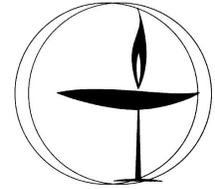


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXVI

NUMBER 3

Summer 2011

Edgar Peara honored

On April 14 Edgar Peara, 89, received the Knight-hood of the French Legion of Honor for his service to the Allied troops during WWII. During a ceremony at City Hall in Eugene, OR, Mme. Corinne Pereira, the French deputy consul in San Francisco, presented the award. Eugene's Mayor, Kitty Piercy, also was on hand to offer congratulations. His peacemaking efforts were recognized, as he helped prevent bloodshed during his time overseas as a soldier.



By all accounts it was a wonderful day. The only sadness was that his beloved wife, Phyllis, did not live to enjoy the celebration.

The *Register-Guard* in Eugene saluted Ed Peara by saying he is what "one might call a quiet hero — the kind who volunteers most every day for one cause or another, doing everything from planting trees in Alton Baker Park to delivering Meals on Wheels for shut-ins."

Congratulations Sir Edgar!

Coming to GA?

Join us for our Collegial Conversation and for our Annual UURMaPA Luncheon. See Page 4 and Page 11.

Keeping in touch



Lauralyn Bellamy is our new Caring Network Contact for Mid-South. Our thanks to **Doak Mansfield** who has held the post for several years and is now returning to part-time ministry. We welcome Lauralyn to the Caring Net-

work Team and know she brings much to the position. **Carolyn Colbert** is our new Caring Network Contact for Bay Area Coastal (California). She is taking over from **Barbara Cheatham**, who is moving to Bellevue, WA. Welcome aboard. We appreciate your willing commitment to serving our members.



Elizabeth and Ted Alcaide have agreed to become Caring Network Contacts, effective July 1, for Con-



necticut Valley. Thanks to **Dot Kimble** for her service in recent years in this region. We appreciate their stepping up and offering their caring presences. **Liz Benjamin** is now serving Eastern Canada as Caring Network Contact. She takes the reins from Anne Orfald, who recently joined the UURMaPA Board. Thank you all for your commitment.



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Next deadline is July 15

Send your news, views and photos to
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President's Perspectives

by Makaanah Morriss

This spring has seen the blossoming of two new UURMaPA initiatives. At the end of March, our Pan-South Conference gathered in Asheville, NC for the first time (in recent past years this conference has been gathering in Florida). We have noticed that our demographics have shifted over the last five years, with fewer of our members in Florida during the winter, and more UURMaPA folks retiring to various parts of the southeast. So, thanks to the excellent work of Clark and Anna Olsen and Jean Rowe, our Pan-South Conference moved to Asheville, NC this year.



Photo by Eleanor Richardson

Thirty of us gathered at the UU Church of Asheville for two days of good conversations and delicious meals. Carol Taylor led an excellent UURMaPA version of the UUMA program “Whose Are We?” We found time for some enjoyable sight-seeing in the Asheville area. Folks came from Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Florida, North Carolina and even from Washington state, California and Texas! Since the location seemed to work well for many, we plan to hold the Pan-South Conference in Asheville again in 2012.

The second initiative started in April. Nancy Doughty and Paul L’Herrou began a pilot project of mentoring for those who have retired within the last year. A small group format will be a model for future UURMaPA mentoring efforts to offer support and connections for our newly retired UURMaPA members.

Are *you* going to GA in Charlotte in June? If so, include our UURMaPA activities in your plans: a collegial conversation on Ministry Day to offer insights and ideas to those heading toward retirement; our UURMaPA luncheon on Friday at the Westin; and helping to staff the “Memorial Booth” in the Exhibit Hall where the obituaries of those who have died this past year will be displayed. See the separate article on Page 11 for more details.

We also urge you to join us for our Annual UUMRaPA luncheon at the Westin Hotel. Also see Page 11 for registration information.

