Rev's Reflections

Introducing a role model

A while back I mentioned in a sermon that when I was in my early-30's, I told my minister "I think I need to be a minister." Her response kind of shocked me. She said "NO! Don't do it unless you absolutely MUST."

Needless to say, I figured out that I *must* be a minister, and have never regretted answering the call to this vocation. It's hard, but I love it, and can't imagine my life without it. 25 years later, there is hardly a week that goes by when I don't think about her and the influence she has had on me.

That minister was Margot Campbell Gross, one of the subjects of the film "Grains of Sand," that we will be screening on October 27, at 6:30 in the sanctuary. It's a free preview, followed by Q+A with the the filmmaker, her daughter Sarah Gross. The movie is about Sarah's mother and mother-in-law, friends and artists living on different continents, both figuring out what it means to age with grace.

Lately, I've been thinking about Rev. Margot a lot. When she gave me that unexpected feedback, she had just returned from a sabbatical in South Africa, where she spent time with the Kopanang Project, a then brand new non-profit that gave jobs to woman living with AIDS, making textile crafts for export. It was a way for Rev. Margot to engage her artistry and love of craft while renewing her spirit in service to her congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Now that I've begun thinking about what a sabbatical could look like for me in 2027, she is once again serving as a model for me, as I try to figure out how to do the same. But that's a whole different subject.

It's a thrill for me to get a chance to introduce you all to one of my best role models, and catch up with her on the screen. I hope you can join us that evening, and that you'll invite friends and family along.

In Peace,
Rev Denis

PS, Rev. Margot always signed her emails "In Peace." I got that from her.