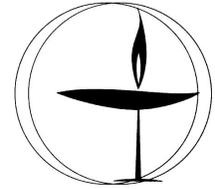


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXV

NUMBER 2

Spring 2010

Pacific NW Mini-Reunion



Gladys & Mitch Howard, Andy & Chris Backus, Leon & Dorothy Hopper, Dick Henry, and Bob & Arlene Kauffman met for lunch at University Church in Seattle on December 9, 2009.

Not pictured: Alice & Joe Wesley, Jane Boyajian.

Photo by Don Morgan

Thank You and Welcome

Warm thanks to **Ken and Audrey Mochel** for their work as caring network contacts in the St. Lawrence District. And a hearty welcome to **Fran Manly** for agreeing to serve as our new caring network contact there. And thanks to **William Holden** for his service in our Prairie Star-Mid Canada Region. We are grateful to **Alan Egly** for becoming our new caring network contact there. And we send our good wishes to **David Scheyer** and thank him for his service to Thomas Jefferson SE, as we welcome **Joan Gelbein** as our new caring network contact there.



Alan Egly

Metro New York on the Go

Sue Nichols reports that they have a core of 6-12 people who enjoy getting together for meals and outings. On Dec. 11 the group included **Wendy Moscow, Bob Hemstreet, Jim Wentz, Dick Leonard** and **Sue & Vern Nichols**. They were joined by **Dick & Joyce Gilbert**, who were in New York City visiting their son who teaches there.

They enjoyed lunch at the Ukrainian National Home and then took a short bus trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, where they visited two apartments, with fascinating stories. The Nichols urge visitors to NYC to take time to go on the tour.

Future plans include going to Old Bethpage Village on eastern Long Island and taking in a show.



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Presidential Reflections by Makanah Morriss

As I write this column, we have had a welcome respite in a very “wintry” winter here in Virginia. And that is nice. The heavy snow in December (the most since 1936) was beautiful and the cold temperatures froze the pond to give us a little “New England” sense of the season and yet it is always nice to have some days bringing the promise of sunshine and warmth.

Your UURMaPA Board this year is having monthly conference calls to maintain our connections as we work on various projects on your behalf.

We have now received close to 60 responses to the survey we sent in the fall (with our annual appeal letter) asking for your input on various aspects of retirement. We will now be beginning work on our new UURMaPA handbook, *On Retirement: A Helpful Guide for Ministers and Partners*. Members of your UURMaPA Board are focusing on different parts of this handbook and we are hoping to have it ready in print form and online by the summer.

We are also looking at some ways to enhance our UURMaPA website. We are so very grateful to Eleanor Richardson who has offered her creativity and good work in bringing our website into reality. Her foundational work makes the next stage of growth possible. We are finding that more folks are visiting the website, both UURMaPA members and those who are heading toward retirement and thus the website will be more and more of a means to introduce UURMaPA to our wider movement.

We will be having our annual UURMaPA luncheon at GA to welcome those who have just retired (more details on this in the next *Elderberries*). So if you are planning to be at GA make sure to reserve Saturday lunch for UURMaPA.

Photo by Eleanor Richardson



As some of you know, Bob and I live on a small “farm” in rural Virginia and have three horses. One is retired (like us) but we enjoy riding the other two on the trails and fields around us. In working with horses, one of the most important pieces of wisdom is “slow is fast” – meaning that by being mindful and thus “slower” in one’s actions and movements while working with horses, the process moves more effectively and gently along, with a greater sense of partnering with the horse.

One of the things I love most about retirement is having more “time” in the flow of each day and thus the “slow is fast” motto is one I can apply to most things I do – and thus I get to see and appreciate many more of the smallest of joys and wonder which were just waiting quietly to be noticed.

May these days of winter moving toward spring bring you many such moments.

Blessings,

Saving Lives

Fred and Kitty Lipp (Whitefield, ME) report that they continue to put poor, at-risk girls back in Cambodian schools. They have found that education is the best deterrent to sex trafficking and second class citizenship for young women. Fred founded The Cambodian Arts and Scholarship Foundation in 2001 after writing *The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh*, which has won numerous awards. The Foundation began with three girls and now reports 120 students safe in school, including 23 women in university.

