

Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXV

NUMBER 1

Winter 2009-2010

Keeping in Touch

Our Northeast UURMaPA Conference attracted 35 members and two guests to LaSalette Retreat Center in Attleboro, MA. (See photo on Page 13.) The autumn color provided a beautiful setting as we got reacquainted and made first-time connections. During the conference Makaanah Morriss (president), Chris Lilly Backus (newsletter editor) and I were privileged to facilitate small groups as we discussed our ideas for *On Retiring: A Helpful Guide for UU Ministers and Partners*. (See also President's Reflections on Page 3.)

At our Executive Board Meeting, just before the Northeast Conference, we discussed the need to have more frequent, shorter get-togethers so that more of our members get to see each other in person. Please let your Caring Contact know if you would like to host or assist in hosting a luncheon or afternoon event.

Our Caring Network now numbers 43 volunteers, who serve 33 districts or regional groupings to keep our far-flung membership in touch with one another across North America and overseas.

Doddie Stone has completed her service as Caring Contact for our Heartland Region; we thank her for her time and energy there. We now welcome **Nancy Doughty** and **Barbara Prairie** to our team of Caring Network Contacts to serve our Heartland Region.



Barbara Prairie



Gordon Gibson



Nancy Doughty



Betty Jo Middleton

As many of you know, both Nancy and Barbara have served on the UURMaPA Board and so we will benefit from their many talents and their long view of our organization.

Thanks to **Bob and Makaanah Morriss** for their steadfast service in our Thomas Jefferson Northwest Region. We now welcome **Gordon Gibson** and **Betty Jo Middleton** who are serving as Caring

Network Contacts for Tennessee and Virginia, respectively. We appreciate their enthusiasm and fresh ideas for this important work.

Thank you all.
—Ralph Mero

**UURMaPA Endowment
reaches \$14,000**

(see Page 9 for details)

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Elderberries is published quarterly by the
Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association
Next deadline is January 15. Send your news,
views and photos to your editor, Chris Lilly Backus,
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Save paper and get your
newsletter faster by e-mail!
Just notify the editor.



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Presidential Reflections by Makaanah Morriss

Your UURMaPA Executive Board met in Boston at the beginning of October. Our three-day meeting — which is our one face-to-face gathering each year — has resulted in many good ideas, helpful discussions, new insights and strengthened connections.



We had good **meetings with key UUA Staff**. President Peter Morales and Executive Vice President Kay Montgomery listened as we shared our concerns and explored avenues to use our creativity and professional experience to support our religious movement at local and district levels. We also had useful meetings with Beth Miller, Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership, along with Jory Agate (Ministerial Development Director), Richard Nugent (Director of Church Staff Finances) and Joyce Stewart (Director of Retirement and Group Insurance Plans). We found many points of connection and we greatly appreciate the responsiveness of the staff to the unique needs and challenges faced by our members.

We also worked on the first steps to create ***On Retiring: A Helpful Guide for Ministers and Partners***. Our goal is to create a booklet to serve retirees, settled ministers, congregational leaders and those approaching retirement.

The *Guide* will be published online and in printed form; it will include:

- relating to our former or new congregation;
- stories and resources for changes and challenges in our personal lifestyles;
- dealing with long-term illness and death;
- financial aspects of retirement;
- resources from our communities, UUA, UUMA and UURMaPA.

Watch your mailbox for the reflection questions we are mailing to each household as part of our Fall Appeal. Let us hear from you!

Looking into the near future we are working on building and maintaining an online **archive of obituaries** of UU ministers and partners on Wikispaces to serve our members and others who want to learn about our clergy and their life partners, who have contributed much to our movement.

We **expanded the budget for “Conferences and Gatherings”** to provide seed money and support for one-day and multi-day gatherings. At the **NE Conference**, which was very ably coordinated by Joyce and Dick Gilbert, we got to know the Rev. Don Southworth, the UUMA’s first-ever Acting Executive Director. Don said he enjoyed experiencing an UURMaPA conference first-hand. He spoke about exploring how the UUMA may provide more services to its Life Members.