This is my final column as your UURMaPA President. What a privilege it has been to serve on the UURMaPA Board and as your President. Thank you for this opportunity. I have deeply appreciated the chance to get to know UURMaPA colleagues all across the continent, to learn of your interesting retirement pursuits, and to be inspired by the ways in which you offer caring and support to those in your areas. I have gained new insights into what this part of the life journey can offer – thank you for the wisdom you have shared and the courageous models you have offered.

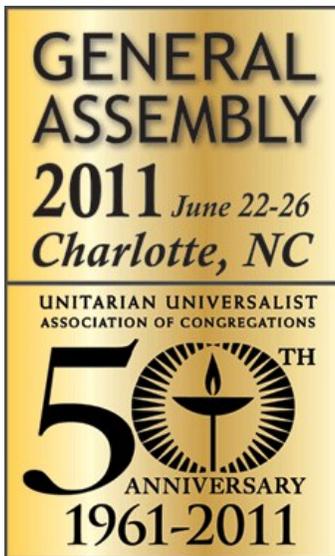
I want to thank the members of our UURMaPA Board this year – Dick Fewkes, Kathleen Hunter, Jan Sammons, Chris Lilly Backus, Paul L’Herrou, Dick Gilbert and Anne Orfald. They are a magnificent and hard-working team. And thanks, as well, to Andy Backus, who serves so capably as our database manager and webmaster.

I know I will leave you in the very good hands of Dick Gilbert, who will become your UURMaPA President as of July 1. Dick’s wisdom and skills are a real gift to our organization.

With much appreciation to each and every UURMaPA member,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Makaanah Morriss".

The Rev. Makaanah Morriss
UURMaPA President



On Wednesday afternoon, June 22, UURMaPA offers a **Collegial Conversation** as part of UUMA Ministry Day on the “Joys, Possibilities and Practicalities of Retirement.” It will be a chance for those who are heading toward retirement to gather some ideas and insights and to ask questions about the realities of retirement.

UURMaPA Luncheon is Friday, June 24, 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Westin Charlotte for just \$25 per person (vegetarian meal.) Connect with UURMaPA friends as we all welcome the new retirees into our midst. *Please use form on Page 11 to reserve your space by June 15th.*

A **Memorial Booth** sponsored by UUA’s Ministerial and Faith Development Staff Group honors ministers who have died this past year. We UURMaPA members offer a caring presence as GA attendees stop to share their memories. Contact Makanah Morriss at revs2uu@aol.com if you can help out or just stop by the booth once you get to GA.

Save paper, and get your newsletter faster and in full color!
 To receive *Elderberries* by email contact your editor Chris Lilly Backus chrisbackus@msn.com

Stay Comfortable

The UUA provides heating and cooling grants to retired ministers, partners and surviving partners. For assistance contact Joyce Stewart (617) 948-6421 or jstewart@uua.org, or Richard Nugent at (617) 948-6456 or rnutent@uua.org.

Joyce and Richard welcome your calls and e-mails with other questions or concerns.



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 the Unitarian Universalist movement, 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.

UURMaPA includes 900 people in 600 households

Continuing Education Grants

Jory Agate, at the UUA, notes: All continuing education grants have been made for this year. She is currently accepting applications for next fiscal year for CE events that take place *during* the next fiscal year (July 2011 - June 2012.) These will be reviewed in mid-July 2011. Apply *now* to have your grant proposal considered at that time. Please see grant procedures at the following link: <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/ministerialdevelopment/continuingeducation/23119.shtml>

More on hearing loss

Liz Benjamin writes, “About the hearing aid issue: I recommend to others that they do something (take ginkgo?) to upgrade their brain when they get hearing aids. Once you have them, it's true that fewer people mumble, but the hearing aids are small, and you have to keep track of them carefully. This is especially difficult in the summer. Last summer I kept leaving them at distant cottages where I had enjoyed a swim, and then I had to annoy someone and get that person to return them to me, *if* there were a phone at the cottage and I didn't have to drive back myself.

“I also do not recommend jumping into a lake wearing your hearing aids. If they do not fall out and disappear into the depths, they at the very least get soaked and therefore ruined. I speak from experience! People are mumbling again, until I can save up enough money to get some more hearing aids.”

