

Elderberries

the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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UURMAPA at GA: Welcome Retirees!

UURMAPA President **Dick Gilbert** and Vice-President **Jim Eller** represented us at the “Justice GA” in Phoenix, AZ in June. Jim was in charge of arrangements and co-hosted with UUMA President **Bill Hamilton-Holway** a “Collegial Conversation” on the work of UUMA’s task force on retirement. **Dick Gilbert** was also present along with a contingent of about a dozen other retirees who did some deep, honest and sometimes painful sharing. The purpose of the gathering was to receive more input for the task force which will have a face-to-face meeting later this summer. The program at the North Attleboro regional conference October 2-4 will feature a report of the task force from several of its members. **Jim Eller** and **Chris Backus** (representing partners) are UURMAPA representatives.



Keeping in Touch

Kathleen Hunter and **Alan Deale** we went to Peterborough ON for **Jeannette Morgan**’s 90th birthday on July 29 (Jeannette’s husband, **John Morgan**, was minister at Toronto First when Kathleen first became a UU). **Charles** and **Nancy Eddis** and **Anne Orfald** were also there. Kathleen reports that it was a great event. On a sad note, Anne’s husband, **Scott**, recently had a stroke and is not doing well.

Sue Nichols is recovering well from a knee replacement. She says she enjoyed receiving good wishes from far-flung places. She will graduate from rehab as soon as she can manage the 46 steps from the street to their apartment. She notes that 100+ year old buildings don’t have space for elevators.

Dorothy Boroush is receiving treatment for lung cancer and has the help and support of the Taunton Church and her son who lives in Boston. Cards and emails are welcomed.

Gregg Carter, **Fred Gillis** and **Judith Downing**, all former ministers of the Westminster UU Church in East Greenwich, RI were part of the large ministerial presence at that church’s dedication of its new building in June. Also, **Carolyn Marshall** is an active member of the church.

Betsy and **Fred Stevens** both pursue their interest in history---Betsy with the Duxbury Church archives and Fred with the Civil War.

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by Dick Gilbert

“Aging Is the Ultimate Extreme Sport”



The T-shirt at GA caught my attention immediately with its in-your-face wisdom: “Aging is the ultimate extreme sport.” It prompted quiet reflection amidst the hubub of this gathering of the UU tribe in Phoenix. We were there to bear witness to justice for immigrants. While there we were reminded of the courage of those families who left their homes behind and migrated north to an uncertain future; and about the courage of our fellow UU’s who risked and experienced arrest while doing civil disobedience in protest of the unjust SB 1070.

In my stream of consciousness I then was swept to think about those extreme sports like mountain climbing with its life and death risks. Not a few have lost their lives on the peaks of our planet – I think of a poignant cell phone call from one dying climber who tearfully spoke last words of love to his family. I thought of those who try to sail around the world solo. These folks deliberately put their lives on the line in the interest of human adventure. Why climb mountains or sail seas? Because they are there.

And then the T-shirt, worn by a colleague about my age, came back into focus. I’ve risked arrest in protests; I’ve skied on some rather scary slopes; I’ve even tried a rock-climbing wall, but nothing quite compares with the ultimate extreme sport of aging.

It is not so much the physical courage required in civil disobedience or in high climbing or dangerous sailing that aging requires. It is the spiritual courage to know that the causes one has spent a career serving have not yet come to fruition, and won’t during our lifetime; that the dreams of youthful idealism are just not going to be fulfilled, and learning to live with it.

It is the spiritual courage to yield leadership to younger colleagues who may do it differently; to see the faith one loves moving in a direction uncomfortable to us.

It is the spiritual courage to face up to our limitations and not feel self-pity; to bid a fond farewell to good friends; to lose a beloved partner or child and keep living life to the full even when lonely.

It is the spiritual courage to realize that we will not live to see how the lives of our children and grandchildren fully unfold.

It is the spiritual courage to know that, after all, life is terminal – even the good life we have tried to lead.

I don’t know who said “aging is the ultimate extreme sport,” but he or she knew what they were talking about. The T-shirt is good for a laugh – or a good cry – or some very deep meditation. The next time you hear someone talking about the fortitude it must require for the extreme sports of our adventurous athletes, remind them of these wise words. There are athletes of the spirit who find in the process of aging quite enough adventure to challenge and satisfy the human spirit.

BOARD MEMBERS: THANKS AND WELCOME!

Thanks to UURMAPA Board members who left the board as of June 30: **Chris Backus**, Elderberries editor; **Kathleen Hunter**, Treasurer; and **Anne Orfald**, member-at-large. We welcome new Board members: **Chuck Campbell**, Elderberries editor; **Margie Nasemann**, Caring Network Chair; and **Marcia Olson**, member-at-large who takes over as database manager. **Paul L’Herrou** moves from Caring Network Chair to Treasurer. A complete listing of Board members with contact information can be found on page two.

Other UURMAPA volunteers are **Ellen Brandenburg**, Nominating Committee Chair; **Duane Fickeisen**, Webmaster; and **Elizabeth Strong**, Historian.

