

Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXVIII

NUMBER 3

Summer 2013

Wheelwrights Receive Creative Sage-ing Award

UURMaPA bestows its annual Creative Sage-ing Award “in recognition of outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement and building on one’s experience in creative ways.” This year’s prize committee (Jay Atkinson, Nancy Doughty, and John Weston) was pleased to receive eight nominations and found itself hard-pressed to narrow the choice. After much discussion and sober reflection, the committee is pleased and proud to present the 2013 Creative Sage-ing award to the Rev. Farley Wheelwright and, posthumously, to Virginia Wheelwright, his spouse, who died in 2011.

For many years after retirement, Virginia and Farley continued as familiar presences at General Assembly, where Farley’s prophetic voice for social justice remained stentorian and passionate. After moving to Mexico, Virginia and Farley, and now Farley alone, have been active participants in the UU congregation in San Miguel de Allende in Guanajuato. There Farley lost no time in joining a Mexican protest against sales tax on prescription medicines.



L to R: Jon Sievert, President of the UU Congregation in San Miguel de Allende; the Reverend Farley Wheelwright; Sue Leonard, President, *Jóvenes Adelante*.

Sobered by a warning from locals that the Mexican government didn’t take kindly to “foreigners mingling in their political problems,” Farley turned his attention to a “gringo” issue by joining “a cabal to oust a somnolent Board of Trustees for the Biblioteca – the largest English library in Mexico,” thus saving “the most important gringo society in the State of Guanajuato,” and serving for another two years as president of the library’s board.

Following that stint, Farley threw himself into the project committee of the local Rotary Club, working especially for improvements in water service to the impoverished residents of the *campos* outside the town. And he continued to preach for San Miguel UUs until succumbing to failing eyesight.

Meanwhile, Virginia and other members of the San Miguel UU Fellowship founded ¡Jóvenes Adelante! (Youth Go Forward! — www.jovenesadelante.org), providing university scholarships to exceptionally promising, economically disadvantaged students from the cities of San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, and environs. Many are from struggling families in *el campo* where, even for the most promising young people, the pursuit of a university degree and a professional career is rarely even a dream, let alone a realistic option. To date, the program has served some 100 young people, all of whom have moved into good jobs, preventing their need to cross the border illegally to find work. Farley was active in the all-important fundraising arm of this effort.

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You may view online or download the Membership Directory (updated regularly) and past newsletters at www.uurmapa.org under the Publications tab. The required ID is UU-SAGE and the password is WISDOM (in caps and with the hyphen.)

From Your Editor:

I'm delighted to be taking up the happy challenge of editing your quarterly newsletter, *Elderberries*. As the editor, I will also serve as an UURMaPA Board member for a two-year term, renewable once. I look forward to the next four years of creativity and learning.

Let me first thank my predecessors, especially Chris Lilly Backus and Eleanor Richardson, who have been very helpful in giving me the back story on this aspect of UURMaPA life.

You will see some changes in this issue, and you can expect to see more in the issues to come. I've asked six colleagues to serve as the *Elderberries* Advisory Board; their names are listed to the left. I'll seek their advice on a variety of questions and ideas, so that together we can make your newsletter germane, attractive, and interesting.

Starting in this issue, you will see a feature called "What Brings You Joy?" We are looking for hobbies, new endeavors and interesting activities that UURMaPA members have found in retirement and would like to write about (preferably with photographs). If you would like to offer an article, or have an idea of someone else with a joy to share, please suggest them to me at elderberries@uurmapa.org.

For many of us, being retired doesn't mean that we no longer care about serious issues and religious topics. I hope that *Elderberries* can serve as a springboard for lively conversations related to some of the more substantial issues in the future of liberal religion. And it will always bring news from our lives and memorials to our recently deceased colleagues.

I welcome your feedback and ideas. And I welcome this opportunity to serve my colleagues and to continue learning.

—Judy Welles

Thank You

I have been overwhelmed by all the attention I have gotten since the obituary for my wife, Claudine, appeared on the UURMAPA e-mail list. I received a lot of thoughtful, kind words from many who knew her, and even one who didn't.

I don't recall this sort of attention being paid when a spouse died; it is unexpected and extraordinary. I can't figure out how to thank so many. I know Claudine did impress a lot of our colleagues, but this is amazing. And just now a nice floral basket arrived, as well.

I will try to find ways to thank people, and will try to do better in responding when other colleagues suffer a loss.

— Charles Grady
May, 2013

See Claudine Grady's obituary, page 12.

A Word from Your President

What Are We Worth When Motionless?

I recently attended my 55th college reunion. It was a bittersweet occasion, the joy of being with old friends and the sadness of talking with one of them whose death is imminent. I gave him one of my meditation books and sent him my sermon on “What Are We Worth When Motionless?”



