

**Let Us Introduce Ourselves – Your 2024 Officers**

Bill Bechman  
President

Bill succeeds Lois Coleman as President, and previously served as Secretary for several years. He was a co-chair of the Bicentennial, November 2019 and a co-author of *ALL SOULS at 200*. Bill is a past president of the congregation, of Heart & Soul, and of the Deacons. and past vice president of Musica Viva NY. A member of All Souls since the 1980s, he was drawn to All Souls because of the AIDS Subway Posters. He is a leader of AQS-All Queer Souls and will be on the steering committee of the Capital Campaign. Professionally, Bill was an HR-Human Resources executive, having worked at Lighthouse International and the College of Mount Saint Vincent. He lives in Riverdale and Jupiter, Florida with his husband Tom.



Anne Bradley  
Vice President

Anne is a life-long Unitarian, having been raised in the Tulsa, Oklahoma All Souls Church. She came east for work at the, and lived in Philadelphia, and Washington DC in addition to New York. In Washington, she was on the Board of All Souls, Washington. For All Souls NYC, she has been president of the congregation twice, a Sunday School Teacher, Treasurer and today is an active leader with the Women's Alliance. Most recently she helped redesign our website with Chris Goodwin's son, Alex, a professional website developer. Anne joined us as acting Vice President in the summer of 2024 and is particularly interested in inventorying, saving and displaying our artifacts.



Carol Henger  
Treasurer

Carol began attending All Souls in 2023 and was elected Treasurer in December. She succeeded Chris Goodwin, and before Chris, Mary Dugan. Originally from Texas, Carol relocated to New York to work as a Zookeeper at the Bronx Zoo. She then pursued graduate studies at Hunter College and Fordham University. After completing her PhD in 2020, she worked for the Bronx Zoo's Molecular lab and in 2023 began working at the DNA Learning Center as an Educator. She is intrigued by history because it

better helps us understand the present. She is particularly adept at computer skills, and taught the Executive Committee how to benefit from shared Google Docs on the Google Drive. She can send announcements and invitations to the membership with ease. Carol has made the dues processing project easier for all involved.



Bryce Stack  
Member-at-Large

Bryce is a lifelong Unitarian, having been raised in New Hampshire and attending college in Boston. He relocated to NYC this year after spending two years in Jersey City. He first visited All Souls in November 2023 and was intrigued by the Historical Society table in Coffee Hour. Bryce is particularly interested in attracting and engaging new, younger members to ensure the ongoing vitality of the ASHS. He was appointed Member-At-Large in 2024 and serves on the Executive Committee.

### **Come Tour our Sanctuary!**



Laura Pederson  
With her Chicken

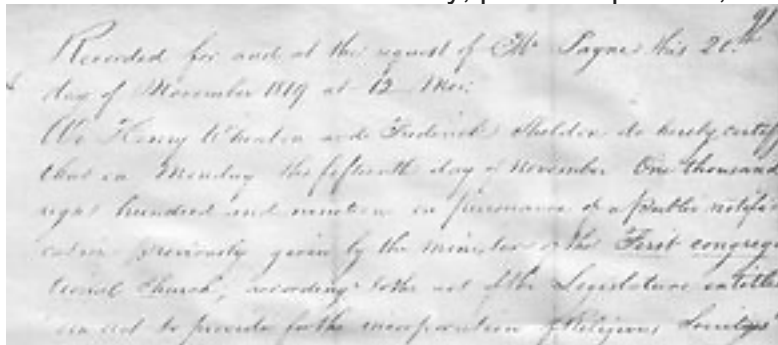
Laura Pedersen will give an All Souls Sanctuary Tour on Sunday, **November 3rd at 12:45pm**. When she's not giving church tours in her Sunday Best Outfits, you may find her giving a Barnyard Tour. And, she does it for chicken feed!

### **Annual Meeting, November 10, 2024**

The Annual Meeting of the Historical Society will be Anniversary Sunday, November 10th in Reidy Friendship Hall, after the Festive Coffee Hour. Everyone is invited to attend and celebrate our 205th Anniversary as a Congregation. We will begin with slides on the screen of artifacts from our collection. Once people are settled, the brief business portion of the meeting will be begin with reports from the officers of the Executive Committee. There will be the election of Vice President and Secretary. (Only members will be given ballots to vote).

We will discuss our inventory of artifacts and plans for exhibiting selected ones. There will be highlights of benchmark events that will be added to our timeline since 2019, for future reference about our recent history. A highlight of the afternoon will be our

featured speaker who will talk about UU history, past and present, and our



congregation.

If you'd like to join the Historical Society and vote, please do so before the meeting starts. Go to the website, and donate \$20 or bring a check, made out to All Souls NYC, with ASHS Dues in the memo line. In addition to voting, members are invited to the annual ASHS Luncheon and other special events.

(Photo: some of the handwritten words from the Original Certificate of Incorporation, from November 15, 1819)

### Share the Plate



Share the Plate was established to enhance our congregational outreach and provide a concrete way of living our values. Energized by General Assembly 2022, the All Souls delegates met with the ministers and with the Board to discuss ways to establish a Share the Plate program at All Souls. The Board approved, and Rev. Audette helped launch the program. The first round started in January 2023 with six UU-related organizations, selected through an online congregational vote. Each organization received the total plate offering for the (one) designated Sunday service that month.