The students are so poor that funds from the non-profit supports tuition, housing, clothes, hot meals, bicycles, monthly stipends and medical care. No salaries are paid in the US. Fred continues to write multi-cultural books for children; his most recent award winner, printed in five languages, is called *Running Shoes*. Fred and Kitty conduct writing workshops once a year for International Schools in Singapore. In the less than one-hour flight from Phnom Penh they enjoy the company of 3rd and 4th graders.

As volunteers, the Lipp report "as the world turns" they are having "the time of their lives." For more information see: www.cambodianscholarship.org or www.fredericklipp.com



Save paper and get your newsletter faster by e-mail!

Just notify the editor.
chrisbackus@msn.com

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 e-mails with other questions or concerns.



Keep us in the loop!

When you relocate or update please remember to tell us.

Send contact information changes and updates to:

*Andy Backus
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Bellingham, WA 98225
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Thank you!

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.

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Gertrude Lindener-Stawski 1626 Wilson Ave. Columbia, MO 65201-5984	Ctr Midwest		

Detective needed . .

From time to time we lose touch with our members.

We *still* need that special person or couple who is detail oriented and persistent to help us find missing members. If you are interested please contact Andy Backus, our database manager by email at andrew-backus@msn.com or call (360) 715-1984 (Pacific Time).



Thank you!

View from the Vineyard

By Kim Beach

I like to say I'm ungainfully employed while Barbara is still gainfully employed. She helps manage Mangement Concepts Inc., a training company, in downtown Tyson's Corner, and joins me for bucolic weekends on the "pharm" in Madison County, Virginia, up the road a piece from Charlottesville.

It was named "Campicello" by the previous owner, a retired Navy captain and Italophile who planted the original vineyard here. We like snooty names in "Ol' Virginie." Of course, there's not much to do on a 26-acre spread with an old farmhouse and an acre in grapes, a native Virginia varietal called Norton, after Dr. Charles Norton who first cultivated them in the 1840s. Enjoying a magnificent view of the Blue Ridge Mountains (mere monticellos to you westerners, I know), they grow with great "viggah," as Jack Kennedy would say.



Kim Beach with granddaughter Libby.

After I managed to kill off the Chardonnay and the Cab Sauvignon that we inherited with the place, I planted about 600 Norton vines, which for the grower have two nice advantages over vinifera grapes: they are not susceptible to phylloxera, so they're grown on their own rootstock, and are not severely affected by the various funguses that are the bane of winegrowers.

No spraying means organic!

I've also started some Cab Franc vines, which are supposed to be more cold-hardy; here in the Piedmont we can have frosts up to May 15.

Now, before I tell you more than you ever wanted to know about viticulture, let me move on to oenology. This year our grape harvest (the time you invite all your friends over for a really fun weekend) was down by half, to about a ton. Why down? One theory is our wet spring in '08 resulting in poor bud-set. Two years ago I had so many grapes I sold half of them--and now I know why farmers go broke.

How much wine? I have about 75 gallons of '08 and about 40 gallons of '09 waiting for the bottles or the barrels. Which we must either drink or give away. (Sometimes I wear my "Got wine?" cap to the farmers' market and manage to barter some away, but don't tell the Feds.)

And how *good* is it? It's great, of course, especially with a few years under its belt. This is what *Washington Post* critic Ken Ringle said about a commercial Norton that's almost as good as mine: "The wine it makes is unique. It reminds one a bit of a California merlot that tried to bulk up into an Australian shiraz with too much time in the gym. It is dark as night, almost as thick as syrup, and for those who like chewable wines, a genuine gustatory adventure." Ah, new descriptor: chewable!

When I am not out at Campicello I still preach occasionally and volunteer at UUs for Justice in the Middle East. (See note on page 14). It's a good life.



Turning of Our Lives

Dot Kimble notes that **Jean Cook Brown** (Hartford CT) has been challenged with lung cancer, but is being treated and doing well. She was named minister emerita at The Universalist Church of West Hartford last November. She has had the opportunity to lead worship in the lovely little chapel at Avery Heights, where she lives with her husband Jim.

