

## **Nominees for Board of Directors**

### **David Beseda, Portland, ME (3 year term)**



I started coming to Ferry Beach three years ago with my family because of the unique opportunity to experience community while participating in workshops that encourage spiritual exploration and creative expression. Last summer I got a groove going in the Spirit of Drumming workshop and this summer I am attending the Circle of Song week. My fiancée Catherine and I have blended multi-generational and multi-racial families with seven children between us, and our kids love their Ferry Beach friendships and the full-on experience of nature through rustic camping in the Grove and the hours spent on the ocean. I play guitar and drums, and I always look forward to the many Ferry Beach jam sessions and the spiritual experience of music at the Chapel in the Grove.

I have been involved in UU social justice work at Allen Avenue UU in Portland for many years, and I believe it is an important goal to increase the economic and racial diversity of the Ferry Beach community. I have experience in program management and budget oversight through participation on other non-profit boards. I work at a non-profit agency in southern Maine that serves homeless men, women and children, and I have three decades of successful experience with fundraising, program development, supervision of volunteers, proposal writing expertise, budget and operations management, affordable housing development, and oversight of architectural design and construction management.

### **Lydia Hempel Gibb, Barkhamsted, CT (3 year term)**



Thank you to the Nominating Committee for choosing me to be on the slate for reelection to the Board of Directors of Ferry Beach Park Association. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve on the board of an institution that holds such a dear place in my heart and look forward to the chance to do so for another three years. It is important that the board reflect the membership of both newcomers and old timers. I am of the latter and bring an historical perspective to board deliberations.

Because of my great grandmother, I am a fourth generation Unitarian Universalist. I am also am a third generation, life long, Ferry Beacher. My grandfather was sent by his church to RE Week in 1946, thus beginning our family's long relationship with Ferry Beach. I grew up at Ferry Beach as a child of parents on the Crew, then attended Discovery and Sea Breeze, and lived in the Grove during the summers of the 70's, which included a brief stint on the crew. I introduced my husband, George, to Ferry Beach and he fell in love with it as well. We started bringing our own children, George Brian and Matthew, camping in the Grove of course. Our family attended Family and Friends for several years, and have been coming to Homecoming on Labor Day forever.

Professionally, I am Dean of Talcott Mountain Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology, a school for “intellectually excited” students in grades K-8. I hold an MA in Educational Psychology/Gifted Education and a BS in Environmental Science/Wildlife Biology. I serve in leadership and as a member of several organizations, including the National Science Teachers Association, the Connecticut Association for the Gifted, and the Connecticut Invention Convention. I am an Academy Fellow of the Connecticut Academy for Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology, and a Globe Scientist for the University Center for Atmospheric Research. I served as Principle Investigator on two National Science Foundation grants focusing on women and minorities in science.

As an environmental scientist and educator it is important to me that we at Ferry Beach live our 7<sup>th</sup> Principle, from our programming to our campus. I am currently one of the board members on the team that meets with the board representatives of the Ecology School. I am also the chair of the Ferry Beach Program Committee.

Because of my family roots, I am a member of the First Universalist Church of Orange, MA where I was dedicated and married. However, since I do not live near enough to any UU Churches to attend regularly, Ferry Beach is my “church” and spiritual home. I am pleased to support Ferry Beach through service.

### **Nominees for Nominating Committee**

#### **Rev. Sue Gabrielson, Yarmouth, ME (3 year term)**



I have been a UU Minister for the last eleven years serving the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church in southern Maine! I am also the Executive Director of the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination, a state wide non-profit whose mission is to educate and publicly advocate for the civil and human rights of all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, in diverse Maine congregations and communities. I am immersed in the community, the “small world” that IS Maine.

It has been a privilege to serve as Minister of the Week for the last 4 or 5 summers during Family and Friends I, II, Kids Week, Music Week and Work Week. (I am not fussy, any reason to be at the Beach is a good one.) My kids (and I) LOVE the Beach and they make it their number one summer priority every year.

I see the Beach as essential and worthy of every aspect of my support. I am thrilled with the possibilities and opportunities presented by having a relatively new Executive Director and the transformational work the Board has been engaged to move Ferry Beach into the 21st century. Their work will ensure that we stay relevant and thrive for many years into the future.

Finally, with eleven years of ministry in southern Maine and an immersion in the justice and political communities, I have many contacts and a long "reach." These resources extend to colleagues across all denominations and faith communities as well as UUs and people of faith throughout the state and country. I am comfortable "selling" Ferry Beach and would love the opportunity to recruit strong leaders who will bring their gifts to the Beach.

**John Robinson, Portland, ME (2 year term)**



My connection to Ferry Beach stems from a desire to help the organization succeed in the face of changing times. In addition to my full time career selling and leasing commercial real estate in Southern Maine, I teach literature at the Maine College of Art. I have served on the Board of the Maine Green Building Council and The Tate House Museum, as a committee member for the Maine Real Estate Developers Association, and I sit on the steering committee for Portland Community Squash (attempting to bring youth squash to Portland). I graduated from Harvard College, and received a Master of Fine Arts from Brown University. I am also the author of several well received works of fiction, as well as one

Hollywood movie.

While I am not a Unitarian Universalist, I believe that God Is Love. My wife and I have raised four children in a blended family and sent all of them to college. By volunteering for Ferry Beach and the Nominating Committee, I hope to offer a greater connection between the FBPA and the local community.