Thanks to **Andy Backus**, Master of All Webmasters” Our indomitable webmaster and utility-man electronic guru **Andy Backus** has decided to retire. After so many years of service, as UURMAPA Treasurer, webmaster and more, we owe him a debt of gratitude. Andy held us together electronically, even as many of us struggled with the new technologies. Now we are faced with the task of replacing him with an as-yet-undetermined number of UURMAPANS to do his many jobs. Thanks, Andy.

In Memoriam

Mary Evelyn Newhall Behee, 85, wife of the **Rev. Wells Behee**, died Dec. 13, 2011, in a car crash. She was an elementary school teacher, a doll collector, an avid gardener, a community volunteer and mother of five.

The Rev. Wells E. Behee, 86, died Dec. 15, 2011 from injuries sustained in a car accident. A fifth generation Universalist, he was pastor, soldier, scoutmaster and father of five, he oversaw special ed in New Madison, OH. He enjoyed classical music, art, literature, genealogy and gardening.

The Rev. Robert L. (Rel) Davis, 75, died Nov. 1, 2011. The son of the first Baptist missionary to the Sioux in TX, he served congregations in FL. He studied at Wayland U and U of Montana. A genealogist, he traced his family back to the 1600's.

Edward William Ewers, Jr., 69, husband of the **Rev. Margo J. Ewers**, died Jan. 1 in Nashua, NH, after a long decline.. He was CFO of Harbor Homes, which helps homeless and mentally ill people find housing. He loved taking driving trips.

The Rev. Sidney L. Freeman, 84, died Jan. 12. He was a WWII Navy veteran, who went on to teach at Sweetbriar College. He became a lay leader at First Unitarian in Lynchburg, VA. The AUA granted him fellowship for his work there.

Averill Virginia Gay, 90, wife of the **Rev. Richard R. Gay** died Jan. 24, 2011 in Anchorage, AK. A graduate of Ursinus College, she was a piano teacher, church organist and choir director. She is survived by her five children and their families.

The Rev. Dr. Roger O. Kuhrt, 70, died Jan 17 in hospice care in Lakewood, WA. A graduate of U. of Washington, Washington State U. and Columbia Pacific U., he served churches in Olympia and Tacoma, WA.

The Rev. Richard Reno Neff, 74, died Mar. 17. He was a graduate of Starr King, who served UU congregations in Farmington Hills, MI; Hollis, NY; Joliet, IL; and Orange, NJ. He had been making a recovery at home following surgery last Fall. He enjoyed sharing his thoughts on his blog.

The Rev. Dr. George J.W. Pennington, 86, died Jan. 10. He held BA, STM, MA and DD degrees from Tufts University. He served churches in Wakefield, Norwell and Arlington, MA; Concord, NH; Springfield, MA and Montclair, NJ. He was active in the peace and civil rights movements.

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Vaught Sparling, 87, died Feb. 23. She earned her MDiv. and DMin. from Northwest Theological Seminary. She served churches in NW Washington. Was a national PTA president and served on the UUA Board.

Deborah Lantz Steiner, 103, widow of the **Rev. Dr. Richard M. Steiner**, died Oct. 27, 2011. Born a Quaker, she became the consummate minister's wife in the "hat and gloves" era. She was a mother, gardener and active community volunteer.

Virginia Wheelwright, 91, wife of the **Rev. Farley Wheelwright**, died Dec. 3, 2011 at home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico two days before Farley's 95th birthday. A world traveler, who reared three children, Virginia helped to found Jóvenes Adelante to encourage youth to go on to college.

Donna McWain White, 80, wife of the **Rev. Donovan White**, died May 15, 2010. She taught English in Erie, PA and Montville, OH. A minister's wife for 31 years, she was a great reader, seamstress, oil painter, and friend to all.

The Rev. Donovan E. White, 83, died Dec. 30, 2011. He was a US Air Force veteran who later served as a chaplain. College professor, minister and upholstery shop owner, he enjoyed music, reading, swimming and walking.

Pauline Rendall Woodman, 73, wife of the **Rev. Richard Woodman**, died Feb. 27 in hospice care after a long decline. She was an active UU for many years. In retirement she developed a passion for researching family history.

GASTON MARCEL CARRIER (1920-2012)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Gaston Marcel Carrier who died on June 20, 2012. He was 92 years old.

Rev. Carrier was born in Montréal, Québec, Canada on January 14, 1920 to Alfred and Adelina (LaPierre) Carrier. Rev. Carrier attained his Bachelor of Arts degree from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario and Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia in 1941. After studies in theology at the Montréal Divinity School and Emmanuel College, he received his B.D. from Meadville Theological School in 1947. He then went on to earn a Master of Education from the University of Bridgeport, CT in 1959, and a Master of Arts in French Literature from the University of Vermont in 1968. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1973.

Rev. Carrier was ordained by the United Church of Canada in Montreal on September 10, 1943. In the early years of his ministry, he worked at Unitarian churches in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and Cohasset, MA. He then went on to work at the First Grace Universalist Church in Lowell, MA from 1952-1957; and the Universalist Congregation of Danbury, CT from 1957-1961. In 1961, he was called to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, VT. He stayed there until his retirement in 1978 when he was also voted Minister Emeritus of the church.