My friend, an active Unitarian Universalist, is a fine human being who has made great contributions to his community. He has been a farmer and environmentalist, an educator, a citizen – living an active life. Now his energy is dissipating, though his mind is as clear as ever. Does this dramatic change in life style compromise his worth?

Unitarian Universalists are by-and-large an active, if not hyper-active, people. We resonate to the biblical Book of James that “faith without works is dead.” We have been believers in “salvation by works” rather than “salvation by faith.” Many of us would agree with science fiction writer Isaac Asimov: “If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn’t brood. I’d type a little faster.”

Me, too. What would I be worth if my preaching voice were stilled? If my hands could no longer maneuver around a computer keyboard? If my legs could no longer carry me to meetings? What would I be worth if motionless?

Octavio Paz, in discussing “littleness of being,” says our age exemplifies the “spiritual sterility of the geometric spirit.” We have been doing and accomplishing so much, we have not taken time to be. And so, what are we worth when motionless? Is there something of worth in us that is not defined by our doing? Is there value when we are not producing something, creating something, manipulating something? Does there reside at our core some intrinsic worth that is not instrumental – that does not need to produce a result – but that only needs to be?

I like the words of e. e. cummings in his six non-lectures: “...you've got to come out of the measurable doing universe into the immeasurable house of being.”

As I associate with retirees, I come into contact with UURMaPANS who made great contributions in their day, but who now find themselves dependent. We who have been servers are often now the served, and we are not really comfortable with this change. One day each of us will leave the “measurable universe of doing” and finally the “immeasurable house of being.”

Life is both a problem to be solved and a mystery to be lived. Despite all our doing we come to realize that our agendas are always unfinished. But there’s that mystery to be lived, Our value depends not only on what we do but also on who we are. We are worthy simply *because* we are.

— Richard S. Gilbert
President of UURMaPA

Send updates! Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Marcia Olsen at membership@uurmapa.org or 7950 NW Ridgewood Dr, Corvallis, OR 97330. The most current Directory is online at www.UURMAPA.org (ID: UU-SAGE, password WISDOM).

UURMaPA at General Assembly

President Dick Gilbert and Vice-President Jim Eller represented UURMAPA at this year's UUA General Assembly in Louisville, KY. More than thirty ministers attended our Ministry Days collegial conversation on "Retirement as Extreme Sport." Issues of identity and purpose were more frequently mentioned than financial concerns.

A number of those present wanted to access UURMAPA materials as they contemplate retirement. Phrases that stood out in our conversation were these: Retirement may be out there – "walking down the street" – or it may be "knocking at our door," a distant prospect or an immediate possibility. They also felt a need for retirees to learn, as one colleague put it, "how *not* to be your minister." Food for thought.

Both Dick and Jim were present at the UUMA workshop during GA on the UUMA Task Force Report, "A Ministry of Absence." This drew 60+ people, clergy and lay, who enjoyed a lively discussion on the role of the retired minister in his or her former congregation. Clearly, here is an unresolved issue, amenable perhaps more to a change in culture than a change in rules. *See article, page 7.*

Thirty attended the annual UURMAPA lunch Friday to be formally welcomed into membership (see photo below), where the Creative Sage-ing Award also was presented, *in absentia*, to Farley Wheelwright and posthumously to his wife Virginia.

This was Scotty Meek's *fifty-fifth* consecutive General Assembly!



Front row: Dorothy Meek, Kerry Mueller, Scotty Meek, Rudy Gelsey, Dick Gilbert

Second row: Jay Atkinson, Barbara Prairie, Elizabeth Greene, Fran Dew, *unknown*, Doddie Stone, Barbara Child, Doris Hunter, *unknown*. (*Please help us identify these folks!*)

Third row: Bill Sasso, Russ Savage, Karen Matteson, Judith Gibson, Gordon Gibson, Judy Welles, Ken Sawyer, Charlotte Cowtan, Jim Hobart, Morris Hudgins, Shirley Ranck.

What Brings You Joy?

Creating Stained Glass - Gary Gallun

When I retired last year I decided to resume my interest in creating stained glass windows and lamps. I had learned the basic techniques while serving a congregation in Indianapolis three decades ago. I just never had the time to get involved with it during my ministry career.

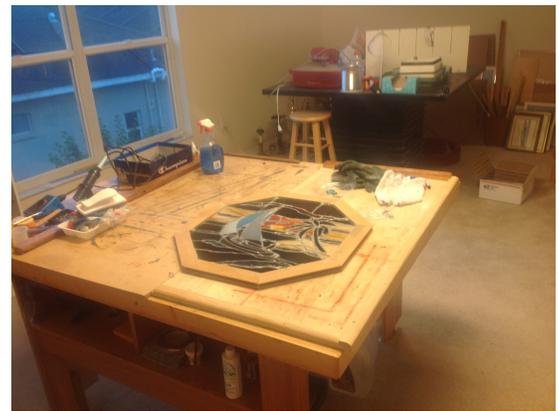


Stained glass is one of the two most important elements that enable individuals to obtain an enhanced spiritual experience, the other being music. (OK, there is meditation!) We can feel the world anew through being moved by music and can see the world anew by how we perceive light. Expressionist painters in the early 20th century emphasized this latter point. In that same era Louis Comfort Tiffany revitalized the age-old craft of stained glass and took it out of the churches and put it into homes. In both churches and homes I love the way stained glass windows change throughout the day as the light of the sun waxes and wanes. They seem to be alive.

