

Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XX

MAY, 2005

NUMBER 3

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Clarke Wells presented a reading of his poetry at the Pan South conference in Fort Myers February 9

Elderberries is published quarterly in November, February, May, and August. Next deadline July 15.

Send contributions to Eleanor Richardson, editor (e-mail if possible) grandmoot@aol.com 22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841; (207) 596-5502 Please be mindful of space limitations! If you don't edit, I will have to.

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



The Board in Menlo Park: Barbara Prairie, Glen Snowden, Nancy Doughty, Joyce Smith, Carl Thitchener, Andy Backus, and Eleanor Richardson, photographer. Not pictured: Annie Foerster.

President's Perspectives . . .

I have just returned from the Western UURMAPA Conference in California and the Board Meeting. Both were very good and filled with energy. The conference was good in spite of having to replace two speakers at the last moment because of illness or other commitments. It is amazing how much talent we have out there to draw on.

The Board made several decisions that affect you. In the future we will cast a unanimous vote for any slate of candidates for office when there is no competition among candidates. This will save us money for other important things and time for the nominating committee. We decided that we should develop a ceremony for retiring ministers and their partners to use which relieves the congregation previously served of the ministerial relationship and spells out the commitment of the minister and partner to let the new persons in those rolls take them unimpeded by previous expectations.

We also want to serve our membership better. We identified four different groups which may overlap. First there are the newly retired who are feeling their way into retirement and what it means for them. Second are the busy, active retired, eager to attend events. Then there are those somewhat slowed down by ill health or disability who may need extra care or attention. And fourth there are those who cannot actively participate, being either physically or mentally infirm. We would like to know more about where you find yourself on this continuum and how we can serve you. Please respond when our Caring network people inquire about your needs in the coming year.

Carl Thitchener offered to set up a Web Site for UURMAPA so look for news of it in the future. A logo is also in the making.

This is my last letter as your President. I have been honored to serve in that capacity and have enjoyed the two years as VP and the two years as President. It is now time to let others with fresher ideas take on the responsibilities. I wish you all the very best in your lives and hope to see you from time to time.

Joyce

Editor's Note: The Board expressed our great gratitude to Joyce for her excellent leadership. Along with ministries to many churches, Joyce was Director of the UUA Department of Ministerial and Congregational Services from 1979 to 1985. Also on the Board are two former UUA Trustees, the former treasurer of the UUMA, and former General Assembly Administrator! But then, as Barbara Prairie observed to me, all our members are leaders! I am impressed! - EMR



Welcome to new board member Carl Thitchener, filling out Dick Fewkes' term. Carl and Maureen Thitchener were in the microfilm business before entering the ministry in 1980, and both are ministers emeriti at the UU Church of Amherst in Williamsville, NY. He hosts his own radio station, available on the web at UURadio.org. He and Maureen have been married for 51 years.

Nominating Committee . . . Gene Navias

The UURMAPA Nominating Committee presents the following slate for the positions to be elected in 2005 for two year terms:



President: Nancy Doughty, Traverse City, MI

Vice President: Carl Thitchener, Bloomfield, NY

Caring Network Chair: Glen Snowden, Northborough, MA (Second Term)

Member at Large: Gretchen Manker, Paradise Valley, AZ

Nominating Committee Chair: Ed Lane, Wellesley, MA

Nominating Committee Member: Leon Hopper, Seattle, WA

The following persons continue in office: Secretary: Annie Foerster, Alexandria, KY;

Treasurer: Andy Backus, Bellingham, WA; Member-at-Large: Barbara Prairie, Berea, KY;

Newsletter Editor: Eleanor Richardson, Rockland, ME; Nominating Committee Member: Polly Leland-Mayer, Venice, FL (in 2nd term)

Nominating Committee: Polly Leland-Mayer, Ed Lane, and Gene Navias, Chair.

UURMAPA at G.A.

The annual UURMAPA **Luncheon** will be Sunday, June 26, from 11:30-1 at the Radisson Hotel, Scott/Van Zandt Room, across the street from the Convention Center in Fort Worth. Cost is \$25. New retirees are our guests, so please invite any that you know of and ask Barbara to add them to the count. Deadline is May 30, with no deadline for cancellations.

Our **Workshop** is Friday, 9:45 - 11:00 in the Convention Center room 202B on **“Options for Retirement Living.”** Retirement and health concerns offer the opportunity and/or need to consider new locations and different lifestyles. The choices can be daunting. Come hear panel members discuss creative alternatives and helpful information on making decisions for yourself or family members. It isn't just for ministers. It would be good to have lots of retired ministers and partners there to add to the discussion, if not to get new ideas for themselves. For more information, contact Barbara Prairie, (859) 985-0301. Email: bprairie@adelphia.net.

