

# Elderberries

*The Newsletter of the*

*Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association*

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NUMBER 2

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Horsing around at UURMAPA Northeast: from left, Jan Bowering, Glen Snowden, Med Anderson, and Maurice Cobb.



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Send contributions to Eleanor Richardson, editor (e-mail if possible) [grandmoot@aol.com](mailto:grandmoot@aol.com) 22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841; (207) 596-5502 in Florida Jan-Mar: (239) 263-7760. Please be mindful of space limitations! If you don't edit, I will have to.

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## President's Perspectives . . . Joyce Smith

It is with sadness that we learned that Dick Fewkes felt he had to resign from the Vice Presidency of UURMAPA due to increased family concerns. We will miss his quiet thoughtfulness. He was hoping to be able to take the presidency the next year.



In order to assure some continuity we have been working closely with the Nominating Committee to find a person to fill that position and continue as a candidate for next year for Vice President. I am glad to report that we have found our candidate, Carl Thitchener, whom the Board has appointed to fill the position until the election. He will be able to meet with us at our April Board meeting in California. Welcome aboard Carl.

I am personally going through decisions in my life that many of us do if we live long enough. I was considering going into a retirement village where my sister lives near Kansas City. I wanted to get away from the care of a home (even though the townhouse I live in is not an onerous responsibility) and was concerned about my long term health care, not to mention getting out of the heat of an Arizona summer. I also was concerned about leaving my children to sort through the considerable "stuff" I possess. I determined to sell my house which I did in one day but then I realized that exchanging a hot summer for a cold winter wasn't too smart and I had ties here as well. All of that indecision has led to my renting an apartment here in the Phoenix area and hoping to spend my summers in cool Flagstaff. The sorting and sifting necessary in moving to a smaller space is what fills my present existence and it isn't great fun. How could I have accumulated so much!

You will find my new address on the front page of this newsletter. My phone number and email address remain the same.

I know that many of you have gone through these types of decisions and that I will go through it maybe several times yet. It may be that the UURMAPA can be of help by compiling a list of available living places throughout the country and making the information available to our membership.

My best for a happy and healthy and hopefully more peaceful New Year.

*Joyce*

## Nominating Committee

The UURMAPA Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions!! for elections in May 2005. All terms are for two years. This year we will elect the following officers:

- President (Board members who have not served as President may be nominated)
- Vice President
- Caring Connections Chair
- One Member-At-Large
- One Member of the Nominating Committee.



Gene Navias

Please send your suggestions (including your own name if applicable) for any or all of these positions to Gene Navias ASAP at: [ebnavias@aol.com](mailto:ebnavias@aol.com) Phone: (617) 436-2128

Postal Mail: 69 Ocean St., Dorchester, MA 02124. Thanks for your help!

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

## 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](mailto:mbently@uua.org). Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!*

**PAN SOUTH** – As of this writing, Pan South is imminent, **Feb. 8-10, 2005, at the UU Church of Fort Myers, FL**. Programs include Peter Richardson's slides and lecture on "The Boston Religion;" a tour of the Edison and Ford Mueums in Fort Myers; a poetry reading by Clarke Dewey Wells; and a retirement finance workshop by Don Southworth, with active ministers in the Florida District. Worship by David Cole, Polly Leland-Mayer, and Rollene Wells. Fort Myers UU Bed & Breakfast will put us up, with gourmet food by church member Joy Purcell and by Kathleen Hunter. Last minute attendees may contact Eleanor Richardson, chair, (239) 263-7760, or Herb Adams, registrar, at (863) 465-1587.

**WEST – Mon-Thurs., April 18-21, 2005, at the beautiful Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, California**, south of San Francisco and close to Palo Alto, Stanford, and other interesting places. Presenters include Ric Masten, Professor Clare Fischer of Starr King School for the Ministry, Lex Crane, Ted Webb, Roy Ockert, Dick Allen and others. Their talks will lead into some interesting discussions. Further information and registration forms will be mailed to members in the western region in January. Others who are interested in joining us can contact co-chairs Al & Mary Thelander, 12833 Lake Wildwood Drive, Penn Valley CA 95946, e-mail: [thelandr@nccn.net](mailto:thelandr@nccn.net).

