

CONFERENCE PANEL INTRO AND PROFILES

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein is your Fall 2023 Conference Planning Team's Theme Panel Coordinator. Enjoy her brief video introduction to this extraordinary panel, followed by their brief bios.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5nQ3kGvalY

Theme Panelists:

Larry Ladd is a long time lay leader in Unitarian Universalism who is married to Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and who has a daughter, son-in-law, and daughter-in law who are UU ministers. He works as a consultant on strategy, governance, and finance to colleges, universities, and other not-for-profit organizations.

Cathie Severance was originally from Bucks County, PA and had no plans to move away. That being said, she has lived Doylestown, PA, San Antonio, TX, Mentor, Ohio, and now finds herself back in Texas. Her adult children and six grandchildren all think they are Texans, in spite of the fact that her children were born in New Jersey! Professionally, she is an Interventionist helping children with learning differences and learning positive behaviors. She developed a school for elementary school boys and high school girls and was teacher and director. She has taught RE, chaired membership, ushered, and participated in many other church activities. She is now retired after 45 years of professional work. She and her husband Art recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.

The Rev. Duane Fickeisen was widowed three years ago. He is a member of First Unitarian Church (Portland, OR), where he occasionally contributes to the worship life of the congregation and he is active in UURMaPA ventures. He is concerned about climate change and participates in a study group on related issues. A memoir is planned to be published later this year.

Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs is a born and bred Unitarian Universalist. She served in congregational ministry, as well as many denominational positions over the course of her long co-ministry with her late husband, Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs. She is currently living with a terminal cancer diagnosis. She lives in Portland, OR with her two wild dogs surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

The registration fee for the virtual conference is \$40.00 per individual. Financial aid in the form of scholarships toward the virtual registration fee is readily available. All you need to do is contact UURMaPA Treasurer Richard Speck at treasurer@uurmapa.org.

NEXT PAGES: POD OFFERINGS, PLANNING TEAM...

POD OFFERINGS DURING THE FALL 2023 CONFERENCE

1. In the Midwest at **First UU Church, Columbus OH** (93 West Weisheimer Road) for the UURMaPA Fall Conference, October 23-25, 2023. We have reserved a lovely, comfortable lounge and a huge tv for our gathering of colleagues and their spouses. There is ample room for breakout rooms, outlets for laptops or tablets and gardens for “silent space.” The building is fully accessible.

Columbus has a variety of hotels and restaurants nearby, beautiful Metro Parks to explore during the break times, a funky movie theater, neighborhood “villages”, a beautiful museum and a plant conservatory.

Please contact Sylvia Howe: sylhowe42@gmail.com or 978-317-0013 for more information or if you plan to join us.

The registration fee for the virtual conference is \$40.00 per individual. Financial aid in the form of scholarships toward the virtual registration fee is readily available. All you need to do is contact UURMaPA Treasurer Richard Speck at treasurer@uurmapa.org. Here is the link to the on-line registration: <https://uurmapa.regfox.com/uurmapa-fall-conference-2023>.

2. At the **UU Congregation of Wilmington DE** with **RICHARD SPECK** as host and registrar. For more information about the Wilmington Pod, Richard can be reached at rgspeck@comcast.net.

3. A residential POD at **Seabeck Conference Center in Washington State**, with **JACO & BARBARA TEN HOVE** as hosts and registrars. NOTE: ***The program at Seabeck begins with dinner on Sunday evening, October 22, and ends after lunch on Wednesday, October 25.*** For more information about the Seabeck POD, Jaco and Barbara can be reached at jbthishere@gmail.com and revbabs10@gmail.com respectively.

4. At the **Concord UU Church in New Hampshire**, host: **KATHLEEN HUNTER**. **UPDATE:** The in-person gathering at the UU Church in Concord, NH, during the Fall 2023 UURMaPA Conference has been cancelled due to low numbers.

We are hopeful that there could be a Pod in Northern New England during a future UURMaPA conference with enough people attending to have a vibrant in-person gathering. It takes a good amount of work to pull a pod together. Perhaps if you see one starting up in your area and are drawn to coming you could volunteer to help out. Those who come to them attest to the communal joy they engender.

Next Page: Overview of PODs and “Watch Party” Ideas

Overview of PODs and “Watch Party” Ideas

There are several different options for offering an in-person gathering during the Fall 2023 Conference. The most elaborate and formal option is to gather at a conference center, like the POD at Seabeck. This kind of gathering is very much like our pre-pandemic conference gatherings with everyone in one place for 3-4 days and where all meals and overnight accommodations are included in an additional registration fee. This is the most expensive option.

An in-person gathering at a UU congregation that offers the capacity to be on line is a bit less complicated, and also less expensive. With the examples offered by UU congregations in Wilmington DE, Concord NH, and Columbus OH, people who attend arrange for their own accommodations (if they are not local) and eat their meals at local restaurants.

A third option is to offer a Watch Party, which represents the most informal way of gathering. It could simply be in a home setting with good internet connection.

CHRISTINE ROBINSON organized a Watch Party in Albuquerque NM, during the Spring 2023 Conference with a handful of UURMaPAns attending and enjoying each other's company, in-person. As this article is being written, there is the potential for a Watch Party in Kansas.

Whether a formal Pod or an informal Watch Party, it is important that the chosen location offers good internet access and coverage.

Here are some locations suggested by attendees of the Spring 2023 Conference: Clinton TN; Montpelier VT; Nashville TN; Bon Secours, Marriottsville MD; St. Paul MN; Asilomar CA; Murray Grove NJ; Dayspring Silent Retreat MD; Villa Maria del Mar, Santa Cruz CA; retreat centers in L.A., Santa Barbara or Phoenix.

If you are interested in organizing a Pod or Watch Party, please check in with **RICHARD SPECK**, who serves as the Pod & Watch Party Liaison to the Fall Conference Planning Team, at rgspeck@comcast.net.

NEXT PAGE: CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM...

UURMaPA

Fall 2023 Conference Planning Team

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Scribe plus: **ANNE MARSH**

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Worship Coordinator: **LYNDA SUTHERLAND**

Odyssey Coordinator: **CHARLES STEPHENS**

Small Group Check-Ins Coordinator: **SONYA SUKALSKI**

Theme Panel Coordinator: **ROBERTA FINKELSTEIN**

Pod & Watch Party Liaison: **RICHARD SPECK**

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Tech Professional/Zoom Master/Registrar: **JON CLANEY**