We are delighted that Marj Lynn and Fred Campbell are now serving as members of the **UUA Compensation, Benefits and Pension Committee**. Members are appointed by the UUA President to make recommendations to the UUA Board. At this time, their focus is to evaluate which financial institution would be most effective as the **fund manager for our UUA Retirement Fund**. As active retirees themselves, Marj and Fred add their strong voices to this important discussion. The group should reach a decision this spring.

We now have 890 members: 430 retired ministers, 300 partners and 160 surviving partners. This is a record! Our connections with the UUMA and the UUA continue to grow stronger. Our **Caring Network** is growing more vibrant, and our links to one another, as friends and colleagues, are helping us to strengthen the fabric of our community. Our voices are being heard as our wisdom has been welcomed more widely.

I look forward to hearing *your* ideas for strengthening our association, as we work together to serve our liberal religious movement in new ways.

Blessings,

Makaanah E. Morriss



Reconciliation with the Earth, Each Other and the Stranger

The US Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom and the World Congress of Faiths are joining forces to present a conference Jan. 14-17, 2010 in Clearwater, FL.

Guest speakers include Dr. Hal French, author of *Zen and the Art of Anything*; Dr. Paul Rasor, author of *Faith Without Certainty: Liberal Theology in the 21st Century*; Dr. William Schulz, former UUA president and author of *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defining Human Rights Benefits Us All* and *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights*.

Workshop leaders include the Rev, Jopie Boeke, and Ms. Kathy Matsui on behalf of the International Association of Liberal Religious Women; the Rev. Eric Cherry, Director of International Resources at the UUA and the Rev. Peter T. Richardson, UU author and speaker.

Registration: www.iarf.org or contact

Joe Myers
(727) 391-5798
bjmyers@alum.mit.edu

Editor's Note: Thanks to Richard Kellaway for passing along this information

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.



We are a mobile group!

When you relocate or update please remember to tell us. Send contact information changes and updates to:

*Andy Backus
UURMaPA Database Manager
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225
andrewbackus@msn.com*



Thank you!

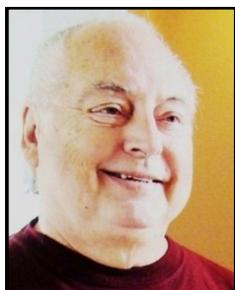
UURMaPA Mission Statement

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.

The Turning of Our Lives

Fred and Margaret (Marge) Keip began a quarter-time consulting ministry last January with the UU Fellowship in Grants Pass, OR, where they are members of this 50-member congregation. Their contract is reviewable and renewable, one year at a time. They say, "It's fun working together again, older and wiser, and this is just about the right amount of time for us to stay unburdened and joyful. Some aspects remind us of our first years in Monterey. Fred says, 'It's like déjà vu all over again.'"

Ron Mazur asks: "How does the discovery of the bones of the Jesus family affect your religion? Why is the tomb, discovered in



1980, still sealed? Where are the Jesus family bones which were dumped from their bone boxes? When will all the bone boxes be scientifically studied?" He goes on to say, "You need not be a passive observer of the Jesus Family mys-

tery; become an active participant in giving energy to its resolution" Curious? Read his book *Mystery of the Jesus Family* to be published soon. Contact Booksellers at

866-308-6235 or go to www.amazon.com or www.freejesus.com. Or take his pre-publication offer and save \$5 off the list price of \$17.99 by sending \$12.99 payable to the author:

Ron Mazur
1436 Sunningdale Lane
Ormond Beach, FL 32174



Graphic by He Qi

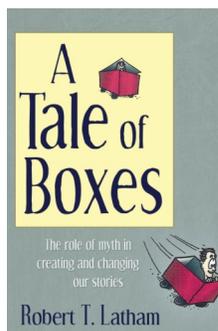
Dick Fewkes brought Theodore Parker to life at our Northeast Conference. (He is shown here at an earlier performance in Norwell, MA.) Dick reports that on October 18 he spoke in West Roxbury, MA from a pulpit that the original Mr. Parker had used himself.



Robert T. Latham has written *A Tale of Boxes* (The Role of Myth in Creating and Changing Our Stories). The author says, "Every individual, institution and culture lives in a box. It's called a myth. This box determines what we see and don't see, who we love and hate, how we live. Unless I can define my box I am the pawn of others. This book challenges us to think outside the box society provides for us and to create our own stories." The book gives focus to:



- Personal Myth...
- Cultural Myth...
- America's Myth...



