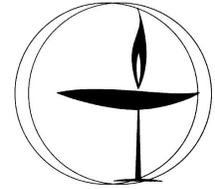


# Elderberries



the newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXVII

NUMBER 3

Summer 2012

## Passing the Torch

by Linnea Pearson

Emerging in the news these last few weeks has been a great woman, Trayvon Martin's mother, Sybrina Fulton. Her eldest son, Jahvaris, is in my World Religion Class at Florida International University. He is 21 and shares her quiet dignity and strength.

At a time when Sybrina Fulton could have reacted with hatred and anger, encouraging an emerging lynch-mob mentality and media hysteria, she chose to respond to violence non-violently. She refused to be goaded into despising the man who shot her son. She offered sympathy for the sufferings of his family. She chose to take a stand for both justice and compassion.

At the heart of all true spirituality is the consciousness that "All the Children of the Earth Are One"—a consciousness confirmed by other great women who've led our human struggles for justice and freedom, women such as Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Wangari Mathai and Aun Sang Suu Kyi.

This is the time to be "Passing on the Torch" to a new generation who may have never heard of these women or marched in a demonstration or joined hands to sing "We Shall Overcome"—as is true with many of the students.

*(Please turn to Page 13)*

*Ed note: This article is taken from Linnea's letter to the editor which appeared in The Miami Herald on Sunday, April 15*

## Keeping in Touch

**Sydney Wilde and Dennis Daniel** have taken over our Bay Area Inland caring region. We thank them for stepping up. We appreciate the work that **Stan Aronson** had been doing there.



**Henry Ticknor** is now our Caring Coordinator for Northern Virginia and **Makanah Morriss**, is serving Southern Virginia. Many thanks to **Betty Jo Middleton** for her dedication for her years of service in Virginia.



**Judith Downing** is now Caring Coordinator in our Ballou Channing region. She shares the work with **John Weston**. Welcome Judith and thanks to **Polly Leland-Mayer** for her dedicated service to Ballou Channing in recent years.



**Shirley Ranck** is Caring Coordinator for our Bay Area Coastal region, continuing the work **Carolyn Colbert** had been doing there. Thank you both.



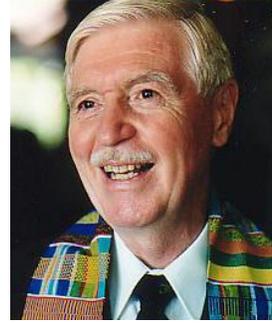
*To get involved see box on Page 3.*



## President's Perspectives by Dick Gilbert

### Now that I think about it . . .

Recently Reuters News Service asked retirees, "If you could redo retirement what would you do differently?" Now that I think about it, here are my responses. I invite yours on our SpeakUp listserv (go to [lists.uua.org](http://lists.uua.org) to sign up).



While working I would have cultivated more friends outside the work (church) environment. A minister's social life is so bound up in a congregation that it requires a deliberate effort to reach out to those outside the congregation. Then, when retirement comes and the church one has served is in that never-never land of the hopefully "beloved former pastor" relating to people he/she has known and loved while trying not to get in the way of the new minister is hard. Retrospectively, I would have done that cultivating earlier in ministry and in retirement.

I would have been more adventurous seeking out new experiences. While I enjoy my retirement, I find that I'm doing many of the same things I did as a minister, but now as a volunteer. Musically challenged, I once thought about "senior" piano lessons. Maybe it is not too late, but I'm really too busy right now to start.

I would have practiced the art of saying "no." Ministers of my generation were brought up in a church world in which ministry was 24-7-365/6. Days off were relatively rare, vacations meant we were not on site, but on call. We seldom countenanced saying "no" to requests for services. That habit is magnified in retirement when we allegedly have all the time in the world. I have often heard retirees complain (they are really bragging) that they are busier now than when in full-time ministry. I keep saying I don't want to succumb to that pattern, yet I find the Puritan work ethic in which I was raised and in which I did ministry, still alive and well in retirement. And it is nice to be asked.

There are times when I long to do it again. If I knew then what I know now. But that is just the point. We didn't and couldn't know then what we know now. Isn't learning the whole point of education? We stood on the shoulders of those who had gone before; hopefully there are those who feel that our shoulders are worth standing on now. We retirees are the "retirement educators" of those who follow.

