

Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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Elderberries is published quarterly in November, February, May, and August. Deadline for submitting material is the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

Material for publication should be sent to Eleanor Richardson (e-mail preferred if possible). grandmoot@aol.com; 22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841; (207) 596-5502.

Address changes should be sent to Fred Campbell, 1186 Wild Cherry Drive, Williamston MI 48895. Phone: (517) 655-9765. E-mail: a2fcampbell@aol.com

President's Perspectives . . . Joyce Smith

General Assembly 2004 is history. It was a positive and uplifting event. The Service of the Living Tradition was moving with its large number of ministers (62) recognized for Preliminary Fellowship; and almost as many (51) for Final Fellowship. There were 16 ministers recognized as completing full-time ministries and 18 of our ministers who died over the past year including our former President, Peter Raible. It is a sad occasion when we recognize the names and personally know more of the ministers who die than those coming into our Fellowship either in Preliminary or Final Fellowship. The number of years which those who died gave in service to our denomination was large. Some lived to an honored old age and some died far too young. We will miss them personally and as a source of memory and hope.

We conducted two workshops and held the lunch for our membership. The workshop on "Aging to Sageing" was well attended and well received. The workshop featuring the results of our Survey and our plans for Financial training was not scheduled at a good time and had only a handful of dedicated people in attendance but the dialogue was lively and interesting. We had about 35 at our luncheon which featured the best meal for the least amount of money at the whole G.A.

In October we will have a Board in which half the members are new to the Board and three of the other members have been there for one year. One of my hopes is to brainstorm about what programs or ways we can devise to interest and serve the newly retired ministers and partners as well as meeting the needs of our older members. Currently we have two functioning conferences the Northeast Conference and the Western Conference. The Northeast Conference has the advantage that people can drive from their homes to attend. The Western Conference has the disadvantage of being expensive because many people have to fly to attend. The Midwest conference and the Mid-South Conference suffer by having not enough people willing to take leadership roles. These are some of the realities we face in the future. Any suggestions from our membership would be welcome. What are your needs and desires for your organization?

Have a good, healthy summer.

Joyce

Welcome . . . and Thanks!

Welcome to new Board members L. Annie Foerster, secretary; Andrew Backus, treasurer; Eleanor Richardson, newsletter editor; and Barbara Prairie, member at large. Profound thanks to outgoing Board members Sue Nichols, secretary; Fred Campbell, treasurer; Ed Lane, newsletter editor; and Peter Weller, member at large.

Regional Conferences

Funds too tight to get to a Regional Conference? For partial scholarships contact Michelle Bentley at the UUA: (617) 742-2100 – mbently@uua.org.

MIDWEST – Due to low attendance at the last conference and no volunteers, no Midwest Conference is planned at present. Anyone wishing to take a leadership role, please contact Nancy Doughty (see p. 1 for addresses.)

NORTHEAST – The Northeast District UURMAPA Conference will be held October 5-7, 2004. Cost is \$155/person for conference, meals, social time, and single room and bath shared with one adjacent room. Theme is “Social Responsibility and Outreach.” Speakers include Dr. Charles Clements, Director, UUSC; Rob Cavanaugh, UUA Washington Office for Advocacy; Devorah Greenstein, Program Associate for Accessibility, UUA; Odyssey by Bill and Barbara DeWolfe; “Singing Our Visions of Social Justice,” with Gene Navias, David Johnson, and Eleanor Richardson; and Tracy Robinson-Harris, Director of Congregational Services, UUA, on latest UUA programs, services and accomplishments. **Registrar:** Rev. Med Anderson, 353 Fisher Rd., Orwell, VT 05760 or email: revmua@sover.net. **Conference chair:** Richard Fewkes (see p. 1 for addresses.)

PAN SOUTH – Details about the Pan South Conference will come later.

WEST – April 18-21, 2005. Al and Mary Thelander, thelandr@nccn.net, Co-chairs

How are you? ... What are you doing?

Ron Knapp

Responding to an ad in the UUA World, I spent five months this past winter working with a small fellowship in Yuma, Arizona. I worked 8-10 hours a week, providing a number of Sunday services, conducting a few workshops, and dealing with the future of the fellowship. The experience really energized that small fellowship and yet left us lots of time to explore the desert which Anne, my partner, and I had never had the opportunity to explore before. The fellowship provided a \$3000 budget which covered rental and utilities for an older park model in a senior citizens park. We really enjoyed the people in the fellowship, watched them get excited about the possibilities of liberal religion and, in addition, were able to avoid a very harsh winter in Nebraska. We may return to Yuma next winter. Other retired ministers who might consider such an adventure can contact me for further information at 5412, 310 Street, Murdock, NE, 68407. E-mail: rwknapp@alltel.net. Phone: (402) 994-2084.