Rev. Carrier was active in the Civil Rights Movement and helped found Planned Parenthood in Burlington, VT. He was a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, the Community Council of Greater Burlington, the Burlington Council of Churches, and the Champlain Valley Clergy Association.

A true bibliophile, Rev. Carrier enjoyed adding to his library whenever possible. Throughout his long life, he pursued an abiding love of all things French Canadian including history, literature, language, culture and antiques. A writer, he published a book, Prayers, in 1971; and in 1973, he wrote and published a children's story entitled Johnny Peanut.

Throughout his ministry (and in all these endeavors), Rev. Carrier was supported by his wife of 64 years, an active Unitarian-Universalist, Mary (Archibald) Carrier. Although Mary had a demanding full-time career of her own, she was the Director of Religious Education at both the Burlington and Danbury churches, and was tremendously active on committees and in the life of both churches, as well as in Lowell. She accompanied Rev. Carrier to General Assembly, and hosted "Thursday Night Suppers" for small groups of parishioners to encourage community and discussion, rotating through the entire congregation and then starting all over again. A true ministerial partner, she supported her husband's ministry in extraordinary ways throughout his career and their lives together.

In a personal statement, Rev. Carrier once noted that he established his ministry "upon a foundation of personal dedication, utter sincerity, and rich inner resources of a kind and generous spirit."

Rev. Carrier is survived by daughter, Michèle Carrier; daughter, Natalie Carrier and her husband, David Ackerman; daughter, Jill Carrier and her husband, David Duncan; daughter, Hilarie Terebessy and her husband, David Terebessy; grandchildren, Samuel and Sarah Duncan, and Matthew and Nina Terebessy; his brother, Jean-Paul Carrier; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary (Archibald) Carrier.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Rev. Carrier's memory may be sent to the Committee on Temporary Shelter, P.O. Box 1616, Burlington, VT 05402.

A memorial service, overlooking Lake Champlain, will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2012 at 2 p.m. at Bishop Booth Conference Center, 20 Rock Point Circle, Burlington, VT, 05408.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Jill Carrier, 113 Ocean St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

(Obits Continued on page 9)



Jim Eller and Dick Gilbert, Hard at work

W. EDWARD HARRIS (1935-2012)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Reverend W. Edward Harris who died on August 10, 2012. He was 77 years old.

Rev. Harris was born in Tampa, FL on June 17, 1935 to Ira Walter Harris and Ruth Hope Duss. Soon after, his father remarried and he was raised by Mary Elizabeth (Smith) Harris, whom he referred to as his mother. He attained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Birmingham-Southern College in 1957. In 1968, he went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Tufts University's Crane Theological School. He received a Merrill Fellowship from Harvard Divinity School in 1980.

Rev. Harris was called by the Arlington Street Church in Boston, MA in 1967 (where he was also ordained on November 3, 1968) and served as the minister there until 1970. He was then called to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana Champaign in Urbana, IL from 1970-1983. He experienced another long run as minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Indianapolis, IN from 1984-1992. (Continued on page 8)

UURMaPA at GA

Dick and Jim hosted a luncheon for newly retired clergy and partners, about 24 in total. (See picture on page 1). After good food and conversation Dick and Jim led a ceremony of welcome into UURMAPA. Jim attended a UUA-sponsored lunch for families of ministers who died during the past year; Dick was at a UUMA-sponsored lunch for presidents of the various groups — UUMA, UURMAPA, LREDA, UU Musicians Network, administrator and membership groups and others. Jim and Dick paraded the UURMAPA banner during the opening ceremony; and Dick welcomed the newly retired ministers at the Service of the Living Tradition. It was a busy GA and we were there!

On the lighter side!! from Chris Backus

If it sounds easy you don't have all the facts. -- James L. Brewer

"It is impossible to enjoy idling unless there is plenty of work to do." -- Jerome K. Jerome

A nine-year-old boy was looking with interest at an ornate plaque in the foyer of the church, inscribed with many names. He asked the minister who they were. "Oh," she replied, "they all died in the service."

Looking rather alarmed, the child asked, "Were they at the 9:30 or 11 o'clock service?"

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.

UURMaPA at ATTLEBORO, MA – Conference

Oct. 2-4, 2012 at La Salette Retreat Center. Keynote program: "How Shall We Be with One Another?" Members of the UUMA Task Force on Retired Ministers will be with us. They are charged with finding and sharing best practices for "right relations" among retired, interim and settled ministers and their families. **Maureen Thitchener** will share her Odyssey and **Margi Nasemann** will present a "History of the United States Through Music." And we will watch the first US presidential debate. All this, plus worship and music. **John** and **Susan Weston** are this year's conference chairs. Visit UURMaPA.org for registration information. Registration deadline is September 21. Questions? Contact Susan at 401-678-6994 or susanbwatson@gmail.com. Let us know if you need us to send you a printed form!



Rev Joseph Lowry and Rev. Linnea Pearson

Linnea Pearson is the new Caring Coordinator in our Florida region. We thank **Emily Palmer** for her long and faithful service there.