I love to look at drawings and painting and sculpture. I have always bemoaned the fact that I was not born with the artistic talent to draw or paint or sculpt. Every time I tried to paint I ended up with a muddy mess. In college I did learn to throw a pot but it was only when I began

learning to build stained glass windows and lamps that I discovered that I could truly create with my hands the artistic objects that my mind conceived. It turned out that I did not need inborn talent, just hard (but enjoyable) work.

I do not like to use “kits” or designs that others have created. I discovered a computer program that enables me to “draw” stained glass outlines either free-hand or by tracing a scanned picture or photo. With this, even though I cannot “draw,” I have been able to combine scanned pictures and create original patterns that I can then use to build a stained glass window or lamp.



Gary's stained glass studio at his home.

The cost of basic materials and a beginner's class at a local stained glass studio can be quite modest. I, like many retirees, have found that I now have the time to pursue an artistic endeavor that I always desired.



Gary retired last August after serving 18 years in the UU ministry, the last six years as an Accredited Interim Minister in Boone, NC; Muskegon, MI; Jacksonville, FL; Chandler, AZ; and Newark, DE. He now lives with his wife, Kathy, in Tampa, Florida where the sun shines brightly every day except for the 1/2 hour monsoon each afternoon.

Turning of Our Lives

“As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”
— Proverbs 25: 25



L to R: Charles Eddis, Nancy Eddis,
Alan Deale

Charles Eddis (minister emeritus of the Unitarian Church of Montreal, Quebec) and his wife **Nancy** enjoyed lunch with **Alan Deale** (minister emeritus of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon) and his wife, **Kathleen Hunter** in June, when Alan and Kathleen were on their way to their cottage in Ontario.

Bonnie & Fred Cappuccino celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends at their home in Maxville, Ontario on July 14. Early in 1985 they founded Child Haven International, inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi to help care for handicapped, destitute, parentless, and other needy children from India, Nepal and Bangladesh. From modest beginnings, Child Haven International has grown to 10 centers and nearly 15 support groups (mostly in Canada). Along the way, Fred and Bonnie have raised 2 sons and have personally adopted 20 children. They have received many honors including the UNESCO Prize and the Order of Canada.

Leon and Dorothy Hopper are celebrating the 10th anniversary of moving into Horizon House, a downtown Seattle high rise retirement community. With the relentless progression of Leon's Parkinson's disease, which has significantly restricted his mobility, living in a setting fashioned to make possible gracious aging has been life saving. They attend East Shore Church thanks to the good folk there who provide them with rides. Dorothy continues to attend local theater productions with friends. While Leon is not able to get out for meetings or activities, they are delighted for any one who is in downtown Seattle to give them a call; they would love to see you.

Following problems with blood clots blocking blood flow to critical areas of her body, **Arlene Kaufmann** is recuperating at home with round-the-clock care. She'd love to hear from you: 401 100th Ave NE #326, Bellevue, WA 98004, 425/450-5503. Her spirits are high and her caregivers top-notch.

Ray and Gretchen Manker are living in the Beatitudes Retirement Campus, a retirement community in Phoenix founded by the nearby UCC church, which houses many UUs. Ray has Alzheimer's and Gretchen goes to dialysis three times a week. She broke her right hip in April, 2012 and her left hip this past Christmas Day. Still recovering, she drives herself and Ray "to everything" and is working on walking again. Their first great-grandsons, the children of daughter Susan Manker Seale's children, were born in October, 2012 and March, 2013. This summer they will spend 3 days in Sedona with their son David and his partner.

Catherine and Robert Ross have moved to the Houston area to live with their son Derek and his wife, who will be helping Bob care for Catherine in her struggle with Parkinson's. Bob's recent interests lie in being Catherine's caregiver on what he calls "our second honeymoon," and in research and writing, primarily his column, *The Practicing Christian*, "which links the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the rainbow of ways in which God's people live out the promise of God's kingdom on this earth in their personal, family, political, commercial, and social lives."

Richard Weston-Jones left on May 29th to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay advising non-profit NGOs. He is spending the first three months in Guarambare for training, including learning Guaraní, the language of the area where he will be working. In August, he will go to his service site, and we can expect to hear more of his adventures after that.