To order at an introductory price go to: www.mythinglink.com. For bookstore rates or orders of ten or more copies go to latham@mything.com

Turning of Our Lives

Doe Lockwood tells us that **Barbara and Patricia Morgan** (Denton, TX) have celebrated the 13th anniversary of their service of holy union on September 21, 2009. Pat plans to retire is about a year and a half. Then the couple will sell their home in TX and move to Tacoma, WA to live in the same retirement home as Pat's mother. Light rail is going to go in between Tacoma and Seattle; Barbara hopes she'll live long enough to use it to commute to Seattle to see her grandson, Kisho. She is taking training courses to become a weekday American Red Cross volunteer for both disaster relief and office work.



Alan Seaburg writes that John Adams, the son of **Mary Adams** (Center Lovell, ME), reports that she is in assisted living ten minutes away from him. Her dementia is very advanced and she is a little frail and using a walker. John says his mother loves to sing and appears to be happy.

Paul L'Herrou reports that **Polly Guild** (Lexington, MA) has a form of cancer similar to leukemia; she is now at home in hospice care and is enjoying seeing friends and speaking with people. Her family and friends are offering her a great deal of support and she remains very involved in the Follen Church in Lexington, MA. Polly had taken several other overseas trips, but then discovered in September that she has terminal cancer. She welcomes calls from friends and colleagues and says that the best way to reach her is by phone at (781) 893-1058.

Betty Jo Middleton says **Gordon and Phyllis McKeeman** (Charlottesville, VA) celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on November 5. They still live independently in their apartment and go to church, where they see **Mary Rose Curtis**, who attends regularly.

Glen Snowden attended a dowsing conference earlier this year with Dr. Russell Targ. Most people think of "dowsing" as searching for water underground, following the motions of a forked stick. Glen says a more modern definition includes "long distance viewing" in a form that some might call "psychic." Dr. Targ has consulted with the CIA and reported at the conference that psychics have used their gifts for some 25 years to help the US government with intelligence work. Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defense, has acknowledged their contributions. Glen notes that dowsing is related to traditional Buddhist teaching that the mind can be a "non-local" mind and does not have to remain anchored to a physical body. For example the mind could travel from Tokyo to the Kremlin. Some believe that past life information can be brought to bear to heal present ills. If you would like to know more you can check the website for the American Society of Dowsters at www.dowsters.org. The group celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2010.



Carol Taylor reports that **Roberta (Bobbie) Nelson** (Sedgwick, ME) is home from the hospital, following a recent heart attack, and is now in the recuperating mode. She is pleased to be home and knows that she has a long slow healing process ahead of her. Her family is keeping a watchful eye on her daily.

Betty Jo Middleton tells us that **Carol Edwards** (Abingdon, VA) welcomes visitors at Elderspirit, which has guest rooms. She has macular degeneration but reads with special glasses and can still drive if she uses extra care.

Turning of Our Lives

Peg Richardson (Pembroke, ME) writes, “I was raised to believe that it never does any harm to ask nicely. My husband is a classical pianist and always dreamed of going to Vienna and while there playing Mozart's harpsichord. When the dream became a reality I ‘asked nicely’ and through the efforts of the Vienna Tourist Bureau and the Austrian Office of Cultural Affairs, Bob was able to play two Mozart-period instruments (reconstructed) at the Wein Museum, the organ at the magnificent St. Augustin Church and the actual Bösendorfer piano where Johann Strauss composed the Blue Danube. We smiled when we realized that other people touring the Strauss apartment thought the music was part of the tour. It was our trip of a lifetime.”



Bob & Peg Richardson enjoy a carriage ride in Vienna.

Doe Lockwood shares news from **Bill Grace** (San Antonio, TX) who writes, “I continue in the great adventure of being a first-time father at 62. My daughter's preteen year is upon me and I am trying to learn. The generosity of friends, who have a nice lap pool, encourages the fantasy and work of extending a previous continuous crawl stroke record beyond its three hour mark. Blank verse remains a means of participating in the poemhunter.com community on the World Wide Web.”

