

# Elderberries

*The Newsletter of the*

*Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association*

VOLUME XX

AUGUST, 2005

NUMBER 4

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## President's Perspectives

. . . Nancy Doughty

First, I want to thank Joyce Smith for the visionary and steady leadership she gave to this organization for many years. At the Service of the Living Tradition she represented UURMAPA in recognizing 22 ministers completing full-time ministries. Twelve of our colleagues, as well as partners and spouses who had died over the past year, were named and remembered there. Collectively, they gave countless years of service to our religious movement for which we remain grateful. I want to welcome our newly retired members and thank Barbara Prairie for arranging the luncheon at GA where 40 members gathered. As we did throughout our ministry it is important to keep connections with colleagues. As a Board we believe Speak-Up, UURMAPA's online chat, is a vehicle for sharing concerns that arise with retirement. If you want to explore issues about "living in the same town where I ministered", "finding a church home in a different city after retirement", or "do I discard the 'rev' after retirement?" or other things on your mind, I suggest adding your name to Speak-Up by e-mailing larryhamby@mac.com. Through the work of treasurer Andy Backus, the UU Grants Panel has extended our grant for Financial Education another year. The Board's goal is to finance presentations at 5 UUMA chapter meetings this year. I attended the Heartland meeting in early '05 where Fred Campbell (UURMAPA) and Sydney Morris (UUMA), gave presentations on Financial Planning and Socially Responsible Investing. I can attest to the wealth of information they provided. The transition has begun for Carl Thitchener to take over the management of the UURMAPA List from Fred Campbell. Our thanks to Fred for all the work he has done for us. On October 2 & 3 the Board will meet prior to the Northeast UURMAPA Conference when we welcome Gretchen Manker as a new Board member. If you have concerns you want addressed, please be in touch with any other Board member or me. And I hope for you a continuing good summer and fall. – *Nancy*

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



Send contributions to Eleanor Richardson, editor (e-mail if possible) [grandmoot@aol.com](mailto:grandmoot@aol.com)  
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Please be mindful of space

limitations! If you don't edit, I will have to.

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## G.A. Report . . . Barbara Prairie

As usual, GA was a big success and ““a good time was had by all”” despite some problems with one hotel. I enjoyed coordinating the workshop and luncheon. Joyce Smith did an excellent job of moderating the workshop and coordinating the panel (Scotty Meek, Judith Walker-Riggs and David Sammons). It was low key, loaded with ideas and information and well-received. The luncheon was well-attended. Ralph Mero spoke briefly, then we all introduced ourselves and even our long-winded friends refrained from lengthy intros. We visited and ate for an hour and a half and no one dashed out of the room to attend the plenary session that started 45 minutes before we finished.

### Staying in the Same Church Upon Retirement some responses

(responses from both the retired and active ministers are appreciated)

**Dick Leonard** - All Souls Church in New York, retirement in 1997.

When I announced that I would retire, the church said they would ““let”” me if I continued to do weddings, anything else in the church that I saw needed doing, attend whatever meetings I wanted to, avoid those I didn't, accept the title of Minister Emeritus, and work in an office that was four times larger than the one I'd had for 17 years. It was an offer I couldn't refuse. I gave up my salary, permitting All Souls to replace me with a woman minister for the first time in its history, the Rev. Jan Carlsson-Bull. Income from weddings, social security and several pensions has pretty much offset the salary. I continue to go to staff meetings, and until recently attended board meetings. The choice to cut back on board meetings was based on a need I felt to reduce physical activities at age 77.

It could be argued that All Souls, with its size and group ministry, is uniquely able to integrate a retired minister into its staff. I see it a bit differently, and give most of the credit to Forrest Church, who has always had the attitude that there is far more work to be done ““out there”” than even a much larger staff could handle. I have yet to detect one ounce of ““territoriality”” in the man. That was a revelation to me, growing up as most of us have with a certain dose of competitiveness and suspicion that ““even those closest to us can sometimes try to do us in.”” Forrest again and again has led by giving responsibility to others, and this feature in his personality, I believe, is the reason the church grew from 450 members to 1400 in the 25 years we have been a part of it.

The question I would leave with readers of this piece is whether a much smaller church or fellowship might not also model the above characteristic, of seeing the world around it as a vast expanse for possible cultivation, where ten times the number of hands would not be enough to cope with the needs. A retiring minister in that atmosphere might well be swallowed up by an expanding church program.