Update: UUMA Task Force on Retired Ministers (Right Relations)

In the fall of 2011, the UUMA invited UURMaPA to join a “task force on retired ministers.” UURMaPA asked to have two representatives on the 8-member group; those two members were Jim Eller and Chris Lilly Backus. Other members of the task force included representatives from the UUMA Board, the Transitions Department at the UUA, the Interim Ministers Guild, and members with experience as Good Officers, interims or ministers in good relationships with settled and former ministers.

The task force report is available as a link from the home page of the UURMaPA website, www.uurmapa.org. (Click on *Joint Task Force Report*.) The report was presented at the UURMaPA Conference in Attleboro, MA in October, 2012. Since then, there has been much focus on the “Ministry of Absence” concept introduced in this report, which led to a lively exchange on SpeakUp this past April.

The task force report contains sample covenants between retired and settled ministers and between the retired minister’s partner and the settled minister. These are a starting point for fruitful conversation in determining what would be best for the congregation, and could be used to help educate a congregation about what healthy relationships involve.

There is a distinction between retired ministers and ministers emeriti/ae, since the latter group may retain specific duties or roles in the church. The task force focused on the primacy of the settled minister and the ongoing good health of the congregation.

This year at General Assembly, a workshop on “Ministry of Absence” was offered. Over sixty people attended and participated in a lively discussion. It is gratifying to see the work of the task force coming to life as people consider the complex issues of serving congregations and doing what’s best for the health of those congregations over the long term.

The goal of the task force was not to come up with more rules, but rather to raise issues about changing the culture of expectations in the congregation and between the retired and current minister (be that an interim, consulting, or called minister). Of course it takes a long time to change a culture, but the overall health of the congregation might be better served this way than by imposing “rules.”

Some of the complex and tender issues aired in this workshop were:

- At a time of ministerial transition, we must acknowledge grieving. We should not forget or downplay the departing minister and partner’s grief at leaving a beloved congregation or the grief of the congregation in seeing them leave. Ministers have not been well-trained in how to leave a congregation in a healthy way. Ministerial departures, whether done skillfully or awkwardly, become part of the congregation’s history.

- A “ministry of absence” is still a ministry. A retired minister and his/her partner might best serve the health of the congregation by staying away for a time.

- When a minister retires, his/her partner will also experience a changed relationship with the congregation. While there are guidelines and recommendations for future relationships between the retired and the new minister, little has been said about the role of the partner. Because partners are fully participating members of UURMaPA, they are a group that could do important work in articulating and supporting healthy relationships between ministers’ partners and their former congregation. *Look for news about Partner Resources and Reflections and support groups later this year.*

Both the UUMA and UURMaPA are aware of the need for more specialized training of Good Officers to help current and retired ministers negotiate satisfactory relationships that will further their congregation’s health. UURMaPA board member-at-large Doug Gallagher and UUMA board member Fritz Hudson (who holds the Good Offices portfolio and was part of the UUMA Task Force) will be working together this year on developing such training for the benefit of all concerned.



— Chris Lilly Backus
— Judy Welles

New Members of UURMaPA

Richard Beal and partner Joan Beal, 15 Crescent Street, Norway, ME 04268; 207-744-9031 Richardbeal68@yahoo.com. Richard recently served the First Universalist Church of Norway, ME and the First Universalist Church of West Paris, ME. He plans to conduct weddings and funerals and provide summer preaching.

Harold Beu, 1321 Northampton Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49006; 269-381-6439 haroldbeu@gmail.com. He recently served the First Unitarian Church in South Bend, IN, and plans to continue in part-time or interim ministry.

Frances Dew, 8212 Ann Arbor Road W., Plymouth, MI; 734-663-8021 revdew@earthlink.net. Fran recently served the UU Fellowship of Midland, Michigan as interim. She plans to continue with pulpit supply and consulting.

Kathrene Duhon, 145 Maple Ave., Mathews, VA 23109; 804-725-2426 kathyduhon@yahoo.com. She recently served the UU Meeting of South Berkshire in Great Barrington, MA. She will be caring for her parents and doing occasional pulpit supply.

Patience Gardner, 30 Tremont St., #12, Duxbury, MA 02332; 781-974-4078 patiencegardner@comcast.net.

Elizabeth Greene, 1012 Strawberry Lane, Boise, ID 83712; 208/244-0047 uurev@pobox.com. Elizabeth has served the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for the past 25 years.

Sally Hamlin, 2141 River Rd., #10, Niagara Falls, NY 14304; 716-907-2882 sallyhamlin@hotmail.com. Sally recently served the First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY.

Annie Holmes and partner Ben Holmes, 352 N. Comstock, Sutherlin, OR 97479; 541-733-4017 Aholmes78@cmspan.net. Annie recently served the Umpqua UU Church in Roseburg, OR. She will offer pulpit supply as needed in the PNWD.

Betty Kornitzer, 119 Wayland Trail, Narragansett, RI 02882; 401-783-4556 bkornitzer@zol.com. Betty recently served the UU Congregation of South County, RI.