Jeanne and Olav Nieuwejaar are taking over our

New Hampshire caring area. Many thanks to **Kathleen Hunter** and **Alan Deale** for their dedicated work there over the years.



Margi Nasemann has just joined the UURMaPA board as our new Caring Network Chair. She takes the reins from **Paul L'Herrou**, who has served very capably in that role for two years is now UURMaPA's treasurer.



Rev. Linnea Pearson and The Dalai Lama

(Continued from page 1)

Retired Sarasota minister **Richard Benner** is having surgery at Sarasota Memorial at 7:00 AM on June 20, for what may be a malignant brain tumor. I suspect he would appreciate any contact from colleagues, a phone call, a card, an e-mail-- whatever you feel comfortable with. Dick has two sons, one who lives nearby and one who lives on the West Coast. Sarasota church members tell me that his wife Susan is very reserved. Dick Benner served the Omaha church for more than seven years until his retirement from the ministry in December 2005. He was born, raised, and educated in the state of Maine. He holds Masters Degrees in both education and divinity and graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary in the early 1970s. He served in Sarasota from 1987 to 1999.

Rev. Richard and Susan Benner
5459 Beneva Woods Way
Sarasota, FL 34233
cell 402 297 8080
richardebenner@msn.com

Went ok. Cut aggressively, area about as big as the tip of your little finger. 3 hrs. Pain barely, none now.

Not ruling anything anything for now. Tests, etc. Did not like like usual black melanoma.

Speech affected but comes and goes, suspect will recover as I recover.

Thanks.

Dick

Lee Giles Hirstein reports that her father, **Phil Giles**, "is very much with us at 95..." He now has a full-time caregiver and has moved to a new spot on an independent living floor (#318) at the same place in Hoffman Estates. Lee says at times her father is "ebullient" and he loves the constant company of his caregiver. She says, "It's a relief to see the old spark returning." Phil would welcome notes or you can send an email greeting through Lee at iplayit@gmail.com.



Leon Hopper, Dorothy Hopper at Dorothy's Birthday

(Rev Harris Continued from page 6)

There, he was bestowed with the title of Minister Emeritus in 1992. He worked as an interim minister at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, MD from 1992-1993; the Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL from 1993-1995; the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY in 1997; and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis, IN from 2003-2004. He also consulted on health care issues at the UUA from 1997-1998, and helped found the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Hendricks County in Danville, IN.

Rev. Harris was a passionate civil rights and political activist. He was a founder and president of the Alabama Civil Liberties Union and also served on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union. He pioneered voter registration campaigns in Birmingham, AL following 1964's Civil Rights Act. He was a board member of the Birmingham Council on Human Relations and served on Birmingham's first Anti-Poverty Committee. Rev. Harris also worked on both the Kennedy-Johnson and the Johnson-Humphrey campaigns of the 1960s. He was chairman of the Illinois Committee for Jimmy Carter, and also served on the Democratic National Committee on the Platform and Credentials Sub-committee.

A dedicated and engaging writer and poet, Rev. Harris published seven books: *Life Will Never Be the Same* (1989); *A Religion of the Heart* (1990); *A Garage Sale of the Mind* (1991); *A Midwife's Tale and Other Christmas Stories* (1994); *How You Can Have a Good Day Everyday* (even if you made other plans) (1995); *The Way It Happened: Five Christmas Stories* (1996); *Miracle in Birmingham: a Civil Rights Memoir, 1954-1965*, (2004);

(Continued on page 14)

WILLIAM RONALD JONES (1933-2012)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Reverend Dr. William Ronald Jones who died on July 13, 2012 at the age of 78.

Rev. Jones was born in Louisville, KY on July 17, 1933 to Henry and Lannie (Brogsdale) Jones. Rev. Jones attained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Howard University in 1955. He then went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Harvard University in 1958, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Brown University in 1969.

Rev. Jones was ordained by the Unitarian Society of Wellesley Hills, MA on June 15, 1958. From 1958-1960, he was the Assistant Minister and Director of Religious Education at the Church of the Mediator (now the First Unitarian Universalist Church) in Providence, RI. From 1977-2012, he served as a community minister at Florida State University. Notably, he was a member of the UUA Board of Trustees from 1993-2000, and worked with the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) to develop resources for professional religious educators.

Rev. Jones authored articles regarding oppression and the church's role in social change. His work has been the subject of a vast number of newspaper and journal articles as well as dissertations. In 1978, he co-edited *Black Theology II*, and in 1973, Beacon Press published Rev. Jones' controversial piece, *Is God A White Racist? A Preamble to Black Theology*.

In his seminal work, *Is God A White Racist?*, Rev. Jones introduced the thesis for his life's work: It has often been said that asking the right question is as important as supplying the correct answer. Whether correct or incorrect, this generalization describes the purpose in the following pages. To paraphrase Kant's admonition, my objective is to force the black theologians and their readers to pause a moment and, neglecting all that they have said and done, to reconsider their conclusions in the light of another question: *Is God a white racist?* My concern throughout is to illuminate the issues this pregnant question introduces into the arena of black theology and religion. The black theologian, I contend, cannot avoid this issue of divine racism, because it is implicit in his theological method, purpose, and content.

