

Jean Polmateer

Unconsciously, I think I knew about Unity at birth—it just took me awhile to find the front door. My first exposure was in the early 90s in Alaska. I immediately felt a deep connection but I simply wasn't ready to do more than listen to the Sunday message. Attracted but not awake.

In July 2018, nearly broken by life events and sabotaged by my own thinking, I came back through the doors... this time in Bellevue. Through a flow of tears I learned and processed, then began to embark on spiritual practices that would soon change my life. In a very short time, I went from jobless to employed, from broke to no worries, from isolated and fearful to surrounded by love. I now experience peace. This delightful center has become my spiritual home and the loving community within it, my family. I feel exceedingly blessed and profoundly grateful to be in service to this center's vision and mission.

In addition to spiritual connection I have a deep business background which prepared me well for Board service. Starting out with a degree in Human Service I worked and volunteered in non-profits serving those with physical challenges. Among my volunteer escapades: Crisis Inc, a suicide crisis center; Challenge Alaska, an organization focused on recreational opportunities for people with challenges; and AK Association of the Deaf, a legal advocacy firm. There were more.

In 1990, I transitioned to work in profit based business excellence related roles, primarily as a Program Manager who specialized in business transformation and new systems implementation, efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation – all of which was highly cross-functional and collaborative. I also held Board seats for the American Society for Quality in AK, WA, and CO.

Although my working career netted me a huge viable business skillset I was miserable. My life became "I hate my job" - rinse and repeat - but all that changed in 2021, when through learning the power of affirmative prayer, I started a new career as remote business consultant. In the first assignment I coached and mentored global environmental sustainability Project Leaders on project management, executive story-telling and presence, and also co-creation of workshops and digital marketing materials. I envisioned a job that didn't make me miserable and would allow me to help a few people. Spirit created a job designed just for me that aligns with Unity principles and allowed me to help the planet. The power of Unity spiritual practices.

I am both honored and humbled to serve on the UOB Board of Trustees. Thank you for taking the time to read about our leadership. It is only through partnership between the Board of Trustees, the staff, and the community that we can all be successful in service to our vision and mission. As we work together I encourage you to reach out to engage with your Board of Trustees. Consider attending a Board meeting or giving us your input via e-mail: board@unityofbellevue.com.