And so, I find that these "Now that I think about it" thoughts are no cause for "if I only had it to do all over again" regret. I have a pretty good feeling about my life and career and retirement as I begin the "summing up" process which Erik Erikson calls "ego integrity." Humanity's learning is a cumulative process, and we who are now retired have added the "stubborn ounces of our weight" to the mystery of retirement.

Well, these are a few thoughts in response to the Reuters inquiry. What are yours?

*Dick Gilbert*

*Our Caring Network is at the heart of what UURMaPA is all about.*

*There is always room for new volunteers.  
To learn more, please contact  
Paul L'Herrou, Caring Network Chair, at  
[paullherrou@gmail.com](mailto:paullherrou@gmail.com)*

## IARF News

**Doris Hunter** attended the regional conference of the US Chapter, International Association for Religious Freedom, held at Hilton Head, SC, Feb. 3-5. The topic was "Faith, Interfaith and Freedom." More than 50 attendees shared their religious faiths with one another, heard presentations from Muslim, Christian, Jewish perspectives and celebrated with music from various faith traditions. The conference was organized by the U.S. Chapter Board and its present Chair, Prof. Harold French. Doris will attend the international council meeting of the IARF in April in Osaka, Japan. Plans will be made for the next international congress in 2014.



## 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](mailto:jstewart@uua.org), or Richard Nugent at (617) 948-6456 or [rnugent@uua.org](mailto:rnugent@uua.org).

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



## Universalist New England Heritage Tour Sept. 24-30, 2012

Visit areas rich with Universalist history and enjoy traveling with kindred spirits.

Contact Liz Strong for details  
[estrong110@comcast.net](mailto:estrong110@comcast.net)

## 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*

[www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org)

## Save paper, and get your newsletter faster and in full color!

To receive *Elderberries* by email contact your incoming editor  
Chuck Campbell  
[chuckccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:chuckccampbell@gmail.com)  
(remember the "C" in the middle of the address)

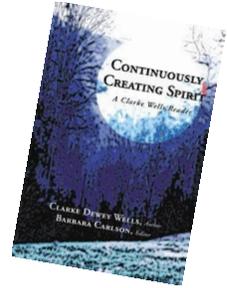


## Turning of Our Lives

*Continuously Creating Spirit: A Clarke Wells Reader* **Barbara Carlson**, editor, says, “This collection includes essays, poems and prayers from previously published works as well as some new ones. His work ranges widely from religion, politics, poetry and the arts, to the earth, social concerns, holiday reflections, the human condition and more. Witty, insightful, provocative, often profound, his writings are a legacy to free religious thinkers from a man who loved life and was devoted to the common good.”

Available now from [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com), 888-519-5121 or your local bookstore. There is also an e-book available. ISBN 978-1-46855-854-8.

Or contact Barbara Carlson at [barbarac1700@aol.com](mailto:barbarac1700@aol.com) or 812-337-0489.



*In the Holy Quiet* — Meditations by **Richard S. Gilbert** contains updated material from *In the Holy Quiet of This Hour* (Skinner House 1995) and has many new selections for personal and congregational use. His meditations have been widely used in a variety of settings. The book is a valuable resource for individuals and groups. These selections are offered to provide moments of calm in a hectic world. Order from iUniverse in Bloomington, IN or through the author: \$12.95 paperback, \$3.99 e-book, 108 pages, [rsgilbert@uuma.org](mailto:rsgilbert@uuma.org).

### Time flies

This issue of *Elderberries* marks the end of my service as your editor. It has been a privilege to do this work, as we have shared celebrations and heartaches these last four years.

My sincere thanks to **Barbara Prairie** and **Jan Sammons** for their work as my eagle-eyed proofreaders. Their attention to detail has made this a more readable newsletter.

Thanks to **Eleanor Richardson** for her wonderful photographs and spirited reporting of news of members.

And I must acknowledge the steadfast work of **Andy Backus**, my partner of 46 years. He keeps the best database I have ever had. He has also been a reliable sounding board for me, which has been a tremendous support.

Thanks to all of you who have shared your news, views, poetry and photos to help us stay in touch across the miles and the years.

I leave you in good hands, as Chuck Campbell, partner of Sarah York, takes over the editorship July 1.

All the best,  
Chris Lilly Backus



## Turning of Our Lives

**Chuck Gaines** (Oro Valley, AZ) says they plan on attending GA and are now in the process of selling their home and downsizing by 40%.