**NORTHEAST - 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 Antionette Brown Blackwell, by Jan Bowering and Dorothy Boroush; Jim Sherblom on "Making the Most of Your Retirement Dollars," and Farley Wheelwright presenting his Odyssey. Information will be mailed to people in the region in summer, but anyone is eligible to attend, space permitting. 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](mailto:revmua@aol.com).

– Judy Mannheim for the Planning Committee

## Research Project

Do you know a woman who fits this description? UU doctoral researcher seeks heterosexual women, ages 38-62, who are currently uncommitted and have lost more than one spouse to death. Four hours maximum time requested. Women must be three years post bereavement from last spousal loss. Researcher will come to home or nearest convenient location for interview. Women who participate will be eligible to network with similar widows. Please call Rosemary Miles (919) 422-8190 or email inquiries to [clairbrd@comcast.net](mailto:clairbrd@comcast.net) to discuss participation benefits. Rosemary is a member of the UU Community Church in Sacramento, CA.

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

(Health news published with permission)

**George and Priscilla Brooks** write that their manufactured home in Port Charlotte, FL, survived Hurricane Charlie, but they lost the car port and shed, and all that was therein. **MaryLouise DeWolf** is part-time minister in Lecanto, FL. **Fred Gillis** feels better than ever following triple bypass surgery in September. **Donald Hinckley** was named minister emeritus of the Oakland, ME, Universalist Church in November. He retired last February after 58 years. He played tennis into his 84<sup>th</sup> year, enjoys reading for pleasure, and paints watercolors. **Glyn Pruce** says she is alive and well, and sorry not to be able to attend Pan South. **Eleanor Richardson** is running for UUA Trustee from the Northeast District. **David Scheyer** is managing the R.E.A.C.H. hotline for domestic violence in Franklin, North Carolina. **Al Thelander** writes that the San Francisco Chronicle is now running a comic strip called "Elderberries." Do we have a copyright on the name? **Teri Throne**, Willow Grove, PA, recovering beautifully from a serious heart attack and stroke suffered last February, suffered another heart incident Jan. 15. **Bob Wolf** preaches about once a month in central Maine and Mary is braiding rugs.

**Rudi Gelsey**, retired in Denver, has completed a 15-year-old project entitled "A Faith for the Global Village: A Dialogue Among Religions in Search of Mutual Appreciation." The book consists of an imaginary contemporary dialogue among pagan Goddess Isis of Ancient Egypt, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha, and Shiva. Rudi is visualizing a favorable response from an interfaith publisher.

"The official version of the 911 attacks is a lie," according to the **Rev. Ron Mazur** of Ormond Beach. Ron is distributing a free DVD, "911 In Plane Site - The Director's Cut" in which there is visual proof that the Pentagon was not hit by a commercial plane. He is doing this as Community Ministry because the perpetrators of the 911 mass murders have never been officially investigated in this country. Visit his website [www.freejesus.com](http://www.freejesus.com) on the "911 Crimes" to request a free copy of the DVD.

**Speak-Up**, UURMAPA's chat room on the uua web is a great place to share, discover what people are doing, find old friends, ask questions, and get help with research. Exclusively for UURMAPA members Speak-Up has few rules except to keep it somewhat brief and don't send jokes. To join, contact **Larry Hamby** at 706-543-3315 or [larryhamby@mac.com](mailto:larryhamby@mac.com). – **Doe Lockwood**

**Herb Vetter writes:** Our young **Harvard Square Library**, a venture in liberal religious electronic communication, is growing worldwide on the Internet. In 2004, we had more than three-quarters of a million page viewers in almost 100 countries on six continents. Our viewers' favorite series is the 150 color illustrated biographies of Notable American Unitarians 1936-1961. Next most popular is 100 Notable American Unitarians 1740-1900. Among new offerings is the online version of Beacon Press's *Speak Out Against the New Right*. Go to Google and type Harvard Square Library ([www.harvardsquarelibrary.org](http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org)) for more. Herb Vetter, Dir., 1644 Northbrook Court, Fort Collins, CO 80526. Email: [hfvetter@post.harvard.edu](mailto:hfvetter@post.harvard.edu)