Bob MacPherson writes, “Thanks for the contribution on hearing loss. From 1948 to 1966 I served five UU pulpits prior to merger of the Universalist Church of America and the American Unitarian Association. Wanting to enter a different branch of ministry, I took two graduate degrees in Audiology and Speech Pathology from Syracuse University. I applied to UUA for what is today called Community Ministry in 1967. I was turned down as no such program existed. I served as an audiologist and speech pathologist with the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Program, 1967 to 1993. I started the program in Audiology and Speech Pathology at VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC, and developed a full range of diagnosis and treatment. I was recognized by the UUA for 50 years of service in Community Ministry, in 1999.”



Bob continues: “Comment 1: Gradual loss of hearing has been described in much of the literature as a concomitant of aging. Twenty-six years of testing and treating veterans from one Spanish War veteran to Vietnam and Gulf War veterans made it possible to find more more specific causes of hearing loss as opposed to systemic, developmental. Patterns of hearing loss can be related to industrial noise, driving tanks in combat, small arms fire, and on and on. One veteran served in the national US Army band. His loss was related to practicing in a small room with no sound treatment and 100 plus instruments band.

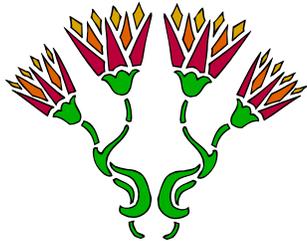
“Comment 2: Going in for a free test may be a start, but may I suggest that one could save much time and find much more information by seeking out a professional audiologist?”

“Audiology has moved from a masters program to a degree of Doctor of Audiology. These professionals practice commonly with Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Specialists or at community hospitals and VA medical centers. Some now practice independently. Tests can determine or rule out many different causes. Treatments can vary. Hearing aid sales offices have people qualified sometimes as engineers but may or may not be interested in referring to surgeons. Please look in your phone book and find ‘Audiology’ and a practitioner with an AuD degree!”

Ed. Note: Liz and Bob wrote in response to the article in our Spring 2011 issue called “Time For a Hearing Test?”

Turning of Our Lives

Gene Reeves writes, “My news is that I accepted a position as Professor at Renmin University of China in Beijing, starting in February. Most of my work in Tokyo, where I have been for the past 22 years, is being taken over by UU Dr. Miriam Levering. I will continue teaching and writing primarily on the Lotus Sutra. I continue to travel a lot to give papers and talks. Most recently I did a US tour to promote my most recent book, *The Stories of the Lotus Sutra* (Wisdom, 2010). As well as Rissho Kosei-kai dharma centers, the tour included two UU churches, Clearwater, Florida and the Community Church in New York. I've also given talks in recent months in China, Korea, Singapore, and, of course, Japan.”



Ev Morris writes, that he has recently done an interim for the Beacon Unitarian church of Coquitlam, BC. He has self-published a book, *The Unitarian Spirit*, which endeavors to shine light on the mystery of our often misunderstood UU spirituality. It illustrates how a truly modern liberal religion can accept truth and wisdom from all religious sources. It contains ten complete services related to our UU spirituality. Initially he gave copies to the small churches in BC—congregations that had part-time ministries (or no minister at all) so that they could address that touchy topic—or perhaps they (or any UU congregation) could use it for adult education classes. He also published another small book, in 2006, titled: *LIFE—My Sense of the Holy*. For more information contact: rev_ev_morris@hotmail.com or <http://evmorris.wordpress.com>

Ellen Livingston writes: “We are now settled down in a nice town home in the delightful city of Claremont, home of the Claremont Colleges and just two miles from the congregation I served before I retired five and half years ago. The people, the activities and the climate here are lovely, I am looking out at snow covered mountains while the roses bloom in our garden. Nick and I are in good health, active in the church and the tennis club nearby, and involved in the arts, and even politics of the area. I read the UURMaPA retirement booklet the day it arrived—it has been so helpful and reassuring.”

