

## President's Corner

This is the first in what will be a series of articles that I will be offering in order to make public the nature and good works of our various committees and their dedicated volunteer staff. I am beginning with Congregational Care (known in days of yore as Pastoral Care) because I have had the honor of both serving on this committee and am well aware of their function and good works.

Arline Howe served on this committee for about 40 years and chaired it for at least two decades. It is ironic that when she passed suddenly last December at the age of 90 she was fully functional, vibrant and apparently healthy. As a result, she passed without ever benefiting from the loving services she and her committee brought to so many throughout the years.

Her position of committee chair is now shared between Joanie Jackson and Pat Light. Other members of the team include Judith Briggs, Don Fraser, Marilyn Mayo, Hal Gurian and Barb Gibson. Rabbi Chava attends the bimonthly meetings which take place at 1:00PM on the first and third Thursdays of each month, and the committee functions as an extension of her ministry in assisting those in need. Although this group does not provide nursing or medical care, they can and do provide many services which ease the passage through troubled times. From bringing food to visiting those who are hospitalized, this committee can be relied on to provide many of the acts of caring one might expect of good neighbors or friends. And...if they aren't able to provide the services you need, they are masterful at helping locate someone who is qualified to do so.

To gain access to those they serve, the committee relies on information gained directly from those in need and concerned congregants as well as on the messages in the Joys and Sorrows book. You may have noticed that those messages have recently been read by a Congregational Care member who is wearing a brightly colored stole. Although there is only one stole, all team members have distinctive purple name tags which help congregants locate them.



From a very personal perspective, I can tell you that there is no better way to become an active part of this congregation than to be working with this team that is allowed to serve those of us in times of need. Every kindness is appreciated and strong bonds are forged quickly...and they endure.

This group is always seeking members with tender hearts, willing hands and the ability to listen to as well as comfort those among us in need of care...in need of love.

Please contact Joanie Jackson or Pat Light if you would like to become a part of this heart-based group. Their contact info is in the directory or Susan in the UU office can help you connect.

Next week we will explore the Memorial Committee which is an offshoot of the Congregational Care team. This committee serves a vital function and your opportunity to give and grow abounds here as well.

Peace in your hearts.....Linda Fletcher