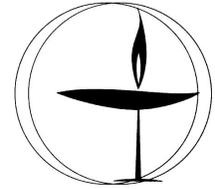


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXV

NUMBER 3

Summer 2010

Keeping in Touch



Photos by Eleanor Richardson

The Pan South Conference provided us a chance to catch up in Ft. Myers, FL Feb. 9-11. Emily Morse Palmer shared her Odyssey on entering ministry in mid-life.



PAN SOUTH Back row: Oren (Pete) Peterson, Alan Deale, Elena Rigg, Kathleen Hunter, Herb Adams, Peter Richardson, Bob Baker, Dick Fewkes, John Morgan. Front row: Polly Leland-Mayer, Pat Peterson, Jeannette Morgan, Mary Adams, Emily Morse Palmer, Charlotte Shivvers, Eleanor Richardson.



Photos by Chris & Andy Backus

The West Conference brought us to Portland, OR, Apr. 20-22 for an urban experience. Al & Mary Thelander shared their Odyssey, which included living all around the globe.



WEST Back row: Phillip Hewett, Al Thelander, Bill Main, Steven Storla, Bob Schaibly, Lex Crane, Andy Backus, Ray Manker, Dorothy & Leon Hopper, Ralph Mero. Front row: Barbara Cheatham, Gretchen Manker, Peter Haslund, Bets Wienecke, Sue Ayer, Mary Thelander, Chris Backus. Not pictured: Ginny Crane, Ken Helms

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and photos to your editor, Chris Lilly Backus,
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Presidential Reflections by Makanah Morriss

This has continued to be a busy and fruitful year for UURMaPA – in our Board work, our Caring Network contacts, and our regional conferences and local gatherings.

We enjoy welcoming newly retired colleagues and we pause to honor friends and colleagues we lose each year.



General Assembly is Almost Here

This year Beth Miller, Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff Group, has asked UURMaPA to help staff the table at the MPL booth which has the obituaries of ministers who have died this past year. This will give us a chance to speak with folks who stop by, to hear stories and share memories. If *you* are going to be a GA and would like to help staff this table, let me know at revs2uu@aol.com or (434) 238-7232.

I will be moderating a “Collegial Conversation” on UUMA Ministry Day entitled, “Hopes and Challenges: Planning for and Living With Retirement.” Our current list of panelists includes Ralph Mero, Carol Taylor and Ellen Johnson-Fay.

Our Annual Luncheon will be Friday, June 25 from 12:30-2:00 pm in the Duluth Room of the Hilton Minneapolis. We will welcome newly retired colleagues and will announce the winner of this year’s Creative Sage-ing Award. (*See p. 15.*)

UURMaPA Retirement Handbook

We have been working very diligently this spring to develop our new handbook, *On Retirement: A Helpful Guide and Ministers and Partners*. We hope that this will be ready by GA. Each UURMaPA household will receive a copy and we will have copies for sale at Ministry Days. Our inspiration for many of the sections in the handbook came from your insights and sharing on the fall survey.

Regional Conferences

Pan South had an excellent gathering in February with Dick Fewkes as theme speaker and Emily Palmer shared her Odyssey. Next year, Pan South will shift its location and its date a bit. We are looking at a gathering in Asheville, North Carolina perhaps. So... stay tuned.

Our West Conference was in Portland, Oregon in April. The change of location and use of an urban setting was something new for us. Thanks to Peter Haslund and Ralph Mero for leading discussions and to Al and Mary Thelander for their Odyssey.

A Round of Applause

I want to offer a “virtual” round of applause to two UURMaPA volunteers in particular:

First, our thanks to **Jean Rowe**, who will be completing four years as UURMaPA Secretary at the end of June. Thanks, Jean, for your careful minute-taking, your wise insights, and your ready laugh which helps keeps all things in perspective;

Thanks also to **Andy Backus** who continues in his role as our UURMaPA Database Manager extraordinaire. Andy’s meticulous work truly helps us keep connected effectively!