Speak-Up

We are soliciting articles for *Elderberries* on success stories where ministers have stayed in the same church when they retire. Email or send to Eleanor Richardson at address on front cover. In addition, UURMAPA Board members voted to each sign up for Speak-Up, UURMAPA's online chat. We feel this will promote discussions like "Finding a Church Home After Retirement;" "Retiring in the same town;" "Should I leave my house for a Retirement Community?" To sign up, contact Larry Hamby, 706/543-3315, or larryhamby@mac.com.

Regional Conferences

Funds are readily available to help you attend a Regional Conference. For partial scholarships contact Michelle Bentley at the UUA: 617 742-2100 – mbently@uua.org.

Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!

PAN SOUTH – Come to Florida in the winter! 26 of us had a wonderful time Feb. 8-10 at the UU Church of Fort Myers, FL. The pictures at left say it best. From the top, l-r, are Alan Deale, Peggy and Keith Munson, Joyce Smith, Polly Leland-Mayer, Emily Palmer, Iska Cole, Polly, David Cole, Rollene Wells, (2) Anne Orfald, Edison House tour, Rollene Wells and Joe Sanders, (3) David Cole, Jeannette Morgan, Lorraine and Glen Snowden, Kathleen Hunter, Marge Corletti, (4) Bruce Southworth, Lucille and Ward Knights, Marie and Jack Zoerheide, Herb Adams, Joyce Smith (5) Peter and Eleanor Richardson, Kenn Hurto (minister in Fort Myers), John Morgan, the financial workshop with David Fisher at center, and Clarke Wells with Herb Adams. A BIG thank-you to the folks in Fort Myers and all UURMAPAns who helped.

WEST – Come to California in the spring! Twenty-two people gathered April 18-21 at the beautiful Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, CA. Thanks to co-chairs Al & Mary Thelander, and everyone else who helped. The food was exceptional! Photos to follow in the August *Elderberries*.

NORTHEAST – Come to New England during foliage season! **October 4-6, 2005 at LaSalette Center in Attleboro, MA.** Keynote will be Bob Thayer, on "Everything to Lose - Our Getting On the Learning Curve, and Knowing and Feeling the pain of American Indians, and where their Visions are taking us now." Bob has studied and advocated for Native Americans more than 25 years. Also, a costumed conversation between Olympia Brown and Antionette Brown Blackwell, by Jan Bowering and Dorothy Boroush; Jim Sherblom on "Making the Most of Your Retirement Dollars," and Farley and Virginia Wheelwright's Odyssey. Cost is about \$160. For more information contact Med Anderson: 353 Fisher Road, Orwell, VT 05760; (802) 948-2508; email is undependable but the address is revmua@aol.com. – Judy Mannheim, for the Planning Committee

\$ From Ralph Mero \$

The UU Retirement Plan managed by Fidelity serves us well in spite of US stock market performance in 2005. Telephone reps are at 800/343-0860 and www.Fidelity.com. For questions, contact Joyce Stewart at jstewart@uua.org or 617/948-6421. I am reluctant to offer investment advice, and we encourage seeking out certified professionals. Many are recommending funds that focus on companies outside the US, such as Dodge & Cox International Fund (800/621-3979 or www.dodgeandcox.com)

and Vanguard's International Explorer Fund or European Stock Index Fund (800/635-1511 or www.vanguard.com). These held up well during 2005 and have good track records. Some in the UUA Retirement Plan are generously funded, and some UURMAPA members are receiving a satisfactory level of income. But we are extremely worried about many participants still working, especially those who plan to retire in 10-20 years. In March 2005, average account balances for selected participants were:

Participants	Mean Average Account Balance	Median Average Account Balance
Retirees age 60-69	\$88,183	\$44,185
Still working age 60-69	\$89,395	\$39,077
All participants 50-59	\$55,433	\$26,120

We expect many in their 50s and 60s will need to keep working long beyond usual retirement age, and this will be a problem for new retirees who assumed they could add to income by interim ministries. Each year the Council on Church Staff Finances reviews fiscal management of the ministerial aid funds at the UUA. This was most recently done on April 20, 2005. Anyone needing financial assistance, or knowing of a colleague or surviving family member in financial need, should confidentially contact me at rmero@uua.org or 617/948-6404. Please don't hesitate to let us be helpful. **- Ralph Mero**

How are you? ... What are you doing? ... Any new publications?

From **Diana Gilpatrick**: My mother, Jean Gilpatrick, a retired UU minister, is now living in Potomac, Maryland near me and my sister. She has Alzheimers Disease and can no longer care for herself or read or understand the content of her mail. It is also with a heavy heart that I inform you of the death of my father, Tom Gilpatrick, February 18, after 55 years of marriage to Jean. I enclose an obituary.

