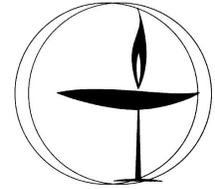


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXVI

NUMBER 1

Winter 2010-2011

Wolfs honored in Tulsa

During Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010, All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa celebrated John and Barbara Wolf's 50 years of service. A highlight of the celebration was having John



preach again, 15 years after his well-deserved retirement.

Member George Krumme noted, "Tornado sirens heralded the arrival of the young John

Wolf, as he attempted to address the new congregation at a meeting in early 1960. At that moment, no one could have guessed what a storm he would stir up." John did, indeed, become well known as an outspoken advocate for peace and civil rights.

Barbara, who reared two children while she worked outside the home as a dietitian, was a very active church member. She participated in the Day and Evening Alliances, the church's Garden Committee, and Life Decisions program. She also found time to knit, to enjoy her book club and to volunteer to help animals.

The Wolfs have been blessed by good health and by remaining a part of the church they love so well. Congratulations John and Barbara!

Editor's note: Thanks to Doe Lockwood for providing background information for this story.

Keeping in Touch



Paul L'Herrou is our new Caring Network Coordinator. He brings a wealth of experience to the job, having been a parish minister and then in retirement serving as our Caring Network Contact for our Mass Bay Inland region.

We have five new team members.



Polly Leland-Mayer and **John Weston** are sharing the task of serving our Ballou Channing region. They succeed **Dick**

Fewkes, who re-

turned to the UURMaPA board, as vice-president in September.



Marguerite Lovett has begun serving Southern California. We thank **Carol Hilton** for her work in this region in recent years.



Karin Tannenholtz is now serving our Mass Bay Inland Region, taking Paul L'Herrou's place.

Margi Nasemann is now serving our St. Lawrence region, building on the work done by **Fran Manly**.



We thank all our Caring Network Contacts for all you do! Your work is central to our mission of caring for one another.

UURMaPA Board 2010-11

President

Makanah E. Morriss (434) 384-7821
1317 Rocky Mountain Rd.
Forest, VA 24551
revs2uu@aol.com

Vice-President

Richard M. Fewkes (508) 398-6006
41 Cygnet Dr.
West Dennis, MA 02670
dick_ellie@comcast.net

Secretary

Jan Sammons (303) 279-5079
1868 Denver West Ct., Apt. 511
Golden, CO 80401
jansammons@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kathleen D. Hunter (603) 526-2941
55 Crystal Ave., PMB 248
Derry, NH 03038
kdhagd@mac.com

Caring Network

Paul L'Herrou (978) 356-5835
38 Kimball Ave., #12
Ipswich, MA 01938
paullherrou@gmail.com

Newsletter

Chris Lilly Backus (360) 715-1984
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225
chrisbackus@msn.com

Member-At-Large

Marjorie C. Skwire (440) 333-5998
3606 Eldorado Dr.
Rocky River, OH 44116
midgeskw@cox.net

www.uurmapa.org

Other Officials

Nominating Committee Chair

Ellen Brandenburg (978) 993-4104
91 Essex St., Salem, MA 01970
ellen.brandenburg@gmail.com

Webmaster & Database Manager

Andrew C. Backus (360) 715-1984
2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225
andrewbackus@msn.com

Elderberries is published quarterly by the
Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association



Next deadline is Jan. 15.

Send your news, views and photos to
Chris Lilly Backus, Editor
2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225

In this issue . . .

UU Retirement Plan	Page 4
<i>The Gift of Years</i>	Page 5
Turning of Our Lives	Pages 6-7, 14
<i>In Memoriam</i>	Pages 8-10
Let Us Hear from You	Page 11
JPD North News	Page 12
<i>Longing</i> (poem)	Page 13
Northeast Conference	Page 13
Creative Sage-ing	Page 14
Fifty-Year Talk	Page 15
Let's Get Together	Back Cover

by Makanah Morriss

UURMaPA's good energy, interesting projects and helpful connections continue to grow. Our handbook, *On Retirement: A Helpful Guide for UU Ministers and Partners*, continues to be well received by those just retiring and those contemplating retirement. It feels good to receive kudos on this resource, which we will update in the future. Did you know the Guide can now be downloaded from our redesigned website? Read on . . .