Phlox Laucher, P.O. Box 3983, Pittsfield, MA 01201; 413-281-8351 phloxlaucher@gmail.com. Phlox recently served the UU Church in Pittsfield, MA. She intends to continue with tutoring in the Pittsfield public schools, preaching, and conducting weddings and memorial services.

Suzanne Nazian and partner Stanley J. Nazian, 10907 Airview Dr., Tampa, FL 33625; 813-962-7657 picsbymag@aol.com. She recently served the UU Congregation of Lakeland, FL and plans to write and do public service.

Edward Piper and partner Renee Herrell, 8138 Port Republic Rd., Port Republic, VA 24471; 540-249-3165 edpiper2@gmail.com. He recently served the UU Fellowship of Waynesboro, VA and plans to continue as a Congregational Consultant.

Penelope Rather, 4730 Lee Circle, Boulder, CO 80303; 307-760-4613 Penny_rather@hotmail.com. Penny recently served the UU Fellowship of Laramie, WY. She plans occasional guest preaching.

William Sasso and partner Kathleen O'Laughlin, 9 Pinewood Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901; 618-529-7808 bsasso@juno.com. Bill recently served the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship. He intends to continue his volunteer work. He is currently the President of the Central Midwest District and has been nominated as President of the Mid-American Region.

Marcia Schekel and partner Kurt Schekel, 12400 SE 15th St., Vancouver, WA 98683; 360-944-7588 maschekel@comcast.net. Marcia recently served as a Hospice chaplain at Providence Healthcare in Portland, OR. She continues to facilitate bereavement groups and spiritual growth groups, and to celebrate weddings and lead memorial services.

New UURMaPA Members, contd.

Barry Whittemore, 984 Old Ellijay Rd East, Dahlonega, GA 30533; 205-639-3600 bwhittemore@uuma.org. He recently served the Georgia Mountains UU Church and plans to continue circuit riding and teaching at the University of North Georgia.

Carol Wolff, 562-A Heritage Village, Southbury, CT 06488; 203-405-3596 revwooki@yahoo.com. Carol recently served in Alton, IL; Woodbury, CT; and Stony Brook, NY.

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Creative Sage-ing Award, contd.

At 96 the second oldest living Unitarian Universalist minister, Farley and his wife Virginia have rendered exemplary service during more than two decades of retirement.

For all the activities just cited and others not mentioned, the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association honors Farley and Virginia Wheelwright with its Creative Sage-ing Award for the year 2013, together with the accompanying cash award of \$500.



Upon receiving the \$500 award, Farley immediately handed it to congregational treasurer Marge Zap as a contribution to the Fellowship.

Farley's response: "Please extend my thanks, and those posthumously of Virginia, for the UURMaPA Creative Sage-ing Award you have so generously bestowed. She would be as proud as I to have been remembered by colleagues. Long life to you and our organization."

From Your Treasurer:

You are probably aware that UURMaPA is not a dues-based organization. We all become members as a consequence of our service as ministers or ministers' partners, and continuing membership is in no way contingent on ability to contribute. We send out an appeal letter twice a year and your heart-felt response is expressed with checks in amounts ranging from hundreds of dollars to less than \$10 — with an occasional note saying that it is no longer possible to donate. All donations, regardless of size, are gratefully received and all such information is held in confidence.

Recently I had to move UURMaPA's accounts to a different bank in order to resolve a problem receiving checks (even though in US dollars) from our Canadian members. We now use TD Bank (a subsidiary of a Canadian bank), with offices only along the Eastern Seaboard of the US. Through its "Affinity Program," TD Bank will make a contribution to UURMaPA for customers who designate UURMaPA as their charitable non-profit organization. The amounts are \$50 for each new checking account, \$10/year for each existing checking account, and 1/10 of 1% of the average annual balance of savings deposits. If you are a customer or become one, this is another way to help UURMaPA at no cost to you.

UURMaPA depends on our shared generosity to fund all that we are able to do. Thank you so much for your very generous support of UURMaPA!

— Paul L'Herrou

**Some people
try to turn back their odometers.
Not me!
I want people to know why
I look this way.
I've traveled a long way
and some of the roads weren't paved.
— Will Rogers**

UURMaPA Fall Conference in Attleboro, MA, October 1, 2, & 3, 2013

Our UURMaPA fall gathering is only four months away! We have received 30+ registrations to date. We have limited space at the La Salette Center so we encourage you to get your registrations in soon.

There are a few special events planned for this year's group. Wednesday afternoon Kay Montgomery will present a "25 Beacon Street" Odyssey followed by a reception. There will be a "Creative Arts" table available for those wanting to share their work (paintings, jewelry, knitting, pottery, wood carvings, etc.). One reasonably sized piece that can fit on a table with other objects is the limit of our space. (You are responsible for the care and/or sale of your work. No insurance coverage is available.) Wednesday evening we will be entertained by Dan & Jan Karney (UU musicians from the Philadelphia area) in a program they call "Timeless Tunes." There will be the usual three worship services, a book table and lots of socializing time.