**Polly Leland-Mayer** (Sherborn, MA) has enjoyed leading a six-week program called “Growing Elders, which she developed 10 years ago. Now “A Circle of Elders” — a ministry of presence — meets twice a month. They’re completing their first year with a regular attendance of 6-12, meeting for an hour, with centering, check-in and conversation. Polly says it seems to meet a need for a group of older adults (“70ish or older”) in this growing congregation full of families, children and youth.

**Paulette Loomis** (Falmouth, MA) now has an Apple computer which can speak her incoming and outgoing email. Folks from the local church are cheering her on, so she can stay more connected despite her very low vision.



**Judith Downing** (Fairhaven, MA) says she is enjoying being historian for the UU Society of Fairhaven.

Our sympathies to **Margret Kolbjornsen** (Peterborough, NH), who lost her brother, after a very bad fall he had just after his 80th birthday. She says Hurricane Irene brought torrential rain but little damage. She still drives, sings in the choir and in her “big chorus” and exercises six hours a week at the local wellness center.

Donna DiSciullo reports that **John Manwell** and **Phyllis Hubbell** (Frederick, MD) are sharing a half-time consulting ministry at the UU Church of Loudoun, VA. They live a scenic 45-minute drive away and enjoy being close to their three children and six grandchildren just outside of Washington, D.C., to attend to the house they are renting out in Baltimore, and to support the final push to legalize same-gender marriage in Maryland. They say that working quarter time apiece is a nice transition to full retirement — someday.

Elizabeth Alcaide reports that **Connie Sternberg** (Manchester, CT) has moved into The Manchester Manor, due to her declining health. It was very hard for her to give up her cat. Elizabeth says Connie is well cared for by her community, which includes the congregation there.

Eleanor Richardson writes, “Spring came suddenly to Maine March 21st with two 80° days. **Iska Cole** and I had lunch on the patio. Spring left just as quickly. **Maurice Cobb** is holding off planting his peas. **Susan Gerhardt** and I discussed the transition from do-it-yourselfing to building up a network of people to hire. **Janet Hawkes** is now working as a companion to a UU woman about to celebrate her 103rd birthday. **Paula Moulton** reports that Carol Strecker, minister in Kennebunk, ME is leaving, and they are embarking on a search. **Pat Stephen** says she is busy with the triplets (three boys born in Dec.) and another great-granddaughter born in Jan. She is working on the Nebraska primary May 15. She and Charles will soon be heading to Maine to open up their summer house. **Peter Richardson** has recovered nicely from his February surgery. **Wynanda Helverson** is well and happy and sends her greetings. We welcome new members **Marcel** and **Eleanor Duhamel** of Belgrade Lakes to UURMaPA NE!”

**Phillip Hewett** (Vancouver, BC) is completing his 14-year stint on the Council of Elders of the David Suzuki Foundation, dedicated to ecological survival. At 87, he stays busy hiking, traveling and enjoying his family.

Judith Downing tells us that **Dorothy Boroush** was hospitalized after recent surgery. She will be recuperating at home. Once she recovers she may undergo further consultation and medical procedures. She would appreciate cards and notes. Her address is 45-B Woodlawn St., East Taunton, MA 02718.

## Turning of Our Lives

**Liz Benjamin** (Ottawa) has a new granddaughter in Ohio. She says, "All are doing fine. Molly is my fourth grandchild, and the first one in 18 years! My son married a new and younger woman three years ago."

Kathleen Hunter reports that **Jeannette Morgan** (Peterbough, ON) went to Florida to take a cruise for two weeks to the Caribbean. They had family joining them from all over for a family reunion on the ship. Jeannette turned 90 last Fall and **John** celebrated 93 years in November. We admire their "get-up and go" to make this trip by bus, plane and ship!

**Ray and Gretchen Manker** (Phoenix) shared a house at Puerto Penasco in April with **Donna Lee** and **Sam Wright**, their children and partners. Gretchen writes, "We are happy here in our apartment, and both of us are well in the usual ways."

**John and Susan Weston** (Providence, RI) took a 140-mile canoe trip through the the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Maine last summer. They say they "ate like lumberjacks, paddled like galley slaves, portaged like voyageurs, tented like gypsies, and enjoyed every minute despite absolute exhaustion."