An internationally recognized and celebrated activist, scholar, philosopher, theologian, and educator, Rev. Jones dedicated his long career to the analysis and methods of oppression, and to working with others in their anti-oppression initiatives. A fundamental part of his work was the exploration of religious humanism and liberation theology.

Rev. Jones' academic and professional endeavors were broad and vast. He helped found and became the Director of the Department of African-American Studies at Florida State University. He was also an associate professor at Yale Divinity School, a visiting lecturer at Howard University, and a visiting professor at Brown University, Princeton University, and Union Theological Seminary, among others. Some of his professional affiliations included the American Academy of Religion, the American Humanist Association, the American Philosophical Association, the Religious Education Association, the Society for the Study of Black Religion, the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA).

Rev. Jones received a vast number of awards over the years including the Urban League Family of the Year Award (1963), the Richard Allen Award (1972), Yale's A. Whitney Griswold Award (1974), the Martin Luther King, Jr. Distinguished Scholar Award (1986), the Bragg Humanist of the Year Award (1989), the American Humanist Association Humanist of the Year (1992), the UUA's Holmes Weatherly Award (1995), and the African American Culture and Philosophy Award (1996), to name just a few.

Rev. Jones is survived by his former wife of 35 years, Lauretta H. Jones; sons Jeffrey Jones, Esq. and Darrell Jones; brother, Cecil Jones; sister, Gilmer Jones Callender; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A celebration of the life of the Rev. Dr. Jones will be held on August 19, 2012 at 2 p.m. at the Nancy Smith Fichter Theatre in Montgomery Hall at Florida State University, 130 Collegiate Loop, Tallahassee, FL 32306.

Notes of condolence may be sent to The Jones Family, 2410 Limerick Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309.

The Rev. Dr. Jones is, perhaps, most lovingly remembered for a principle by which he lived: "You show your love through actions, not words alone."

CONNIE PIRNIE STERNBERG (1929-2012)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Reverend Connie Pirnie Sternberg who died on May 27, 2012. She was 82 years old.

Rev. Sternberg was born in Exeter, NH on November 18, 1929 to James and Harriette (Farrell) Pirnie. Rev. Sternberg attained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University in 1951. She then went on to earn a Master of Arts from Columbia University Teacher's College in 1954, and a Master of Divinity from New York Theological Seminary in 1988.

Rev. Sternberg was ordained by the Community Church of New York on May 7, 1989. She was called to the Unitarian Universalist Society: East in East Manchester, CT in 1989, and there, she stayed, until her retirement in 2001. She remained a member of the UU Society: East for the rest of her life.

Her fondest memories of growing up in Exeter, NH included singing in the choir at the Unitarian Church (which she joined as a teenager), and organizing an interfaith youth group which brought Protestant, Catholic and Jewish youth together for socializing and supporting American troops during World War II.

During her time in Manchester, CT, Rev. Sternberg was a leader of the Connecticut Council for Inter-religious Understanding and was active in many causes, including maintaining the separation of church and state and supporting civil rights for the lesbian and gay community.

Rev. Sternberg met her husband, Hal, in New York City in 1976, and they were married a year later. Hal provided dedicated support throughout her ministerial career, and often said that he loved being "married to the minister." He died in December, 2007.

In a sermon given on May 9, 2010, Rev. Sternberg spoke of, her final year at the New York Theological Seminary. Her theology professors offered the UU students the opportunity to pick topics other than the traditional Holy Trinity. She and her classmates "refused and tackled the same subjects as the rest of the class." She went on to say, "Each evening two students were called upon to read their papers. When the topic was the Trinity, there was a loud call: 'We want to hear from the Unitarians!' We were both applauded and appreciated. By then, we had all decided that even though our theologies, rituals, and sources of reflection were different, we were in the same business. We were unity in diversity."

Rev. Sternberg is survived by a step-daughter, Jill Sternberg; a step-son, Carl Sternberg and his wife, Virginia; as well as a grandson, Michael; her brother-in-law Morton Sternberg and his wife Ruth; and her sister-in-law, Marilyn Sternberg.



A memorial service will be held on June 30, 2012 at 1 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Society: East, 153 West Vernon St., Manchester, CT 06042.

Notes of condolence may be sent to **Jill Sternberg**, 123 Seventh Ave., Mailbox 251, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

WANA PERRY (1931-2012)

Wana Perry passed away on July 13, 2012 at her home in North Las Vegas. She was 81 years old.

In her younger years she was employed as a Psychiatric Technician at Greystone State Hospital, the New Jersey Diagnostic Center and Payne Whitney Clinic in New York,

After spending some ten years as a stay at home Mom she reentered the workforce as a Claims Examiner for the Prudential Insurance Company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon moving to Philadelphia, she became Director of Admissions and then Business Manager for Friends Select School. While living in Chester, Nova Scotia she served as Coordinator for the local Hockey Rink and Curling Club. In Massachusetts she held the position of Business Manager for The Newton Wesley Weston Committee. Her final full time position was Coordinator for the Upton Council on Aging.

In her role as Minister's wife she served as Religious Education Director for Unitarian Churches in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Grafton, Massachusetts.