**Leon Hopper** – Bellevue, WA

I retired from the East Shore Unitarian Church, Bellevue, WA in 1992 and was voted minister emeritus upon retirement. During a two-year interim ministry I did not attend church. When Peter Luton was called he invited me to participate in his Installation service. At that time I stated publically to Peter and the congregation that my new covenant was with him and not with the congregation. Since that time we continue to attend services, participate in the partner church committee and be available for programs or activities when invited by Peter to do so. Based on an experience of 11 years I feel that this has been a successful experience.

**Dorothy Hopper** – Bellevue, WA

A minister and her church are like a marriage, and is hard to consummate a new marriage when the old partner is hanging around the house. We have been enormously fortunate that our new minister has such a solid marriage with his congregation, and is so popular. Still, the delicacy of the situation should never be underestimated.

**Peter Luton** – present minister at Bellevue, WA

The collegial support and personal friendship of Leon and Dorothy Hopper are very important to me in my ministry at East Shore. Leon never inserts himself into the ministry of the church unbidden, but is exceedingly gracious and generous with time, insight and skill when I ask for his counsel or assistance. Leon has saved my bacon several times by sharing information and perspective, and, on occasion, preaching, conducting a rite of passage or speaking to a newcomers' class. What I appreciate and admire most about how Leon wears his emeritus designation is that he expresses in word and deed only pleasure and satisfaction in the ways in which the congregation has grown and changed since he left its pulpit. The same can be said of Dorothy. She wishes only success and health for the congregation and the ministry. I, and the congregation are truly blessed by their presence and participation.

**Liz Benjamin** – Ottawa, Canada

I retired three years ago as MRE at First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. I live in the neighbourhood and have a foster child who attends RE (he's been with us for six years), so I am both a retired minister and a parent. I arrive at 10:28 and usually leave right after the service. I don't go to congregational meetings or parent meetings. I keep in touch about my child's needs directly with the RE director. Last year I was on the intern minister's committee. This year I was not, because she and I have been singing in the same choir, so we have a friend relationship. Otherwise, I volunteer only for tiny things- counting money, singing a song with an RE class once a month. I do very occasional weddings or funerals, with Brian Kopke's permission. When someone from the church is ill or grieving, I send a personal card. This is a bit difficult for me, to be so uninvolved, but I am busy and happy with other aspects of my life. I think it is going OK.

## 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!* **Feb. 7-9, 2005, at the UU Church of Fort Myers, FL.** This location was so great, close to the airport and Route 75, that we have asked to come back, and the church has said yes. We are still in the planning stages. Eleanor Richardson, (239) 263-7760.

**WEST** – *Come to California in the spring!* **Mon-Thurs. April 17-20, 2006, at Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, CA.** Conversations with noted philosopher of religion Huston Smith and UU troubadour Ric Masten. When we had Huston Smith a few years ago, we had a full house. We are

now in a larger retreat center, but need to let the center know well in advance how many spaces we need. Info will be mailed to members in the west in September. Others can contact co-chairs Al & Mary Thelander, 12833 Lake Wildwood Drive, Penn Valley, CA 95946 or email: thelandr@nccn.net or phone: 530-432-4705.

**Photos from 2005 conference** left to right: Row 1: Jennie and Peter Weller, Eleanor Richardson, Carl Thitchener, Lois Allen, Phyllis Pearsa. (2) Richard Allen, Sue Ayer, and below them, Rosemary Matson and Marguerite Webb; Al and Mary Thelander, chairs; Betty Pingel and below her, Nancy Doughty. (4) Ted Webb, Ken Helms, Judith Walker-Riggs, Joyce Smith, Barbara Prairie, David Walker-Riggs. (5) Andy Backus, Doddie Stone, Gretchen and Ray Manker, and Edgar Pearsa.

**NORTHEAST – Come to New England during foliage season! October 4-6, 2005 at LaSalette Center in Attleboro, MA.** The major presenter 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 coast to coast for more than 25 years. Also, a costumed conversation between Olympia Brown and Antoinette 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 \$155. 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

## Oral History of the Merger

The Rev. Sydney Wilde of Reston, VA, is working on a D.Min project at Meadville Lombard. She plans to interview retired ministers (and partners) present at merger/consolidation of the AUA and UCA in order to obtain an anecdotal history of Unitarian Universalism from 1961 to the present. She will collect interviews on CD and transcribe them to be archived in Meadville’s Library. She hopes to draw some conclusion as to where we have been, where we are going, what we have lost and what we have gained since merger. She is also interested in the sense of loss of identity experienced by many Universalists and suspects a possible resurgence of the Universalist spirit. The long range plan is for a book.