**Pat Hoerltoerfer** (New Hampton, NH) is chairing the International Sage-ing Conference in Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center (near Asheville, NC) Oct. 11-14. Want to rethink the aging paradigm and the meaning of retirement? Find out more at: [www.sage-ingguild.org/2012conference](http://www.sage-ingguild.org/2012conference).

**Al Thelander** (Penn Valley, CA) suffered a very bad fall in November. He is recovering gradually. He sees **Ted Webb** every two months or so. Ted is still on his feet, but needs care. Al notes that Ted helped start UURMaPA West in the early '90s. **Mary Thelander** is doing well, except for some muscle spasms in her upper back. They send their best to all.

John Weston reports **Ken Warren** (Barnstable, MA), takes great pleasure in reading deeply on topics of keen interest to him. His most recent recommendations: Eric Weiner's *Man Seeks God* and James Tabor's *The Jesus Dynasty*.

**Kathleen Hunter** and **Alan Deale** (Derry, NH) enjoyed visiting **Margi Nasemann** (Syracuse, NY) and **Glen Snowden** (Stow, MA) at Margi's time share on Hutchinson Island (FL).

**Liz Strong** (Ashby, MA) enjoyed a two-week visit in March with three of her children and their families in Virginia and Florida.

**Jan Sammons** (Walnut Creek, CA) had five quilts accepted for the Annual Guild of Quilters of Contra Costa County show in March, which included 130 quilts.



*Photo by David Sammons*

She is shown here with "Moon Glow," (79" x 81") which won first place as an artful hand-quilted entry. (The center block alone is composed of 72 pieces.) Jan won another first prize, a second prize, and was co-winner on the challenge quilt sampler. Congratulations Jan!

## *In Memoriam*

**The Rev. Dorris Dow Alcott**, 91, died Apr. 3. A graduate of Goddard College, she earned her MRE through the UUA's Independent Study Program. She served the Towson UU Church in Lutherville, MD and was the Joseph Priestley District's first RE Consultant. In retirement she continued to officiate at rites of passage and stay in touch with colleagues. Living in a predominantly Christian retirement home was challenging, as she was criticized by other residents for being a woman in the ministry. She rose to that challenge because of her broad interest in other faiths. She had a pioneering spirit that showed in every aspect of her life; for example, she had traveled to seven continents. She was predeceased by her husband, Ernest F. Alcott. She is survived by her sons Colin and Bronson; her daughter-in-law, Janet; by two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.



**The Rev. Dr. Sidney L. Freeman**, 85, died Jan. 12. He held a BS from the University of Wisconsin, an MA from Bowling Green University, and a PhD from Cornell. He served the UU Church of Charlotte, NC, for 32 years, where he was named minister emeritus. He was a lay minister at the First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg, VA and served as a chaplain at Cedar Spring Hospital in Pineville, NC. He was an instructor of communication arts at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC; and associate professor of speech and drama at Sweet Briar College in VA. He was an advocate for mental health, serving as president of Charlotte's Mental Health Association. He is survived by his wife, Gaynell B. Freeman; his children, Lynn Freeman Love, David Freeman, Michael Freeman, and T. Michael Williams; twelve grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**The Rev. David Gilmartin**, 71, died unexpectedly Mar. 12 in Eugene, OR. He earned his BA at Harvard University and his MDiv. at Starr King. He was a community minister and a social worker, who advocated for accessibility. He worked at the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley, CA; at the Center for Independence of the Disabled in Belmont, CA; at Resources for Independent Living in Sacramento, CA. He worked at Ferry Beach UU Camp and Conference Center in Saco, ME; at New Horizons Independent Living Center in Prescott, AZ; at InfoUse in Berkeley, CA; and at the State of Arizona Child Protective Services. His colleague, Alicia Forsey, remembers him as a very positive person. She described him as kind, gentle and intelligent. She added that he had a memory "like a steel trap." David enjoyed singing and playing the guitar. He was predeceased by his sister, Alice Gilmartin. He is survived by his brother Peter Gilmartin.