Our **website has a new look** and a **new webmaster, Andy Backus**. If you have not yet checked it out, please do – I think you will enjoy it (www.urmapa.org). Andy has built on the work of **Eleanor Richardson, Peter Haslund** and a web consultant. Happily for us, he brings expertise in website management. For example, he tracks how many “hits” a month we get, so we know which sections are most useful to our members and guest users. For example, in October the Caring Network page piqued the most interest.

This Fall we have welcomed **Dick Fewkes as our Vice President** and **Paul L’Herrou as our new Caring Network Coordinator**. Both Dick and Paul have already added much to our team. We want to thank **Dave Johnson** (outgoing Vice President), **Ralph Mero** (former Caring Network coordinator) and **Eleanor Richardson** (outgoing Webmaster) for their dedicated work on behalf of our association.

At our Fall Board meeting in Boston, we met with the Rev. Sarah Lammert, the new Director of the UUA’s Ministries and Faith Development staff group, along with the Rev. Jory Agate and Joyce Stewart. Sarah was a strong advocate for UURMaPA when she served the UUMA Exec. She brings to her new position a good understanding of the challenges facing retired colleagues.

We also had a very good conversation with the Rev. Meg Riley Senior Minister of the **Church of the Larger Fellowship** and Lorraine Dennis, Executive Director of CLF. We are exploring ways to work more closely with the CLF to benefit of both our organizations.

We spent time during our meeting visioning new ways in which UURMaPA might serve Unitarian Universalism, enhance the well-being of our members and provide programs and activities for our membership. New ideas and initiatives include:

- **Free conference calling** will allow for small group conversations on a short-term or longer-term ongoing basis. For instance, retirement challenges or small group ministries. If you are interested in such a group or conversation, please let me know at revs2uu@aol.com;
- We are exploring **creating various listserves** for our members to share ideas and concerns, e.g., for those who are in the first years of retirement, partner concerns, etc. Interested? Let me know.
- We also hope to offer “**webinars**” (in which participants are connected both by conference calls and online visuals). Jory Agate tells us she uses this format to reach out across the miles.
- We have **significantly increased the scholarship line** in our budget so more members are able to attend regional conferences and local gatherings. We also have increased the line item to support **local luncheons or one-day gatherings**. We hope *you* might want to consider helping make this happen for UURMaPA members in your area. *See our website under the Activities Tab, go to bottom of page (conference planning guide).*

As you can see, our goal, our hope is that UURMaPA continues to encourage you who are our members to connect with one another and with our larger movement in ways which you find rewarding. Your input, feedback and good ideas will help us achieve our goal.

With thanks for your support,



UUA Retirement Plan

As you may have read in Richard Nugent's recent message on *UURMaPA Announce*, the UUA's Retirement Plan has just successfully transitioned from Fidelity to TIAA-CREF. Effective Nov. 8, 2010, all 2800 plan participants have had access to their retirement accounts under this new fund manager. And as you may remember, the decision to shift to TIAA-CREF was made by the UUA Board in May 2010, after more than two years of careful study by the UUA Compensation, Benefits and Pension Committee (CBPC), UUA Staff and an outside consulting firm. Our own **Marj Lynn** and **Fred Campbell**, served on the CBPC, to give retirees a voice on the committee.

Joyce Stewart, UUA Retirement Plan Director, attended our Board Meeting in Boston in September. She skillfully fielded our questions. Please feel free to contact Joyce with your questions (see information in next column under "Stay Comfortable").

As Richard Nugent, Director of Office of Church Staff Finances, Ministries and Faith Development, noted in his message, "On behalf of the UUA, we believe you will be pleased with the investment options and lower fees to plan participants through [this] Plan...."



Save paper and get your newsletter 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 rnugent@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.

The hardest years in life
are those between
10 and 70.

— Helen Hayes, at 83



The Gift of Years

Reviewed by Chris Lilly Backus



“Even in decline,’ The Tibetan master Sakya Pandita said, ‘the virtuous increase the beauty of their behavior. A burning stick, though turned to the ground, has its flame drawn upwards.’”

Thus, begins the chapter called “Religion” in the book *The Gift of Years - Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister.