When Rev. Audette left, the Share the Plate team reviewed guidelines and worked with Cecily Millen Elizondo to create an online survey format so congregation members can nominate recipients. The team reviews nominations and selects recipients (no recipient more than once a year). Congregants whose organizations are selected are invited to join the Share the Plate team. Payment is handled by the All Souls office.

One criterion is that the organization have Tax Code 501 (c)(3) status. The team seeks a mix of groups, preferably grassroots rather than large, well-funded organizations; they can be local or national (or even international) and should share All Souls and UU

values. Ideally congregational members are involved or can become involved with these groups. Most likely at least some new groups will be selected each year.

During 2023, the congregation contributed over \$8,000 to eleven organizations. Recipients are listed on the Share the Plate webpage, <https://allsoulsnyc.org/share-the-plate-3/>. Current Share the Plate team members include Karen Steele, Robert Dottin, Malinda Foy, Bruce Knotts, Mark Leeds, Arelis Torres, and Gus Young, with assistance from Nadira Shiwram-Singh, Maxine Barton, and Taylor Gallihue.

Submitted by Karen Steele, July 28, 2024

### **All Souls at General Assembly 2024**

General Assembly 2024 (June 20-23) was notable both for the UUA and for members of All Souls. It was completely virtual, the proposed revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws - a major change - was coming up for a final vote, and Assembly delegates considered and voted on additional pressing issues. All fifteen delegate slots for All Souls were filled, several members attending GA for the first time, several out of concern about the proposed changes. Two Board members attended. In the spring, a group of GA veterans, the Deacons, and the Women's Alliance sponsored a series of information & discussion sessions with All Souls members, in person and online. Additional online information was available from the UUA and other sources. The new Article II - Purposes and Covenant starts with a list of primary Purposes of the UUA, then a statement of Values and Covenant followed by statements on Inspirations, Inclusion, and Freedom of Belief. The previous Seven Principles are replaced by six Values -Interdependence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice, all centered around Love. The elements of the current Seven Principles are, by and large, incorporated in the description of each Value and in its following covenantal statement. The Values are represented by a flower graphic. The Inspirations section replaces the previous section titled Sources. Before and during the Assembly there was considerable debate about the proposal, but it passed by a vote of 80%. Individual UUs and their congregations are welcome to continue to hold and value the Seven Principles and Six Sources, which were adopted in 1984, as a meaningful part of the faith, just as some have adopted the Eighth Principle on their own. Additional actions approved by GA delegates included a Business Resolution, "Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values," and three Actions of Immediate Witness: "Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of Covid-19," "World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change," and "Solidarity with Palestinians." Finally, the Assembly approved a Responsive Resolution: "Support for October 7 Hostages." The All Souls delegates reported back to the Board and planned to bring the issues from GA to the congregation in the fall for more

discussion. For more information, see UU World: <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-ga-2024-what-happened-recap-article-ii-a2-aiw-results-ware-lecture-unitarian-universalism> and <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/read-new-uua-article-ii-a2-final-text-version-ga-general-assembly-2024-unitarian-universalist>.

### **An Inventory of our Artifacts**



In July, 2024, we began updating the inventory of artifacts, and we currently have 64 listed. The oldest artifact is the 1821 Clock that is now in a new cabinet in the Gallery. This clock was in all four of our various sanctuaries, and it was in our current sanctuary until the installation of the organ in (date) and the renovation of the choir loft. Then, it was moved to Reidy Friendship Hall, but was taken down because it kept getting hit by basketballs. We discovered an envelope in the Archives room that said "clock hands" and it included the original hands to the clock. The clock face had been mounted for many years, but the hands had been replaced when a new mechanism was installed. Other artifacts include the bust of Jessie Wiggin, benefactress for Wiggin House, that had been under the window in the Ware Room. We have many items in storage and will be reorganizing the storage spaces, and planning to exhibit some of the precious artifacts in the future.

### **The AIDS Garden Continues**

We are delighted that the renovations of Wiggin House by the All Souls School retained and improved the AIDS Garden. What once was a window in the Minot Simons Room has been replaced by sliding glass doors, and the School uses the AIDS Garden as part of their program space. It has been cleaned and beautified, the fountain has been repaired and a new plaque was mounted with the others. Originally this space was used for garbage collection; and during a retreat of the AIDS Task Force in the 1990s; the idea emerged to create an AIDS Memory Garden. The School's signage continues to identify it as the AIDS Garden, so all who visit may be reminded of its history.

### **All Souls Historical Society Luncheon**

Members were invited to a luncheon in the Gallery on August 4th, to get to socialize and pursue ideas for the 2019-2024 Timeline; and for preserving and exhibiting artifacts. Please contact a member of the executive team with ideas and suggestions for future activities. We certainly appreciate our loyal members, and we hope to attract and inspire newcomers.

**[Visit our Website to View Our History](#)**

We have an amazing collection of items from our past on our website. Go to [www.allsoulsnyc.org](http://www.allsoulsnyc.org); At the top of the page click on “Get Involved”; When the window appears, click on “Community Groups”; When the new window appears scroll down to the bottom and click on the picture labeled “Historical Society”; Once a new window appears, scroll down to the button labeled “View website” and click on it. You should be there!