Retirement Fund Manager

As I write in April, the UUA Board is making a decision about having TIAA-CREF become the new fund manager for the UUA Retirement Fund. This decision is coming after a very long, careful and thorough study process by the UUA Compensation, Benefits and Pension Committee with input from professional consultants. Fred Campbell and Marj Lynn are members of that Committee and have brought their experience as retirees to this important discussion. We are grateful for the hard work of all the committee members and UUA staff who been part of this process. And we especially thank Fred and Marj.

With blessings for your summer days,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Makanah".

UUA Service Gratuity

Service Gratuities are quarterly payments sent from the UUA to ministers in fellowship who have served at least 20 years in ministry, who have reached the age of 66, and who have made application to the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances to receive these payments. The average recipient receives about \$470 each quarter.

The money supporting this comes from the Unitarian Service Pension Society, a separate non-profit charitable organization incorporated in Massachusetts, and UUA trust funds designated for this purpose by donors decades ago.

The amounts paid out are based on the minister's accumulated years of service when the payments begin, and whether the applicant has designated a spouse to continue to receive the gratuities after the minister's death.

Neither the individual ministers nor their congregations made any financial contribution to the corpus that funds the payments. Thus the Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the gratuities do not qualify as pension payments and do not have to be reported as taxable income.

Receipt of a service gratuity is not automatic. According to the terms of the originating document, eligible persons must make application themselves to the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances, 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108. For more information contact Joyce Stewart at (617) 948-6421 or jstewart@uua.org.

- Ralph Mero

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:



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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.

Upcoming Conferences

Ferry Beach

UURMaPA will be well represented this summer at Ferry Beach this year. Vice President **Dave Johnson** and member **Pat Hoertdoerfer** will each lead week-long conferences. Dave's conference, UU Heritage Week (Aug. 28-Sept. 3) will focus on "UUs and the Tumultuous Days of Civil Rights." Pat will lead two conferences, Grand-Buddies Camp (Aug. 14-20) and The Art of Aging: The Gift of Sage-ing (Aug. 28-Sept. 3). "This summer at the 10th UU Heritage Week we will relive the Civil Rights era and the parts UUs played in it. These will be heady stories and no one is better able to reflect on what those stories mean to us today than our theme speaker, **Gordon Gibson,**" said Dave. Gordon was a minister in the South during some of the most tumultuous days of the Civil Rights era. He is Minister Emeritus of the UU Fellowship of Elkhart, IN, and is President of the UU Historical Society. Gordon will lead participants on the journey through the Civil Rights era. He will emphasize UU contributions and include the battle through to the divisive Black Empowerment crisis in our movement.

Dave, who was on the Mass Bay District committee that created the moving video remembrances of the Black Empowerment battle, will bring the video and lead the lively discussion that promises to follow the viewing. And this is just the beginning! More exciting programming is in the works!

"During the week we will have a gathering of UURMaPA members attending the conference. We'll have more specifics on check-in day at Ferry Beach," said Dave

Both of Pat's conferences are grounded in the Aging to Sage-ing® program model. Sage-ing® programs reflect on the challenges and blessings of the gift of longevity while cultivating the qualities that the world's wisdom traditions have always associated with spiritual maturity – loving kindness, wisdom, generosity, humor, and inner peace. For more information go to the Ferry Beach website at www.ferrybeach.org or call (207) 282-4489.

IARF Congress

Kochi, Kerala, India 4-7 September 2010

Beyond Conflict to Reconciliation: The Challenge of the 21st Century

The Dalai Lama will deliver the inaugural address at the Opening Ceremony on 4th Sept. For more information go to www.iarf.net

IARF/WCF Commissions to meet 1-4 Sept.

Gokulam Park Hotel, Kochi, starting the evening of 1 September.