“I reserve the right to revise this edition when I am ninety.”

Later in her chapter, entitled “Legacy,” she writes, “What we are inclined to forget is that each of us leaves a legacy, whether we mean to, whether we want to or not. Our legacies are the quality of the lives we leave behind. What we have been will be stamped on the hearts of those who survive us for years to come...”

“What are we leaving behind? That is the question that marks the timbre of a lifetime. We leave behind our attitude toward the world. We are remembered for whether or not we inspired in others a love for life and an openness to all of those who lived it with us. We will be remembered for our smiles and for our frowns, for our laughter and our complaints, for our kindness and for our selfishness.”

Your reviewer chose these as opening words for the UURMaPA board’s October conference call. She had just finished the book, recommended by **Ralph Mero**, last spring.

As she re-read the book, your reviewer kept inserting a bookmark at *the* reading to share with her board colleagues. Every time she thought she had the perfect choice! Then, as she read the next chapter, she moved that bookmark to a new *even more* inspiring passage. In any case, your reviewer now joins Ralph in heartily recommending this book to any of you who are in the last third or quarter of your life.

In Joan Chittister’s introduction, she notes, “The thing most wrong with this book could well be that I may be too young to write it. I am, after all, only seventy. So, in the interest of full disclosure, I reserve the right to revise this edition when I am ninety.”

You may already recognize the author’s name. But if she is new to you, she is described on the book jacket as a “celebrated spiritual writer.” She is a Benedictine, whose approach is an inclusive one, incorporating wisdom from many of the world’s religions.

Look for the book in your local library or you may order it from Amazon (the paperback edition runs about \$10 US).

Directory Online!

Our new *UURMaPA Directory* will come to you soon by mail. Did you know it is already up on our website?

Member Password can be found in the print version of the newsletter.

www.uurmapa.org

Send changes and updates to:

Andy Backus

2746 Broadway

Bellingham, WA 98225

andrewbackus@msn.com

Turning of Our Lives

Liz Benjamin (Ottawa) traveled to Ohio in July to attend her grandson's wedding. She describes him as "a most fundamentalist Christian." She says she is happy this couple has such great support from their church and adds, "better than we do, I think." It was a joyful family reunion. In August she went to New York City for a week of tourism with one of her closest friends, then out to Long Island for their 50th high school reunion, which was "a delight." She said some of the most fun was getting to know better those she wasn't close to in school. In late August Liz flew over the handlebars of her bicycle and broke her right shoulder. Her "amazing" neighbor rescued her. She says she's lucky to be left-handed and was well cared for by church folks and friends during her recuperation. She says she practiced asking for help and saying "thank you."



The *Star Island Newsletter* reports that **Brad Greeley** has completed his service as president of the board. Brad was presented with a photograph, depicting one of the wall sconces in the chapel, designed by his grandfather. Brad also received a seat to his very own Oceanic porch rocker. He and his wife, **Catherine Greeley** received a long standing ovation from the crowd, which filled the sanctuary at the Congregational Church of Needham, MA.



Chris Lilly Backus

The Greeleys at Star Island chapel service, Sept. 2010 .

Susan Cooper (Burlington, VT) is living in a memory care unit at the Converse Home on lower Church St. in Burlington. Friends who wish to visit Susan may make arrangements by contacting her daughter, Marga Sproul, at (802) 881-8097 or marga.sproul@uvm.edu

Rosemary Matson (Carmel Valley, CA) writes that her archives, including Women & Religion material and her own personal papers have been accepted by the Schlesinger Library in Boston.

Rosemary and her late husband, Howard, received the *Adin Ballou Award* from the UU Peace Fellowship for their decades of leadership in peace and social justice; Paul Sawyer also received the award, posthumously. She says,



"... as you can see, my life has been full and I am still working on much that has yet to be done! The first 92 years of my life have been quite a wondrous experience; I plan to make the next years more of the same!"

