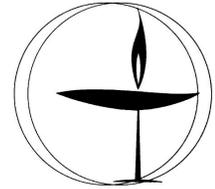


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXIV

NUMBER 3

May 2009

Keeping in Touch

One could say that we have 850 members in our Caring Network because every member plays a part in carrying out the vital work of UURMaPA, which includes staying in touch with one another. As you may know, we have 40 members who commit to be our Caring Network Contacts.

I want to offer special appreciation to seven of our Caring Network Team who are completing their work as Caring Contacts. A standing ovation to: **Ginny Crane** (Pacific Southwest, Southern CA), **Gretchen and Ray Manker** (AZ and NV), **Joan Waterhouse** (Clara Barton CT Valley), **Al and Mary Thelander** (Pacific Central Beyond the Bay) and **Margot Campbell Gross** (Pacific Central Bay area). These volunteers have put in countless hours to keep our connections strong across the continent. We thank you!



Dot Kimble



Carol Hilton

And a very warm welcome to those joining our Caring Network Team: **Dorothy Kimble** (Clara Barton CT Valley) and **Carol Hilton** (Pacific Southwest Southern CA).

Thanks, too, to **Brad and Chris Mitchell, Peter and Eleanor Richardson, Roberta Nelson and Marcia Payson**, who have teamed up with **Iska Cole and Maurice Cobb** on our Northeast Caring Team. And we are grateful to **Stan Aronson** for becoming the new Caring Network Contact for the Pacific Central, Beyond the Bay area.

We are fortunate to have all these capable volunteers strengthening our Caring Team. Be sure to be in touch with *your* Caring Network Contact when there are ways we can be of help to you. Let us know when you have a new address or contact information, and when you have news to share. Our interdependent web of caring is the heart of what UURMaPA is all about.

As many of you know, I will be moving into a new UURMaPA position on July 1, and **Ralph Mero** will be taking over as Coordinator of the Caring Network. This is very good news, as Ralph's knowledge and wise caring are gifts to us all. I thank you for the privilege of leading this outstanding team.

— Makaanah Morriss

Watch for the
UUA Retirement Plan survey
in your mail regarding
a decision to continue with
Fidelity Investments
*Let your voice be heard by completing and
returning the survey promptly.*

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Next newsletter deadline is July 15. Send your news, photos and views to the editor: Chris Lilly Backus at 2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225 or at chrisbackus@msn.com

Save paper, get your newsletter
by e-mail! Just let Chris know.

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President's Perspectives by Nancy Doughty

Since writing my last column I have attended the UURMaPA Pan South and West Conferences and our March Board meeting in San Jose. Thanks to our active members, programs at each conference were both informative and inspirational.



Highlights of the Board meeting include:

- Taking action to develop a **publication for those planning for retirement** and to address issues retired ministers and partners face in growing into retirement;
- Addressing **operating with limited resources** for the next year, including moving to having just one face-to-face Board meeting. We will continue monthly conference calls for business, while continuing to provide support to our 40 Caring Network Contacts, to publish *Elderberries* quarterly and our Directory annually;
- Discussing the diminishing value of retirement funds held by our members, and learning more about how this affects our daily lives. We voted to **survey members to obtain concrete information about their financial circumstances** so we can provide advocacy for those most in need. *(Please note that this is separate from the UUA pension survey.)*
- For Ministry Days I will be moderating a **Collegial Conversation, *Planning For and Living With Retirement***, with panelists **Makanah Morriss, Jan Sammons, Doug Gallagher** and **Celia Thurston**.

This is my last message to you as Board President. After a total of six years on the Board it is time for others to continue charting programs that will serve our members. I feel blessed by the talent, energy, and devotion of Board members who have graced the Board table with me for these years.

I have been fortunate to meet many of you for the first time and have renewed friendships with many more of you as UURMaPA has expanded our services and advocacy for members.

I will close by saying I celebrate and thank all of you who have responded to our annual appeal with your financial support. Even during this economic crunch donations continue to arrive... a testimony to your confidence and appreciation for UURMaPA.

A good way to celebrate Spring!