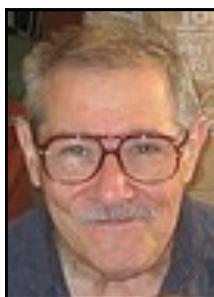


## *In Memoriam*

**The Rev. Roger Otis Kuhrt**, 70, died Jan. 17. A native of Seattle, he earned his BA from Whitworth College, his MA from the University of Washington, and his PhD from Columbia Pacific University. He also studied at Washington State University. Originally ordained by the Disciples of Christ, he was called to serve the UU Congregation in Olympia, WA. He also served the Tahoma UU Congregation in Tacoma, WA. During his ministry, he was a consulting minister to several congregations in the Pacific Northwest District. Colleagues described him as a “lover of knowledge and seeker of truth.” He was a member of a number of professional, community, and religious organizations over the years, serving on the boards of many. Roger is survived by his wife, Pam Gill-Kuhrt; his daughters, Sharene Kuhrt-Nelson and Stacey Kuhrt; and a grandson.



**The Rev. Richard Reno Neff**, 74, died Mar. 17 in Kansas City, KS. He had been making a recovery at home following complex surgery last Fall. Even in his final days Rick enjoyed sharing his life journey on his e-newsletter “Rick’s Journal.” As a young adult he worked at the Monroe Company in Chicago. He went on to graduate from Starr King and to serve UU congregations in Farmington Hills, MI; Hollis, NY; Joliet, IL; and Orange, NJ. He will be remembered for his talents writing and performing folk music and his commitment to the civil rights movement. He joined Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Selma-Montgomery march in 1966. In addition to serving in the UU ministry Rick earned an MLS from Rutgers University. He managed libraries in Livingston, Butler and Linden, NJ. He loved working as a reference librarian but health problems forced him to retire in 2002. He is survived by his sons Jeremy and Joshua Neff and his brother Alan Neff and three grandchildren. Notes for the family may go to [www.overlandparkchapel.com](http://www.overlandparkchapel.com).



**The Rev. Dr. George J.W. Pennington**, 86, died Jan. 10. A native of Salem, MA, 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. After retiring he continued as a pastoral counselor with UU Counseling and Educational Service of NJ Area Council. He was a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice in West Orange, NJ and White Plains, NY. He was active in the civil rights and peace movements. He served on the board of directors of the Council on Aging in Longmeadow, MA. He volunteered to nurture babies at Baystate Medical Center. He was predeceased by his wife, the Rev. Shannon Bernard, and his brother, Donald. He is survived by his life partner, Marjorie Morgan; a son, Scot and daughter-in-law, Joyce; a son Bruce; a daughter, Joy, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## *In Memoriam*



**Beatrice Erdine Robbins**, 102, widow of the Rev. Douglas Robbins, died Mar. 28 in Augusta, ME. She was a graduate of Gorham Teacher's College and earned a BA in education through the University of Maine at Orono. Bea was a contributing member of the Winthrop Street Universalist Church of Augusta, which she and her husband served for 30 years. She was active in the Julia Robinson Murray Alliance and Winchester Groups at the church. She was a past president of the Augusta College Club, Kennebec Valley Church Women's Association and the Universalist Women of Maine. She taught for 29 years in New Gloucester, Wells, Saco and Augusta. She was a mother, a pianist and a published poet. This year she was honored in a ceremony marking the City of Hanowell's 250th anniversary by receiving the gold-headed Boston Post Cane as the city's oldest resident. Bea's vintage recipes will be part of the UU Community Church's next cookbook, due out in August. Bea is survived by her daughter, Carol Robbins, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. .



**The Rev. Dr. Virginia Vaught Sparling**, 87, died of natural causes at her Methow Valley home in Winthrop, WA on Feb. 23. A native of Central Arkansas, she held a graduate degree in social work and a masters degree in education. She established a youth crisis hotline at the North Seattle Community Mental Health Clinic. She earned her MDiv. and DMin. degrees from Northwest Theological Seminary. She served churches in Bellevue, Mt. Vernon and Port Townsend, WA. She also served on the UUA Board. She was board president of the Confluence Gallery and Art Center in Twisp, Okanogan County. She loved hiking, traveling and was an art enthusiast. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Gerald Sparling, MD. He says her favorite saying has been "... service is the rent you pay for your space on Earth." She is also survived by their sons Gerald and Eugene and three grandchildren.