Sylvia Falconer (Greeley, CO) reports: “A year ago I underwent a 9-hour Deep Brain Stimulation Surgery to combat the effects of Essential Tremor. I was awake during those nine hours, which was interesting and scary. I am again preaching and enjoying doing my artwork. In the Heart Association Art Show I placed second in mixed media and third in oil. I also have two new grandchildren, Sarah and Christopher, in Davis, CA.”

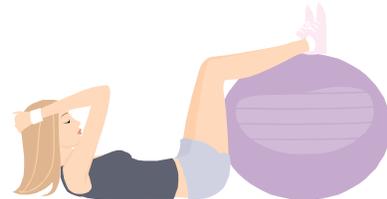
Dick Gilbert (Rochester, NY) continues his tireless work for social justice as president of Interfaith Impact of NYS and as coordinator of St. Lawrence District Social Justice Council. A current focus is marriage equality.

Kathleen Hunter forwards this news of **Jerry Goddard** (Newmarket, NH) from his wife **Peg Goddard**: “We were sorry to miss the clergy Star Island gathering. Jerry continues with problems related to his fall in early summer. His eye which required surgery of the orbit continues to cause double vision and dizziness. He'll be seeing a neurologist who we hope can help. Jerry continues to be involved in the UNH Marine Docent program with his focus on Plate Tectonics. His group goes into local schools, generally 4-6th grades, to tell the kids about this new and evolving understanding of the earth and the movement of its plates. Jerry is fascinated by the subject and I'm sure he is encouraging budding new scientists. He comes home from ‘A Day at the Coast’ with a new appreciation and excitement about both the subject and about the future in the hands of these kids.”

Harry Green (Ridgewood NJ) notes, “We held my mother's memorial service just before Thanksgiving, and were busy the rest of the week moving my father into a new appropriate place. He seems a bit resigned to this new choice, but is a trouper nonetheless. All of this takes place here in Spokane, WA.”

Ken and Audrey Mochel (Auburn, NY) volunteer at Community Gardens, which provides much-needed fresh food for local food pantries. The program, started by the Catholic church, includes volunteers who are homeless, themselves. The Mochels say that the program hopes to add beds and public housing opportunities in the future.

Barbara Prairie (Berea, KY) writes, “I take advantage of what Berea College has to offer, which includes auditing any course to which the professor agrees (and it's free!). I don't know about other places and do realize that Berea College is unique, but also the KY state college system has a similar program for those over 60 or 65. I haven't taken advantage of that even though there's a state university about 12 miles from me. I'm participating in a ‘short term’ class - students take only one class during January and go every day. They are not your usual college courses, and I've done a couple of others. The one I'm doing now is in the Phys. Ed. dept. Students are learning about fitness for older adults and we are the guinea pigs. I even have a ‘personal trainer’ and getting to know this young Iraqi woman is part of the attraction.”



Turning of Our Lives

Eleanor Richardson (Rockland, ME) republished her 1992 history, *North Haven Summers: An Oral History*, and **Peter Richardson** published a new book of poetry, *Sunday Meditations for Liberal Religious Worship* with 102 photos taken all over the world. They have joined the Maine Authors' Coop in Rockland to pool marketing resources with other self-published authors.

Jean Rowe reports that **Dave Scheyer** (Franklin, NC) is recovering well from the hip he broke in a fall last autumn. And **Fia Scheyer** is doing much better after her two-year struggle with digestive system problems and several surgeries. She credits much of her healing to intensive meditation practice and the close support of her physician and meditation coach.

West Conference, April 20-22, 2010 in Portland, OR Program at First Unitarian Church

Overnight accommodations, including breakfast, at Mark Spencer Hotel, 409 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97205 (short walk to the church). Make reservations and payments directly with Casey O'Donnell at (503) 265-4399 or codonnell@markspencer.com by March 20. We have a special rate of \$89 per night plus \$16 per day for parking (taxes not included). Mention UURMaPA. Or contact Anne Mabley about First Unitarian's B&B Program at amable@dellmail.com or (503-288-3530) costs are \$65-75 per night. See UURMaPA website for details at www.uurmapa.org



For conference fees please send check for \$75 per person payable to "UURMaPA West" by April 12, 2010 to Leon & Dorothy Hopper, 900 University St., #11-Q, Seattle, WA 98101-2776. For more information contact them at clhopperjr@aol.com or (206) 382-3191.

Early registrations are greatly appreciated.