In faith,

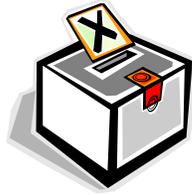
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Doughty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Plans for events at GA this year include our:

- **Annual luncheon for surviving family members** of clergy who have died this past year, to be held Thursday, June 25.
- **Annual Luncheon for newly retired members**, who will be our guests, on Saturday, June 27 (registration form on page 15 and at www.uurmapa.org under "Current Items.").
- Announcement of the winner of this year's UURMaPA **Creative Sage-ing Award**.

Your Vote Counts!

If you are a Minister Emeritus/a, please be sure to cast your vote for UUA President either by absentee ballot or in person at this year's GA in Salt Lake City.



In early May your ballot/credential will be sent to the congregation of which you are a minister emeritus/a. Be in touch with your congregation to obtain your ballot/credential.

Visit the candidates' websites at www.hallmanforuupresident.com and www.moralesforuupresident.org and learn more about their views. You can read excerpts from their notes to UURMaPA regarding Independent Affiliate Status in this issue of *Elderberries* on Page 15. (Full text on our website, www.uurmapa.org)

Then make sure to cast **your** ballot (absentee ballots must be received by the UUA in Boston on or before June 17). This election is a critical one and **your** wisdom via your ballot is needed.

Stay Comfortable

The UUA's Office of Church Staff Finances awards both heating and cooling grants to our retired ministers and their survivors.



For assistance contact Joyce Stewart at (617) 948-6421 or jstewart@uua.org, or the Rev. Richard Nugent at (617) 948-6456 or rnugent@uua.org.

Joyce and Richard welcome your calls and emails with other questions and concerns.



As we age, do we sleep more soundly?

Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Chime in, please!

In the August *Elderberries* we will feature "flunking retirement" — taking a look at those of us who have gone back to work full-time or part-time. What have you learned about yourself? What do you want to tell others?

Forward your musings by July 15 to your faithful editor: Chris Lilly Backus at chrisbackus@msn.com or 2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225, USA

Thank you!



Reflections on Retirement

Alice Wesley

I learned long ago that lots of people are glad to have ministers labor mightily, if they'll do so for too little or no money. I didn't plan to do that after I retired from parish ministry. I did, though — for ten or twelve years — doing research, writing, teaching, lecturing, editing others' stuff, and just answering requests for position papers and information. I'm not really sorry, just surprised at myself. But who knows? My post-retirement ministry might be more important for our movement than my pre-. Anyway, I was glad for some honoraria to pass along to Meadville.

Everybody knows major surgery and serious complications can be a big disruption, as were my husband Joe's. (I rejoice every day that he survived and is doing well now.) But neither he nor I had any inkling of the number of pills, capsules, tablets, creams, ointments, drops, shots and batteries we would be swallowing, rubbing on and inserting daily to treat the many minor-but-discombobulating ailments of our 70s. We've figured out that our aged parents and friends did not conspire to keep us in the dark on these matters. They just didn't—as we don't—want to bore anybody to death. That's why we, like most old folks, administer secretly.

I'll mention some best parts of retirement. 1) Time to be with children and grandchildren whenever they can manage it, even though they're wildly busy. 2) Interaction with dozens of eager students and young ministers grateful for theological and historical discussion with an elder. 3) Yard work. I know that sounds crazy to some, especially since I really can't claim to be a gardener. But it's fun to be able to do it. 4) The joys of a love affair with my mate, still going strong after 54 years.

Advice for those nearing retirement: Feed your piggy bank, as generously and often as you can. More importantly, take care of your true loves.

Andy Backus

Shortly after retirement my doctor and I discovered I no longer needed high blood pressure medication. And a year or so later we cut my cholesterol medication in half. There are other indications, as well, that my health is better: no recurrence of cancer, for example.

I gave the heart-cut of my working life to ministry. And the attendant stresses were part of the deal. I knew that going in and I have no regrets. But I have answered my call and I deserve a rest.

That part's easy. Now what?

Do what you really want to do. I have a lot of interests and skills. There is so much that I put on hold during those working years. Now get to it!

Trouble is, I still need to contribute. But I don't want to work — especially in ministry (in that I may be different from many colleagues). Yet I am not exactly desirable for part time work at things I am unproven at.

I'll compose music and enrich lives. I'll teach boating courses and save lives. I'll build sets for the local theater and touch lives. That is what I do now. But I don't know if these will last.