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, an exploration of women's power past, present, future by **Shirley Ranck**, has been updated and released again. Go to: <http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/cakes/introduction.html>

Al Thelander has completed a detailed archive of UURMaPA conferences in our West Region. It's a wonderful record of the work of the last two decades and will be housed at Andover Harvard Library. We look forward to having West Conferences again in the future.

Jeannette and **John Morgan** note they have survived their first winter in 23 years in the cold snowy north, having left Ft. Myers, FL and returned to Peterborough, ON. They say their digs are snug and warm and they are well cared for. Jeannette says she enjoys not having to shop. They send their regards to the Asheville conference-goers and note they were sorry not to attend.

Doak Mansfield has been called as half-time minister of the Red Hill Universalist Church in Clinton, NC. He started April 1.

Turning of Our Lives

Donna DiSciullo reports that **Julia Kuroda** is actively pursuing her passion, which is ceramics, despite loss of vision in one eye. She has kept up on the tragedy in Japan, where she still has distant relatives. **Dan** and **Jean Higgins** are dealing with Jean's diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Dan is her primary caregiver with some assistance a couple of times a week from social services and a few good neighbors. They have been married 54 years. **John** and **Beverly Gaffney** spent 2-1/2 months this past winter on Isla Mujeres, Mexico, a small island off the coast of Cancun. For the past four winters they have stayed with a Mexican family. It is in a poor barrio where almost no one speaks English so it has been a good opportunity for John to speak Spanish. **Robert** and **Sylvia Lewis** continue to be in good health. Janet, their daughter, preached at the Fallston, MD church last month (where they are ministers emeriti). They recently traveled there with their son, Drew and his partner, Valerie, to New Mexico and to Utah to watch them run a marathon.

Donna goes on to say **Dale Lantz** is an active member of the Pastoral Associates program that Donna coordinates at First Unitarian in Baltimore. He also chairs the Prison Outreach Task Force and works with the Social Action Clearinghouse at the church. In addition he goes to the Baltimore City Jail every week, and leads a session of Yoga, Meditation and Journal Writing for 15-25 women. He is a member of the Baltimore Shambhala Meditation Center where he is studying to become a meditation teacher. In an effort to live more simply, he and his wife sold one of their cars and Dale uses an "electric assist" bicycle for his activities in the community. **Jean Zoerheide** celebrated her 92nd birthday on April 1. She had dinner with her book club to celebrate. And this month Sharon Welch will be giving the Zoerheide Lecture at First Unitarian in Baltimore to honor Bob and Jean. **Bill** and **Barbara Murry** are doing well. Barbara had successful back surgery in December (laminectomy for spinal stenosis) and is back to her passion — figure skating and ice dancing

Charles Eddis has just published *Stephen Fritchman: The American Unitarians and Communism - A History with Documents*. He says, "It is as researched a study of the Fritchman Affair of 1946-47 and the related communist control of the USC in Europe 1944-47 as will likely ever be done, unless the AUA releases secret files they are rumored to have on the subject." His study includes FBI internal reports believed to have been destroyed and only published in 2007, and private matters only delivered to archives in the last year, which old AUA files will not have. He doubts such files exist, though records of the 1946 hearings of the AUA executive committee into the charges that Fritchman was abusing his offices of AUA Director of Youth Activities and as editor of *The Christian Register* may still exist, he doubts they will have anything his book does not. His book includes much about the hearings. There is an autobiographical note to the book, since he was heavily involved from 1946, and discussed the whole matter briefly with Donald Harrington as recently as his last time at the UURMaPA gathering in Attleboro in about 2000. They had a long association. The book is full of the key people in its three stories: the AUA, Fritchman, and the USC. There is a large table of contents so such people are easily found. It gives an inside view of how the whole drama played out. What it was all about was never researched. It was like a repressed memory, ignored after the initial aftermath, but not quite forgotten, just smoothed over. Fritchman was elevated to sainthood, receiving the UUA Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Liberal Religion in 1976. He merited it. But no one in recent time has seemed fully aware of what he was up to from 1940 to 1947. Those who objected to what he was doing then have been labelled McCarthyites by those later writing our history. Charles says, "This book was undertaken to set the record straight." *Ed. note: To purchase the book go to www.lulu.com/buy or contact Charles at eddis@ucmtl.ca*