### **From Peter & Jennie Weller, contact persons for UU Mountain Desert District:**

**Betty Husted** - surviving partner of **Paul**, has pretty well recovered from recent shoulder surgery. **Gayle Trantham** - surviving partner of **John**, remarried 8 years ago to **Jack Welch**. She retains last name of Trantham, remains interested in UURMAPA, and especially enjoys "Elderberries". **Dale Arnink & Eva Montoya** - Dale says they have had a "terrible" summer. Just as Eva was recovering from back surgery and they were preparing for a trip, she fell and broke her heel. She is also dealing with advancing Parkinson's. Dale

is doing all he can as a loving and caring partner. Playing handball to keep fit, he recently tore up his left shoulder. **Stan Aronson** is enjoying retirement immensely, especially "not working" and not doing anything relating to ministry. **Thomas & Marion Best** –Tom left an Episcopal ministry in Kalispell, MT, in midlife to move on to a ministry with UU congregation in same city. They travel a lot to keep in touch with 7 children and 9 grandchildren. **Sylvia Falconer** is writing a local, liberal Faith column once a month for the local paper to offset Greeley, CO's very conservative views. Her second grandson was born in November. Essential tremor makes it difficult for her to speak loudly so a microphone helps. The computer also helps with her hands. She also puts on two artshows and directs several plays each year. **Beth Ide** doesn't get out much. Her area code is 303, not 970. **Walter Royal Jones** is still dealing with the death in June of his partner, Eliza. His own health is fragile, but he gets to church and to other places as often as he can.

**Byron & Ethel Kelham** - By has made a good recovery from his stroke of a year ago, has resumed a daily walking routine and reports feeling better than he has in several years. **Webster Kitchell** - Web is dealing with advancing Parkinson's. He can no longer drive and is giving up the convertible he acquired a year or ago, but reports having a wonderful support system (mainly UU's) at the retirement center where he now lives.

**Thomas & Betty Maloney** - Tom has been beset with a condition known as "progressive bulbar palsy", which has rendered him incapable of speaking so that he can be understood. Betty says that they are dealing with it, especially with help from a daughter in Boulder.

**Liz McMaster** has just retired after several years of interim work. Is seeking a "consulting ministry", preferably within Mt/Desert district. **Betty Pingel** says she is doing well, on a conditional basis. Active in 1st Unitarian, Denver. **Dale Robison** married Tara Gray five years ago, and is part time minister with fellowship in Alamogordo. **Todd & Carolyn Taylor** - Totally occupied with care and harvesting of the three apple orchards they own. No UU involvement. **John Trowbridge** has been widowed for some years. Enjoys a UU discussion group which meets in his home town of Deming, NM. **Linda Whittenberg** preaches from time to time for neighboring UU groups and meets with New Mexico UU ministers. **Peter & Jennie Weller** are each involved in their own church, Jennie with UCC & Peter with UU. Jennie continues as volunteer in literacy program at nearby elementary school, Peter on program committee for UURMAPA West conference, which both will attend Apr. 18-21. **Judith & David Walker-Riggs** - Though Judith has not formally retired, they have settled into their anticipated retirement home: 2941 Jennifer St., Las Cruces, NM 88005. Phone: 505-524-4967.

Hospital Poem from Frank Robertson  
Another of Life's Changes  
 Fall, 2004

I hear of men  
 Utterly lost after retirement,  
 Wondering what they will do!  
 Their lives have been their work;  
 What will they do?

I just don't feel that way.  
 Even with the life change  
 Demanded by being a cancer survivor  
 To drop several leadership roles,

I've always had too many interests;  
 And I'm a perpetual student.  
 Writing and perfecting poems like this  
 Flow from within more readily these days;

A three-month hospital stay  
 Made sure of that;  
 And the love and support from  
 Colleagues and friends awakened my soul.