***Fred Lipp* : THE CAGED BIRDS ARE FREE**

In retirement, I have the rare and wonderful privilege of representing students from primary school to university in Cambodia. I am the Founding President of the Cambodian Arts and Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3). I spend about six weeks a year in Cambodia. The rest of the time I raise funds and work out of our home in Whitefield, Maine. From the seed money of \$50 on 9/11, our budget has grown to \$35,000 a year.

Our total program involves about 250 students. There are more than 120 students in our Roof School -- called so, because the three little shelters are built of palm branches and lined with rustic benches. The school usually blows down in the Monsoon. We are working towards a permanent, concrete building, the first in this region of the jungle since the devastation by the Khmer Rouge.

The remainder of our program that represents our general mission is the selection of outstanding, highly motivated young women who we feel will not only further their education, but will, in time, help their community. In our venture, I have found amazing help and reassurance in reading Kidder's book about Dr. Paul Farmer's work, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*.

Perhaps the most exciting recent news for me on a personal level is the launching my book *The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh* translated into Khmer by Chhoeung Chheng Hak, and published by the French organization SIPAR. The English version won numerous awards including Notable Book for a Global Society by the International Reading Association. I leave for Cambodia June first to share the new edition in remote regions of Cambodia. This is the biggest kick in my life. Two new multicultural books of mine just out: *Tea Leaves & Bread Song*. Great fun. For more, (207) 549-7380; www.cambodianscholarship.org

... Any new publications?

Gerald S. Schatz is the author of "Are the Rationale and Regulatory System for Protecting Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research Obsolete and Unworkable, or Ethically Important but Inconvenient and Inadequately Enforced," the lead article in the Winter 2003 Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy. He is a visiting scholar at the Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center.

News from the Office of Church Staff Finances

Edgar Peara sent us an article suggesting a way to choose socially responsible investments. After some email debate and discussion with Ralph Mero, we felt that listing specific funds was too much like an endorsement. So here is an excerpt from Edgar's article, and Ralph's accompanying advice.

From Edgar: Socially screened funds or "green" funds avoid investing in tobacco, alcohol, gambling, weapons, and polluting companies. Such funds now represent a ninth of all professionally invested securities.

If anyone would like to do personal research on the web in socially responsible funds they can call up <http://www.socialfunds.com/index.cgi> or, <http://www.socialinvest.org>.

From Ralph Mero, Office of Church Staff Finances: I would be very reluctant to see the UURMAPA newsletter, Elderberries, recommending active fund investing to our retirees. I applaud Edgar's interest in socially responsible funds, but few of our constituents have money they can expose to the risk of the current stock market, even through SR funds.

The UUA retirement plan will be adding a stable of SR funds so that participants will have a choice between a regular fund and a SR fund in each style category (large cap growth, mid cap, small cap, bonds, international, etc.) Retirees with accounts in the UUA plan can consider one or more of the funds that have been studied and approved by the UUA Compensation, Benefits, and Pension Committee.

My strong suspicion is that the US stock market is going to flounder or perhaps decline as the Baby Boomers begin to retire and sell their investments, and I would hate to see our retired UU clergy buy into a ship labeled Disappointment.

We want to remind retired UU clergy and surviving family members that the UUA can provide modest financial aid grants to persons whose retirement income does not cover their essential expenses.

Financial grants are also available from the Society for Ministerial Relief, Rev. Glen Snowden, Secretary, jsnow3@juno.com or write to him at 87 Indian Meadow Dr., Northborough, MA 01532-2439. David Pohl is the new President of the Society for Ministerial Relief, replacing Rhys Williams.

(continued...)

We want to be sure that all our retired colleagues and their survivors are having their financial needs adequately met. If you know of colleagues or family members in need, please pass this information along or contact me at the UUA.

Ralph Mero, rmero@uua.org, (617)948-6404
 UUA Office of Church Staff Finances
 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

In Memoriam

Please note: It is very difficult to get timely news about deaths of clergy spouses and partners. Please send any information to Eleanor Richardson, editor, at Grandmoot@aol.com.

The Reverend John C. Agnew died July 10 in Milford, Massachusetts. He was 84. Rev. Agnew served churches in Newport, RI; Auburn, ME; Brookfield and Mendon, MA. At a graveside service July 14 at Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, MA, his wife Rosemary K. Agnew, was presented with a flag in recognition of his military service.