Iska Cole reports that **Bill and Barbara DeWolfe** (Augusta, ME) recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, which was September 10. They enjoyed a luncheon with about 30 family and friends at the lodge of “Granite Hill Estates” in their community. Conference-goers at Attleboro sent their congratulations and Iska prepared a photo album for the DeWolfes. Congratulations Bill and Barbara!

Glen Snowden notes that **Vera Kafka** (Concord, MA) has suffered a serious stroke, which has affected her speech. She was planning to attend the recent UURMaPA Northeast Conference in Attleboro, MA, but just a week or so before the conference she had the stroke. Vera is now 86 and Glen says she really enjoys company and cards. Write to Vera Kafka, Concord Health Care Center, Room 204, 57 ORNAC, Concord, MA 01742.

Thanks to **Kathleen Hunter** for this update from **Dick Norsworthy** (Tucson, AZ and Dexter, ME), who wrote “I had so hoped to make the Star Island gathering but my situation does not permit it. Maybe next year I will. My eldest son, Rick, is going to die sometime soon—barring a miracle from some of the experimental programs he is entering to deal with the inoperable and (to date) incurable cancer of the portal vein (which delivers blood to the liver). He is coming up from Tucson to spend a week with me fishing the beautiful waters of Lake Wassookeag, where my cottage is located, here in Dexter, ME. We shall tell lies about the big fish we have caught here through the years, share memories around the bonfire, and forget—for awhile—how tough life can be . . .”



Turning of Our Lives

Doe Lockwood tells us that **Mike Adamek** (Springfield, MO) is teaching Philosophy, Religion, and Art History at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC). In November 2009 he celebrates a ten-year relationship with the UU Fellowship of Jefferson City, MO, where he preaches once a month and does a very occasional memorial, marriage or dedication service. At OTC he serves as Lead Instructor in Philosophy. He has just pioneered teaching Introduction to the New Testament and has taught several sections of World Humanities which is a Non-Western Art and Architecture course every semester he started eight years ago. He has also taught: Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Ethics, Introduction to [Western] Humanities, and Religions of the World. He also occasionally teaches a course in Religious Pluralism in the US. He says he has been seeing someone for six years and life is good.

Jean Rowe reports that **Dave Scheyer** broke his hip recently when he fell walking his dog. He is a patient at Mountain Trace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He is doing very well and will be there for 3 or 4 weeks. The address is 417 Mountain Trace Rd., Sylva, NC 28779. He is in Room 301-A. He was in pretty good spirits and is hopeful of going home soon. Jean says that **Fia Scheyer** continues to be on the mend and is keeping food down, but finding it difficult to gain weight. She is driving back and forth to where Dave is in the rehab center, about ten miles away.

Carol Taylor says **Max Gaebler** is doing well, as he grieves the loss of his wife of 65 years. He says there are some days when he just doesn't get anything done and he feels no guilt. His five children and their families are staying in close touch. Two of them are within a 1½-hour drive and visit often. The others stay in telephone contact. The family looks forward to spending the holidays together.

Pan-South Conference, February 9-11, 2010

Accommodations available through Ft. Myers Church B&B program. Contact Phyllis Brewer at pybrewer@Comcast.net or (239) 489-0889. Nearest motel is Best Western on Daniels Highway 1-(888) 490-2600. Ask for the clergy discount. Registration fee includes both dinners, lunches and social hours. Please mail \$75 per person (payable to UURMAPA Pan-South) to Herb Adams, registrar, 252 Brentwood Drive North, Lake Placid, FL 33852. Contact (863) 465-1587 or herbadams32@hotmail.com



Early registrations are greatly appreciated.

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Number of People: _____

Special Needs: _____

Is Balancing Your Budget a Serious Problem?

The UU Society for Ministerial [and Surviving Partners] Relief offers both one-time grants and ongoing assistance to retired clergy and their survivors who are in financial need. Especially in these times, many of us may need help but find it hard to ask.

We may imagine that there must be others whose needs are greater than our own. We may find ourselves hard-pressed to make ends meet but somehow blame ourselves.

Let's go beyond blame and shame. We are here for one another. British mystery writer P.D. James reminds us that despite life's trials "we have love... We must hold fast and believe in it, for it is all we have." Let us then hear from you if the Society can help either you or someone you know.



