

A Brief History of the Ruth & Jim Gamble* Service Award

It started in the fall of 1993 and was named after the first honorees, Ruth and Jim Gamble, who received the award during the service dedicating this building. Its purpose is to recognize one or two people each year who have served our congregation well, typically in more than one area, as strong and dependable volunteers, just like its namesakes did for so long.

Awardees receive a pin in the shape of a key to honor Jim & Ruth's long tenure as "turnkeys" at our previous home at 5th & Oak. They would arrive early each Sunday to unlock the building, make coffee and warm up the building before services, often when someone else had signed up to do it!

Each year, the recipients from the prior three years form the selection committee. Once the current recipients have been selected, it is up to the most recent recipients to write a summary of the awardees' involvement with the church, keeping the name of the current recipients a secret until the end of the presentation. It is also the job of the prior recipients to get the current recipients to the Sunday service without telling them why! (The presentations for the awards need not occur at the same Sunday service.)

After the two current recipients have been announced, the text of the presentations is sent to the Beacon editor for publication so that it will become part of our archives. Someone (Leslie at this point) will have key pins ready for the presentations, and will have the nameplates engraved for the plaque.

Holly Knibbs
September 2012

***Note:**

James Diner Gamble died March 28, 2006
Ruth Becker Gamble died February 15, 2008.

GAMBLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The purpose of the Gamble Award is to honor the dedication and service of Ruth and Jim Gamble, to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse, now known as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse. Past recipients are:

1993
Ruth and Jim Gamble

1994
Marvin C. Howe
Peg Kauffman

1995
Mary Ann Force
Richard Miller

1996
Judith Halsted
Helen Sullivan

1997
Arline Howe
Jane Watts

1998
Clarence Kroupa
Price Watts

1999
Marcia Bellinger
Paul Kauffman

2000
Mark Gustafson
Paul Vancouver

2001
Barbara Bloomer
Joe Fraser

2002
Solveig Gustafson

2003
Holly Knibbs
Sylvia Mitchell

2004
R. Gary Deavel
Kathy Prentice

2005
Paul Heaton
Jody Marquis

2006
John Hoffmann
Pinkie Hoffmann

2007
Penny Ort
Christie McGue

2008
Jim Cook
Bill Mathias
Bonnie Mathias

2009
Mary Kiner
Joan Sheard

2010
Cal Boulter
Marge Rundell

2011
Joe Cook
Leslie Cook

2012
Dave Halsted
Sarah Montgomery

2013
Mary Grover
Paul Ward

2014
Phyllis Jessup
Karl Love

2015