The Reverend Jesse Raymond Cavileer died June 4. He was 87. He served congregations in Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Missoula, Montana; Glasgow, Scotland; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Cavileer leaves no known survivors. Messages of remembrance may be sent in care of: Ms. Linda Deafenbaugh, Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, Unitarian House, 1110 Resaca Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15212-4517

Gertrud "Trudy" Gelsey, wife of The Reverend Rudolf "Rudy" Gelsey, died in the spring of 2003. They were apparently members of the Williamsburg, VA church at the time of her death. Rudy's address is: 2020 S. Monroe St., Apt. 337, Denver, CO 80210.

Shirley Hadley, wife of The Reverend Dr. J. Harold Hadley, died January 4, 2004. Dr. Hadley, minister emeritus at Plandome (Shelter Rock), NY, died in 1994. Shirley leaves a son, Ronald Hadley, who is a member of the Shelter Rock congregation. His address is 58 Prospect Place, Sea Cliff, NY 11579.

The Reverend John Branch Isom died April 23, following complications from surgery for a broken hip. He was 94. He served congregations in Louisville, Kentucky; Wichita, Kansas; and Des Moines, Iowa; and as an Army Chaplain during World War II. Surviving Mr. Isom is his wife of 64 years, Elien Newsome Isom; two daughters, Rose E. Bowser; Mary Elizabeth

Isom; two granddaughters; and a sister Annabelle Garrison. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Mrs. Isom at 1532 N. Coral Bells Drive, Tucson, AZ 85745-5216.

The Reverend Arthur Jellis died May 28, of a cerebral aneurysm. He was 80. He served congregations in Northborough, Concord, and Grafton, MA; Philadelphia, PA; Rockville and Lutherville, MD; Houston, TX; and Ottawa, ON. Survivors include five children: Julie Anne Medjanis of Harvard, MA; Jennifer J. Burke of Ayer, MA; Cassandra J. Werthman of Jackson, TN; Joshua C. Jellis of Freeport, ME; and Susan J. Veligor of Portland, ME; four stepchildren; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; a brother, Leonard Jellis of Peabody; and a sister, Christiana E. (Betty) Kirkland of Concord, MA. Messages of remembrance may be sent to the family in care of: Ms. Julie Anne Medjanis, 102 Old Mill Road, Harvard, MA 01451.

Eliza Jones, spouse/partner of The Reverend Walter Royal Jones, died June 3, of complications following surgery. Roy and several family members were at her bedside in her last moments. A memorial service was planned early in July at the Foothills Church in Fort Collins. Roy can be reached at 2004 Valley Forge, Fort Collins, CO 80526, tel.: (970) 493-6548. Or you can send him a message by e-mail at Wrjones@frii.com.

The Reverend Doctor Peter Spilman Raible died May 17, of congestive heart failure in a hospice in Seattle, WA. He was 74. He served congregations in Providence, RI; Lincoln, NE; Seattle, WA; Tacoma, WA; Tulsa, OK; Kirkwood, MO; Bainbridge, WA; and Seattle, WA. He was Executive Director for the Pacific Northwest District from 1962 to 1964, and served as Interim Director of Settlement at the UUA in Boston in 1997-98. Dr. Raible is survived by his brother, the Reverend Christopher Raible of Creemore, Ontario; his children, the Reverend Deborah Raible of Seattle; Stephen Raible of Stanwood, WA; Robin Raible of Seattle; and Robert Raible of Danville, CA; and eight grandchildren. Messages of remembrance may be sent to: The Rev. Deborah Raible, 1704 36th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122-3419

A fund has been established in the name of **Reverend Norma Goodwin Veridan**, who died January 14, 2004, the Veridan Fund for Religious Education Excellence (VFREE) which will provide scholarships to religious educators who strive to strengthen religious education in UU congregations by advancing their professional development to a new level of expertise. Checks to VFREE may be sent to the attention of Wendy Wyeth, UUA Stewardship & Development, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108 -2800.

Missing Persons

If you have information on any of the following people, please let our new list keeper know:
Fred Campbell, 1186 Wild Cherry Dr., Williamston, MI 48895, or a2fcampbell@aol.com.

Sue Ayer

Catherine Brockway

Connie Curry

Betty Cyrus

Christina Gray-Smith

Robert Latham

Cynthia Green

Marion Hatt

Diana M. Heath

Barbara Kulcher

Regina Lapoint

Richard Lincoln

Lora McMillan

John Morgan

Jeanette Morgan

Glyn Pruce

Heinz Rettig

Mary D. Rettig

Fran Sears

Clyde M. Watson Jr.

Frances West

Marjorie Williams

Roberta Wood

Amy Worthley

Unitarian Universalist Retired

Ministers and Partners Association

c/o Fred Campbell

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Address Service Requested