- **Commission 1:** FREE RELIGION & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
- **Commission 2):** PROGRAMMES OF HERITAGE & HOPE

Contact Richard Boeke at r.boeke@virgin.net

Pre-Congress tour led by Richard Kellaway, "Temples and Treasures of South India" will start out in Chennai and run for 7 or 8 days, arriving in Kochi in time for the IALRW & RFYN events (which begin 1st September). Contact Richard Kellaway at ishmaelnb@comcast.net

IALRW Centennial Congress 1-4 Sept. 2010

The **International Association of Liberal Religious Women** (IALRW) - the world's oldest women's international interfaith organization - will hold its Centennial Congress (100th Anniversary) in the Gokulam Park Hotel, Kochi, preceding the IARF Congress. For more information, go to: www.ialrw.org



Turning of Our Lives

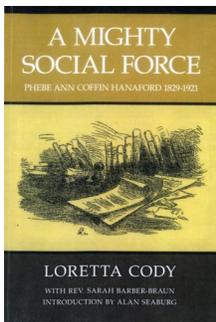
Dick Fewkes reports that **Cornelius (Neil) Bakker** (Providence, RI) had a minor stroke earlier this year. He is still able to talk and to walk around a bit in their flat in Providence. He is 92 years old and says he has no aches or pains to complain of, but he is pretty much confined to his living quarters.

A Mighty Social Force, is the biography of the Rev. Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford, who was called by a Universalist church to be their minister in 1870.



Sarah Barber-Braun

(Minneapolis) is the archivist and editor, Loretta Cody is the biographer, **Alan Seaburg**



wrote the Introduction and Sarah wrote the Foreward. Their collaboration became a durable friendship. They worked together to overcome Sarah's failing vision to create this powerful account. Available through Amazon for \$15.

Anne Orfalds tells us **Allison Barrett** (Andcaster, ON), who left her ministry in Hamilton last year, and husband Peter George are greatly enjoying being parents. Allison has written a book *Always With You* for children like hers who have been adopted from China. At the same time, Peter is preparing for retirement from his career as President of McMaster University. They are not attending the congregation Allison served, but visit Toronto First on occasion. Anne goes on to say that **Liz Benjamin** (Ottawa), now retired for 7 years, is "happily going to church" as a member of Ottawa First (where she is Minister Emerita). She is teaching a grade 5 RE class called "Bibleodeon", and preaching at the neighbouring UU Fellowship occasionally. Liz also continues her musical program for young children, as well as singing in two choirs.

Dick and Jopie Boekie (West Sussex, UK) send news of their daughter Diana's wedding to Amir Abdelmalek on February 6 at a Coptic church in Cairo. In the picture Jopie is standing in front of the Madonna and Child. Dick is behind him in front of smiling Jesus.



Anne Orfald says **Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino** (Maxville, ON) are members of the Fellowship in Ottawa. They continue their active involvement with Child Haven International, which they founded, and which supports orphanages in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Tibet. See: <http://www.childrenshaven.org>

Dick Fewkes reports that **Vivienne Chapman** (South Yarmouth, MA), member of UUMH Chatham, had a minor stroke in January. By early February she had recovered sufficiently to return home and to do pulpit supply in her home church in Chatham.

Betty Jo Middleton notes that **Mary Rose Curtis** (Charlottesville, VA) participated in the 50th anniversary celebration for River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation last fall, speaking at two services, along with former and present River Road ministers.

Turning of Our Lives

Nancy Doughty (Traverse City, MI) completed quilting a quilt top her mother had pieced in the 1970, just before Christmas. She consulted with some of the women in the UU quilt group, selected the border and proceeded.



Bob Doughty is recovering from a stroke earlier this year. He is making good progress with regular physical therapy.

Anne Orfald says **Barbara Earl** (Mississauga, ON), because of a degenerative disease, is unable to communicate easily by telephone or email, so it has been harder for me to keep in touch. She does get to church on occasion. Anne notes that **Charles and Nancy Eddis** (Westmount, QC) are active members of the Unitarian Church of Montreal, where he is minister emeritus. Nancy is “thinking of retiring” from her volunteer position on the congregation's caring network “when she is 80.” Charles is working on a book about Stephen Fritchman, the working title being “Communism and the American Unitarians.”

