti-racist, anti-oppression, welcoming, professional organization open to liberal religious educators and those supportive of religious education. LREDA promotes the religious growth and learning of people of all ages and advocates for and supports religious educators and the field of liberal religious education.

The work of the organization has always been to encourage and support the professional standards and accomplishments of those who serve our congregations in religious education.

We are governed by a Board of Directors who are elected on a rotating basis at our Annual Meeting, typically held during General Assembly. Our staff consists of an Administrator and the contracted services of a Director of Development, and a Conference Planner for our Fall Conference event.

The LREDA Newsletter is published twice per year by the Liberal Religious Educators Association. Submissions of articles, announcements, milestones, chapter updates, letters and photos are encouraged; send them to secretary@lreda.org.

To reach your LREDA Board members, you can contact them directly at their lreda.org address.

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