In Memoriam

The Rev. Herbert R. Adams, 78, died suddenly March 18, 2011. He was a graduate of Colby College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He also studied at Harvard Divinity School. He served Methodist and Congregational churches and UU churches in ME, MA, NY, NM and FL, sometimes simultaneously with other posts in teaching and publishing. He was a Kiwanian and active in various other civic groups. He had a particular interest in lakes and conservation. Herb loved to go to Heald Pond, his summer home of 42 years, in Maine. He also enjoyed golf, fishing, poker, theater and jazz. Most of all, he relished spending time with his extensive extended family. He is survived by Mary Ryan Adams, his wife of 34 years; his sister Anne Adams; his four children: Ashley, Joshua, Lee and Rachel Adams; three stepchildren, 12 grandchildren; and five nieces and nephews.

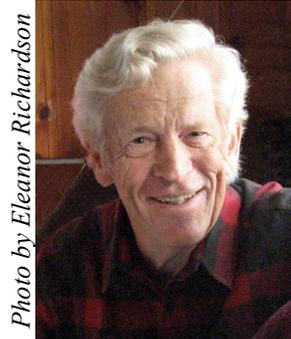


Photo by Eleanor Richardson



The Rev. Dr. James D. Hunt, 79, died January 12, 2011. He was a graduate of Tufts, Boston and Syracuse Universities. His first career was as a Universalist minister. The parts of being a minister he liked the best were studying and preaching. This led him to pursue a second career in teaching. He was a professor of ethics and religion at Shaw University, Raleigh, NC for nearly 30 years. His first major publication was a comparison of the lives of Martin Luther King and Mohandas K. Gandhi. He went on to write about the early life of Gandhi, an interest which culminated in the publication of four books. Jim had a passion for fairness and justice. He worked with Amnesty International, ACLU, Witness for Peace, Peace Action, CITCA, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, and CORE. A devoted family man, Jim found time to enjoy cycling, reading, hiking, folk dancing, playing the recorder, singing and traveling. He is survived by his wife, Jane, his children, their partners and grandchildren.

Doris McBride Kellison, 94, widow of the Rev. Walter E. Kellison, died February 19, 2011. The Kellisons served congregations in ME, MI and IA while they reared three children. A graduate of the Rochester Business Institute, Doris used her secretarial skills, first doing church work and then transcribing medical records. She went on to become the secretary for an internal medical practice for many years. She was a reader, who enjoyed good conversation. She also loved to walk. She liked to cook and was an avid recipe collector. She enjoyed growing basil and parsley in her garden to add her own touch to meals. Late in life she took up doing crosswords and double crostics. She was predeceased by her husband and by her daughter, Judith. She is survived by her children, Walter and Kathy, her daughter-in-law, two granddaughters and a great granddaughter.

In Memoriam

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Perin Knowles, 87, died January 23, 2011 in Mitchellville, MD, following a long decline. She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University. She also studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. The CIA recruited her to work with refugees and ex-patriots in Eastern Europe. Ginny worked in RE in Mt Vernon, VA and Bethesda, MD. She then worked with the Office (now Department) of Education as an international specialist. She went on to study for her D.Min. at Meadville Lombard and to serve churches in CA and PA. She became an accredited interim minister and served churches in IL, KY, NY, WI and MD. After retiring in 1992 she served the Lynchburg, VA congregation part-time for six years. She served on the governing board of the UUUN Office, Collegium and UUs for Social Justice. She is survived by her twins: Christopher (Kit) and Catherine Perin Knowles, of Tucson. She was predeceased by her son, Jeffrey.