Ralph Mero reports that **Grant Haskell** (Greenville, PA) is recovering from pneumonia in a nursing home. He is 94 years old.

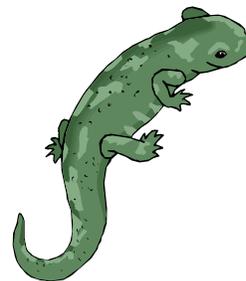
W. Edward Harris (Indianapolis, IN) recently published *The Wine of Astonishment*, his first book of poetry. One critic called it “an astonishing beginning at 75.” A native of Birmingham, AL, his poems reflect his life in the South in civil rights days. Through his varied career he has written poetry from more than 50 years. For more info contact Ed at ed.harris@sbcglobal.net or (317) 257-3035.

Anne Orfald reports that **Peter and Lynn Hughes** (Toronto) are members at First Unitarian Toronto, where they volunteer in the church library, and Peter is a guest preacher on occasion. He continues his research, and translations of M. Servetus' works. As someone requiring a walker to get around, he filed a complaint to Elections Canada and was successful in getting a decision from the Canadian Human Rights Commission which ruled that every polling place must be fully accessible.

Singing to Salamanders

*Out in the falling leaf woods,
singing to the trees and salamanders,
I study the spider's intricate handiwork –
where cicadas and dragonflies are buzzing
yet held fast waiting to be dinner.
My dog, unleashed is barking mad
to be in these woods. If he heard a
pack howling all our training would
be ignored as he ran toward the sound.
Instead, he brings me a hunk of fur
of some long dead small animal.
He is wanting a pocket treat and a pat.
I sing to snakes slithering toward hibernation
and half-clothed trees dancing in the sun.*

- W. Edward Harris



Turning of Our Lives

Doris Hunter (Cambridge, MA) says, "After a wonderful retirement party last September hosted by the First Church in Belmont and organized by my family and friends... and with the presence of folks from the interim churches I served, I began my retirement with joy and thanksgiving for my years of ministry. Now I am engaged with organizing plans for the 33rd Congress of the International Association for Religious Freedom to be held in Kochi, India (southern India, state of Kerala) from September 4th to 7th. I travelled to Kochi in March to join the council that is planning this Congress. One highlight of the Congress will be an opening address by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and our own **Peter Richardson** will be giving a workshop on spirituality. It would be wonderful to greet my retirement buddies at the Congress! Greetings to everyone!" (See also p. 5)

Tom Korson (Denver, CO) writes political satire. Check out his blog at apocryphalpress.com. He is also teaching with Active Minds (ActiveMindsforLife.com).

Anne Orfald says **Barbara Kulcher** (Hamilton, ON) has recently moved to a new apartment. She attends Hamilton church, and other than her volunteer job as Greeter Coordinator, enjoys sitting back as "one of the elders." Anne adds **John and Jeanette Morgan** (Peterborough, ON) celebrated John's 90th birthday, and have continued an active life style, with homes in Florida and Ontario, and take occasional cruises and are active members of the Unitarian congregations in both communities, and will return to Peterborough soon.

Eleanor Richardson sends news from **Chris and Bobbie Nelson** (Sedgwick, ME). Chris has recuperated from his close brush with a heart attack. In mid-August Bobbie Nelson had a heart attack. Bobbie is making excellent progress; her medical care has been excellent but recovery has been a long ride. They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June.

Anne and Scott Orfald attend the Fellowship in Peterborough (Anne was named Minister Emerita last year). She sings in the choir and helps with the library, he greets visitors and helps with property. Anne's favorite retirement project is playing the French horn, and Scott's is walking the dog and cleaning up the walking trail.