So, I tell myself:  
 "You're lucky to be alive  
 And have more years for family  
 And trying to influence the world."

## In Memoriam

**Mary Hood Evans**, wife of Rev. Marvin D. Evans, died Sept. 30, 2004 after a long illness. She earned a B.A. degree from Duke University and an M.S.W. from the New York School of Social Work. In 1953, she married Marvin, and they had two children: Kent Hood Evans (1955 - 1972) and David Marvin Evans (Alexis Johanson) of Keyport, WA. She worked for the Children's Aid Society in Richmond, and was active in Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, the League of Woman Voters, the Richmond Committee to Save the Public Schools and the First Unitarian Church in Richmond. Following Marvin's ordination in 1963, they moved to Victoria, BC, then Seattle in 1967. She was a dedicated member of University Unitarian Church of Seattle, where A Celebration of her life was held Oct. 31. Memorials are suggested to the Kent H. Evans Scholarship Fund, Lakeside School, 14050 First Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125.

**Reverend Leon C. Fay** – We have learned from Lois Fay that Leon died a few years ago at age 89, something which not even the current minister of the Albuquerque church, which Leon served before retirement, had known. Leon served churches in E. and W. Bridgewater, MA; Scituate, MA; Nashua, NH; and Cape Town, South Africa. Letters of remembrance may be sent to Lois at 1275 Ziga Rd. SE, Real Rancho, NM 87124. Her phone is (505) 994-4324.

**Reverend Norman V. Naylor** died November 18, 2004. He was 68. He served congregations in Brooklyn, NY; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Oak Park, IL; Brockton, MA; Pasadena, CA; and East Lansing and Troy, MI. He served as Secretary-Treasurer and President for the Pacific Southwest District Chapter of the UUMA of and was a Board Member for the Pacific Southwest District. He was founder of the Malibu Study Group for UU ministers and the author of a booklet about the UU Principles. He was a member of a support group for people with HIV and AIDS, and was a hot-line counselor for the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. He was also an organist and a singer with various musical groups throughout his life. Surviving is his wife, Mary Beth Grim of Southfield, Michigan. A memorial service was held November 20, 2004, at the Emerson Church Unitarian Universalist, Troy MI.

**Jeannette D'Ewart Royce** - died Sept. 21, 2003, according to a family member. She was partner of Burchard, who died in January 2002. She is survived by a son Jonathan Royce, 517 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City, CO 81212.

A letter to **Amy Worthly** - partner of Evans, was returned, marked "Deceased". We do not know the date or circumstance of her death.

**Janet Osborn**, wife of the Reverend David Osborn died Dec. 22, 2004, in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she and David had moved after retirement from the ministry, David died last year and Janet was living alone. Marlin and I arrived at the hospital to visit her shortly before her death and were not able to see her. When we returned later she had died. She had a sweet gentle nurse with her who had become quite fond of her in the short time he had known her.

- Katy Sheridan

**Janet Osborn** – Tribute by Fia B. Scheyer 12/26/04 (excerpted)

I could tell you about all the great ‘social change’ things Janet and I did together during our years with the UU Service Committee - about Janet, who rose from the national co-chair of the Volunteer Service Corps to UUSC Board and, later, consultant to the Volunteer Program, of which I was Director, but I will only relate a few instances. We stood together on the poisoned streets of Love Canal. We stood together gazing at a blood red sky from a burning Haiti. We learned a great deal along the way - but the most enduring things through all the years of our journey together for me was getting to know and love the person, Janet Osborn. What truly binds me to Janet is not just our commitment to social justice, but how we got there - liberating ourselves while being concerned with the liberation of others, and all the while somehow keeping intact our sense of fun and adventure.

I remember times when we would take the ‘scenic route’ around the country during our tours of UU congregations in order to eat fresh, dusty strawberries from farm fields or wonderful oysters from Florida’s Loxahatchee Bay. I remember the many conversations about life as a clergy spouse to our UU Minister husbands, (we used to joke that living with “God” took on a whole new meaning for us.) We discussed and anguished over momentous issues of our times, few of which we ever solved. I remember songs created and sung on our journeys. We were not always on good health, either...