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Number of People: _____

Special Needs: _____

I/we will be at: Mark Spencer Hotel First Church B&B Other

There are four \$200 grants to first-time attendees. Contact registrar re eligibility. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are available from Rev. Richard Nugent (rnugent@uua.org), 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or call him at (617) 948-6456.

Update on Retirement Plan Management

The UUA Compensation Pension and Benefits Committee is evaluating vendors for our UUA Retirement Plan. The full committee met again on November 10. We reviewed all the input we have received from consultants and decided to hire another consultant to help us negotiate the final platform (the selection of mutual funds and investments that are offered to us in the plan), and to give us on going evaluation of the performance of the funds and our vendor. During January and February the final proposals from Fidelity and TIAA-CREF are being worked out and will be ready for our consideration at a March meeting. Our recommendation will go the UUA Board for their April 14 -18 meeting.

Currently the two vendors have relatively similar proposals. There are some differences in costs to participants and the UUA. On the Social Responsibility (SR) side TIAA-CREF has an advantage in that its corporate policy involves social screening and paying attention to voting proxies and Fidelity does not. Both offer screened funds and will allow the UUA to choose funds that meet SR values so participants may choose to express SR values in their investing. Most of the funds offered by both vendors currently perform below their bench marks. To improve this result for the future is one reason why the committee is seeking a consultant to help us with ongoing evaluation.

I find the committee members knowledgeable, a good working group, and concerned for the long term benefit of the participants.

Fred Campbell

Editor's note: TIAA-CREF stands for "Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association - College Retirement Equities Fund"

When we were young we used to go
"skinny dipping."

Nowadays we
"chunky dunk."



In Memoriam

The Rev. Carl Bierman, 79, died January 6, 2010. A native of Germany, he emigrated to the US in 1935. He was educated at Columbia, City College of New York and Harvard Divinity School.



He served congregations in Woodstock, VT; Springfield, MO; Washington Crossing, NJ; Kennebunk, ME, overseeing construction of churches in Washington Crossing and Springfield. He taught religion at Missouri State U and was active in the civil rights movement and in the Torch Club in Trenton, NJ; he had a passion for history and also enjoyed astronomy and playing chess. He is survived by his wife Dolores Hart Bierman, three daughters, Natalie, Daphne and Sally, a son, Andrew, and their spouses and twelve grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Dolores Bierman, 34 Hawthorne Ave., Albany, NY 12203.

Jeanne Tobin Bletzer, 91, widow of the Rev. Russell Bletzer, died November 8, 2009 in hospice care in Surprise, AZ. A native of Chicago, she was first married to the Rev. G. Richard Kuch. The Kuchs served the Ft. Worth TX congregation. The couple divorced in the early 1960's. Jeanne did a great deal of work in RE over the years and served as DRE at the Evanston IL congregation, prior



to marrying Russell R. Bletzer in 1967. The Bletzers also served in Woodstock VT. Jeanne was an avid golfer and an active community volunteer in Woodstock. She had been in assisted living for several years following a stroke. She lived out her later years with dignity, despite the limitations of arthritis and macular degeneration. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Sheila Kuch and her daughter, Cameron Kuch. Notes of remembrance may be sent to the Ken Kuch, 201 Rainbow Dr., #10146, Livingston, TX 77399.



The Rev. John Nicholls Booth, 97, died Nov. 11, 2009. As a young man he worked as a professional nightclub magician. His enrollment in Meadville Lombard in 1940 made *Newsweek*. He served churches in Detroit, MI;

Long Beach, CA; Belmont, MA; and Evanston, IL. He was a world traveler and an adventurer who climbed the Himalayas. He enjoyed giving talks about his travels. Throughout his long life he retained his connections to other magicians; his monthly column for *Linking Ring Magazine* ran from 1963-2000. He is survived by a daughter, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Notes of remembrance may go to Barbara Christie, 12032 Montecito Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720.