There is, after all, the matter of community. I want to serve still, but I need to be part of a network of support — that includes, if I am lucky, young people. Too bad I can't go back to being a parishioner in a UU church (you can't make pickles back into cucumbers)!

At least I know what I need.



Directory Updates

Updated contact information for the following individuals is available in the hard copy of the newsletter:

Stan Aronson	<i>PCBB</i>	Jeffrey Lambkin	<i>PCBA</i>
Suzanne Black	<i>AZ-NV</i>	Phyllis LeShane	<i>FL</i>
James and Betty Brewer	<i>AZ-NV</i>	Priscilla (Peri) Murdock	<i>MBI</i>
Sharon Clark	<i>MBI</i>	Sabena Norman	<i>FL</i>
Robert & Anne Clarke	<i>CMW</i>	Alice M. Popp	<i>CMW</i>
Philip Giles	<i>CMW</i>	Fred A. Rutledge	<i>TJSE</i>
Dennis M. Davidson	<i>CO-MT-WY</i>		
W. Bradford Greeley	<i>NH</i>		
Harry C. Green	<i>MNY</i>		
Carol Hilton	<i>SCA</i>		
Eileen Karpeles	<i>PCBB</i>		



Please send changes and updates to our Database Manager, Andy Backus, at andrewbackus@msn.com

Reflections on Retirement

Peg Richardson

As a minister's widow I have found that it is eventually easy, if not critical, to stay away from church. If my present husband (a retired UU music director) and I lived in a large community with a big UU congregation then it might be possible to slip in on a Sunday morning, get our "fix" of intellectual stimulation and the warmth (hopefully) of community, leave our money in the basket and slip out.

The nearby UU church has six members; so it is impossible to attend anonymously. As the retired music director of the UU church in Manchester (CT), my husband believes that he has worked more services than the average minister—likely true.

I certainly have had more than the average attendance at church services and a wealth of experience with church committees and politics. I don't believe that a congregation needs or wants our ideas for growth or success, even if we could muster the energy and inclination to offer ourselves in any capacity. We can't.

Let go—you have done your time—and if you crave community, join the historical society or the library board or the book club.

Our soul work is done right here in our living room—watching for eagles, buffleheads and the elusive red fox.

Be in touch with friends & family
Eat light
Bake bread (*not every day—see above*)

Don't watch TV or read the daily paper. If something *really* important happens you will know—you'll read it when you are online. Instead, enjoy movies and favorite books.

Retirement, as in every other stage of life, takes practice. As Gandhi said, "Learn as if you would live forever. Love as if you would die tomorrow."

Chris Schriener



Seven months ago I retired from parish ministry. I am now writing full-time, working at a slower pace and setting my own agenda.

Most mornings I sit at my computer. Glancing up, I can see a luxuriant purple-flowering bush through the window. I love not having to rush.

Even though I have a lighter schedule now, I still wish that every day lasted at least 36 hours. There is so much I want to do.

But actually, I expected that even in retirement my interests would stretch beyond my available time. Finding out that this is so is an unsurprising surprise.

I am frustrated when I waste precious hours on trivialities, and I try to use this frustration to nudge myself forward. I need to keep taking concrete steps to free myself from habits that do not serve me.

At 66, I am keenly aware of life's brevity and fragility. In a few weeks I will finish writing a book which sums up the ideas I want to continue exploring for years to come.

Most retired UU ministers have a legacy of learnings to offer future generations, so let's not hesitate to share what we know!

Every light is meant to shine.



The Turning of Our Lives

Carol Taylor, Caring Network Contact for the JPD North Region, held a luncheon at her home on March 23rd. **Ralph Mero** led a conversation after lunch, which focused on what the UUA, UUMA, and UURMaPA offer our members. Carol says it was a very enjoyable gathering. Her notes are in this column.

Barbara Hebner had hip surgery in January. Her children and grandchildren have been helping her through the recovery time. She is now doing fine.

Jack Taylor is doing well in State College, PA. He now travels less, due to age, and sounds very upbeat.

Alice and Joe Wesley, are back at their home in Bellevue, WA from their place in Allentown, PA. Their daughters, Becky and Hope, each have two sons. Alice and Joe move back and forth every four months between homes. They are living out their dream of being “real” grandparents for their four grandsons.

John Farmakis is living in Philadelphia, PA. He enjoys guests for short visits. He has some difficulty walking.

