



River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation 2019 Nominees for the Board of Trustees

Loretta Garcia

18 years ago, I was looking for a place where my young children could learn values, and a place of community for myself. I found both at RRUUC. Since then, I have been a teacher in Religious Education, a member and chair of the Leadership & Nominations Committee, co-chair of the Latin America Task Force Network (LATN), co-chair of the Contemporary Issues Forum, a member of the Ministerial Search Committee, worked with the kitchen ministry, and served in several departments of the all-congregation bazaar. I am honored to be nominated for a board seat, and my many years of experience in different capacities will be helpful in this position.



Vonna Heaton

Vonna Heaton is a passionate and lifelong student and practitioner of Unitarian Universalist principles. She became a Unitarian Universalist and joined RRUUC in 2013 and proceeded to put her energy and passion to use by serving with several groups, including the Racial Justice Task Force, Action in Montgomery core team, Welcome Team, and Social Justice Review and Ministry Teams. She has also been nurtured by many small group fellowships, among them Beloved Conversations, Spirit Journey, Inquirers, and her Women's Groups, and then, of course there, is the magical burst of energy and grace exerted in community towards the Annual Bazaar. Prior to joining the ranks of the joyfully retired persons three years ago, Vonna's first career was as a math teacher and then 39 years as a federal employee where she earned many distinctions, including the National Intelligence Superior Service Medal and the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award. She is most proud of her Agency-level employee nominated Mentor of the Year and Supervisor of the Year Awards. Vonna and her husband Ed live just west of Rockville, Md. Her life has been graced by love of family, including her identical twin sister Valri, and being the proud aunt to four nieces (daughters of that twin sister) whose lives she engages in on a regular and symbiotically supportive basis. She and Ed are also parents to Ed's daughter Sarah and son Tony and Tony's daughter, Autumn Moon.

Glen Peppel

I have been part of the River Road community since 2005, along with my partner Joel Schrag. We still remember the thrill of signing the Membership Book and are truly grateful for the growth we have experienced here.

At RRUUC, I have served on the Membership and L&N Committees; co-facilitated OWL; enjoyed hilarious Bazaar duties (beverages, Square® training, pick-ups); hung out with the German Conversation Group; and co-chaired the Stewardship Campaign in 2012-13.



Professionally, I've been an English teacher for ELs (English Learners) for 18 years in FCPS, and am currently Department Chair at Mount Vernon High School. Personally, I look forward to summer: sojourns to my native California (Joel and I met at UC Berkeley, and much of my family still lives out West); and my annual bike/road trip, which aspires to be "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance," but is usually just a blast.

Nominee for a Special One-Year Term:

Kim Weichel is being nominated to serve out the remainder of the term of one of our Trustees who recently resigned, Julia Hutter. Because this is a replacement, this nominee will serve for a term of one year, the amount of time remaining in the position that was vacated.



Kim Weichel

Kimberly Weichel is a social entrepreneur, catalyst, non-profit leader and cultural bridge builder with extensive global experience. For over 30 years, Kim has worked in the fields of international development, education and peacebuilding with many international agencies, including the UN. As a passionate champion for women's leadership, she was until recently CEO of an international women's peacebuilding and leadership organization. Kim is author of several books, including *Beyond Borders: One Woman's Journey of Courage, Passion and Inspiration* and her upcoming book is called *Our Voices Matter: Wisdom, Hope and Action for Our*

Time. Kim and her husband Carl co-teach courses at American University, and they are both active at RRUUC - Kim sings in the choir, has been a mentor, lay leader, volunteer with the Silent Auction and the Bazaar, and is part of the music outreach program performing at local retirement homes.