In her retirement she took part time positions serving as Administrative Assistant at Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary in Worcester, Secretary for the Fairmont Methodist Church in St. Paul, Minnesota and the Redwood Middle School in Saratoga, California, and Research Assistant for the Satellite Health Corporation in Redwood City; as well as volunteer work for The Tech Museum of Innovation and the Repertory Theater in San Jose.

She loved being a Wife, Mother and Grandmother. She took joy in preparing gourmet meals. She constantly wrote poetry and prose. One of her final projects was a book filled with photos and memories, entitled "This Much I Remember" that she wrote and published for her children and grandchildren

She is pre-deceased by her husband and love of her life, **Rev. Richard A. Perry**, and survived by four children: John Perry of Oakland, Tara Perry of North Las Vegas, Richard Perry of San Jose, and Mina Perry of Toronto; plus 7 grandchildren, Ryan, Katelyn, Nicole, Kelsey, Wana, Richard, and Jeremy; plus 2 great-grandchildren, Ender and Yanni.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Nathan Adelson Hospice, Las Vegas.

DORRIS DOW ALCOTT (1920-2012)

The Reverend Doris Dow Alcott who died of heart failure on April 3, 2012. She was 91 years old. Rev. Alcott was born and raised in Winthrop, ME. She was the daughter of a factory worker and a homemaker. In 1938, she married Ernest F. Alcott, a descendent of Amos Bronson Alcott, the American Transcendentalist, and his daughter, famous author Louisa May Alcott.

Alcott began her college education in 1976 and graduated from Goddard College in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in religious education. Additionally, she took courses at Harvard University and earned her MRE through the UUA's Independent Study Program in 1982. Rev. Alcott was ordained in 1982 at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in Lutherville, MD. She was called to serve the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church and served as Director of Religious Education there from 1983-1985. She was also the Joseph Priestly District's first RE Consultant from 1986-1995. Rev. Alcott served on the curriculum team that developed "World Religions for Junior Youth," the last curriculum kit published by the UUA. She was a member of the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Harford County in Churchville, MD.

Later in life, she became an active member of numerous ecumenical groups and was active in religious education. Rev. Alcott retired in 2008 but continued to serve as a guest pastor, and officiated at weddings, funerals and memorial services. An experienced traveller, Rev. Alcott visited all seven continents and, in 1993, joined an expedition that travelled to Antarctica. She enjoyed talking to colleagues in chat rooms and once said, "I retired from ministry but not from life!"

Rev. Alcott was predeceased by her husband, Ernest F. Alcott. She is survived by her sons Colin C. Alcott and his wife Janet, of Albuquerque, NM and Bronson E. Alcott of Columbia, MD; by two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service for Rev. Alcott will be held at the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulany Valley Rd., Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093, on May 11, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.. Notes of condolence may go to Bronson Alcott, 10654 Faulkner Ridge Cir., Columbia, MD 21044.

MARY M. KAPPER (1925-2011)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Reverend Mary M. Kapper who died on November 25, 2011. She was 86 years old.

Rev. Kapper was born in Brooklyn, NY on June 11, 1925 to Willard B. and Genevieve (Brady) Kapper. She graduated from St. Joseph's College in 1947, and attained her Masters of Social Work from Case Western Reserve University in 1978. She received her Masters of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry in 1988.

Rev. Kapper was ordained by the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists on May 14, 1989. She was called to serve the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato and the Nora Unitarian Universalist Church in Hanska from 1990-1991. She was a community minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley from 1991-2001. She also served as a hospice chaplain for Pathways Hospice and Home health in Oakland, CA. In 2002, Rev. Kapper became a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron and served as the church's Social Justice Chair from 2006-2007.

Rev. Kapper was involved in many social causes, working tirelessly to promote the civil rights of women and minorities. She helped to establish Akron Women Against Rape in 1974.

Rev. Kapper is survived by her son, John Barry and his wife, Rosemary; her son, Tom Barry; her son, James Barry; her daughter, Mary Ann Seiberling; her son, Matthew Barry and his fiancé, Chris; her son, Daniel Barry; her daughter, Jeannine Marks and her husband, Steve; her daughter, Maureen Rocha and her husband, Rodrigo; ten grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Rev. Kapper was preceded in death by a son, Mark Barry; and a daughter, Claire Simpson.

Family and friends paid their respects to the memory of Rev. Kapper on November 30, 2011 at Fairlawn West United Church of Christ in Akron, OH. Donations in Rev. Kapper's memory may be made to Summa Hospice and Palliative Care Center, Foundation Office, P.O. Box 2090, Akron, OH 44398-6453.

RICHARD RENO NEFF (1937-2012)

The Reverend Richard Reno Neff died on March 17, 2012. He was 74 years old.

Rev. Neff was born in Bronx, NY, on June 11, 1937, to Mary Himoff and Earl Reno, and lived there until he was nine. His mother later married Walter S. Neff, who adopted him. He attended the University of Chicago for two and a half years and went on to earn his Master of Library Science from Rutgers University. He received his Bachelor of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry on June 28th, 1970.