Isabel Paine Niles, 90, widow of the Rev. Albert C. Niles, died November 9, 2010. She attended St. Lawrence University for two years. After her marriage, she coordinated and taught in the Sunday schools at the Universalist churches in South Weymouth, MA, Auburn and Bangor, ME, and Brockton, MA, where her husband served as minister. With their five children in school, she resumed her education at SLU when the family moved to Canton, NY. She taught high school English in Russell and Dolgeville, NY, Bridgewater, MA, and Auburn, ME. Isabel was a voracious reader with a passion for genealogy. She amazed her then 92-year old father by finding out information about *his* father. She was a faithful letter writer who kept up a “round robin” correspondence with friends for more than 60 years. She is survived by her children Ann, David, Jonathan, Martha, and Walter; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Phyllis Peara, 83, wife of the Rev. Sir Edgar Peara, died of congestive heart failure March 6, 2011 in Eugene, OR. A graduate of the U. of Nebraska, she was a junior high school teacher. She was president of the League of Women Voters in several communities. Phyllis was named the “Outstanding Woman of the Year” in Chicago's north suburbs. An unparalleled minister's wife, at UU Community Church, Park Forest, IL, she was named “UU Unsung Hero.” She was an avid reader who belonged to four book clubs and was active in OLLI, the senior program at the U. of Oregon. She is survived by her husband, her children, Portia Blackman and Alan Ball of Santa Fe, NM, Leah Pahlmeyer of Durango, CO, and Sarah Taylor of North Oaks, MN, and her four stepsons: Christopher, Jonathan, Timothy and Andrew Peara, as well as her sister, Gena Sorensen, of Oakland, CA, and ten grandchildren and one great grandson.

In Memoriam

Mary Margaret Cline Schug, 92, the widow of the Rev. Philip C. Schug, died January 13, 2011. During her college years she worked for Sears and she also built 35 mm guns during WWII. The Schugs served congregations in Urbana-Champaign, IL; Lincoln, NE; and San Antonio, TX. Mary volunteered in the churches Phil was serving while rearing two daughters. In San Antonio she worked as a lapidary and made jewelry. She was a member of the Rock and Lapidary Club, River Art Group, Craft Guild and Fiesta Commission. She is survived by her two daughters.



Road Trip

An older couple stopped to enjoy a tasty dinner during a spring road trip. When they were about 40 minutes away from the restaurant the woman realized she had left her coat there and asked her husband to turn back. He muttered and sputtered the whole way back about her forgetfulness and the time they were wasting. She was feeling worse and worse.

They pulled into the restaurant's parking lot and as his wife got out of the car the husband said, "Well, you might as well get my wallet, too, since you're going in anyway."



Help UURMaPA make a difference. Give today!

I am (we are) contributing:

___ \$30 ___ \$60 ___ \$125 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 ___

Rolfe Gerhardt has been hand-crafting Phoenix Mandolins for 35 years. His wife, **Susan Gerhardt**, is a quilter. Her work inspired Rolfe to include new imagery in his woodworking. To read more go to his website: <http://www.phoenixmandolins.com/>
Susan's beautiful quilt is called "Fall Splendor."



Join us at the UURMaPA Luncheon at GA in Charlotte NC!

Please send this form and your check to:

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

I/we wish to reserve ___ meals @ \$25 per meal for the UURMaPA GA Luncheon June 24:

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

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

This year's retirees are guests of UURMaPA
Please make your reservation by June 15

Directory Updates

Updated information on the following members is available in the print copy of the newsletter:

Ethel V. Barnett *Bay Area Inland*

Lauralyn W. Bellamy & James Emig
Mid-South

Beverly & David Bumbaugh
Central Midwest

Peggy & Don Clason *Ohio Meadville*

Iska Cole *Northeast*

John Corrado *Heartland N*

Doug Gallager *Heartland N*

Devorah Greenstein *Conn Valley*

Penny Hackett-Evans *Heartland N*

Paula Krick *Mass Bay Inland*

Ellen & Nick Livingston *S California*

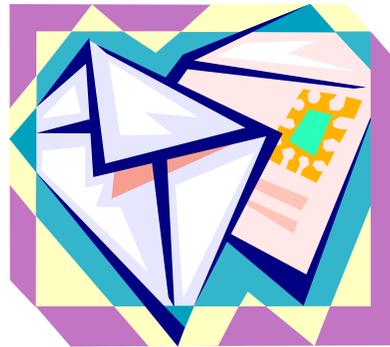
Judy Mannheim *Central Mass*

Johanna L. Nichols *Vermont*

Barbara Prairie *Heartland S*

Richelle Russell & Paula Carmichael
Ballou Channing

Lyn White *Thos Jefferson SE*

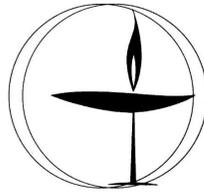


Directory Online!