David Pohl, President
UU Society for Ministerial Relief
91 Boston Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978) 256.5186

Editor's Note: Thanks to Glen Snowden for submitting this information.

UURMaPA Endowment at \$14,000



In October, the Board voted to move resources from our Memorial Fund into our newly created Endowment Fund. We felt that this was in keeping with the original intent of donors who wanted to assure the long-term future of our association. The fund balance is \$14,000 and our goal is to raise \$50,000 in the next two to three years. Only the interest will be used to support our operational needs. We urge you to make a special gift this year to our Endowment Fund. And for UURMaPA's future, consider making about a deferred gift. Your help is much appreciated.

Peter Haslund, Chair
Endowment Fund Committee

Do you try to buy mostly
natural foods?

Heck no! I need all the
preservatives
I can get!



In Memoriam



The Rev. Dr. James Madison Barr III, 90, died June 10, 2009 at home. He attended Fork Union Military Academy and University of Virginia, where he earned a law degree. He taught at UVA's School of Economics and Commerce. He worked as

an attorney, accountant, and auditor. Jim served on the Charlottesville, VA city council and as president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce there. An active member of Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church in Charlottesville, he entered Starr King and served churches in MA, NY, and TN. He was instrumental in building the Memphis church —“The Church of the River.” The church named him minister emeritus for his 20 years of service. He served in the Southwest District as Settlement Representative, Good Offices Representative, as member of the SWD Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Summer Institute. His community activities in Memphis included board service for Tenn-Ark-Miss Council of the Girl Scouts, Urban League, and the Heart Association. He was a member of the Memphis Community Relations Commission. He is survived by three daughters, their spouses, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Please send notes to Betty Barr McClure, 309 Dover Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Mary Archibald Carrier, 88, wife of the Rev. Gaston M. Carrier, died September 14, 2008. A native of Lexington MA, she graduated from Acadia University in Nova Scotia and earned credentials as a psychiatric social worker at Simmons School of Social Work in Boston. She



worked in Montreal, Chicago and Burlington VT, and volunteered with the UUSC. Never a minister's wife but always the wife of a minister, she supported her husband's ministry in a variety of ways. She served as DRE in Burlington VT and Danbury CT and oversaw expansion and revitalization of both RE programs.

She also found time to participate in the social life of the churches. She loved the outdoors and will be remembered for decorating the sanctuary with wildflowers and other natural objects. Serving as a founding member of the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS), was just one of her many contributions to the Burlington Community. She was involved in handicrafts of many types and participated in many juried shows throughout Vermont. After she retired she worked as a guide at the Shelburne Museum. Mary is survived by her husband of 66 years, four daughters, their spouses and four grandchildren. Send notes to: Gaston M. Carrier, P.O. Box 4174, Burlington, VT 05406.

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

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



Please make check/cheque 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 ___

In Memoriam

Elinor F. Potter Fewkes, 79, wife of the Rev. Richard M. Fewkes died August 29, 2009 at home in hospice care after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She was a graduate of Thayer Academy and Radcliffe College. She met and married Dick Fewkes when she was working for the UUA in their regional office in Brockton, MA. Ellie will be fondly remembered for her dedicated work as a loving teacher in both the Nursery School and Sunday School at the First Parish Church in Norwell, MA. She was an active member of the Women's Alliance and for many years hosted the Sewing and Handcraft Group for the Annual Harvest Fair. When Dick and Ellie left Norwell in 2000 she was presented with a quilt dedicated to the "First Lady of First Parish 1969-2000." That quilt comforted her for the rest of her life. She is survived by her husband, her sister and brother-in-law, two sons, a daughter, their spouses and eight grandchildren. Notes of remembrance may be sent to Richard M. Fewkes, 41 Cygnet Dr., West Dennis, MA 02670.



