

In the spirit of Elizabeth Palmer Peabody & Margaret Fuller Ossoli

Conversations on Truth And Consequence

gathered by

The Rev Dr Deborah Pope-Lance & The Rev Gail Seavey

all to be held in the vestry of the First Parish in Wayland, Rte 20&27, Wayland, Ma
r.s.v.p appreciated but not required or expected; suggested free will offering twenty dollars

The Rev Dr Deborah Pope-Lance and The Rev Gail Seavey each delivered essays at the Ministerial Conference of Berry Street, the longest standing lecture series in North America, founded in 1820 by The Rev William Ellery Channing and held each year at the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association. See <http://www.uuma.org/page/berrystreetessays>. From all corners of Unitarian Universalist community, each essay provoked congratulations, controversy, crisis as well as greater commitment to integrity and accountability in ministry.

In her 2011 essay, *Whence We Come And How, And Whither*, Dr Pope-Lance, clergy consultant, psychotherapist, parish, interim and community minister, called attention to her colleagues' failure to come to consensus about ethical standards and to understand how this failure has allowed colleagues to abuse ministerial power—to harm individuals, to threaten our congregations' viability, and to sully our profession. "These are self-inflicted wounds," she writes, "and will be healed only by a fuller understanding of our power and by our shared resolve."

In her 2016 essay, *If Our Secrets Define Us*, Rev. Seavey, a parish minister who has served several congregations affected by ministerial misconduct, called attention to the necessity of transparency —no more secrets— in ministering to the individual and institutional wounds, wounds to minds, bodies and spirits, that are caused by ministers' professional abuses of power and authority. She gave instances of UU culture and human biology that reinforce trauma, cripple our attempts to heal, and keep us from discerning power dynamics at every level."

Deborah and Gail invite you to join the ongoing **CONVERSATIONS** in the spirit of Elizabeth and Margaret.
For more information or to r.s.v.p. email revdpl@gmail.com

Cultures of Secrecy & Denial

Thursday September 29 10am-12pm

A how-to on saying out loud what's really happening, in our profession and our culture, and where secrecy and denial have taken us, may take us still. Unless. Learn how to survive, personally and professionally, to do it again.

Pushback & Praise

Tuesday October 25 12:30- 2:30 pm

A glimpse at what happens after saying out loud what's really happening and what everyone should already know. Join in the task of trying to make sense of colleagues' responses, their grateful praise, defensive denial, bombastic name calling and, praise be, their steady principled action.

Resistance as Teacher

Wednesday November 30 12:30-2:30 pm

Some schooling on what resistance has to teach us about how we must work for change, deep cultural change, over the long haul. Strategize together on next steps for changing a culture of secrecy and denial into one of accountability and integrity.

Power, Prestige, & Me

Friday January 6, 2017 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Consider power and prestige, your own and others', as these are employed personally and professionally, to control, confine, and conceal, from self and other, what is true and good and right. Discover ways *not* to be complicit in this oppression.