Farley Wheelwright (Laredo, TX) writes, "If any of you suffer from macular degeneration, like me, you may be interested to know that the Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary is successfully performing corneal transplants. A physician there notes, "Corneal transplants are done for individuals who have cloudy corneas and the procedure does not have any beneficial effect on the retina." For my own macular degeneration I looked into the intraocular telescope. This new development won't help me, but I pass this on in case it could help somebody else. Aside from being blind, I'm in pretty good shape and will celebrate 94 years in December. I have a few friends and a wife who read to me. I keep abreast of *Elderberries* news, and I gobble up every health item and quietly weep over every loss. We all have reason to give thanks to Harold Hadley of Blessed Memory who started us on the path leading to *Elderberries*. Before Harold, we had no idea whatever became of a minister after he/she retired."

Turning of Our Lives

Lex Crane (Santa Barbara, CA) writes that he produced his first paper on the problem of UU identity years ago, and has continued to develop his thinking on the matter. His recently published book, *Underlying Unity: A Fresh Look at the Philosophy of UU Religion*, describes the contents of the tacit world view that explains why we care so deeply about the quality of life in the world for others and ourselves. Lex argues that the identity of our movement has been problematic since mid-19th century, and it became especially so after the UU merger in the early 1960s. Most churches are defined by shared beliefs, but this is not true of UUs. Our beliefs vary widely. We recognize that we share the values listed in the UU Principles, but Lex discovered these values emerged out of an underlying world view. His book outlines its contents. It's available from Amazon.com for \$15 plus shipping. If you don't have access to a computer, send a check for \$15 plus \$1 to cover shipping to John A. Crane, 1038-B Calle Sastre, Santa Barbara, CA, 93105.



Carl Ulrich (Edmonton, AB) writes. "My brother, Gus Ulrich, was visiting **Maurice Cobb** in early August this summer and sent me this picture of Maurice in his garden. I thought you might like this picture for the newsletter."

Dick Norsworthy (Dexter, ME) reports on his son, Rick, who has inoperable, incurable cancer of the portal vein, which leads into the liver. He was rejuvenated by a trip to Dexter in 2009. He continued in this renewed physical and mental health, gaining weight and feeling good about himself. His surgeon discovered that Rick's body was adapting to the losses and he put Rick back on the transplant list. Hope was in the air and the family was ecstatic. Then came the crushing news that the surgeon's recommendation had been rejected by their insurance carrier. After multiple appeals and denials the only option left would be litigation which, in the end, Rick would not be likely to survive. Since then, the cancer has metastasized, but Rick continues to live on. He returned to the cottage again this past summer, for a couple of weeks, again feeling much better when he left than when he came. Dick reports that his son outfished the old man four to none. He is planning to come up next summer for a month. It wouldn't surprise Dick if that should prove manageable. Rick remains terminally ill, but one wouldn't know it to look at him. Dick says they continue to have hope in their hearts.



In Memoriam

The Rev. Jean Lyman Cook Brown, 73, died August 17, 2010. She earned a BA in economics from CT College and an EdM from the University of Hartford. She taught third grade in Avon, CT, and helped establish the Roaring Brook School. While serving as DRE at the UU Church of West Hartford, she enrolled in an independent study program and graduated, despite many personal challenges. Jean was ordained by the West Hartford church and called to be their first MRE. She was active in the Connecticut Valley District's RE Committee and the New England District RE Committee. She served as president of the UUA's Sunday School Society. She regularly participated in GAs and conferences at Star Island and Ferry Beach.



She enjoyed aerobics classes, yearly lobster, painting, reading and hearing the voice of a friend. Jean became Minister of Pastoral Services until she retired and was named minister emerita. She is survived by her husband, James Cashel Brown, two sisters, a sister-in-law and children Christopher, Roger and Bettina Ann Brown.

The Rev. Nancy J. Haley, 66, died August 27, 2010. She earned bachelor's degrees in English and German literature and a Master of Arts in Theater & Costume Design at the U. Minnesota. She went on to earn her M.Div. at Harvard, after having taught ESL for the Minneapolis public schools for ten years. Nancy was a freelance writer and film and video producer for nearly 25 years. As a member of Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul, she created images for *Our Whole Lives*. She served as interim minister at Third Church Unitarian of Chicago and then was called to serve the UU Society of Iowa City. She then served Second Unitarian Church of Omaha. She served on the board of the Prairie Star District from 2002-2008.



