

Brief Biographies of the Members of the USH Endowment Committee June 2024

The USH Endowment Committee consists of five members who serve staggered three-year terms. Members of the committee are nominated by the board Nominating Committee and approved by the full board. The USH Constitution and By-Laws govern the operations of the Endowment Committee.

David Newton—Committee Chair

David and his wife Janice have been active members of USH for 28 years.

David's numerous contributions to USH have included maintaining the website, coordinating communications, managing the solar system installation and serving as Administration Council Chair. He has been a long-time member and is current chair of the Building and Grounds Sub-Council through which he has stewarded numerous maintenance and enhancements of the meeting house over the years. He is also the current chair of the Endowment Committee.

David's early career was as a teacher at the elementary and high school levels and teaching at CCSU. Later, he spent many years engaged in leadership roles in CT's higher education system, including personnel and labor relations leadership roles and president of the CSU-AAUP, the local affiliate of the Connecticut State University System. He successfully led collective bargaining with the AAUP that had a significant and long-term impact in protecting faculty rights.

David earned a BS in Biology and General Science with a minor in Chemistry from CCSU, a master's in arts and liberal studies from Wesleyan University and a PhD in Entomology from the University of Illinois.

David is a native of Durham, CT and served as captain of the Durham high school varsity basketball team during an undefeated year. David retired in 1997. In addition to various volunteer activities, he and Janice enjoy spending time with their two children, a son-in-law and two grandchildren.

Sherry Manetta—Committee Member

Sherry Manetta and her husband Brian Harvey have been members of USH for thirteen years. Sherry served as president of the USH board and has participated in various committees and projects including strategic planning and social justice.

Sherry was an audit and consulting partner at Ernst & Young in Chicago and New York and served in financial, operational and technical positions in the insurance industry at Aetna, Phoenix, HealthRight and Conning.

Sherry is a CPA and has a BS in Math from Misericordia University and an MBA from Indiana University. She has served on the audit, finance and investment committees of boards of directors in the insurance industry and on boards and committees of various universities and nonprofit organizations. Current board roles include a life insurance company, the University of St. Joseph and two foundations focused

on education. She volunteers with immigration services. She enjoys theater and traveling and spending time with her family in the Atlanta area. Sherry was born in Indianapolis and has lived in CT for over 30 years.

Cris Noble—Committee Member

Cris and her husband Steve have been active members of USH for nine years.

Cris is a member of the USH endowment committee. She has a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Washington and a master's from Central State College in elementary education.

Cris taught for 25 years in Simsbury in grades 4 and 5. Cris has volunteered for over 20 years for Simsbury Community Media and is currently a board member and secretary. Her activities include playing bridge, gardening and reading.

Cris grew up in Washington State.

Joe Rubin—Committee Member

Joe Rubin and his wife, Diane Cadrain, have been active USH members for about 38 years.

Joe has served as a member of the USH Board, its president, member and chair of the Religious Education Committee, and volunteer or member of many other USH projects. His children grew up at USH.

Joe holds a B.A. from Yale, a J.D. from Harvard, and also attended a graduate program in trial advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center. Joe mostly retired about two years ago from a long legal career, including 36 years leading teams in major litigation and serving as an executive staff member with the Connecticut Attorney General's office. He has also taught Trial Practice at Yale and the University of Connecticut law schools. He continues to do some volunteer legal work focused on helping migrant children, and some consulting work for the State of Connecticut.

Joe now enjoys spending more time with his wife, children and 3 granddaughters, and traveling more.

Jim Venneman—Committee Member

Jim and his wife Ellie have been members of USH since the 1980s.

Jim has been a member of the USH board, including Vice President, President and Treasurer. He was chair of the endowment committee from 2014 to 2017. With his wife Ellie, Jim taught 3-year olds in Religious Education for 15 years, headed the most recent stewardship drive, serves on the Building and Grounds Sub-Council, and is currently a board member and Chair of the Finance Committee as well as a member of the Endowment Committee.

Jim passed the CPA exam and during his career served as a financial examiner for the CT Insurance Department.