Terry (Laurel Sheridan's husband) writes: "Just to let you and the group know that Laurel has been taken off the critical list. She is now in long term care with rehab. But I don't know when I'll get her back. We want to thank THE group for all their prayers. We know that's what pulled her through."

From **Rachel Hoagland**: Our small fellowship struggles! Of a membership of 10-12, four of us are octogenarians! Read about a "planted" church awhile back in "The UU World". I wonder how that location was picked?! That might work here. But maybe a community under 30,000 wouldn't interest the UUA. We are in the south middle of Nebraska and have absolutely no other liberal competition. When I was first married Bob was first minister of the Fort Wayne, Ind., church. The UA subsidized half the salary. That was the half we were sure of getting about the first of the month. It helped a great deal in holding the group together. In March we'll bring Charles Stephen over for his annual visit. Sometimes I remember to turn on NET radio on a Thursday afternoon and listen to his book reviews.

Two UURMAPA members have won the lottery! We don't know who, but congratulations anyway!

From **Edith Christensen**: I attended the first Massachusetts fall conference and looked forward to going each year, almost every year since. Two years ago I could no longer get there, I am sorry to report, as I miss being there. I enjoy reading the newsletter and look forward to receiving it.

Glyn Pruce writes to thank for the last newsletter, in which he was mentioned. He continues: "With reference to p. 4, line 7, you say 'Glyn Pruce says she...' Whilst I'm honoured to be included in the

female sex (vastly superior to the male), I haven't yet decided to transmogrify myself, tho' the thought had occurred to me! This is just a note to keep the record straight."

Longevity at Age Seventy by Dennis Kuby

Grow old along with me, what options can there be?
 The last of life for which the welfare state was framed.
 Our times are shaped by chance, sometimes cruel happenstance
 Disrupts the dream that propelled youth's quest for fame.
 For life is a paradox, that comforts while it mocks,
 Whose spirit fades when arms and legs want play.
 To age prepare this test, thy body needs more rest.
 Accept this limit and pace thy soul along its way.
 I cannot say, "Praise be Thine," I see not the grand design.
 Each flaw in nature adds to our human woe.
 Our joys are three part pain, when striving turns to strain
 The price we pay when age becomes a foe.
 Then prepare for each rebuff that turns earth's smoothness rough
 Shall life succeed in that it seems to fail?
 What I aspired to be and was not yet comforts me,
 At least I stayed the course and trimmed my sails.

In Memoriam

Thomas Vance Gilpatrick, husband of the Rev. Jean W. Gilpatrick, died in Rockville, MD Jan. 18 at age 81. After serving in World War II, he received a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago. He taught at Pennsylvania State College then at Sweet Briar College for more than 30 years. He was an active member of the First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg, VA, the Jefferson Choral Society, the ACLU, and the Lynchburg Council on Human Relations. He was a founder of Lynchburg's emergency fuel project. He is survived by Jean, his wife of 55 years, of Potomac, MD; two daughters, Diana Gilpatrick of Potomac and Morgan Gilpatrick, of Bowie, MD; three grandchildren; three brothers and a sister. Services were held March 26 in Bethesda, MD and April 9 in Lynchburg. Letters may be sent care of Diana Gilpatrick, 11204 Old Post Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Reverend Howard Wayne Oliver died March 20 at age 85. He served in the US Marine Corps during World War II, rising to Lieutenant Colonel. He then received a BA from Harvard, an M.A. from UCLA, and an M.A. from the Graduate School of Religion, University of Southern California. He was ordained December 13, 1964 by the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, and served congregations in Los Angeles; Silver Spring, MD; and Berkeley, CA. He joined the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists in 1973 and served as Executive and National Director until his retirement in 1986. Surviving is his wife of 50 years, Joyce Oliver; three children, Kimberley, Pamela and Peter; and two grandchildren. Messages may be sent to Joyce at: 3168 Alta Laguna Blvd. #1, Laguna Beach, CA 92651-2093. Private services will take place in Athol, MA, in

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UURMAPA relies on your contributions to produce *Elderberries* and to keep us in touch with one another: welcoming the newly retired to a new stage of life; celebrating our collegiality with ingathering conferences; and looking after those limited by health or age from getting out and about. Please consider sending a donation via our treasurer:

Directory Changes

Thanks for all your work in maintaining the list, Fred.

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Edith Christensen, 3812 Sharon Shade Way Apt. B, Richmond, VA, correct zipcode is 23231-2745, not 22231.

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