A colleague described her as, "... lively and thought-provoking..." and as "someone who could dare us to dream big." Nancy is survived by her loving partner of 21 years, Tom Johnson, her son, Jon Haley, and his wife Monica Singh; her daughter, Joanna Haley, two sisters and two nieces.



The Rev. Dr. Mary J. Harrington, 58, died at home October 26, 2010, after a courageous struggle with ALS. She attended Middlebury College and graduated from William James College of Grand Valley State University with a BS in Social Ethics and Social Relations. She was executive director of Home Hospice of Sonoma County (CA). She earned her M. Div. from Starr King. She served UU churches in Santa Rosa, CA; Houston, TX; Marblehead and Winchester, MA. Her last congregation named her minister emerita. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, she co-founded and served as president of Gulf Coast Volunteers for the Long Haul. She led 14 trips to the area, many from a wheelchair.

Mary delivered the sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition at the 2009 GA in Salt Lake City. She was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Sacred Theology from Starr King for "her outstanding service as a parish minister and her inspiring leadership as president of Gulf Coast Volunteers for the Long Haul." She is survived by her beloved husband of 30 years, Martin Teitel, her children, Julia & Samuel Teitel, and her stepson, Jason Teitel.

In Memoriam



The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Howe, 88, died August 10, 2010. He earned an AB in chemistry at UNC, Chapel Hill. He served in the US Marine Corps, then returned to UNC to earn his MA & PhD in chemistry. He worked for Merck and then taught at

Clarkson College in Potsdam, NY. There the Howes became active members of the Universalist Church in Canton, NY. He went on to earn his BDiv at Meadville Lombard, which later awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Divinity. He served churches in TX, NY, NC. He was named minister emeritus by the Wilmington, NC church. He was interim minister for churches in VA, NY and FL. After his retirement, he was a member of the Chapel Hill and Raleigh, NC congregations. He served on the Commission on Appraisal and was a member of the UU Historical Society. He wrote a number of books, including *The Larger Faith: A Short History of American Universalism*. He was a lifelong advocate for social justice. He is survived by his wife, Ann Howe, his children, Judith Louise Howe and Marjorie Ann Howe Cheney (and their spouses) and David Darrow Howe and four granddaughters.

Virginia Hay Leavitt, 97, widow of the Rev. Dr. Fenwick L. Leavitt, Jr., died July 12, 2010 in Rutland, VT. The Leavitts served Universalist parishes in Middletown, NY; Barre, VT; Germantown, PA, and Lynn, MA. They reared two daughters.

Following her husband's death in 1967, she returned to Westbrook, ME, where she was an active volunteer. An avid reader and a fan of classical music, her greatest interest lay in the life of the Universalist Church and in her many friends there. She served as the organist for the Westbrook church for many years.

In October 2003, she moved to Chittenden, VT, to be near her family. She accepted many losses during her long life with grace and dignity. Her younger daughter, Meredith and a granddaughter died in 1979, and by the time of her own death, Virginia had been predeceased by her entire family except for her older daughter, Joanne Leavitt Powers. She also leaves two grandsons, David Powers and Jon Powers, a granddaughter, Erin Teare Martin and seven great-grandchildren.



The Rev. Dr. Brandoch (Brandy) Lovely, 82, died September 29, 2010. A graduate of Proctor Academy in Andover NH, he served in the US Army. He went to Harvard, earning a degree in American History and Literature, and an STB at the Divinity School. As a student he served as DRE in Winchester and West Newton, MA. He served congregations in Carlisle, Reading and Hingham, MA; Austin, TX; and Pasadena, CA. He served Neighborhood Church in Pasadena from 1969-1993. The church named him minister emeritus. He was also awarded a Doctor of Theological Studies by Starr King. He served as interim minister in Costa Mesa, Canoga Park, Santa Barbara and Riverside, CA.

In 1974 he chaired the continental convocation of UU ministers, the first in 20 years. He served as MSR for the Pacific SW District, and delivered the SLT sermon at the 1979 GA. He was an active ACLU member. He is survived by his wife, Judith Howerton Lovely and six children, his brother Rupert Lovely, and his sister. (A daughter predeceased him.)



