

**Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock**  
**Annual Meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**  
**Chair Report 2015/16**

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**Annual Meeting Presidents Report**

My report will have a theme and that theme is extreme gratitude! I will apologize in advance for anyone I have missed. I certainly won't be able to thank everyone by name the way Rev. Tom did when he presented his reports, but know that on behalf of the entire Board, we are grateful for all of the many hands and souls that make this Center what it is.

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**Introduction of Board members**

**Mary Loughman** ~ Chairperson: I was duly elected and am beginning my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of my first 3 year term.

**Rina Schroeder** ~ Vice Chairperson: Was Duly elected an beginning her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her first 3 year term

**Ken St Onge** ~ Treasurer: Was Duly elected and is beginning his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his second 3 year term

**Stan Perrin** ~ Secretary: Was appointed to fill the vacant trustee position left by Deb Gelscheit. Deb was required to leave the Board after accepting employment from the Center. Stan is beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his first 3 year term

**Pat Novy** ~ Trustee: Was Duly elected and Ending her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her first 3 year term.

**Marypatrice Raupp** ~ Trustee: was Duly elected and Ending her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her first 3 year term.

**Dave Carlson** ~ Advisory Board Member: Was appointed in Sept. 2015 and has committed to at least 6 months service.

**Nancy Nott** ~ Advisory Board Member: Was appointed in April 2016 and has committed to at least 6 months service.

This is an extremely dedicated group of volunteers. We have spent 7 out of the last 12 months without a minister. This means that the leadership responsibility for the Center has rested on this group's shoulders. We have volunteered our time to ensure that this Spiritual Community remain healthy, engaged and, not just afloat, but thriving. Thank you all for your willingness to serve in this way.

I'd also like to thank Rev. Tom. Even though he is no longer physically in our Spiritual Center, in my opinion, he spent his time here mentoring us all to stand on our own in a healthy way.

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### **Win-Win Raffle**

We started our year off with our first Win-Win Raffle, Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction! I would consider this a great success and our Treasurer Ken St Onge will report on the financial implications of this event. A lot of energy was put into this event with many hands and hearts contributing to its success!

I BIG Thank you to the leaders: Rina Schroeder, Maria Pizzuto-Wubs and Pat Novy. This Thank You extends to this year's event where the planning began almost immediately after the first one ended. Behind the scenes volunteers are:

Eileen Brannigan

Dave Carlson

Deb Galscheit

Rick Lattella

Lori Muligano

Mary & Stan Perrin

Karen Peterson

Mary Raazt

Steve Rauchenecker

Larry Walsh

Marie Wendt

Joe Weyland

Again, I apologize if I missed anyone.

Thank you all for your energy and the gifts that you have brought to this event!

### **Rev. Tom's Sabbatical**

Rev. Tom's Sabbatical brought with it an increased commitment from your Board of Trustees as well as the Center's paid employees and many volunteers. This was a time where we learned that we had the ability to stand on our own. We learned a lot in this time and these lessons came in very handy when it came time for our next big event!

A special Thank You to Marypatrice Raupp. Marypatrice offered to work as Spiritual Center Manager during Rev. Tom's sabbatical on a volunteer basis. She took on many of Rev. Tom's duties during this time. Just a few being: Weekly email blasts, attending to Minister calls and emails (no easy task) as well as countless other tasks (such as communications needed when a ceiling caves in). I have a hunch she got more than she bargained for. Thank you MP.

Thank you also to Tricia Alexander, Marie Wendt, Rina Schroeder and Jacob Cichy. All were of great assistance in keeping things rolling smoothly during this time!

I would also like to acknowledge and Thank Pat Novy for her leadership role in Rev. Toms Sabbatical preparations!

### **Rev. Tom's Retirement**

Rev Tom's Retirement announcement first brought with it the normal emotional reactions to work through for all of us, then a flurry of activity for preparation. We wanted to honor Rev Tom in a way that reflected our appreciation for all he had brought to this Spiritual community AND we needed to be prepared to move forward while he rode off into the sunset on his not-white horse! In fact it was brown and wearing a smoking jacket. One event was where we Roasted Rev. Tom (THAT was fun!) and we had a send-off party. Special Thank you to Rina Schroeder for organizing these events!

During all of this, behind the scenes, your Board (with the help of Rev Tom) and the Centers staff, along with volunteers, were making plans to move into our future. Decisions were made on who would lead what. A team was created to put a list of quality Speakers together. That team consisted of Marie Wendt, Tricia Alexander, Marypatrice Raupp, Rina Schroeder and myself. Tricia Alexander took the lead on scheduling speakers (along with her adept skills at scheduling/organizing the music we enjoy each Sunday). Thank you so very much Tricia!

Although we have in place a Back-up Minister, should a ministerial need arise. Our back-up minister is Rev. Anne Muelleman. It was decided that Rina Schroeder and I would, together, take the place of Rev Tom in many of the decisions that a minister would typically make. With Tricia pretty much holding the reigns and keeping us on track for the timing of the Centers activity we have been fairing quite well. Marie Wendt has also been very helpful in this way. Thank you all. The Prayer Chaplain Team took on the responsibility of wellness calls and needs for the congregation. Thank you Prayer Chaplain Team!

### **Minister Transition Activity**

We will have a special Report on this activity from our fearless Transition Team leader Rina Schroeder. Rina will be reviewing the activity and discussing our plans moving forward toward our perfect, inspirational, dynamic next minister of Unity Spiritual Center of Woodstock. Thank you Rina for all of your energy, enthusiasm and the heart and soul you have put into this process.