Anne Orfald notes that **Chris Raible** recently published *From Hands Now Striving to be Free* an inventory of boxes created by political prisoners (of the 1837 Rebellion) who were held for many months without trial in Toronto's jail. "The boxes were mementos to family, but also memorials to martyred brethren hanged for helping to lead the Rebellion. The inscriptions on these small boxes are sentimental, religious, but mostly political and demonstrate well that men held in penitentiary were hardly penitent!" He and Pat enjoy their community in Creemore.

Jim Mueller, 40, son of **Peg Richardson** (Pembroke, ME), died in NJ April 6 from complications of lymphodema. Jim was a licensed social worker who worked with children. A memorial service was held at the UU Society, Manchester CT on April 17.

Iska Cole reports that **Beatrice Robbins** (Hollowell, ME) was 100 years old on January 2, 2010. She is the widow of the Rev. Douglas Robbins. She still plays the piano, and is a poet, who has had a book of poetry published. She enjoys having visitors.



Turning of Our Lives

Anne Orfald notes that **Anne Treadwell** was named minister emerita of the congregation in Waterloo Ontario (from which she retired five years ago). She and husband John O'Connor love living in Nova Scotia, but she does miss being near a Unitarian congregation. She enjoys a connection to other geographically isolated Unitarians in Canada through a newsletter which she initiated through the CUC. To visit go to: http://www.cuc.ca/programs/individual_members.htm

Alan Seaburg (Billerica, MA) has written a piece about his late brother, entitled *Carl Seaburg: A Celebration*. Herb Vetter notes that the work details the lifelong ministry of Carl Seaburg and that Alan adds an extensive bibliography. See <http://harvardsquarelibrary.org/hsr/Carl-Seaburg.php> Alan has also published *Life on the Middlesex Canal* with illustrations by Thomas Dahill. The canal was used to convey people from Boston to an early 19th century version of Playland, on and around the shores of Horn Pond in Woburn. Alan has also compiled *To the Western Ocean*, an e-book, which he calls "The Anne Miniver Reader 2008." These publications can be ordered through *Anne Miniver Press*, P.O. Box 381364, Cambridge, MA 02238-1364 or contact Alan at aneminiver@comcast.net.



Dot Kimble notes that **Joan Waterhouse** (Southbury, CT) will be celebrating her 75th birthday. Friends and family are gathering in Connecticut for the occasion. Her daughter and son-in-law will be coming from the panhandle of Nebraska!

Anne Orfald says **Pat and Mel Webber** (Burlington, ON) attend the Hamilton Unitarian Church, where Mel is treasurer, and Pat has worked with a committee to help develop a plan for lifespan learning. Pat had a rough winter with back problems, but is improving. They enjoy visits with children and grandchildren in NY and Alberta.

UURMaPA-UUMA Chapter Relations

Do you attend UUMA Chapter Meetings? *Here's a summary provided by Ralph Mero and Carol Taylor, excerpted from a survey conducted recently by our Caring Network.* Some factors which affect relationships between retired and active ministers and their participation in chapter life are:

- Whether a retiree has been a longtime minister in the district or has recently relocated to the area and is not personally known to those in service or to the congregations,
- The health of the retiree and if he or she can manage the costs of travel to chapter and district events and whether a spouse is welcome at chapter meetings,
- Whether retirees are invited to chapter leadership positions,
- Whether the chapter programs concentrate only on issues of current ministerial service, or are broader,
- Whether the experiences and wisdom of retirees are acknowledged, honored, and engaged,
- The extent to which retirees take some initiative in stepping forward to nurture congenial relationships, even to the extent of serving as a mentor to a younger minister.

In Memoriam

Betty Tschappat Brewer, 74, widow of the Rev. James Brewer, died at home in Tucson, AZ, December 4, 2009. She earned a BA in Business Administration from Lake Forest College, and an RN from Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL. A devoted career nurse in Elgin and Big Rapids, MI, she moved to Tucson, AZ after retirement. Betty enjoyed reading and music. She was an avid traveler and nature lover and a volunteer at Tohono Chul Park. Preceded in death by her first husband, Henry Tschappat, in 2001 and her second husband, Jim Brewer in 2009, she is survived by her daughters, Melanie Coleman and Kathryn Tschappat and her brother, Raymond Vellinga.