Eva G. Montoya, 67, wife of the Rev. Dale Arnink, died August 4, 2010, after years of combatting Parkinson's disease, chronic back pain, and a recent painful fall. She had married her high school sweetheart, Ted Montoya, Jr. They divorced after 16 years of marriage. In 1986

she married Dale Arnink of Los Alamos, but retained the name of Montoya because it had become her business name. She has been a trained beautician in Santa Fe and had a successful and satisfying career in Los Alamos as a cosmetologist in several shops. She operated her own shop, "Eva's Hair Design," for 20 years until her retirement in 2000. She enjoyed travel and maintained a physically active life that included skiing, hiking, tennis, biking and scuba diving. She also enjoyed spending time with friends and family. She was preceded in death by her mother and by her youngest sister Ila. She is survived by her husband, Dale Arnink her father, Eberto, her sister Lillian and by her niece, nephew and their children, and a large extended family.

The Rev. Hartley C. Ray, 92, died August 21, 2010. A graduate of Bates College and the University of Chicago Divinity School, he also worked on a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion, at U. of Chicago. Ordained a Congregationalist, he served Congregational church in El Paso, TX, after having been fellowshiped by the AUA. In El Paso he was a member of the executive committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. He served churches in Chicago; Highland Park, IL; and Orange, NJ. He served as chaplain at Philadelphia State Hospital for 19 years and the Philadelphia Protestant Home for two years. He served non-UU churches in CT and PA, as well. Active in the Chicago and NYC ministers study and fellowship groups, he was also a member of the Community Service Council of Oranges and Maplewood, NJ, a planning body for welfare agencies and hospitals. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Kay Hartley, three daughters and five grandchildren.



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

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Please contact me about:

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

Let Us Hear From *You!*

Your UURMaPA Nominating Committee is beginning the process of selecting a number of interested people to serve on the UURMaPA Board, with terms starting July 1, 2011. Those who are on the Board now (or who have served) will tell you that this is a wonderful way to serve one another and our greater liberal religious movement in our retirement years.

Our Bylaws state that in odd years we shall fill the following positions:

President
Vice-President
Caring Network Chair
Member-at Large
Nominating Committee Chair

How about it? Would you be interested, or could you recommend someone for these Board positions? At the present time there are people who are serving in these roles who may continue because they have at least two years of remaining eligibility. Still, we are looking for suggestions – names of retired ministers and ministers' partners – for leadership positions both now and in the future. The consensus is that this is fun, meaningful and creative work.

Board terms are for two years but one may serve up to *six consecutive years*. No one may serve for more than four years *in one position*.

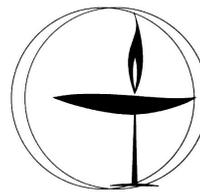
The Board meets in person in Boston each Fall. Otherwise, meetings are by monthly conference calls.

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

Ellen Johnson-Fay
ellenjf@q.com
(719) 473-7059

Nancy Doughty
nwdrev@charter.net
(231) 933-4801

Ellen Brandenburg
ebrandenburg@rcn.com
(978) 993-4104



On behalf of UURMaPA, thank you for helping with this interesting and important work!

— Ellen Brandenburg, Chair

JPD North Group News

by Carol Taylor

Spring 2010

We planned two luncheons in May, one in the eastern area of PA and one in central PA. **Elizabeth Ellis** (east) and **Arthur Hover** and his wife, **Ellen Dionna**, (central) agreed to be hosts. I sent out invitations to all of our folks during April inviting them to pick one of the luncheons and join their colleagues for good food and good conversation, focused on “How Our Spiritual Lives and Our Theologies have Changed Since Retiring and as We Have Aged.” We offered transportation if needed. We extended our invitation to local parish ministers.

Ralph Mero, Bob and Peggy Doss, Elizabeth Ellis, Richard Speck (District Executive) and I had a delightful experience enjoying a wonderful meal and good conversation in our east group. Our conversation revealed several realities. Some of us feel they have lost their faith community, others feel very limited in what they can do, still others have less interest in regular Sunday attendance, and some have created their own spiritual practices outside of the church.

(The luncheon in the central area had no takers, so we will try again in the Fall.)

We have learned that activities in the middle of the day are best for us retired folks. We can drive to the event after the rush hour in the morning and can return home before the evening rush hour. And driving in the daylight hours is desirable.