*Thanks to Brian M. Rosenthal,  
Seattle Times education reporter,  
for background information.*



**The Rev. Robert Atherton Thayer**, 77, died Apr. 5. He held a BA in history from Harvard College. During college he spent summers as a fire lookout in the Bitter Foot Idaho Wilderness. He earned his BD at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and was ordained as a Presbyterian. At Harvard he met his first wife, Pamela J. Thayer. Bob served the First Presbyterian Church in Framingham, MA. His passion for the civil rights movement moved him to seek fellowship with the UUA. He served First Parish UU in Medfield, MA and was chaplain at Billerica prison. He served Fairhaven Unitarian Memorial Church for 22 years, then served as interim at the Second Congregational Meetinghouse of Nantucket, and then served the Brockton UU Church. He was an avid sailor, woodworker, woodsman, writer and scholar. He was predeceased by his wife of 31 years in 1991. He is survived by Mary-Ellen Tunney, his wife of 16 years, and by his children: Stephanie Pires, Jenifer Thayer and Robert Thayer; two stepchildren, Patrick and James Whittle; and five grandchildren.

## *In Memoriam*



**Pauline Rendall Woodman**, 73, wife of the Rev. Richard M. Woodman, died Feb. 27 in Dover, NH. She spent her early years in Cambridge MA and in Milton, NH. She attended U.Mass. and then married John Rosado. They settled in McLean, ViA where she raised her family. Pauline was an active leader at the Unitarian Church of Arlington, VA and the regional denominational association. In 1984 she wed the Rev. Richard M. Woodman. They bought a house in Dover, NH. For more than a decade they traveled together to a number of communities in the Northeast while Dick served as interim minister to nine UU churches there. Following retirement, they returned to Dover and Pauline turned her attention to homemaking and doing extensive research on family history; she discovered that she and Dick were cousins, sharing several 17th century ancestors. She is survived by her husband; her son Jeffrey Rosado, his wife and stepson; by a granddaughter; by her daughter, Janet Rosado, her husband and their children; and her brother, Skip Rendall.

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## **In Mysterious Ways: A Family Story** by Gail (Steeves) Collins-Ranadive

My family told stories of ancestors who included a pacifist couple (Anabaptists?) who left Germany in the 1770's to escape religious persecution. They believed in simplicity of worship and communal living. Having settled in Pennsylvania, Heinrich and Rachel Stief feared that their seven sons would be conscripted to fight in the American Revolution. So they left for New Brunswick, then Nova Scotia. Many of their descendants later settled in New England.

At a clergy luncheon in Yarmouth, Maine, I heard about these ancestors again from a colleague, whom I hadn't met. I asked, "Who are you?" I was embarrassed that I'd failed to notice his name on the sign outside the Congregational Church he was serving, across the street from the Universalist Church I was serving. We were both interim ministers.

"Steeves," he answered, "Ian Steeves. But everyone calls me Jack." I stood up and stuck out my hand and said, "It's nice to meet you, cousin Jack." Over the next months, as we exchanged stories from our own branches of our family, I learned that Jack had been raised in the Universalist Church and had gone off to Bangor Seminary, in Maine, to follow in a family tradition of joining the UU clergy. He graduated as a Congregational minister.

I'd been raised a fundamentalist Christian (my mother being a Baptist) and found my way into Unitarian Universalism, as a faith tradition in which to raise my daughters. I wanted them to honor and appreciate both my family's Christianity and their Indian family's Hinduism.



Cousin Jack put me in touch with cousin Bertram Steeves, minister emeritus of the First Religious Society (UU) of Newburyport, MA. Cousin Bert took me out to lunch on his way to visit his family's gravesite; I gladly went along with him. As Bert was digging a spot to plant marigolds around his father's headstone (Rev. Earle Steeves), I bent down to brush the winter debris off his brother's stone, which was flush with the ground. It read: Rev. Addison Steeves. I was stunned. My second daughter had recently given birth to her second daughter and named her Addison. We had no idea it was a family name. And if that were not spooky enough, my older daughter would be coming to this very same part of Maine the following year, as an Episcopal priest. The Spirit moves in mysterious ways...