Kay Ray reports that **Hartley Ray** is living with physical limitations making it impossible for him to travel very far.

Bob Doss took a life-threatening fall on February 22. He broke ten ribs, punctured a lung and suffered internal bleeding. He was in ICU for five weeks, then acute care, in rehab, and is now in more intense rehab. He is still very weak, but is improving gradually, as he is now able to talk and his mind is clearing. His wife, **Peggy Doss**, asks that your notes and cards be sent to their home (see UURMaPA directory for their address).

Fia Scheyer says she feels like “she has been let out of jail” after two years on a feeding tube, following two major surgeries. She is once again enjoying real food. She says she owes her recovery to the loving care of her husband, David, and of the nurses who were “angels” during her lengthy hospital stays.



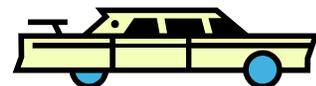
Yoga and daily meditation have also been at the core of her long slow recovery, as she “gets back on the side of life.”

Fia sends her regards and says, “I have missed everybody.”

Doe Lockwood, Caring Network Contact for the SW Region, reports that **Bruce Clary** is recovering well from a hip replacement.

Lee Giles Hirstein writes, “My Dad, **Phil Giles**, has relocated to be closer to us in the Chicago area; we are delighted! At 92, he has lost his short-term memory, but his facility with words, and his appreciation of others continue unabated. He is truly the mensch he has always been! We are relieved to have him within a few miles, in an excellent assisted living facility, which offers a grand view from his 7th floor apartment. He loves getting mail; sp please feel free to e-mail him through me, iplayit@earthlink.net. I know it would delight him. Your organization has been a very important part of Dad's life for years. He only wishes he were equipped to attend your gatherings. Best to you all.”

Why should older people choose valet parking?



Because the valet remembers where the car is parked.

The Turning of Our Lives

Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle has written a memoir about her father, Millard Owen Sheets, an internationally known painter, designer, teacher and lecturer. It was published last fall by Oceanside Museum of Art, in conjunction with an exhibit of his paintings and drawings. The book, *Damngorgeous*, contains reproductions of paintings in the show. Carolyn says this has been the fulfillment of a 20-year commitment to tell her father's amazing story. To purchase the book email: uucarolyn@cox.net (total cost \$22.60 postage paid).

Edgar Peara was featured in "I Live to Give" in *Brighter Futures*, the newsletter of Plan USA (a charity that improves the lives of children around the world), for his generosity in supporting 310 charities. He mentions how he and his wife, **Phyllis Peara**, benefit from their charitable gift annuities. Would you like to know more about purchasing an annuity through UURMaPA? If so, please fill out the form below. You have a great investment, while you ensure the long-term financial stability of our association.



Helen Gordon

Ginny Crane reports that **Helen Gordon** has earned a finalist award in the category of Best New Non-fiction Books of 2008 in *USA Book-News of LA's* national contest. This second edition of *The Secret Love Story in Shakespeare's Sonnets* solves many mysteries that puzzled readers for 400 years. It's available at helenhgordon@cox.net or (805) 964-3734. She also has available two other books: the 2007 prize-winning historical novel, *Voice of the Vanquished: The Story of the Slave Marina and Hernan Cortes*; and, her uncle's remarkable story, *First Captured, Last Freed: Memoirs of a P.O.W. in World War II Guam and Japan*.

Ginny also reports that **Georgianne Declercq** wrote, "All is okay with Al [Henriksen] and me. Al uses a walker to get around since his last hip surgery. We do water aerobics three times a week in our pool here at the condo."



To support UURMaPA, I am (we are) contributing:

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 other _____

Please make check/cheque payable to UURMaPA (US \$ please) and send to:
Kathleen Hunter, 55 Crystal Ave., PMB 248, Derry, NH 03028, USA

Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please contact me about the UURMaPA's
Endowment Fund _____ Charitable Annuities _____

In Memoriam



The Rev. Max Alden Coots, 81, died in at home March 3, 2009 from lymphoma. He served congregations in New York City, Cortland, Canton and Central Square, NY. His longtime friend the **Rev. Jack Taylor** writes, "In the late

1980s, Max, whose chief avocation was gardening, shared a poem with his congregation as a Thanksgiving meditation. [His poem appeared in the November 2008 *El-derberries*.] It became a significant experience for thousands of families and individuals." Max will also be remembered for his wit and his love of puns. He was a US Navy veteran and a graduate of Bucknell College and Columbia University. He was awarded a Doctor of Sacred Theology at Starr King School for the Ministry. He is survived by his wife, three sons, a step-daughter, step-son, five grandchildren and six step-grandsons.