The Rev. Dr. Harry Brobst, 100, died January 13, 2010. He was the last of the founding members of the UU Church of Stillwater, OK, which was organized in 1947. He was a registered psychiatric nurse, and received his BA from Brown University, his MA and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Following his retirement, after 28 years of service as a faculty member in the Psychology Department at OSU, Harry obtained his MDiv at Phillips Seminary, 1977. He was ordained in 1977 by the UU Church of Stillwater and served the congregation for three years. He was an animal lover and enjoyed working with young people. He was married to Judith Sylvia Heideman, who died 15 years ago. He is survived by his cousins Penni Lee, Amy and William Fallow. Condolences may be sent to Penni Lee Farrow, 2107 Texas St., Joplin, MO 64804.



The Rev. Robert William Brownlie, 88, died March 27, 2010. He was a purple heart veteran of WW II. After a successful early career in business, Rob served congregations in ME, MA and MN before moving to Alberta during the Vietnam years. He served the Unitarian Church of Edmonton for 15 years. He was named their minister emeritus. Upon retirement to Kelowna, Rob became well-known as a passionate supporter of civic and cultural organizations. He collected art, and regularly attended theater, concerts and cultural events. He walked 15 km a day and was a well-known figure in his neighborhood. He was an environmentalist with a big heart. Rob is survived by his daughter Pat; sons Peter, Andrew, Richard and their spouses and two grandsons. He was pre-deceased by his youngest son Chris in 1989 and his wife Dorothy in 1971. Notes may go to Peter Brownlie, 5421 Locust Street, Kansas City, MO 64110



The Rev. Joseph Ira Craig, 82, died June 11, 2009. He was an aerial photographer in the US Army. Ordained a Methodist, he went on to serve Unitarian churches in Norton and Fitchburg, MA and Augusta, ME. He was a librarian at the Augusta Mental Health Institute for more than 20 years. A civil rights activist, he marched from Selma to Montgomery, AL and served on the Maine State Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights. He was a member of the Unitarian Historical Society, secretary of the Maine Unitarian Association, and on the Board of Directors of the NE District of the UUMA. He enjoyed reading, theology, history, painting, fencing, and music. He played viola in the Augusta Symphony for many years. Survivors include his daughter, Leslie Flores, and her husband, three stepsons and their spouses, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Notes may go to Leslie Flores, 130 Cross Hill Rd., Augusta, ME 04330.

In Memoriam



The Rev. Dr. Muriel A. Davies, 103, died December 20, 2009. After leaving their native England, she and her husband, the Rev. A. Powell Davies, lived in ME, NJ, and Washington, DC. She was a founder of the River Road Unitarian

Church in Bethesda, where she was DRE for 11 years. She served as National Religious Education Consultant for the American Ethical Union and on the UUA Board of Trustees. In 2001 she was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Meadville Lombard. In 2006 she was ordained and named a minister emerita of the River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation. She was a founding member of the Sugarloaf Congregation of UUs in Germantown, MD. She was predeceased by husband and her daughter, Gwen Offenbacher and is survived by her daughter, Bronwyn Gordon, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Sympathy cards may be sent to her granddaughter Laurie Coleman, 5400 Sidney Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.



The Rev. Grant F. Haskell, 94, March 3, 2010. He served congregations in Saco, ME; Medford, MA and White Plains, NY and helped start two UU fellowships. He also was youth and camping director for the YMCA. After his retirement in

1981, he was a school bus driver for ten years in the Central Bucks school district located in Eastern PA, and was president of the bus driver union. He loved camping, working with kids and teenagers and fixing things around the house. In addition to his wife, Betty, he is survived by his children Richard A. Haskell of Alamogordo, NM, Jonathan F. Haskell of Newark, NY and Beth M. Haskell of Brooklyn, NY, two sisters and two grandsons. Notes of remembrance may go to Elizabeth Haskell, 341 E. Jamestown Rd., #20, Greenville, PA 16125.