Our program "Wellness Looks and Feels Like What — In Retirement?" will begin Wednesday morning with some sharing of experiences followed by several small group discussions on various elements and stages of retirement life. Our business meeting will take place Thursday morning.

A registration form is included below. When Joel receives your registration, he will send you a confirmation with the schedule on the back. We are looking forward to seeing many of you when the colors of the fall season in the northeast captivate us with their beauty.

Carol Taylor catuuminr@verizon.net

Joel Weaver weaver_je@hotmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

UURMaPA at Attleboro -- October 1, 2, 3, 2013

La Salette Center, Attleboro, MA

Please register me/us for the UURMaPA @ Attleboro Conference. I enclose \$195 per person. This fee covers the conference, meals, a single room (bath shared with another single room), social time refreshments, and general expenses. **(\$35 per person for the Wednesday afternoon, October 2nd, Odyssey and reception only).** My check is made payable to "UURMaPA @ Attleboro."

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____ **Check enclosed for \$** _____

Room facilities at La Salette Center are not wheelchair accessible; it is only a few steps from the doorway to the toilet. There is an elevator for access to chapel and rooms.

Please indicate any special needs, dietary or otherwise: _____

REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK must be received no later than September 10. Mail this form and your check payable to "UURMaPA @ Attleboro" to: Joel Weaver, 104 Amity Dr. Wayne, PA 19087

You will receive a confirmation notice and directions to the La Salette Center upon receipt of your registration form and check. Room assignments will be available at the registration desk in the entry hall of the La Salette Center upon your arrival, October 1.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: You may apply for financial assistance by contacting Paul L'Herrou, UURMaPA's treasurer (e-mail: pauillerrou@gmail.com phone: (978) 290-7285). Paul will need to know the amount of assistance that you need. Don't forget to include costs for travel, caregiver for a dependent partner, etc. in addition to the registration fee in your calculation of need.

Questions? Concerns? Feel free to contact Joel Weaver, weaver_je@hotmail.com Phone: (610) 296-0762. Cell Phone: (267) 566-2386.

In Memoriam



The Rev. Richard E. (“Dick”) Benner, parish minister and passionate advocate for freedom of choice and dignity, died of brain cancer on May 18, 2013, aged 70, at the Tidewell Hospice House in Sarasota, Florida.

A devoted follower of the renowned psychotherapist Carl Gustav Jung, Mr. Benner taught classes based on Jung’s work and attended the C. G. Jung Institute in Switzerland. He was also a founding member of the C.G. Jung Society of Sarasota, Florida.

Richard Elden Benner was born in Bangor, Maine, on May 30, 1942 to Anne and Elden Benner. He received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education from the University of Maine in 1964 and 1969, respectively, and went on to attain a Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary in 1974.

Mr. Benner was ordained at the First Universalist Church of Westbrook, Maine on June 16, 1974, and began his parish ministry with service to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers, Florida, 1974-79. He went on to settlements at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau in Garden City, New York (1979-87), the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, Florida (1987-98), and finally at the First Unitarian Church of Omaha, Nebraska, from 1998 until his retirement in 2005.

The Rev. Mr. Benner was faithfully devoted to both the larger UU movement and to his local communities. He served two terms as President of the UUA’s Florida District. He also served as President of the Sarasota Council of Concern, was a founding member of the Sarasota Interfaith Education Coalition (SURE), and served on the Board of Directors of the Sarasota Family Counseling Center. With a strong commitment to preserving and promoting freedom of choice and dignity at the end of life, Mr. Benner served as the President of the statewide Hemlock Society of Florida as well as of its first local chapter, Suncoast Hemlock.

Richard Benner enjoyed foreign films, British and Scandinavian television series, and Civil War history. A true dog lover, he would often fondly recall memories of his late, beloved golden retriever, Josh, named after Civil War hero and Maine native, Joshua Chamberlain. Many knew of his poetic gift, and the “humanity, compassion, and wit he was able to convey through his work.” He published several books of poetry based on his experiences in the state of Maine: *Maine Moods*, *Living Double*, and *Night Songs*.

Richard Benner is survived by his wife of 47 years, Susan (Gammon) Benner; sons, Christopher Benner and Andrew Benner; and a granddaughter, Sophia Benner.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Susan Benner at 5459 Beneva Woods Way, Sarasota, FL 34233; or to Christopher Benner at cbenner2076@gmail.com.

Marilyn Abbott Gentile, 87, died June 7, 2013. She was the widow of the Rev. Frank Gentile and then the Rev. Jody Shipley. She supported Frank’s ministry when the Gentiles served the Universalist Church in Eldorado, OH. The scrutiny of small town living was a real challenge for Marilyn. After three years they moved to Southfield, MI, to start a new ministry.