He was ordained by the Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington Hills, MI on April 4, 1971 where he also served from 1971-1975. He was called to the Hollis Unitarian Church in Hollis, NY from 1976-1979 and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Joliet, IL from 1980-1986. In 1986, he answered a call to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County in Orange, NJ where he stayed until his retirement from the ministry in 1994. In addition to serving the UU ministry, Rev. Neff managed libraries in Livingston, Butler and Linden, NJ. He loved working as a reference librarian but health issues forced him to retire in 2002.

Even in his final days, Rev. Neff enjoyed sharing his life journey in his e-newsletter "Rick's Journal." He will be remembered for his talents writing and performing folk music, as well as for his commitment to the civil rights movement. He joined Martin Luther King, Jr. in the historic Selma to Montgomery march in 1966.

Rev. Neff is survived by his sons, Jeremy and Joshua Neff; his brother Alan Neff; and three grandchildren. There was a memorial service on April 14, 2012. Notes of condolence may be sent to www.overlandparkchapel.com.

RUPPERT L. LOVELY (1927-2012)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely who died on May 3, 2012. He was 78 years old.

The Rev. Dr. Lovely was born in East Greenwich, RI on May 9, 1933 to the Rev. Napoleon W. and Doris Mae (Johnson) Lovely. Rev. Lovely attained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Tufts University in 1963 and his Bachelor of Divinity as well as his Doctor of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1966 and 1998, respectively.

Rev. Lovely was ordained by the Countryside Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship in Palantine, IL on October 7, 1966. There, he held the office of parish minister for 35 years, not counting the 18 months he served as a student minister prior to accepting the full-time call to the pulpit. After his retirement from Countryside, he accepted an interim position with the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, MO from 2001-2003.

Working together with Countryside UU church members to raise funds and devise a plan that resulted in the construction in of the beautiful Countryside Church in Palantine, was one of the highlights of Rev. Lovely's working years. It was a milestone in his life and in the life of the church.

Throughout his life, Rev. Lovely was a faithful Boston Red Socks fan. No daily activity ever took precedence over watching Red Socks games during baseball season. He was also an avid reader, John Irving novels being among his favorite books. He loved music, especially classical and jazz. He was even known to leave the stereo or radio on all day so that when he returned, he would be greeted by music.

A long-time member of Prairie Group, Rev. Lovely was known, loved, and respected by many. Described as "candid, big-hearted, humorously realistic, brimming with energy and enthusiasm for the ministry," Rev. Lovely's "gracious and generous spirit," as well as his "solid sense of tradition and firm voice" endeared him to many who came to call him a friend.

Rev. Lovely is survived by his wife, Patricia Mumm-Lovely; his daughter, Jessica Lovely and husband, Jason DeSwarte; daughter, Karen Lovely and husband, Michael Leach; Sister Alicia Lovely; and grandchildren, Eli Lovely; Elijah Lovely; Grace Umek; and Jordan DeSwarte. He was predeceased by son, Kirk Lovely; and brother, the Rev. Dr. Brandoch Lovely.

A memorial service for the Rev. Dr. Lovely will be held at the Countryside Unitarian Universalist Church, 1025 N. Smith St., Palatine, IL 60067 on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Mrs. Patricia Mumm-Lovely, 933 W. Heritage Ct., Apt. 101, Mequon, WI 53092.

JOHN M. COFFEE, JR. (1928-2012)

John M. Coffee, Jr. died on May 8, 2012. He was 83 years old.

Rev. Coffee was born in Tacoma, WA on November 20, 1928 to John M. and Lillian S. Coffee. Rev. Coffee attained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1951. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Sacred Theology and a Master of Sacred Theology from Harvard Divinity School in 1954 and 1956, respectively.

Rev. Coffee was ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Tacoma, WA on August 15, 1954. From there, he was called to the First Church in Roxbury, MA and served as its Minister from 1955-1977. He served the Church of Our Father in East Boston, MA from 1961-1974; and the Benevolent Fraternity of Unitarian Universalist Churches from 1978-1982. As an interim minister, he served at the First Unitarian Church of Providence, RI from 1977-1979. He was Minister Emeritus at the First Unitarian Church in Roxbury from 1977 until the end of his life. He also served as president of the Boston Minister's Association.

Rev. Coffee taught for 39 years (1966-2005) at Emerson College in Boston, MA. As a longtime faculty member and eventual Professor Emeritus of History,

VIRGINIA VAUGHT SPARLING (1925-2012)

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Vaught Sparling died on February 23, 2012. She was 87 years old.

Rev. Dr. Sparling was born in Caddo Gap, AR on Feb 3, 1925 to Grace (Davis) and Chester Allen Vaught. Education was very important to Rev. Sparling and she attained quite a few degrees throughout her life. In 1946, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology from MacMurray College in 1946. She went on to attain a Master of Social Work and a Master of Education from the University of Washington in 1969 and 1979 respectively. MacMurray College gifted her with an Honorary Doctorate in 1981. And in 1991, she earned her final degree: a Master of Divinity from Northwest Theological Union.