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



The **Reverend Eugene Navias**, left, was presented the Distinguished service award at General Assembly 2005 in Fort Worth, TX. It is a well deserved honor for all the years of his leadership in RE and in so many other areas of our religious movement. And thank you, Gene, on behalf of UURMAPA for all the time and energy you have given for our organization in the past several years.

**David Cole** and **Hugo Hollerath** were awarded Doctor of Divinity degrees June 5 by Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. **Dave and Iska Cole** gave a wonderful picnic June 14 for Maine ministers, as they have for several years. **Farley Wheelwright** was awarded second prize and \$300.00 in the First Annual Robert Ingersoll Memorial Writing Contest by the UUI for his sermon entry: “DisUUinity in Paradise.” For the benefit of retirees who do not keep up on such matters, UUI is a new Affiliate of the UUA and the acronym stands for Unitarian Universalist Infidels.

**Doak Mansfield** has recently published an historical novel, *The Mockingbird's Ballad*. A significant aspect of the story involves 19<sup>th</sup> century Universalism in the midwest and mid-south. Part history and part familial memory, the book covers 60 years including the Civil War and twins who go to war, one a female in disguise. Available online at Amazon and Barnes&Noble. doakmansfield@hotmail.com. From **Jean Zoerheide** in **Maryland**, Feb. 1, 2005 (misplaced): **Rick and Mary Ann Kelley** attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Paint Branch Church at Adelphi where Rick was minister for 20 years. The River Road Church honored **Muriel Davies**, widow of A. Powell Davies, on her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. Among others attending were **Robert and Sylvia Lewis**, **Mary Rose Curtis**, and **Bill Murry**. **Dan Higgins** attended the Peace March in Washington and participates in Easton's demonstrations for peace. I join a Peace Vigil for one hour on Fridays, in front of Roland Park Place where I live. **Marilyn Moors** raises money for local causes in Friendsville, MD. Books donated to her little box car bookstore this past summer were sold to earn \$4,000.

**Bill and Barbara Murry** have retired to Annapolis. Bill has been minister of the River Road Church and President of Meadville/Lombard and Barbara is a competitive ice skater. Bill edits the *Journal of Liberal Religion* online. **Ethel Barnett** has moved to California to live with her son. We extend sympathy to **Robert Lewis** who has lost a brother recently and to **Julie Kuroda** whose older son died of lung cancer. And we send best wishes to **Ginny Knowles** for speedy recovery from illness since summer.

## In Memoriam

**Marguerite (Wilson) Webb** died July 6, of injuries from a fall. Many of us enjoyed her company at UURMAPA West in April (see photo). She grew up in Calais, ME, and studied music at the University of Maine and Juilliard in NY. She met her husband of 62 years, Ted, when she was accompanist and he sang in the chorus of Bangor Theological School. After many years in New England and New York, they moved to Sacramento in 1971 where Ted served the UU Society. She was active in church and community, Women's Alliance and bridge clubs. She is survived by Ted, and daughters Roberta Webb and Christine Webb-Curtis; sons Theodore and Noel; 11 grandchildren, six great grandchildren. A memorial service was held July 23 at the UU Society of Sacramento. Ted's address is 2212 Ralston Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821, or theodorewebb@sbcglobal.net.

**Madlyn Hunsberger Gold**, 87, of Richmond, VA died June 28. She was the widow of Reverend William J. Gold. Mrs. Gold was Program Director of Carver Community Center in Schenectady, Director of the Schenectady County Volunteers and Director of the Senior Citizen Center in Richmond. She is survived by sons L. Gold of Montgomery Village, MD and James P. Gold of Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Reverend Joseph Majeau**, 77, drowned May 29, after falling into the swollen, fast-moving Kenduskeag Stream in Hampden, ME. He served the Universalist Church of Westbrook, ME, from 1981 to 1993 and upon retirement was named Minister Emeritus. His passions were his family, music, nature, and politics. He strongly believed that even one person could make a difference. He is survived by Susan, his wife of 22 years; two children, David and Donna; and three grandchildren. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Sue at 59 Monroe Road, Hampden, ME 04444-3000. A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m., Sat, Aug. 13, at the UU Church of Westbrook, 719 Main Street.

**Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Maloney**, 82, died May 6. He served congregations in Davenport, IA; Quincy, IL; and Boulder, CO. During World War II he served in both Army and Marine Corps. From 1957-1962, he was concurrently part-time minister for the Unitarian Fellowship in Boulder, CO, and instructor of anthropology at the U. of Colorado. He was later assistant professor at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, and professor of anthropology at Ripon College and at Southern Illinois University. He is survived by Betty, his wife of 57 years; four children, Susan of Mexico City, Mexico; Greta of Boulder; Lisa of Groton, New York;

and Thomas J. of Worden, Illinois; and seven grandchildren. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Betty at: 1309 City Park Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521-4442. A memorial service will be held at a later date. **Reverend Dr. Ralph N. Schmidt, Sr.**, 94, passed away July 4 at the Presbyterian Home for Central New York. He served congregations in Herkimer and Utica, NY, where the UU Church of Utica named him Minister Emeritus in 1981. Previously, he taught at Maryville, WI, High School. He was a professor at Jamestown College in North Dakota; Lafayette College in Easton, PA; and Syracuse University. Syracuse offered him a position to help establish a new college in Utica. Surviving are sons Ralph N., Jr. of Annandale, VA, and Carl E.D., Sr. of Sauquoit, NY; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His wife, Wilda Delay, predeceased him in 2001. A funeral service was scheduled for July 7 in Utica, with his good friend, Msgr. Thomas Doran officiating.

**The Reverend Hollis Tegarden**, 81, died in May, 2004, according to a letter to us from his wife, Lois (who started the first Unitarian wives' newsletter). He served with Dana Greeley at Arlington St. Church in Boston, and churches in Marblehead, MA, and Portland, ME. Letters of remembrance may be sent to Lois at 68 Stanworth Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540. She says the Unitarian Fellowship sent a beautiful ivy wreath, which was sent with his ashes into Narragansett Bay, RI.

**Reverend Dr. Prescott B. Wintersteen**, 92, died June 9. He was the son of Unitarian minister Roy Brown Wintersteen. He served congregations in Marblehead, Milton, Salem, and Stoughton, MA. The First Parish in Milton named him Minister Emeritus in 1976. He served as a Navy chaplain from 1941 to 1961. At one time, he was on the bridge of the USS Augusta with General George Patton at the invasion of North Africa. His articles appeared in *Journal of Liberal Religion*, the *Christian Register*, and Navy publications. He was the author of *Christology in American Unitarianism*. Surviving are his children, Prescott Jr. of Pittsburgh, PA; Wendy Wintersteen Girdosky of Tucson, AZ; Jeremy of Boston; and six grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wives Dorothy (Down) Wintersteen and Sheila (Mills-Storey) Wintersteen. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Jeremy Wintersteen, 10 Emerson Place, Apt. 19C, Boston, MA 02114. A memorial service was scheduled for August 10, 10 a.m., at the First Parish in Milton, 535 Canton Ave.

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: Andy Backus, 2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225. In the past year 240 of our 525 members contributed. Average donation was \$50, ranging from \$10 to \$150. Another way to honor this work is with a bequest or codicil to your will.

## Directory Changes

*Thanks for maintaining the list, Carl. 2005 Directory will be mailed to all members in the fall.*

**Keith Munson's** email is back to [kemunson@maine.rr.com](mailto:kemunson@maine.rr.com).

**Lorraine Colpitts**, 123 Heron Point, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753. Phone: 732-922-9105

**Lois Tegarden**, Stanworth Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540.

**Please Welcome New Retirees and Partners!** (Addresses to follow in October UURMAPA Directory)

Helena Chapin; Bruce & Dorothy Clary; Lewis & Phyllis Dunlap; Donald & Brenda Fielding; Edward & Christine Frost; Richard & Joyce Gilbert; Robert & Judy Hughes; Larry & Nancy Hutchinson; Margaret Keip; Joseph & Pat Kiofsky; Justin & Rachel Lapoint; Edwin & Marjorie Lynn;

Betty Jo & Howard Middleton; Brad & Christine Mitchell; John Morgan & Cynthia Bank;

William & Barbara Murry; Anne & Scott Orfald; David Parke; Jean Rowe; Russ & Trish Savage;

Dillman Baker Sorrells & Bob Sorrells; Patricia A. Webber & Melvin Webber.

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