Drusilla E. Cummins, 84, wife of the Rev. John Cummins, died Nov. 29, 2009. A graduate of Mt. Holyoke, Breadloaf School of English and Meadville Lombard, she was an English teacher and drama coach. A long-time advocate for equal rights for women, she served as



president of the UUWF, trustee and first vice-moderator of the UUA; District Trustee for Prairie Star and Western Canada, and Meadville Lombard trustee and board chair. She enjoyed theater and symphony concerts. She is survived by her husband and their three children, Carol, Christopher and Clyde. In 1991, Dru and John Cummins received the Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, one of the most prestigious awards given by the UUA. In 2000 Dru was awarded UUWF's Women in Ministry Award, which she had helped establish in 1974. Notes of condolence may go to John Cummins, 4238 Sheridan Ave., S., Minneapolis, MN 55410.

In Memoriam

Gudrun Weber Gross, 87, wife of the Rev. Richard Gross, died April 17, 2009. Born in Berlin, she survived the bombing of her home and became a refugee fleeing the Russians. After working in the UK, as a secretary, assisting with interpretation and foreign correspondence, she married her American pen pal and moved to the US. She worked in public daycare in Asheville, NC and as a library assistant at UNC-CH, and in accounts receivable at the Big M of Middletown, PA. She ran Sunday childcare programs and organized countless church events. She is survived by her husband of 57 years and their daughter, Monika and their son-in-law, their son, Wolfgang, three grandchildren and one great grandchild. Notes of remembrance may be sent to Richard Gross, 368 Furnace Hill Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022.



The Rev. Polly Laughland Guild, 85, died in hospice care November 7, 2009. She served Follen Community Church (Lexington, MA) from 1976-2009. She, Barbara Marshman and Louise Curtis — all ordained to Follen's ministry — worked together for decades to rebuild



the congregation offering strengths in worship, pastoral care, religious education, and music. Their collaborative work styles and professional skills built a strong and thriving congregation in an era when there were very few women in ministry. Polly's ministry was both personal and institutional. Her husband Ted Guild died in 2001. She is survived by her three children: Drew Laughland, Linda Laughland and Lorna Laughland Winthrop and their spouses. Notes of condolence may be sent to Drew Laughland, 209 Waverly St., Arlington, MA 02476.

Eva Hoel Lion, 86, widow of the Rev. Felix Danford Lion, died June 30, 2009. Born in Norway, she was five when her family immigrated to MA. A graduate of Wheelock College in Boston, she later took advanced courses at San Jose State College. The Lions lived in CA, Japan, MA, NY and BC. She taught in Palo Alto, CA for more than 20 years, where she worked with Dr. William Glasser in "Schools without Failure". She also supervised teachers at Bank Street College of Education in NYC. She enjoyed skiing into her 70's and throughout her life did sewing, quilting and knitting. Eva had a passion for gardening, decorating and entertaining. She is survived by their three children David, Ingrid and Roger, two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren. Notes may be sent to her family at First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 5575 W. Saanich Rd., Victoria, BC V9E 2G1, Canada.



The Rev. Herman Kyle Nagel, 80, died Nov. 18, 2009. Ordained a Methodist pastor, he entered Unitarian fellowship, serving churches in Palmer and Jamaica Plain, MA. He later served as Ministerial Superintendent of the Universalist Convention of North Carolina, and ministered to several churches throughout eastern North Carolina. He was president of Environment Unlimited and taught World Religions and Philosophy at Lenoir Community College. After moving to Houston he became a financial planner, but continued his ministry through many community activities and by officiating at weddings and memorial services and occasionally preaching and providing counseling. He is survived by his wife Barbara, a daughter, son-in-law and four grandchildren. Notes of remembrance may be sent to Barbara Nagel, 8423 Burwood Park Dr., Spring, TX 77379.

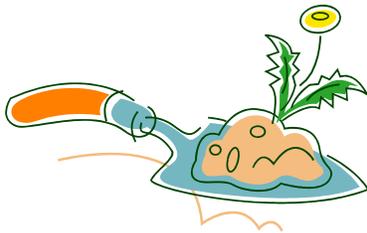


In Memoriam



Lois Ann Jones Samsom, 84, widow of the Rev. Dr. Peter Samsom, died Oct. 5, 2009 in Asheville, NC. A native on Indiana, she later lived in San Diego, CA, Cleveland, OH, White Plains, NY, and Asheville. She was a faithful churchgoer, who

devoted her life to supporting her husband's ministry, which included six settled and seven interims. She also was also devoted to caring for her children. Her daughter was born with cerebral palsy and required a great deal of attention. After her husband died in 1992 she and her daughter moved to Asheville. She enjoyed gardening throughout her life. Lois had taken art classes as a young woman and picked up that interest again late in life. She is survived by her son Peter and her daughter Diana and her sister, Mary Jane Myers. Notes of remembrance may be sent to Peter Samsom, 2736 Ona St., Boise, ID 83705.