The Rev. Ora Wilbert Eads, 94, died September 5, 2008 following a lingering illness. Sixty years ago when his children were toddlers, he served the First Universalist Church of Sampson County at Red Hill in Clinton, NC. After several years of parish ministry, his failing eyesight caused him to leave his church. He then offered mail order Bible correspondence courses, so that he could support his family. Throughout his life, his passion was writing poetry. He was a prolific writer, who won critical acclaim for his work. He also enjoyed walking, which inspired his poetry. He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Ivaree Cochran Eads in 1999. He is survived by his five children: Ora W. Eads, Jr. of Nashville, TN; Wayne B. Eads of Chapel Hill, NC; Carol Ball of Williamsburg, KY; Janice and Janet Eads (twins) also of Williamsburg and five grandchildren.

The Rev. Barbara E. Hollerorth, 82, died April 14, 2009. A pastoral counselor and therapist, she studied sociology at the University of Iowa and University of Chicago before earning a master's degree in theological studies from the Federated Theological Schools of the University of Chicago. She served with her husband, the Rev. Hugo J. Hollerorth, as co-minister of education at the Union Church of Hinsdale, IL. She was serving the Lexington, MA church, when she created the well-known *The Haunting House* curriculum. She earned her D.Min. at Andover-Newton Theological School. She helped create the UU Pastoral Counseling Center of Greater Boston and became its first director. The Center provided a resource for UU ministers to refer parishioners for long-term therapy. She was a therapist at the Homophile Community Health Service and the Gender Identity Service. After retiring she studied photography and exhibited her work in the Boston area. Barbara is survived by her husband, and her daughters, Rachel Buerlen and Rebecca Hunter, and three grandchildren.

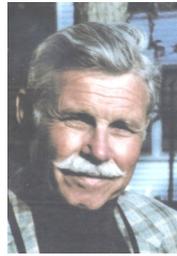
Her memorial service will be Sat., May 9, at 11 a.m. at the First Parish Church UU, 24 Vernon St., Framingham, MA.



In Memoriam

The Rev. Dr. Webster Lardner Kitchell, 71, died on February 9, 2009 of complications from Parkinson's disease. He served churches in NYC, Kirkwood, MO, Houston, TX, and Santa Fe, NM. The Santa Fe congregation named him minister emeritus. He was active in the UU Historical Society. His community activities included The Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, the Kirkwood, Missouri Ministerial Alliance, and president of the Committee for Responsible Citizenship. He loved cars from his first, a '34 Ford convertible which he got when he was 19, to his last, a convertible Mustang. He was preceded in death by his wife of 23 years, Nancy Gay Mottweiler Kitchell. He is survived by his children Catherine, David and Benjamin, three stepchildren, three grandchildren and one step-grandchild, his companion, Nancy Driesbach, and his eldest brother, Frank.

The Rev. Mary Louise Curd Nelson, 82, died January 11, 2009. She joined the Oak Ridge (TN) congregation in 1956 and became deeply involved in RE. She was church school director while she earned accreditation as a DRE. She then completed independent study to become an MRE. She was fellowshipped by the UUA and ordained by the Knoxville congregation. She also served as an MRE for the UU congregation in Oak Ridge, TN. When she retired in 1988 the Knoxville church named her minister emerita. Her husband, Bill Nelson, died last January. She will long be remembered for her passion for civil rights, peace and women's rights, and for mentoring students of all ages in the independent study program. Her colleague, the Rev. Linnea Pearson said, "Mary was a noble woman and paved the way for others of us to follow. She will be missed and remembered."



The Rev. Guy Wheeler Meyer, 94, died in his sleep February 22, 2009. He was a graduate of University of Chicago and Meadville Theological School. He served the First Universalist Church in Stockton, IL, then worked as a labor organizer in New York City. A conscientious objector during World War II, he served in the Merchant Marines after the war. He served churches in RI, Arlington and Saugus, MA, and Newburgh, NY. He was an active voice for justice and civil rights. Guy hosted *The Power of Love*, a weekly radio program on KWMR in Point Reyes Station (CA) that featured people from all walks of life. He is survived by his partner of 34 years, Joyce Greenwood, his former wife, Verne M. Bell of Newburgh, NY, six children, ten grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.