Vera Kafka, 86, widow of the Rev. Hvezdon Kafka, died February 28, 2010. Born in Prague, she survived the Nazi occupation and emigrated to the US in 1945. The Kafkas embodied the American Dream, coming to this country with just their suitcases. With hard work and a frugal lifestyle they were able to put their sons through



college. She managed the school lunch program in Stow, MA, and managed a women's clothing store, ran the ladies section in a department store, and was once the nanny to the family of Dr. Edward Teller (father of the A-bomb). She deftly managed the

responsibilities of being a mother, a minister's wife, and a wage earner. She was an active member of the First Parish Church of Stow & Acton. After retiring she enjoyed traveling, golf, bridge, knitting, sewing and needlepoint. She is survived by her sons, Jason and Thomas Kafka, a daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Tom Kafka, 3430 Boston Post Rd., Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Newlin Leaming, 95,

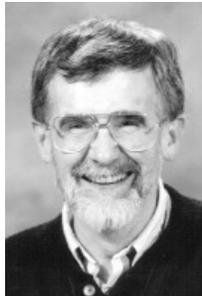
died March 19, 2010. A graduate of Meadville Lombard, she was ordained in 1967. A UUWF survey on the status of women in our ministry in 1974 found that of the 750 ministers in fellowship, just 40 were women and of these, and only five had pulpits of their own.



Marjorie was one of these, and she was one of a kind. Her fierce commitment to the UU ministry and to seeing that the worth of women clergy was recognized and granted the same status as men, in those early and challenging years of women entering the ministry, demanded every bit of Marjorie's brilliant mind and fiery spirit. She served congregations in Santa Monica, CA and then Santa Paula, CA, where she was named minister emerita upon her retirement. Letters of condolence may be sent to Mary Schultz, 11 Porto Cerro, Dana Point, CA 92629.

The Rev. Dr. William J.

Metzger, 73, died January 30, 2010. He was a reporter and editor, who worked with migrant laborers in the Midwest. He was co-founder and partner in Adult Literacy and Training in Wisconsin and Chicago. Bill earned a BS in Journalism from South Dakota State University. Bill earned his M.Div. from the University of Chicago, and his D.Min. from Meadville Lombard. He served churches in OH, AL, NY, IL, TN, PA, and TX. He was founding editor of *Quest Magazine* for the Theosophical Society in America. He joined the professional interim ministry program for the UUA. He is survived by his wife, Diana Heath, his son, David Metzger and his daughter, Christine Dziawura, their spouses, three grandsons; and a sister. He was predeceased by his first wife, Sarah Castle. Sympathy notes may be sent to Diana Heath, Denton UU Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St., Denton, TX 76201.



Betsey Ross Skeirik, 79, widow of the Rev. A. John Skeirik, died in Brewster, MA, January 31, 2010. She taught music in public schools, and directed church choirs and choral groups. She performed as a vocal soloist and served as church administrator in Middleboro, MA, where she arranged for speakers and did a number of services herself. She was an active member of the Brewster congregation and the UU Meeting House in Chatham, MA. She served as secretary to the ministers of the West Dennis Community Church for 22 years. She and her husband actively supported the Partner Church Program. Through their efforts the Brewster Church formed a partnership with the Valea Church in Romania. Betsey was an avid reader of poetry who enjoyed concerts, theater, opera and ballet. Notes may go to Kaleel C. Skeirik, 1900 Lauderdale Dr., Apt. D-211, Richmond, VA 23238.