Rev. Sparling was ordained at East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, WA in 1992. She was called to the Pacific Northwest District where she served from 1990-2000. She also served as a ministerial consultant at the Olympic UU Fellowship in Port Angeles, WA from 1993-1995; and the Skagit UU Fellowship in Mt. Vernon, WA from 1991-1999.

In 2004, Rev. Sparling's deteriorating health forced her to begin using a wheelchair. Despite the disability, she helped found the Methow Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (currently non-UUA affiliated), and was its minister for several years following its inception.

Rev. Sparling felt deeply passionate about education and community building through the arts. She was a vocal advocate of public education, and was elected to the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), becoming its President in 1979. An enthusiast of opera, ballet, and theatre, she became involved in the Confluence Art Gallery in Twisp, WA. There, she served as Board President, organizing shows, and leading capital drives to buy an additional building and install a monument in a public park.

In a letter to family and friends, her husband, Gerald, noted, "Life had given her many adventures and challenges which she took on with verve and gusto. Although she is gone; she still lives on in our hearts and minds."

Rev. Sparling is survived by her husband of 61 years, Gerald Sparling, MD. She is also survived by son, Gerald Jr., and his wife, Andrea; son, Eugene, and his wife, Marta; and three grandchildren, Isaac, Nina, and Joslyn.

There will be two memorial services for the Rev. Dr. Sparling. The first will be held at the Eastshore Unitarian Church, 12700 SE 32nd St., Bellevue, WA 98005 on Sunday, June 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. The second will take place at the Winthrop Barn, 51 N. Highway 20, Winthrop, WA 98862 on Saturday, June 23, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Dr. Gerald Sparling, P.O. Box 954, 865 Wolf Creek Road, Winthrop, WA 98862.

(Rev Coffee Continued from page 13)

Rev. Coffee was known by colleagues and students, alike, as a "talented storyteller who brought history alive in his classroom." He was also one of the authors of *A Century of Eloquence*, a large volume on the history of Emerson College.

Rev. Coffee was an avid collector of transportation tokens. In fact, at the time of his death, he owned the world's largest collection of transportation tokens. He was the author of several books on the matter including *Land Company and Real Estate Tokens*, *Automobile Washing Tokens*, and *The Atwood-Coffee Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens*.

Rev. Coffee is survived by loving friends, colleagues and students. At this time, a memorial service has not been scheduled.

(Rev. Harris Continued from Page 8)

and *The Wine of Astonishment* (2010). Four short articles by Rev. Harris can also be found in the *Walt Whitman Encyclopedia* (1998).

Known to many as an "impressive, yet humble, man," Rev. Harris has been described as having "enjoyed the fine art of good conversation" with "wonderful humor and storytelling." He was noted to be "an ideal model for ministers who wonder how to maneuver through emeritus status." To some he was a "wise mentor and teacher," and to many, he will be remembered as "a man generous with joy." His wife of 56 years, Sandra, remembers him simply as "a magnificent human being."

Rev. Harris is survived by his wife, Sandra (Gutridge) Harris; two sons, Mark Emory Harris and Phillip Stone Harris; three grandchildren, Tabitha Grace Camp, Ian Dougherty-Harris, and Maya Dougherty-Harris; a brother, James Tyra Harris; a sister, Ruth Reader; a son-in-law, Steven Camp; and former daughter-in-law, Deborah Dougherty. He was predeceased by a daughter, Edith Harris Camp.

There will be a memorial service on September 8, 2012 at 2 p.m. at All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 East 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226.

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UURMaPA at ATTLEBORO

October 2-4, 2012

**LaSalette Retreat Center
Attleboro, MA**

All UURMaPA members, from any region, are welcome!

Keynote program: How shall we be in right relation with one another?

With members of the UUMA's Task Force on Retired Ministers*

Jim Eller (UURMaPA board member, retired minister)

Chris Lilly Backus (UURMaPA nominating ctte. member, retired minister's partner)

Keith Kron (UUA transitions director)

Mary Hnottavange-Telleen (interim ministry guild member)

either Bill Hamilton-Holway (UUMA president) or Don Southworth (UUMA exec. dir.)

*The UUMA Board has charged the task force "to consider best practices and make recommendations for how we can improve relationships between retired and settled ministers. The charge is understood to include relationships between interim ministers and retired ministers, and issues related to family members of retired ministers."

Jim Eller and Chris Lilly Backus will facilitate a progress report on the group's work. Then in the whole group and in smaller groups we will explore these many-sided relationships, to give the committee the richest possible feedback as it concludes its work.

Other programming:

Abundant worship—Richard Fewkes and others

Odyssey—Maureen Thitchener

"A History of the United States through Folk Music"—Margi Nasemann

"The First Presidential Debate"—Barack Obama and Mitt Romney (subject to change)

Business meeting

-- UURMaPA president Richard Gilbert, chair

-- UUA office of church staff finance guests

Richard Nugent and Joyce Stewart

Register with Susan Weston at susanweston@gmail.com starting July 15.

Watch www.uurmapa.org and *Elderberries* for additional details.

**UURMaPA
at
Seabeck, WA
will be
April 16-18, 2013.**



The Reverend Leon Hopper at Seabeck



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Ministers & Partners Association
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