Bill M. Nelson, MD, 81, husband of Rev. Mary C. Nelson, died January 31, 2008. The grandson of a Baptist missionary, he followed in his father's footsteps to become a pathologist. He served in the US Army during the end of World War II. He later did cancer research in Germany and at Oak Ridge (TN) Institute for Nuclear Studies. He enjoyed white water canoeing and water skiing. He also played tuba and sang in the church choir. An active church volunteer, he did planning for the Knoxville UU Church. He had a fascination for languages. Bill also volunteered for the Braille Institute. The Nelsons are survived by their three children, Murfi Pedersen, Martin Nelson and Linda Nelson and their spouses; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam

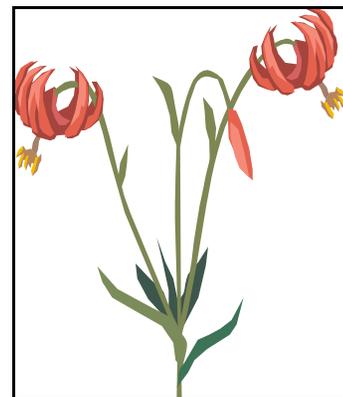
The Rev. Judith Lorraine Quarles, 67, died peacefully in hospice care at home on April 9, 2009, from complications of brain cancer. A graduate of Harpur College (now SUNY Binghamton) she worked for the NYS Department of Labor. She also served as DRE at the Buffalo (NY) Church. After her husband Edgar died in 1985, she earned her M.Div. at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She served congregations in Lockport, NY, Mississauga, ON, and Oneonta, NY. Judy was a passionate advocate for social action, both in her local community and beyond. She was instrumental in launching the initiative that created the Oneonta Free Clinic. She was proud of the link the Oneonta congregation established with a school in Mali to provide them with much needed financial support. The UU Society of Oneonta named her minister emerita in 2008. She is survived by her loving companion, Tom O'Brien, her daughters, Karen Quarles of New York City, Emily Quarles Mowrer of Gilbertsville, PA, and her younger sister.



Rev. John E. Trowbridge, 83, died unexpectedly August 30, 2008, of congestive heart failure. He held a BA in Social Studies from University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, and a B.Div. from Meadville Theological School. He was a veteran of the US Navy. He was minister of the UU Society of Bangor, ME from 1954-1958, and then the UU Churches of Sheshequin, Standing Stone, and Towanda, PA, from 1964-1985. While serving the churches, he was a case worker at the General Assistance Department in Towanda. His articles on religion were published in *The Unitarian World*, *Faith and Freedom*, and *The Christian Century*. John was also a talented watercolor artist who exhibited his landscapes wherever he lived. In 1985 he retired and returned to his birthplace, Deming, NM, where he continued to paint and was active in the artistic community. He was designated minister emeritus by the UU Church of Athens and Sheshequin in 2003. He was an active member of the Las Cruces congregation. He is survived by his children, Alina and Ned and two step-grandchildren.



Ann H. Rutledge, 76, wife of the Rev. Fred A. Rutledge, died September 1, 2008, from colon cancer. A native of Texas, she earned a BA in English at the University of Texas and a masters degree in social psychology from Johns Hopkins University, where she worked as a research assistant. The Rutledges served congregations in Petersham and Danvers, MA, Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN and Baltimore, MD. Ann worked as a church secretary and in RE at Unity Church in St. Paul; she sang in the choir at the Baltimore church. She was a devoted member of the Thomas Wolfe Society, which promotes a scholarly approach to the author's work. She is survived by her husband of 57 years and their three daughters: Cyndi, Anita and Nina. She was predeceased by their son Rick, Jr.