Notes may go to Kaleel C. Skeirik, 1900 Lauderdale Dr., Apt. D-211, Richmond, VA 23238.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Robert Sumner Wolley, 82, died Dec 25, 2009. As a student at Tufts he suffered a paralyzing back injury. He was told he might never walk again. He not only walked but had brief baseball and hockey careers and sailed on the Great Lakes. He went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees at St. Lawrence University. In addition to his years in the UU ministry he was a high school English teacher. He enjoyed golfing and won several tournaments as a member of the Woods Hole Golf Club Throughout his life he had a passion for writing. He published several books and poems. He recently worked to help people publish books devoted to helping seniors find love again. Marilyn J. Wolley, his wife of 46 years, died in 1995. He is survived by their children Cheryl, Andrea and Charles, two grandchildren and a brother. Notes of remembrance may be sent to Cheryl A. Garland, 413 Caton Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11218.



Joseph Priestley

District North News

Carol Taylor reports: “The JPD North Area is doing well for the most part. There are aches and pains and some tribulations, however; given the winter we have had, it could be worse. We are in the process of planning a couple of luncheons in the month of May: one in the eastern side of the area and one in the western side of the area. **Elizabeth Ellis** has graciously agreed to host the ‘east luncheon’ and **Ellen Dionna & Arthur Hover** have graciously agreed to host the ‘west luncheon’. The food will be good – for sure. And May is a charming month for getting out and about. The discussion at each luncheon will be focused on ‘Our Changing Spiritual Needs’. We will be inviting those ministers who serve the churches in each of these areas to enjoy this time with us. We are looking forward to connecting with each other and having a lively discussion. We look forward to telling you all about our experiences in the next *Elderberries*.”

Being an older adult is having a choice of two temptations and choosing the one that will get you home earlier.



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!

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Directory Updates

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Anne Marsh & Wade Wheelock

16 Crescent St.
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Chime in please

In our next issue we will discuss "Finding Community in Retirement." Let us know what has worked for you.

Please send your musings to your editor:
Chris Lilly Backus at chrisbackus@msn.com

Thank you.

MY LIFE BROKEN DOWN INTO SEGMENTS





Coming to GA this year?

If so, plan to join us to visit old friends and honor the newly retired at our
UURMaPA Annual Luncheon

Friday, June 25, 2010

Hilton Minneapolis — Duluth Room

1001 Marquette Avenue South

12:30 to 2 p.m.

(Service of the Living Tradition is Thursday, evening, June 24)

Clip form below and send in menu choices with your check payable to “UURMaPA” by June 4, and send to:

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

Please print out and keep this information since it's not in the GA Program

I/we wish to reserve ___ meals @ \$20 per meal for the UURMaPA GA Luncheon:

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Number of meals ___ chicken ___ veggie

Total enclosed \$ _____ (make check payable to “UURMaPA” - U.S. \$ please)

This year's retirees are guests of UURMaPA

Early reservations are appreciated!

Let's Get Together!



STAR ISLAND — Last Fall's gathering was a great success so there will be an encore this year sometime during the first two weeks after Labor Day. We'll know soon what space is available for us. Interested? E-mail Kathleen Hunter at kdhagd@mac.com.

Weeks Grants for room and board at Star Island are available for up to \$1,000 for surviving spouses and immediate family of deceased UU ministers. Contact Rosemarie Smurzynski for information at: email.smurzynski@verizon.net or (781) 647-7976.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — North Attleboro, MA, October 5-7 at LaSalette Retreat Center. Theme is "One Lifetime is too Short" with panelists: Sue Nichols, George Brandenburg, Pat Hoertdoerfer and Brad Greeley. Enjoy hearing from Mark Twain, as Dick Gilbert brings him to life. Joyce & Dick Gilbert, program co-chairs; Dick Fewkes, worship coordinator; Kathleen Hunter & Alan Deale, hospitality chairs, and Med Anderson, registrar (revmua@sover.net). Odyssey by Gene & Helen Pickett. More details at www.uurmapa.org.

There are \$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@uuu.org), 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or call him at (617) 948-6456. Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!

See also information on Ferry Beach and IARF conferences on Page 5.



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