What's Expected of the Minister's Husband?

I entered the ministry late in life with full support from my husband. His only concern was: What is expected of a minister's *husband*?

The wife's role was generally understood, but this was the time when women were only beginning to be accepted in ministry; there were no models. Hal got his initiation one Sunday during my field work while in seminary: The Religious Education Director met us at the door and asked, "Mr. Sternberg, could you take care of the babies?" That was fine with him, and his greatest joy when we settled in Manchester was taking children to his vegetable garden every summer, which led to Hal's Garden on church property as part of the RE program.

He organized the annual seder, started a men's lunch group and a poker group. I tried to convince the latter group to donate all winnings to the church, but with no luck. But the best thing Hal did was be himself.

- Connie Sternberg

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

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



Please make check payable to UURMaPA (US funds please) and send to:
Kathleen Hunter, 55 Crystal Ave., PMB 248, Derry, NH 03038, USA

Thank you!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Please contact me about:

UURMaPA's Endowment Fund ___ Charitable Gift Annuity ___ Deferred Giving ___

A Day Full of Connections

I was invited to create a program on retired ministry for my Joseph Priestley District UUMA-PA Chapter's January meeting in York, PA. I agreed, on the condition that **Ralph Mero** partner with me to create the program. At the same time, I volunteered to do the morning worship for the Chapter with the hope of tying both to the general overall theme of "Self Care & Community Care".

The morning Worship Service is typically one-half hour long. I invited Ralph to participate in the service along with two other colleagues: the musician and the song leader. The title of my homily was, "I See You. I Am Here." It was well received by the colleagues.

The afternoon program consisted of a panel of three retired ministers all in different situations. Ralph functioned as the moderator. To promote this event, I included a single page invitation to the January UUMA-PK meeting in my holiday greeting cards to each of the retirees. We offered help with transportation to and from the meeting and announced that lunch would be complimentary (as it always is for retirees and students). At the same time I was getting the invitations out, and making follow-up calls, Ralph was recruiting people for the panel that we had agreed would be good possibilities.

He was also assembling a packet of handouts that we felt would be good information about retirement that our working colleagues would see as useful information for themselves regardless of where they are in their own ministries.

We had one and a half hours of program time and we were delighted with the results of our efforts! **Elizabeth Ellis**, **Barbara Hebner** and **Arthur Hover** were our panelists. Ralph had given them three areas of focus to guide their ten-minute presentations: 1) Give a quick summary of your service in ministry; 2) What my life is like as a retired minister, personally, spiritually, and with a congregation, if any; 3) Important decisions I made before retirement.

They came well prepared. Their stories were very enlightening for many of us [they felt almost like Odysseys]. Following the panel there was ample time for a good question and answer period. Beyond the three on the panel; Ralph, myself, and **John Fordon** were present. It was a wonderful way to coach the retirees out to a meeting and the active ministers were thrilled to have us with them. There was lots of encouragement for retirees to continue to come to meetings. Many of them are not on the Chapter email list. I'll fix that.

It was a wonderful day!

Carol Taylor
Caring Network Contact for the
Northern half of the JPD

A 62 year-old man went in for a physical. The doctor, who was taking the family history asked, "When did your father die?"
"What makes you think he's dead? He's 80 years old and plays tennis every day and lives a very full life."
"Well, what about *his* father, when did he die?"
"What makes you think he's dead? He's 98 years old and walks five miles a day."
"That's remarkable," noted the doctor.
"Yes it is. In fact, my grandfather is getting married this Sunday,"
"Married, at his age?"
"Well, he didn't want to, but he *had* to."



Justice in the Middle East: *Sermons sought*

Kim Beach writes, "I do preach from time to time — most recently in Richmond and Charlottesville, where I've given a sermon called 'Journey to Israel and Palestine: What I Saw, What I Heard, What I Felt.' I'm on the board of UJME (UUs for Justice in the Middle East), which is inviting submissions to a sermon contest this year on our values and the quest for a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis. My sermon can't be entered; yours could be! Let me know." See <http://www25.uua.org/UJME/uujmewhatyoucando.html>

Editor's note: You can reach Kim at gkbeach@aol.com or write him at 6705 Beacon Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043.