Carolyn Farr Gaebler, 87, wife of the Rev. Max D. Gaebler, died, Aug. 21, 2009, at her home in Madison, WI. A graduate of Western College for Women in Miami, Ohio, she pursued graduate study in government at Harvard University, where she met and married the Rev. Max D. Gaebler, who was then Unitarian minister to students at the historic First Parish in Cambridge. They served churches in Westford, MA and Davenport, IA, and from 1952-1987 Madison, WI. A committed supporter of social justice issues, she never tired of recounting her experience in the summer of 1943 as a participant in a Quaker sponsored work camp on Chicago's then heavily segregated south side. All her life she remained an ardent advocate for social justice. She loved good music, and for a number of years was a staunch member of the Unitarian Society choir and also of the Madison Philharmonic Chorus. She is survived by her husband, five children and their families. Condolences may be sent to Max Gaebler, 6225 Mineral Point Road, C-71, Madison, WA 53705.



*I dare not ask your very all.
I only ask a part;
Bring me, when dancers leave the hall,
Your aching heart.
Give other friends your lighted face.
I come to crave a greater grace.
Bring me your tears.*

— Edwin Markham



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 andrewbackus@msn.com or call (360) 715-1984 (Pacific Time).

Thank you!

Pilgrimage to LaSalette

Holy water upon my forehead press'd,
In hopes that I, even I, might be bless'd.
Prayers for a loved one laid to rest,
Send me circumnavigating 'round the crest.
Holy Mother of all our beginnings and endings
As we traverse the earth from East to West,
A reverse journey in search of the Source,
Thou hast put us to the test—this endless quest,
Shafts of sunlight upon a Golden Cross
Lifts the dross from grief's deep loss—
Giving resolve to wrest what is best
Out of this pilgrimage to LaSalette.

— Richard M. Fewkes



Creative Sage-ing Award Nominees Sought

The Third Annual UURMaPA Creative Sage-ing Award committee is seeking to recognize 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 15**, and should be sent to Rev. David Johnson at djohnson@uuma.org or c/o First Parish in Plymouth, 19 Town Square, Plymouth MA 02360. For details visit <http://uurmapa.org> or contact me.

Last year we had a very strong field of nominees, so if you made a nomination last year and your entry was not chosen please consider submitting it again. Thank you.

— Dave Johnson



NE Conferences



Northeast Conference

We enjoyed three days of catching up and speaking out in Attleboro Oct. 6-8, 2009.

*Photos by
Eleanor
Richardson*

Back row from left: Ron Marcy, Andy Backus, Ed Lane, Maurice Cobb, Marj Lynn, Ed Lynn, Don Southworth (UUMA), Dick Fewkes, Peter Richardson, Carol Taylor, Richard Kellaway, Makanah Morriss, Peter Baldwin, Med Anderson, Gregg Carter, Dorothy Boroush, Peter Scott, Dick Gilbert, Joyce Gilbert, Ralph Mero, Judi Marcy, Vern Nichols. Seated: Jan Bowering, David Cole, Jarmila Vogel, George Brooks, Faith Scott. On ground: Glen Snowden, Chris Lilly Backus, Carolyn Baldwin, Gene Navias, Bob Morriss, Sue Nichols, Eleanor Richardson. Inset: Jeff & Bob Dick



Star Island

We had three days together in a beautiful setting with a relaxed pace, Sept. 8-10, 2009.

Back row: Dick Fewkes, Chuck Reinhardt, Gene Pickett, Judy Hoehler, Peter Richardson, Catherine Greeley, Alan Deale, Brad Greeley. Front row from left: Ellen Livingston, Alden Davis, Margret Kolbjornson, Jeanne Roy, Helen Pickett, Ralph Mero, Eleanor Richardson, Kathleen Hunter, and Harry Hoehler.

Helpful Guide Musings

Editor's Note: These musings on content for On Retiring: A Helpful Guide for Ministers and Partners came from our discussion groups at the New England Conference in October. Try them on for size as you think about the questionnaire coming in the mail.

Dick Gilbert addressed the question about stages of retirement and suggested one model:

- Catching your breath.
- Debriefing your career
- Reformulating your ministry
- Saying goodbye to colleagues (death, physical and mental losses)
- Re-establishing your rhythm of work and play.

Jan Bowering noted the value of setting deadlines for yourself to achieve post-retirement goals, so they don't slip by.

Gregg Carter spoke about finding a balance between loss, resignation and withdrawal and discovering new possibilities. Then we must prepare ourselves to finally exit for good, from life itself.