## Directory Updates

*New and updated member contact information. For details, see online directory.  
No computer? Contact Andy Backus.*

- Bay Area Coastal** Carolyn Colbert  
**Bay Area Inland** Grace & David Simons  
**Central Mass** Joyce Huff  
**Connecticut Valley**  
Philip Ashley Smith & Sharon Rose Smith  
**Eastern Canada**  
Barbara Kulcher  
John & Irene Baros-Johnson  
**Eastern Carolinas**  
Ruth Gibson  
Margaret Weck  
J. Richard Weston-Jones  
**Heartland South**  
Julie Denny-Hughes  
**Joseph Priestley North**  
Nancy Dean & Thomas J. Riley  
**Mass Bay Coastal** Walter Jonas  
**Mass Bay Inland** Rebecca & Timothy Blodgett  
**New Hampshire** Charlotte Ramsay  
**New Mexico** Anne Marsh  
**Northeast**  
Mary Adams  
Elizabeth M. Hutchinson  
**Pacific NW/Western Canada** Ev & Joan Morris  
**Prairie Star** Ronald & Anne Knapp  
**Saint Lawrence**  
Joyce Gilbert  
Margaret Hart  
**Southwest** Betty Murdock  
**Western Carolinas**  
Clark & Anna Olsen  
Dillman Baker Sorrells  
George (Pete) Tolleson

## Women's History Month

During March, to commemorate Women's History Month, Harvard Square Library featured the work of two UUMaPA members. **Dorothy Emerson** was recognized for having compiled *Standing Before Us*, a collection of letters, essays, stories, poems and speeches by UU women who were reformers.



**Shirley Ann Ranck** was honored for her pioneer-

ing religious education curriculum *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, which chronicles the history of women in religion.



Thank you Dorothy and Shirley!

*Learn more at [www.harvardsquarelibrary.org](http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org).*

*“Beware of using up your last  
forty years in  
being the curator of your  
first fifty.”*

Allan Gurganus, *Oldest Living  
Confederate Widow Tells All*

## Directory Online!

Our 2012 *UURMaPA Directory*  
is updated regularly on our website  
[www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org)

*To access the list see our  
print newsletter or contact  
Andy Backus  
2746 Broadway  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
[andrewbackus@msn.com](mailto:andrewbackus@msn.com)*

*Send him updates and corrections, too.*

# Civil Rights Veterans

Asheville, NC— March 30-April 1

Folks who attended both the UUR-MaPA gathering and the civil rights veterans gathering included: **Judy and Gordon Gibson, Richard Gilbert, Richard Leonard, Liz MacMaster, Dick Norsworthy, Clark Olsen, Doddie Stone and Howard Box.** Other UURMaPA members or retired and semi-retired ministers who attended the veterans gathering were: **David and Beverly Bumbaugh, Jim Hobart, Dave Hunter, Ken MacLean, Pete Tolleson, Dick Weston-Jones, and Jack Wilkinson.** A large number of lay people also attended.

In addition to oral history interviews with more than 30 participants, there were panel presentations on Selma, the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, the African American experience of racism then and now, longer term work in civil rights, ministry in the South, and the experience of being a lay member of a southern congregation. It was a treat to have Guy Carawan with us. He did so much through his music to promote the movement. It was a rich, rewarding, exhausting weekend.



— Gordon Gibson



Ledger-Transcript photo

## Jobs Now

Margret Kolbjornsen sent this photo of **David Van Strien** (Peterborough, NH) who took part in an “Occupy” protest just before the American Thanksgiving.



## Move to Amend

**Barbara Carlson** says, “I am working with ‘South Central Indiana Move to Amend.’ Our goal is to amend the Constitution, following the 2010 Supreme Court ‘Citizens United’ decision that has allowed unlimited, undisclosed corporate money to flow into our political process. Our petition states ‘We, the People of the United States of America, reject the Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United, and move to amend our Constitution to firmly establish that money is not speech, and that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.’” Barbara adds, “Retirement is a whole new career. I love it. Best regards to all my esteemed retired colleagues!”

## Passing the Torch *(continued from Page 1)*

Accordingly, Jahvaris’ classmates and I decided to devote our last class meeting to creating a Memorial Service for Trayvon with the theme of “Standing on the Side of Love and Justice.” Following a Time for Song and a Time of Silence and a Time to Speak, we will conclude with a Time for Dedication to Action, a time for “Passing on the Torch.”

My students represent most every ethnic and religious heritage in the world. During this term, they have learned to listen to and respect one another, to become true “citizens of the world.” They have planned this service to offer both hope and condolence to all those who have agonized over the death of Trayvon and long for a world of justice and freedom where we all might be guided by “the better angels of our nature” and live in peace and unafraid. May we be led by them.