Our 2011 *UURMaPA Directory*
is now on our website
www.uurmapa.org
and is password protected.

See print copy of newsletter or contact
Andy Backus
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225
andrewbackus@msn.com

Thank you!



Making a difference



A couple of years ago a member of First Unitarian Albuquerque and I began to form the New Mexico UU Legislative Network in order to better inform New Mexico UU's about state legislation and to influence our representatives on issues that align with our values. Our first task was to enlist liaisons from the ten NM congregations plus the three branches of First U. To date, we have liaisons in the five churches that have professional ministry, plus two other UU communities.

Our legislature meets once a year, odd-numbered years for 60 days and even-numbered years for 30 days. So this year was a 60-day session and for many of us, it was a time to "cut our teeth." We traveled to Santa Fe to meet our legislators face-to-face and take a peek under the roof of the State House. We called and emailed on legislation we felt to be pertinent to us as UU's.

My job was to inform the liaisons of pending action and ask them to spread the word to their congregations. They, in turn, acted in a variety of ways. They set up tables on Sundays to display legislative information and to provide district maps. They also used the internet extensively.

Of particular interest in this year's session were bills on immigrant rights, funds for early childhood education, and the budget itself. New Mexico is required by law to have a balanced budget each year. We began the year approximately \$200 million in the hole. We also have a new Governor who wants to rid the state of immigrants by denying them drivers' licenses and access to higher education scholarships; she also tried to reinstate the death penalty, which had been rescinded several years ago. As you can imagine, our work was cut out for us.

The session ended March 19. After that we took a little time to draw our breaths and then reactivate ourselves to strengthen our Network. My hat goes off to a wonderful team of liaisons and the work they've done to make New Mexico UU's better informed on state issues.

Liz McMaster, Coordinator
New Mexico UU
Legislative Network

*We have only begun to know the power
that is in us if we could join our solitudes in
the communion of struggle.*

— Denise Levertov

IARF/WCF

If you were unable to be there in person for the “Ethics, Ecology and the Interdependent Web” conference in Croydon, UK in Feb., **Dick Boeke** notes that photos are available at this website: <http://www.unitarian.org.uk/imagelib/index.php?search=WCF-Feb11>.



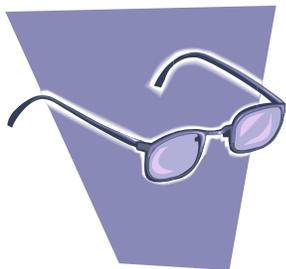
UURMaPA History

Are you a history buff? The UURMaPA Board is looking for a volunteer historian. Two current board members, Anne Orfald and Chris Lilly Backus, would like to work with you. We have much to celebrate and to preserve since we started out in 1982. If you would like to know more let us know.

Anne is at aorfald@cogeco.ca
Chris is at chrisbackus@msn.com

Thank you!

My face in the mirror
Isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty.
The cobwebs are gone.
My garden looks lovely
And so does my lawn.
I think I might never
Put my glasses back on.



CUC 50th Anniversary

Several Canadian members of UURMaPA have a part in a book being published by the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Historical Society, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Unitarian Council (yes, the same year as the merger of UCA and UUA into the UUA). **Chris Raible** was on the editorial team, and **Anne Orfald** and **Lynn Hughes** on the production team. Authors of some of the papers and readings include **Charles Eddis**, **John Hanly Morgan**, **Phillip Hewett**, **Kathleen Hunter**, and **Anne Orfald**. Historical note: Charles Eddis and Phillip Hewett were on the original board of the CUC, and Kathleen Hunter was the first Executive Director. See note below if you want to order a copy.