We talked generally about finding a financial advisor, a UU if possible, to help us use our resources wisely.

We also looked at resources in our own communities and from UURMaPA, the UUA and the UUMA, which we might access for support.

Much of the discussion revolved around having mutual respect between the retired minister and the settled minister. Some of us talked about the pain of not having a church home in retirement. We found we couldn't return to the pews because we knew too much.

We touched on the isolation brought on by physical and mental losses, such as deafness and impaired mobility.

How do we retain our dignity and stay interested in the world as our world gets smaller?

Ed Lane mentioned the value of announcing retirement early on, so there is time to prepare oneself and the congregation. This can lead to gentle reminders about our letting go of duties as we depart.

Chris Lilly Backus talked about the model of grief counseling for the minister and the partner as they face leaving a beloved congregation.

We talked about the value of staying physically active, as we are able. We thought of everything from swimming to housework.

We look forward to hearing further wisdom from our members so the guide will be as useful as possible to retirees, settled and interim ministers and congregational leaders.

Wedding bells

An 88-year-old man said to best friend, who was 89,

"So, I hear you're getting married?"

"Yep, I am," answered his buddy.

"Do I know her?"

"Nope!"

"This woman, is she good looking?"

"Not really."

"Is she a good cook?"

"Naw, she can't cook so well."

"Does she have lots of money?"

"Nope! Poor as a church mouse."

"Well, then, is she good in bed?"

"I don't know."

"Why on earth do you want to marry her?"

"Because she can still drive!"



Let Us Hear from You!

Nominating Committee Report

In 2010 we will elect a Vice-President, Secretary, one Member-at-Large of the Executive Board, and a Nominating Committee member.

The bylaws have three points which apply to elections:

- (1) No one may serve more than two *full* terms on the Board *in one position*.
- (2) No one may serve on the Board for more than *six consecutive years*.
- (3) "If only one person is nominated for each position, the persons shall be declared elected."

Applying these provisions, the Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for the following positions for two-year terms:

Vice President: (David Johnson will have completed filling out Carl Thitchener's term and is eligible for election to a full two-year term.)

Secretary: (Jean Rowe has completed two full terms of service.)

Member at Large: (Peter Haslund will have filled out Fia Scheyer's term and is eligible for election to a full two-year term.)

Nominating Committee Member: (Leon Hopper has completed two full terms of service.)

It is desirable to maintain balance on the Board in terms of (a) ministers and partners, (b) geographic representation, and (c) gender.

The present board (see the full list on page 2) is made up of (a) five ministers and three partners, (b) five easterners, one midwesterner, two westerners, and (c) five women and three men.

The report of the committee will appear in the February issue of *Elderberries*.

Please send your suggestions to any or all three members of the Nominating Committee:

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Thank you for your time and your help.

— Ellen Brandenburg, Chair

Chime in Please!

In our next issue of *Elderberries* we will consider the perks of retirement.

What has been the best thing about being retired?

What good stuff do you plan to expand?

How would you advise a newly retired person to get off to the best start?

Kindly send your reflections to your faithful editor (chrisbackus@msn.com) by Jan. 15.



Let's Get Together!

PAN-SOUTH — Feb. 9-11, 2010 at UU Church of Fort Myers, FL. Keynote is workshop by Dick Fewkes on 'Dreams and the Spiritual Life.' Field trip to Naples UU Church and tour of Naples Art Museum. Odyssey by Emily Morse Palmer on entering ministry at midlife. Don't miss this popular UURMaPA destination during winter weather, since the conference will be moving to Asheville in 2011. *See page 8 for registration information.*



WEST CONFERENCE — April 20-22, 2010 in Portland, OR, Theme is "Living Fully to the End of Our Days." Enjoy lively discussions on end-of-life issues and make time to visit Powell's Bookstore, the lovely Chinese and Japanese gardens for tea, or the museum.

Bob Schaibly and Chris Lilly Backus are Program Chairs. Dorothy and Leon Hopper are Registrars. Watch for details in the Spring *Elderberries*.



NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — Oct. 5-7, 2010 LaSalette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA. Program information and registration information will be in future *Elderberries*.

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 . Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!

Address Service Requested



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