

Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award 2021: Dennis Arashiro

The Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award is named after long-time AUUF member and former Board president Dr. Fred Hillman, who passed away in 2014. Like its namesake, this award is meant to honor someone who lives the Seven Principals as part of their everyday life. Previous recipients include Shirley Dickens, Sylvia Short, Rod McCoy, Helen Nienhueser and Wendy Romberg. We're pleased to add Dennis Arashiro to this distinguished group of as this year's recipient.

Dennis joined the Fellowship in the fall of 2008 and has chaired the Social Justice Committee, now the Social Action Council, for the past ten years. Prior to the pandemic, he also chaired the Project Homeless Connect Action Team and was the driving force behind AUUF's 2019 summer-long involvement with The Children's Lunchbox. Over the years, Dennis has thoughtfully written numerous articles for The Log (and now Today at Your Fellowship), educating and encouraging us all on matters of social justice. Dennis currently serves on AUUF's Anti-Racism Team and the Forum Planning Committee. Prior to switching to all-things-Zoom, Dennis also opened up the Fellowship building most Sunday mornings and made sure all was in order – and the coffee was made – before anyone else showed up.

Outside AUUF, Dennis developed Positive Team Action, a class at Wendler Middle School that introduced students to volunteer opportunities in the community. He served as a member of Healing Racism in Anchorage and currently serves as the Executive Board President of the Alaska Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. We are honored to have Dennis as a member of AUUF and as this year's recipient of The Fred Hillman Distinguished Service Award.