In Memoriam

The Rev. Wilfrid (Fred) Walter Ward, 74, died on his birthday, January 5, 2009, with his sons beside him. He earned a degree in Psychology at Cornell and an M.Div. at St. Lawrence University Theological School. He served churches in Lincoln, MA, Baltimore, MD and Princeton, NJ. He earned a PhD in NYU's Family Life Education, Marriage, and Human Sexuality graduate program. He was Education Director of the Sexuality Education, Counseling and Health Program of the University Health Services at Princeton University. Fred was also an avid birder and knowledgeable ornithologist. When he was married to Betty Ward, the couple were pioneers in leading UU Couple Enrichment programs. He served the New Jersey Area Council of UU Societies as Minister of Counseling and Education and directed the UU Counseling and Education Service, until 1999 when he became ill from a stroke. A lifelong Universalist, Fred was a staunch supporter of Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center in Lanoka Harbor, NJ. Fred is survived by his sons, Wilfrid, Jr. and David.

Evelyn Gerrish Weeks, 87, widow of Rev. Herbert Weeks, died in Lewiston, ME on February 9, 2009. She was a lifelong member of the First Universalist Church (Unitarian Universalist) of Auburn, ME. Evelyn held a master's degree in education and taught business subjects for many years at the secondary and post-secondary levels. She retired in 1988. She was also involved in RE at each of her husband's churches. She was an avid fan of the Red Sox and of competitive figure skating. Her other interests included genealogy, raising irises and knitting. As a minister's wife, she became an accomplished interior painter as they moved from parsonage to parsonage. Her pies were much sought after at the Auburn church's various fundraisers, and she volunteered many hours as that church's office secretary and treasurer. She is survived by a son, Jonathan, and daughter, Arlyn.



UURMaPA Mission Statement

Acting in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the purposes of this organization shall be to serve Unitarian Universalist congregations and their Association, and to enhance the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, their life partners and surviving life partners and to provide such programs and activities as may be feasible for their benefit.



Beacon Press offers
10% discount and free
shipping to
UURMaPA members

Visit www.beacon.org to select books you'd like to purchase. Enter UURMAPA as your discount code. *Please note that 4% of the proceeds from our purchases benefit the Living Tradition Fund.*

Questions? Contact Kathryn Wyle at kwyle@beacon.org or at (617) 948-6573.

Candidates' Views

Our candidates for the UUA presidency answer questions posed by UURMaPA Board President Nancy Doughty about their views on Independent Affiliate Status. (The complete texts of their responses appear on our website: www.uurmapa.org)

Laurel Hallman



Our affiliated groups have been an excellent example of what James Luther Adams called Voluntary Associations.

Recent actions by the UUA Board have caused many to question whether this understanding was still part of our organizing principles. The Board's original decision to redefine the relationship in our UUA by-laws was driven by justifiable concerns about appropriate resource allocation at GAs, and UUA liability for the actions of organizations which had sought affiliation but not alignment with our purposes and principles. There is much more to the role of independent affiliates in the UUA than a booth and a workshop.

Without a clear idea of how the independent organizations would function within the larger UU context, it has been hard to see how they were still part of the UU family. I welcome the recent decision of the UUA Board to identify relationships with independent affiliates as a staff function. This makes sense in the context of the transition to policy governance, and of right relationships with the volunteers who work for and support independent affiliates. Sustaining strong relationships and creative collaborations with independent affiliates will be important in my administration.

Under my Presidency, the pro-active participation of staff with the groups in question would begin immediately. This is a relational question, as much as—or more than—a question of resources. Good will is a result of authentic relationship. Independent affiliates can be very different from one another in their mission, constituency, and resources. Each category of independent affiliate needs to be connected individually to a staff liaison whom they get to know, so they can be treated as an organization with unique gifts to offer Unitarian Universalists.

Peter Morales



One of the rules I live by is that if I am doing something that makes my friends angry, I need to stop dead in my tracks and reevaluate.

The UUA Board of Trustees' action to disaffiliate organizations is such an action. We have damaged relationships with friends and need to reevaluate. Beyond this, we clearly need to reach out and heal our relationships with a number of important groups in our movement.

As president, I would be committed to put in place a new relationship of partnership with organizations like UURMaPA. Let me say at the outset that, as a former member of the Board of Trustees, I understand the board's position. The number of affiliates had grown unwieldy and the board is not equipped to manage all those relationships. The board was correct in concluding that it is ill-suited to overseeing independent affiliates. The mistake was to cut everyone off before another alternative was put into place.

Fortunately, in the new governance model the board is adopting, the task of managing relationships with independent organizations will be the work of the administration. I will welcome the assignment.