Guarding Sacred Embers — A Book for Our 50th Birthday

The Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Historical Society (CUUHS) has prepared a historical, spiritual, educational and engaging book of essays to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CUC. *Guarding Sacred Embers: Reflections on Canadian Unitarian and Universalist History* will be released at the ACM in Toronto. Books can be pre-ordered from the CUUHS secretary, Barbara Bowmar, #233 4074 Gellatly Road, West Kelowna, BC, V4T 2S8. Cost is \$20 CDN plus mailing. E-mail Barbara Bowmar at bjbowmar@gmail.com for details.

Metro NY/NJ News



Photo by Jim Wentz

Joyce & Dick Gilbert were in NYC to visit their son, Matthew, who teaches science at the St. Thomas Choir School. They were good enough to fit time for dinner with the NJ/NY UUR-MaPA group. As you can see, all were having a good time (helped by good food & wine) at La Bonne Soupe, one of our favorite midtown restaurants.

L-R: Bob Hemstreet, Joyce Gilbert, Sue Nichols, Dick Leonard, Dick Gilbert, Vernon Nichols, Matthew Gilbert, Jim Wentz, Wendy Moscow

Private Concert, Anyone?

Dick Leonard's apartment has become a small concert hall. He is enjoying very much contacting musicians and scheduling each use of his space. Each invites her/his own audience (obviously there must be a size limit!) for delightful musical evenings. Dick supplies chairs, food and drinks.

Having torn down the wall which previously divided the bedroom from the living room and moving his bedroom into the study, an excellent space has been created for musical events. Project 142/15V has so far involved musicians from New York's three major music schools: Julliard, Mannas and Manhattan School of Music as well as Eastman and Syracuse U.

A recent concert at 142/15V served as the dress rehearsal for the next evening's concert which took place at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, featuring the world premiere of works by Karen Habkovic, an Armenian composer and musicians from England, France, The Netherlands, Argentina and the USA, performing a variety of solos, trios as well as a larger ensemble—performing on the piano, flute, cello, violin, clarinet, bass clarinet — and including a mezzo soprano.

Other recent concerts have featured Quentin Kim, a Julliard pianist and a group of UU musicians “familiarizing themselves with unfamiliar hymns.”

Future plans include “The Green Salon,” an environmental group that uses music as part of their program, an “Anarchic Hootenanny,” a barbershop quartet and much more.



The first concert, back in September and attended by several UUR-MaPA members, featured one of All Souls' soloists who entertained us with songs from South Pacific and other classic Broadway shows — altogether a delightful evening.

Dick is very excited about this project and so are we. We have told him that we would love to be included in any audience where there are a couple of extra chairs, but so far these have not been possible to come by.

— Sue Nichols

Let's Get Together!

UURMaPA LUNCHEON at GA — June 24 at the Westin Charlotte. See Pages 4 and 11 for details.

STAR ISLAND GATHERING — Isle of Shoals, NH, Sept. 7-9. Enjoy relaxed time with colleagues in a rustic setting. UURMaPA members register as “personal retreatants.” Thanks to Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale for agreeing to organize this time together for the third year. Questions? Contact Kathleen at kdhagd@mac.com or (603) 526-2941 before May 5 or at (613) 924-0154 after May 6.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — Attleboro, MA, LaSalette Retreat Center, October 4-6. UUA President Peter Morales will be with us Wed. Kathleen Hunter is registrar kdhagd@mac.com. Watch our website for details at www.uurmapa.org.

ONE-DAY REGIONAL GATHERINGS are also gaining popularity with our members. If you would like to be involved with hosting or helping let your Caring Network Contact know (see the website or the back of the 2011 UURMaPA Directory for details).

There are now more \$200 grants for each regional conference. Contact registrar about eligibility. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are also available from the Rev. Jory Agate (jagate@uua.org), 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or call her at (617) 948-6453. (Also see her note on Page 4.)

Attend any conference or gathering, regardless of where you live!

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