Fall 2010

It is the Fall season in spades here in Pennsylvania and Delaware. I have been talking with most of our members in JPD North and have learned that almost all of them found the hot summer months difficult.

John Farmakis (Philadelphia) lives in an apartment and is still quite limited in his activities. He is looking forward to getting a new walker, which will allow him to get out into his neighborhood. **Jack Taylor** (State College, PA) is terminally ill and believes he has just months to live. He hopes to make it through the holidays. **Bob and Peggy Doss** have settled into a routine that is comfortable for them. They have family close by for support, but they miss their church involvement. Bob has been able to get to a couple of UUMA Chapter meetings. **Elizabeth Ellis** is teaching an adult education course on the Bible at the UU Church of Delaware County, in Media, PA.

Our next luncheon will be at the home of **Art Hover** and **Ellen Dionna** in Dover, PA — a short distance from York, PA. The topic will be “Our Spiritual Needs and Practices”. We find we get started on a topic and then drift beyond what we started out to talk about. It’s been fun!



“Auntie, do you tweet?”
“No, but I *toot* a lot...”



Longing

Carry me back to dear old Scarborough,
 There's where the tides of the river ebb and flow;
 There's where the birds warble sweet in the springtime,
 There's where this poor, weary heart so longs to go;

There's where we worked in the sweet summer weather,
 There's where we played in the years of long ago;
 No place on earth was so loved by me ever,
 As dear old Scarborough - There's where I want to go.

Carry me back to dear old Scarborough,
 There I will dwell 'til the setting of life's sun,
 There I will wait for the gladsome tomorrow;
 Whose joys untold were already here begun.

Chorus

Carry me back to dear old Scarborough,
 There's where the tides of the river ebb and flow;
 There's where I'll find comfort, and rest in my sorrow;
 There's where this poor, weary heart so longs to go.

— for Polly [Huston]
 by Augustus K. Small

Virginia Hay Leavitt's Uncle Gus and Cousin Polly were two of her favorite people. The photo shows her as a young girl (in 1937) on the sandlot beside her family's summer retreat at Higgins Beach, Scarborough, Maine. Her daughter, Joanne Leavitt Powers, notes that the family gathered near here for Virginia's interment, with Bob Sallies officiating.

Northeast Conference

UURMaPA Northeast gathered in Attleboro, MA, Oct. 5-7, asking, "Is One Lifetime too Short?" A panel of clergy and partners shared their diverse experiences. Particle physicist **George Brandenburg**, after dealing with health issues, spent two years in Switzerland, working with the CERN Large Hadron Collider. He and his minister-partner, Ellen Brandenburg, are now back home in Salem, MA, where they are active volunteers and sailors.

Pat Hoertdoerfer took a retirement sabbatical at Ghost Ranch, NM, where she encountered "Age-ing and Sage-ing," became a trained leader, and makes this her social outreach. **Brad Greeley** moved to Portsmouth, NH, where he became an active church volunteer and has served as president of the board for Star Island Corporation (see also page 6). **Sue Nichols** and her minister-husband, Vern Nichols, retired as co-directors of the UUUN Office when UUA funding ceased. A native of NYC, she volunteers with public radio and the Municipal Art Society, among other groups, and enjoys the cultural riches of the city.

Helen & Gene Pickett presented their Odyssey. **Dick Gilbert** interpreted "Mark Twain on Religion," **Dick Fewkes** coordinated worship and conducted the UURMaPA business meeting, in his role as vice president. Check our website for more information. See you next year in Attleboro!

— Dick Gilbert



Ken MacLean's 50-year Speech Online

Kenneth Torquil MacLean was chosen by his 50-year classmates to represent them during Ministry Day in June 2010, just prior to the start of General Assembly. Colleagues have praised Ken's talk, in which he reminisces about starting his ministry just as the historic merger of the Universalists and Unitarians had finally taken place. He notes the dramatic and captivating background to his class's early ministries. He cites the Civil Rights Movement, the Viet Nam War and opposition to it, and the burgeoning Women's Movement.