My administration would begin with the belief that independent organizations like UURMaPA are an integral part of our movement and play a critical role.

I believe the most effective way for organizations to relate to the UUA is through the Association's existing staff groups. For example, it seems clear to me that UURMaPA's primary point of contact with the Association should be through the Ministry and Professional Leadership staff group.

In summary, I have long believed that the way our independent affiliates were treated was a mistake. I am committed not only to healing relationships, but to finding new ways of working together to advance our faith.

Take Another Look at the CLF



Do you wish you could go to church but live far from the nearest UU congregation?
 Is it hard for you to get to church because of physical limitations?
 Is transportation an issue for you?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions the CLF might be for you.

Did you know there is a UU congregation that numbers 3,300 members? The Church of the Larger Fellowship grew from being a department of the UUA’s Extension Office during World War II to become a congregation that serves isolated religious liberals in sixty countries around the world. It was incorporated as a congregation in 1970.

When members join they add their names to the membership book by signing a card and mailing it to 25 Beacon Street, so they are legal members of the congregation, which is incorporated in Massachusetts.

Members are asked to make “a contribution of record” or to request a financial waiver if they cannot contribute. The outlay for the CLF is about \$100 per year per member.

Some CLF members give more, but some are unable to contribute at all, so donations are always welcome. It’s easy to join by going online or writing. (About half of CLF members are not online and rely on mailings.) Go to <http://www.clfuu.org/> or write to: CLF, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108 .

Members receive “Quest,” a monthly newsletter, which includes sermons from our best UU preachers and a column by long-time CLF minister, the Rev. Jane Ranney Rzepka. The newsletter is a lifeline to connect colleagues and friends across the miles and the years. The CLF includes UUs who are living overseas, are in rural areas, serving in the military, or who are in prison.

Many UURMaPA members are already CLF members. Should you be a member, too?

This article was based on an interview with Lorraine Dennis, Executive Director of CLF.

UURMaPA Annual General Assembly Luncheon. If you are coming to GA this year, plan to join us. Visit old friends and honor the newly retired Sat., June 27 at the Marriott Hotel, Salon H, 12:30 to 2 p.m. *Service of the Living Tradition* is Fri. evening, June 26. Cost of luncheon is \$25.00 per person payable to UURMaPA. (Hang onto this info; it’s not in the GA Program.) Clip form below and send your payment and meal choices by June 10, 2009 to:

Kathleen Hunter, 55 Crystal Ave, PMB 248, Derry NH 03038, USA

Early reservations are appreciated.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Number of meals chicken mushroom ravioli Total enclosed \$ _____

This year’s retirees are guests of UURMaPA.



Let's Get Together!

UURMaPA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY LUNCHEON — Saturday, June 27, 2009. If you are coming to GA this year plan to join us to catch up with old friends and honor the newly retired, in Salon H at the Marriott Hotel. *Registration information on Page 15 and on website.* Questions? Please contact Kathleen Hunter at kdhagd@mac.com or (603) 526-2941 until May 16 and (613) 924-0154 until June 8.



STAR ISLAND —September 8-10, 2009. We are hoping to have an informal gathering of retired UU ministers and partners at Star Island Conference Center, Isles of Shoals, Rye, NH. It's quiet there after Labor Day and the weather is usually lovely. Revive your memories of wonderful times there or make new memories as you enjoy this historic conference center.

Three scholarships available for partners of deceased ministers. Interested in coming?

Contact Kathleen Hunter at kdhagd@mac.com or at (603) 526-2941 or (613) 924-0154.

NORTHEAST — October 6-8, 2009, LaSalette Retreat Center, Attleboro MA. Odyssey by Peter and Carolyn Baldwin. Dramatic presentation on Theodore Parker by Dick Fewkes. Preview of "A Helpful Guide to Retirement for UU Ministers" with UURMaPA board members members Makannah Morriss and Ralph Mero. Joyce and Dick Gilbert, program chairs. Med Anderson, Registrar revmua@sover.net.

Remember that there is a \$200 grant to four first-time attendees at each conference. You must contact the registrar to see if you are among the first four. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are available from Rev. Jory Agate at jagate@uuu.org, 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or at (617) 742-2100. Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!

Address Service Requested



Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225-2503