We encourage those who knew Janet & David to gather together or alone, and light a candle in their memory on the 1st day of Spring, Mar 20, thus honoring their wish for no formal memorial services.

**Eulogy for Peter Spilman Raible** by Clarke Dewey Wells (excerpted)

...[Peter’s] resume of work and achievement and honors is enormous. But I would not leave unspoken some of those private joys and mysterious completions unrecorded. His conversation and wit; ballgames at Fenway; hiking in the Cascades where hours passed without a word being said that would bruise the silent and sacred ecology; the smile on his face as he overlooked the shorelines from ship’s railing on Puget Sound; the look of studied admiration on the Olympic strip as he gazed at sea anemones at low tide...

But anyone who knew Peter knew he was no simple, safety-first uncomplicated ordinary fellow. Some will recall his usual mock disclaimer, “I’m just a simple country priest.” All of us learned to know that when Peter used that phrase it was time to grab your wallet....

James Luther Adams used to say what a privilege, what a rare privilege it is, to live in a community of high expectation, a place with standards, in contrast to living in a dull entropic environment that demands nothing, gives nothing, stimulates nothing.

Peter had the stature, the spiritual SIZE that whenever he walked into a room the community of expectation rose, the atmosphere was energized, the aura amplified, the standards raised....

Kay Montgomery tells that after a late night meeting on fund raising here at University Church, she walked out with him as he locked up the church. As he locked the main door on the way out he patted it lovingly and said, “Good night Church.” His love for the institution was palpable....

*Aggiornamento*, letting in fresh air and whenever Peter moved in our midst for the last fifty years, new energy was released, new authenticity emerged and new vision entertained.... Thank you Peter for the SIZE you brought to us, to our Church, to all of life... Amen

Clarke Dewey Wells – June 6, 2004 Seattle

## Directory Changes

*Thanks for all your work in maintaining the list, Fred. That is a steady and unrelenting task, but it is an essential one. A major part of our service to our movement and to retired ministers and partners is to provide channels of communication and community.— Andy Backus*

**Thomas & Marion Best** - Present address: 95 Konley Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901-3309

**Maurice Cobb** – email: mwcobb@psouth.net      **Sylvia Falconer** – email: safalconer@earthlink.net

**Richard R. and Averill F. Gay** - P.O. Box 35, Hope, AK 99605-0035 (Alaska!)

Phone: (907) 782-3651; email: richardgay@webtv.net

**Rudy Gelsey** - 2020 S. Monroe, Apt. 337, Denver, CO 80210. Phone: (303) 691-5663.

**Mitch and Gladys Howard** - P.O. Box 74, Inn at Penn Cove, Coupeville, WA 98239. Email: penncove@whidbey.net

**Phyllis (and Gordon) McKeeman** - 1550 Pantops Mountain Place Apt 129, Charlottesville VA 22911-8832

Phone: (434) 973-0378; email: gpmck@cstone.net

**John and Jeannette Morgan** – add email: Johnhanlymorgan@aol.com

**Shirley Ranck** – 3057 Ironbound Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185-2391

**David and Ginger Rankin** - 312 N. Garfield Street, Moscow, ID 83843; Phone: (208) 882-4454

**John Robinson** – 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6893

### **Phone Number additions and corrections!!**

**Stan Aronson** – (505)521-3444

**Constance Cheetham** – (434) 296-6402

**Lois Fay** – (505) 994-4324

**Beth Ide** – (303) 443-8487

**Byron & Ethel Kelham** – (719) 565-0646

**Tom and Betty Maloney** – (970) 493-2769

**Liz McMaster** – (505) 255-5965

**Marion Nachlas** – (336) 724-0312

**Dale Robison** – add spouse **Tara Gray**. Phone: (505) 532-8810

**Carl and Maureen Thitchener** – (585) 657-7526

**Bob and Teri Throne** – (215) 659-9422

**Cynthia Ward** – (239) 566-8164

**Jack and Marie Zoerheide** – (239) 489-3961

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