A Country Doctor

On a solitary vigil so cold and fair
The air took feeling from my face
And gave a glowing in its place,
I saw snow glistening upon the fields
And heard the ringing silence of the night.
Not a breath of wind stirred the snow to dance
As a renegade star put the moon to shame
A distant silver fire that lit the blue night sky



— Bill Grace

Editor's Note: Thanks to Doe Lockwood for letting us know of this poet among us.



Creative Sage-ing Award Nominees Sought

The Third Annual UURMaPA Creative Sage-ing Award committee recognizes a UURMaPA member (minister, partner or surviving partner) or couple for outstanding service and creativity in recent years. This could include such things as new ventures *after retirement*, community service, mentoring and initiation or participation in service projects.

The winner will receive \$500. The deadline for nominations (of yourself or others) is **February 28** (note new date), and should be sent to:

Rev. David Johnson at djohnson@uuma.org or at
First Parish in Plymouth
19 Town Square, Plymouth MA 02360

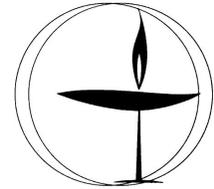
For details visit www.uurmapa.org or contact me. We have extended the deadline two weeks so we can hear from *you!* Don't be shy... Let us know what you're up to. Thank you.

— Dave Johnson

Thanks for Serving!

Nominating Committee Report

In even-numbered years, the UURMaPA By-Laws call for election of the Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, one Member-at-Large, and two members of the Nominating Committee.



The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate:

Secretary: Jan Sammons – 2-year term eligible for re-election

Treasurer: Kathleen Hunter (continuing present term) – 2-year term not eligible for re-election

Newsletter Editor: Chris Lilly Backus (continuing present term) – 2-year term not eligible for re-election

Member-at-Large: Midge Skwire (continuing present term) – 2-year term not eligible for re-election

Nominating Committee: Ellen Johnson-Fay (continuing present term) 2-year term not eligible for re-election

Nominating Committee: Nancy Doughty – 2-year term eligible for re-election

“If only one person is nominated for each position, the person shall be declared elected”
-- UUMAPA By-Laws

The above individuals shall be declared elected, with their terms of service starting July 1.

Officials in continuing terms:

President: Makanah Morriss Nominating Committee Chair: Ellen Brandenburg

Vice President: David Johnson Webmaster: Eleanor Richardson

Caring Network: Ralph Mero Database Manager: Andrew C. Backus

Member-at-Large: Peter Haslund

Thanks to all who are willing to serve!

The Nominating Committee

- *Ellen Brandenburg, Chair*
 - *Ellen Johnson-Fay*
 - *Leon Hopper*

Let's Get Together!

WEST CONFERENCE — April 20-22, First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR. Enjoy an urban experience as you catch up with old friends and make new ones. Speakers include Peter Haslund and Bonnie Reagan, MD. Odyssey by Al and Mary Thelander. Leon and Dorothy Hopper are registrars clhopperjr@aol.com. Make room reservations directly with Mark Spencer Hotel or with First Church's B&B Program. (See registration form on p. 8).



STAR ISLAND — Our 2009 gathering was a great success so there will be an encore this year sometime during the first two weeks after Labor Day. We'll find out after May 1st what space is available for us. If you are interested email Kathleen Hunter at kdhagd@mac.com.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — Attleboro, MA, October 5-7. Mark your calendar for the Northeast Fall Conference at LaSalette Retreat Center. Joyce and Dick Gilbert, program co-chairs; Dick Fewkes, worship coordinator; Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale, hospitality chairs and Med Anderson, registrar. Details about program and the odyssey will be available soon. For information contact Joyce and Dick Gilbert at rsgilbert@uuma.org.



There are four \$200 grants to first-time attendees for each regional conference. Contact registrar about eligibility. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are also available from the Rev. Richard Nugent (rnugent@uua.org), 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or call him at (617) 948-6456.

Address Service Requested



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Ministers & Partners Association
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