## “Celebration” raises \$25,000 for Church

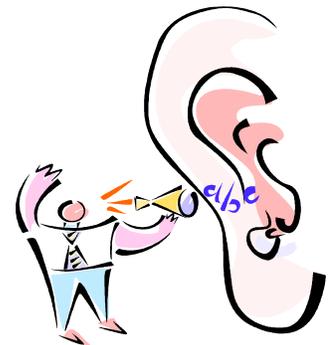
**Holly Hollerorth** (front row center) joined 11 other brave men to bare all for a 2012 calendar called “Celebration” to raise money for First Parish in Framingham, MA. The calendar featured the mature male since the models’ ages range from 64 to 87. The calendars have sold out and the church netted \$25,000, got airtime with Jay Leno and was featured in *The Huffington Post*. The men are quick to point out that *their* calendar outsold the women’s calendar the church produced five years ago. We are proud of Holly, who at 87 stepped up to participate. This photo above is the calendar cover and then each man was featured on a monthly page. Holly was Mr. June. To learn more go to [www.fpfcalendar.com](http://www.fpfcalendar.com).

*Ed. Note: Thanks to Pete Peterson, Chuck Gaines and Kathleen Hunter for this groundbreaking news, which we believe is a first for Elderberries.*

Bill and Freddie were talking at the Senior Center after their exercise class. Bill boasted about his new hearing aid, saying, “I didn’t even mind spending the \$4,000 because it’s such an improvement!”

“Great,” said Freddie, “What kind is it?”

“About two o’clock,” answered Bill.



## Last Call for Creative Sage-ing Award

UURMaPA's Annual Creative Sage-ing Award recognizes UURMaPA members for outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures *after retirement*. This might include community service, mentoring and/or initiation of (or participation in) service projects. The Creative Sage-ing Award Committee (**Dick Fewkes, Judy Mannheim** and **Eleanor Richardson**) will be meeting soon to select a member of UURMaPA (minister, partner or surviving partner or couple) for our 2012 award. Our winners have been **Lex Crane** (2008), **Bill Murry** (2009), **Eleanor** and **Peter Richardson** (2010), and **Med Anderson** (2011). This year's winner will be announced at General Assembly in Phoenix. The honoree will receive a \$500 honorarium. Don't be shy. Let us know what you're up to or nominate another member.

Send nominations by **May 15, 2012** to:

Dick Fewkes  
57 Sachem Dr.  
Sagamore Beach, MA 02562  
dick\_ellie@acomcast.net



## UURMaPA's Unsung Hero Award

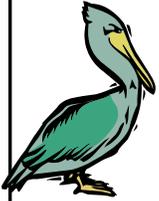


Every organization has people who work behind the scenes to make the group a success. We have many such individuals in UURMaPA. Help the board find out who these folks are so we can honor "unsung heroes" this year and in years to come. The award goes to someone who has not been recognized before. It comes with an honorarium of \$500. Send your nomination(s) to:

Paul L'Herrou  
38 Kimball Ave., #12  
Ipswich, MA 01938  
paullherrou@gmail.com

# Let's Get Together!

UURMaPA at GA, Phoenix, AZ — Annual Luncheon, Thurs., June 21, 11:30 am -1:30 pm, Hyatt Hotel, Cassidy Room. The cost, subsidized by UURMaPA, is \$25 per person, payable to UURMaPA. *New members will be our guests.* The meal is vegetarian: pasta with pesto, salad, roll and mixed fruit for dessert. To register go to our website at [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) or contact Kathleen Hunter at [kdhagd@mac.com](mailto:kdhagd@mac.com) or 55 Crystal Ave., PMB 248, Derry NH 03038.



UURMaPA at STAR ISLAND, Isles of Shoals, Rye, NH — Retreat during week of Aug. 18-25, organized by Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale. The theme speaker will be Stefano Carta, internationally recognized Italian Jungian scholar. Those interested in coming for any or all of the time should contact Kathleen or Alan directly at [kdhagd@mac.com](mailto:kdhagd@mac.com). Contact Rosemarie Smurzynski at: [email.smurzynski@verizon.net](mailto:email.smurzynski@verizon.net) for information on financial aid.

UURMaPA at ATTLEBORO, MA — Conference Oct. 2-4, 2012 at LaSalette 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. Margi Nasemann will present a "History of the United States Through Music." And we will watch the first US presidential debate. John & Susan Weston are conference chairs. Registration opens July 15. Watch our website for details.



*There are now more \$200 grants for each conference. Contact registrar about eligibility.  
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