I'd also like to thank all those that contributed to and attended the Transition events. It is through your engagement to these events that we will attribute our successful transition. Thank you all so very much.

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### **Regular Board Activities**

Even with all these things going on, your Board of trustees has needed to attend to everyday business. Those things include:

#### **Building Management needs**

The Center has been on a spending freeze since the middle of the last fiscal year. With this, any expenditures have needed to be approved by the Board of trustees. The biggest need for this fiscal year was for a new copy machine that was purchased in Jan of this year.

Our future needs will include:

~New Calhoun Street entrance doors

~Partition between Power and Fellowship to be able to better utilize our Rental income

~Updates to our Sanctuary

I'd like to note that George and Rina saved us approx. \$1200 or more this year by manually digging out and replacing our sump pump. Thank you both.

Lastly, I would like to recognize George Mulligano for his great generosity in our buildings maintenance needs. George has remained our Maint. Manager and is tithing his time to do so. Thank you George for all of the gifts you bring to our Spiritual home!

**Your Board has hosted 2 Bi-Annual Spruce Up Days, one in the spring and one in the fall.**

**The Board of trustees also Monitors all of the active ministries in the Center.**

I would like to thank all of the leaders and volunteers of the following ministries:

- a. Audio Reproduction.....Rina Schroeder
- b. Building Management Team.....Mary Loughman
- c. Lending Library.....Dorothy Biris
- d. Greeter Team.....Ken St Onge
- e. Hospitality Team.....Pat Novy

- f. Sunday morning Angel who comes early to start coffee...Jim Graff
- g. Sunday morning Cleaning Angels.....Dorothy Biris
  
- h. Mindshifters.....Dr. Tim Hayes
  
- i. Dinner with Abraham group.....Rina Schroeder
  
- j. Shopping Angels.....Dee Suberla
- k. Social Media.....Stan Perrin
- l. Unity in the Community.....Maria Pizzuto-Wubs
  
- m. LGBT team.....Dave Carlson
- n. Adopt-a-Family.....Eileen Branigan
- o. Growth Team.....Rina Schroeder
- p. Picnic Team.....Maria Pizzuto-Wubs and Ken St. Onge
- q. Indoor/Outdoor landscaping.....Kathy and Ken St. Onge and Boyd and Shannon Whitt
- r. Lawn Care Angels.....Ken St Onge and Joe Weylend
- s. Prayer Chaplains.....Marypatrice Raupp
- t. Audiovisual coord./Webmaster.....Jacob Cichy
- u. Internal Publicity.....Barbara Lehman-Cichy and Jacob Cichy
- v. Admin Angels (ensure bulletins are ready each week)....Joni Long, Karen Peterson and Mary Raatz
- w. IT Angel: George our Tech hero!

I'd like to ask anyone who has served on one or more of these teams in the last year to please stand. Thank you all. Let's give each other a hand please.

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### **New Items**

#### **Amazon Associate Program**

Thank you Rina and Jacob for making this available to us on our website

#### **Electronic Giving**

This was implemented and is being revised in the near future. Our current vendor for this is quite expensive. Rina and Tricia are working on a viable alternative.

#### **Unattended Child Policy**

We consider this building a safe place. And for Adults it IS a safe place in so many ways. Yet for the children of our Center this is also a public building. When the building is in use, the doors are unlocked and the building is not what one might consider child proofed. With this in mind our new Unaccompanied Child Policy was created. The Board feels that it is important that children are attended by a parent at all times while in the Center. Parents will be given a policy to sign when

they register their children in the Youth program. For those already attending the Church with children already registered, they will be asked to sign the policy for next year's curriculum. Marie will be sharing changes made to her meetings spaces to accommodate volunteers attending Youth Ministry meetings with children.

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### **Thank you to our Staff**

~Our music team: Tricia Alexander, Lori Gray Muligano, Alpha Sterwart, Ken Johnson, Andy Anderick, and George again. Music is such an important part of our ministry. The talent we enjoy every Sunday is truly inspiring. Thank you all!

~Tricia Alexander who has been serving our Church for approx. 9 years now. Tricia currently serves as both Administrative Director and Music Ministry Creative Manager. Tricia has consistently taken on more responsibility over the years and is appreciated beyond words.

~Deb Gelscheit who now serves as our Administrative assistant. We are so fortunate to have Deb as part of this Centers team sharing her gifts.

~Marie Wendt who serves tirelessly as our Youth Ministry Director. Our youth are very lucky indeed! Maries report will certainly show her dedication to the Center, the children of the Center and the huge number of volunteers that she oversees and that gratefully accept her guidance. Thank you!

~Maria Pizzuto-Wubs who assists Marie in her needs with her amazing organizational skills.

~Our cleaning crew is not technically staff, but I want to acknowledge them for the work that they do. Senior Whiskers is the company that cleans our building along with our Sunday Cleaning Angel Dorothy Biris and our volunteer Sunday Cleaning Angels Bill Kanies and Karen Gurbig. Thank you all. You have made our Spruce Up Days much shorter!

And finally I would like to thank all of you! We all come to this place to be spiritually fed. We come here to share ideas, love and support. I am grateful to be here, to have an opportunity to serve and I am grateful for each and every one of you.

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Questions?