Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango

Bios for Candidates standing for Election at UUFD Annual Meeting, May 19, 2024

Jim Brooke, Candidate for UUFD Board of Trustees

I was born in Hastings, Nebraska on April 6, 1946, and started to work in the family pharmacy at age 8. (I was the 4th generation Brooke to do so.) I transferred to Univ of Nebraska Lincoln after my freshman year for the final 4 years of Pharmacy (always 5 years). Along the way, I did decide in my 3rd year not to return to the family pharmacy in Hastings, so my dad sold the family store which had begun in 1903. At the beginning of my fifth year of Pharmacy College, I was reclassified 1-A for the military draft and passed my physical. Medical school looked good to me then, and I was able to work in pharmacies in Omaha nights and weekends to support my wife and the two kids we had before graduation from med school in 1973, and my wife taught school. The draft ended! We interned for a year in Denver and then we moved to Kearney, Nebraska and joined Kearney Clinic. I soon developed a large OB practice and delivered 2,000+ babies over twenty-plus years in addition to general family practice – severe workaholic!

I finally then accepted the fact that I was gay and needed to change my life. After 25 years of marriage, my wife and I separated and divorced, amicably to her credit. After lots of counseling I accepted a family practice out-patient clinic job in Colorado Springs to begin my "new life" with less possibility of over-working. I dated men for several months and finally met one far better than anyone else – Don Spangler – in January 1995. After several months we had a Holy Union Ceremony by a UU Minister in Colorado Springs and are now in year 29. We moved to Durango in 2008. I worked until age 65 and retired, my last 3 years in Urgent Care in Durango. We have attended UUFD since moving to Durango.

Tim Miller, Candidate for UUFD Board of Trustees

Tim has been a UU for 32 years, the first 22 as a member of First UU Church Houston and the past decade at UUFD. His current roles include Chair of the Finance Committee for the last 8 years, Legacy Fund Committee chair, on-again off-again Treasurer when the need arises, Worship Associate, and choir member. He retired from his career as a natural gas trader and deal structurer in 2010.

In addition to his roles at the church, Tim volunteers as a GED tutor, county finance committee member, Trout Unlimited board member, and water sampler/lab tech for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. In his "spare" time, he enjoys hiking, fly fishing, golf, cycling, traveling, and (especially) visiting his grandchildren in Calgary and Austin.

Jan Dahlquist, Candidate for Nominating Committee
Jan lived in Buffalo and Albany NY before succumbing to the charm of Durango in 1996. She worked at Bula and Fort Lewis College in software support and enjoyed getting to know people while delving into business problems and solutions. She is currently retired.

Before attending UUFD she danced in and out of various denominations, but in UUFD she has found a comfortable fit among like-minded people. She is a member of the Viola Luisa Covenant Group and helps out with Zoom hosting and ushering.

Jan indulges in road and gravel biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing as the weather allows, and reading and indoor gym activities when it doesn't.

Stephen Guy, Candidate for Nominating Committee
I have been a UU for 8 years thanks to meeting Sheryl. When she first invited me to a UU service, I immediately identified with UU as a spiritual home. Since moving to Durango and joining UUFD nearly seven years ago, I have made UUFD my spiritual home. At UUFD I have come to know and share love with the fellowship. My participation in our fellowship includes: the environmental justice team, choir, song leader, building and grounds – most notably the solar project, Frolic, and many outdoor activities. I firmly believe in giving to others in many ways in our fellowship and would faithfully serve on the nominating committee.