Marilyn earned an MSW at Wayne University. She became a well-respected social worker in the greater Detroit area and flourished in her work.

After Frank’s sudden death in 1984, Marilyn fell in love with Jody, who was a close family friend. They relocated to Berkeley, CA, where she continued in her profession as a social worker and conscientiously chaired the UUA’s continental Women and Religion Committee for a number of years.

Marilyn was a full-fledged partner in Jody’s work at the Modesto UU Church and then in her community ministry. Jody’s death in 2002 was a terrible blow to Marilyn. They both were involved for many years in Women With Wings, the intentional community, which commemorated Marilyn’s life.

In Memoriam, contd.



Claudine Marilyn Renz Grady, 89, wife of the Rev. Charles W. Grady, died March 15, 2013. She lost her vision at an early age, though as a child she became an expert knitter, fluent in Braille, and a gifted pianist. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

When she married Charles, he was a radio announcer. As a young wife, she reared two children, took care of the house, and participated in civic and musical affairs. It was Claudine's influence that brought the Gradys to Unitarianism. She loved making friends, and was a dedicated bridge player, aided by Braille-marked cards and a phenomenal memory.

For Claudine "life began at 40," when she learned to work with a guide dog for greater independence. It was a successful venture, and she owned and loved a series of dogs for the rest of her life. In 2010, increasing ill health forced the Gradys to move to Minnesota to live with family. Claudine was afflicted by dementia and declining health. The Gradys were together for more than 65 years.

Notes of remembrance may be sent to Charles W. Grady, 8714 Second Ave. South, Bloomington, MN 55420.

The Rev. Dr. Ray Hopkins, a Universalist minister who worked tirelessly for Unitarian and Universalist consolidation and served the merged Unitarian Universalist movement in several capacities thereafter, died peacefully in his sleep, aged 93, at his home in Saco Maine, on April 21, 2013.



Deeply devoted to his liberal religious tradition and beyond, Ray Hopkins served on every merger-related committee from 1946 until AUA-UCA consolidation was finally formalized in 1961, when he was appointed executive vice president of the newly created Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), serving in that position until 1974. During these years he was heavily engaged in the anti-war, feminism, and civil right movements, and served briefly on the Executive Committee of the International Association for Religious Freedom in 1969. His work on consolidation and later tenure at the UUA offered him the opportunity to meet some of his heroes, including Albert Schweitzer, John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Raymond Charles Hopkins was born in Danbury, CT on July 29, 1919 to Clarence and Mary Halstead Hopkins, and was raised in the Universalist church there. He began teaching Sunday school at age 15 and soon rose to local, statewide, and then national youth leadership positions. Drafted into the army as a conscientious objector in 1942 and honorably discharged with disability in 1944, Ray immediately began ministerial study at Tufts University. There he became a charter member of the *Humiliati*, a somewhat "maverick" but eventually influential group of Tufts students and recent alumni, who gathered in 1945 for study, fellowship, and Universalist renewal. Sometime after the group disbanded in 1954, Mr. Hopkins joined the *Fraters of the Wayside Inn*, an older study group of Universalist clergy on which the *Humiliati* had modeled their own organization.

Mr. Hopkins was graduated from Tufts with a B.A. in 1947 and S.T.B. in 1949. While still a student, he served ministries at Universalist churches in Canton (1944-45), Medford (1945-46), and Brockton, beginning the latter in 1946 and continuing on after graduation, where he was ordained in 1949 and served until 1961. In 1964, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate by Starr King School for the Ministry.

Ray Hopkins began a new chapter in 1974, when he became executive director of the Ferry Beach Park Association in Saco, Maine, providing that center for retreat and renewal with skillful leadership for ten years. The Rev. Mr. Hopkins also served as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford from 1975 to 1984. He was honored with the title of Minister Emeritus upon his retirement in 1984.

A memorial service is to be held sometime this summer (2013) at Ferry Beach. In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to the Ferry Beach Park Association, 5 Morris Ave, Saco, Maine 04072.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Linda Hopkins at 8 Morris Ave., Saco, Maine 04072.

In Memoriam, contd.

The Rev. Byron E. Kelham died in Pueblo, Colorado, on April 14, 2013, at the age of 86. Devoted to community service and the larger cause of social justice, Mr. Kelham found meaning in serving on the boards of the Danbury, Conn, branch of the NAACP and the Human Relations Council. He also chaired the Chaplains' Association of the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

Of the roles of minister and congregation, the Rev. Mr. Kelham once wrote:

“ . . . it is the prime function of the church to help its members find a core of meaning around which the various fragments of their lives may be unified. Ideally, the minister should exemplify such a unified, “whole” life. Out of the strength and experience this gives him, he should, by means of ritual, preaching, and counseling, help others to achieve the same. . . . In so doing, the church and minister must at times vigorously protest and seek to correct those elements in our society, those demands, which are truly incompatible with such wholeness; prejudice, injustice, etc.”