The highs and lows of social justice demonstrations and tragic assassinations dominated the backdrop of those early years. Reared in the Methodist Church, Ken was first a high school teacher in LA. After he married Harriet Johnson, who was a Unitarian DRE, they became active in the Unitarian Community Church in Santa Monica. Ken notes that he decided — rather suddenly — to apply to Harvard Divinity School. There he was influenced by the thinking and writing of James Luther Adams and Ralph Helverson, and Bob Weston.

When Ken went before the Fellowship Committee he says he feared that his homosexuality would rule him out as a candidate for ministry. When he did succeed in meeting all requirements, Ken said he felt like an undocumented immigrant, not supposed to be where he was, but having just slipped in. After Harriet's passing, Ken eventually was able to come out of the closet. In doing so he found tremendous support for sharing openly that he loved Terry Watson, who has now been his life partner for the past fourteen years.

Ken describes his rich experiences in North America and around the world. He also speaks about the impact of women, such as Greta Worstel (Crosby) and Judy Hoehler, joining the modern-day UU ministry. If you would like to read Ken's talk in its entirety, go to our website — www.uurmapa.org — and click on the Activities tab to see his talk in its entirety.



Turning of Our Lives (continued)

Rick Neff (Overland Park, KS) writes, "I retired myself from the active parish/pulpit ministry in June 1994. I think I found myself increasingly unsuited to the day-to-day ministry. I was in New Jersey at the time. I maintain close ties and regular correspondence with members of my former churches (except for Hollis), but have no association with a congregation here. That, though, is for health reasons. I avoid public gatherings. I have COPD-emphysema; and someone else's sniffles or slight cough quickly becomes my potentially fatal bronchitis. I maintain contact with colleagues and Starr King classmates.

"In 1995 I returned to graduate school (Rutgers) and got a degree in library science. From 1997 well into 2002 I worked as a library director and reference librarian in New Jersey. I was forced to retire for health reasons in October 2002.

"So, here I am in the Kansas City area, minutes away from my two sons (and one daughter-in-law) and three grandkids. I'm having a good time, and (hard work and sustained effort) have recovered a lot of my health (it's a long, undramatic, unromantic story). I write an occasional *Journal*, which I email out to family, friends and colleagues.

"That's my story in a nutshell."



Creative Sage-ing Award

UURMaPA's Fourth Annual Creative Sage-ing Award Committee (**Dick Fewkes, Helen Lane and Judy Mannheim**) will be meeting in early spring to select a member of UURMaPA (minister, partner, surviving partner or couple) for our 2011 Creative Sage-ing Award. The award recognizes outstanding service and creativity pursuing new ventures *after retirement*. This might include community service, mentoring and/or initiation of or participation in community or denominational service projects. Our first four winners have been **Lex Crane** in 2008 and **Bill Murry** in 2009 and **Eleanor & Peter Richardson** in 2010 (see their notes below). The winner each year receives a \$500 honorarium. Don't be shy. Let us know what you're up to. Send nominations by **February 28, 2011** to:

Dick Fewkes
41 Cygnet Drive
West Dennis, MA 02670
dick_ellie@aol.com



Honored

We were very surprised and deeply honored to receive the *2010 Creative Sage-ing Award* from UURMAPA. To receive this from a group we admire so much is a pleasure indeed! We gave much thought as to how to use the generous honorarium. We wanted to do something we might not justify otherwise, combining pleasure with productivity. We decided on a couple of days and nights in Portland at the Maine Historical Society, where we both enjoyed doing research.

We appreciate this award very much.

— Peter & Eleanor Richardson



The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination and the energy to get started.

— Norman Cousins

Let's Get Together!

PAN SOUTH CONFERENCE — Asheville, NC, Mar. 30-Apr. 1, 2011. Clark Olsen, Registrar, clarkolsen@charter.net or (828) 484-9239. Motel and home hospitality options will be available. Watch for details in *Elderberries* and on our website at www.uurmapa.org

STAR ISLAND GATHERING — Labor Day week, 2011. If you enjoy being with colleagues in a rustic setting, with little structured time, this could be for you! UURMaPA members register as “personal retreatants.” Thanks to Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale for agreeing to organize this time together for the third year.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — Attleboro, MA, LaSalette Retreat Center, October 4-6, 2011. Kathleen Hunter is registrar. Details will be forthcoming.

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

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

Address Service Requested



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