Byron Elwood Kelham was born in Troy, Idaho, on February 28, 1927 to Edward and Alva Cartwright Kelham. He earned a B.Sc. from Lewis & Clark College in 1952 and a B.D. from Starr King School for the Ministry in 1955, and was ordained at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas on October 17, 1955. Among the churches he served before retirement in 1992 were the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburg (1964-68) and the First Unitarian Society of Pueblo, Colorado (1981-88).

Byron Kelham is survived by his wife, Ethyl Kelham; daughters, Rebecca Claussen, Cara Henderson, and Leslie Kelham; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Society for Ministerial Relief, c/o Glen Snowden, Secretary, 34 Meeting House Lane, #201, Stow, Mass, 01775.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Leslie Kelham, 135 Vernon Pl., Pueblo, Colorado 81004.



Marcia Rogers Payson, 77, widow of the Rev. Robert E. Payson, died May 31, 2013, after a courageous battle with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

A graduate of Cortland Teachers College (now SUNY Cortland), she taught elementary school and middle school. She was a homemaker, healer, lecturer, DRE, volunteer coordinator, caretaker and dedicated family member. She was a Life Member of Ferry Beach Park Association. She was part of the Harbour Singers, a hospice choir.

She will be remembered for her sense of humor, her listening ear, her keen mind, warm countenance and her justice-seeking spirit.

She is survived by her beloved life partner, Nancy Cunningham; two sons, the Rev. Aaron (Kristen) Payson and Marc Payson; three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; three brothers, three sisters and their families.

Marcia shared these thoughts: “Living with an abundance of tears makes me feel more alive. Tears manifest an overflowing fullness when I thank my grandchildren for helping out and they respond, ‘But Grandma, that’s what grandchildren are for!’ Receiving the loving care of my partner strengthens me, the protectiveness of my sons gives me courage, and I feel worthy by the encouragement of friends.”

Sympathy notes may go to Nancy Cunningham, 43 Shadagee Rd., #8, Saco, ME 04072-2476.

In Memoriam, contd.



The Rev. Charles “Corry” Richardson Jr. died peacefully at age 97 on April 5, 2013, at Summerhill Assisted Living in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Mr. Richardson loved the theater and performed for many years in community play productions. He was also an avid sports fan, particularly enthusiastic about Harvard football and the Boston Red Sox. With an active and inquiring intellect, he delighted in reading, following the news, debating political and theological subjects, as well as playing bridge. He was active in several organizations including local chapters of the Lions Club and Freemasons. He spent many enjoyable years with his family vacationing at a second home in Kennebunk Beach, Maine.

Charles O. Richardson was born in Weston, Mass., on Aug. 26, 1915, the son of Charles O. and Laura Woodworth Richardson. He was graduated from Harvard University in 1937. After college he worked several years for the Boston *Herald Traveler* newspaper, leaving to join the Navy during World War II. Returning, he

earned a graduate degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1949 and then served as a Unitarian minister in several churches in Massachusetts and New Hampshire until retirement in 1975. Afterwards he continued to serve as a fill-in minister and to perform family services into his 80s. The Rev. Mr. Richardson was named Minister Emeritus at the First Unitarian Congregational Society of Wilton Center, New Hampshire.

Charles Richardson was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth H. Richardson. He is survived by his son Charles O. Richardson III of East Montpelier, Vermont; daughters Penelope Richardson Tarrant of East Falmouth, Mass., and Elizabeth Richardson Paré of Wiscasset, Maine; and four grandchildren, Joshua C. Tarrant, Callan E. Richardson, Alexander G. Paré, and Carter C. Richardson. He is also survived by three sisters: Mabel C. Richardson, Lucy Rand, and Laura R. Payson.



The Rev. Andrew Rosenberger, parish minister, apple farmer and conservationist, died at age 94 in Concord, New Hampshire, on May 31, 2013.

In addition to a thirty-five year career in parish ministry, Mr. Rosenberger spent a lifetime actively involved in various civic causes. For over fifty years, he chaired the Board of Trustees of the Protestant Guild for the Blind, during which time the Guild greatly expanded its reach, serving children at the Perkins School for the Blind as well as other visually handicapped and blind people. He was also president of the Wellesley (Mass.) School Board; a founding member of the Unitarian Christian Fellowship in Groton (Mass.), and president of the Groton Council of Churches.

An early advocate of healthy living, Andrew Rosenberger lectured widely on health and nutrition and published *Eat Your Way to Better Health* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1961), a healthy food and lifestyle manual, considered in some circles to have been twenty years ahead of its time. This interest in health led him, in retirement, to purchase Hillbrook Orchards, an eighty acre apple orchard in Groton. Andrew, with his wife, thus fulfilled a long-held desire to work the land, growing apples and peaches, pumpkins and strawberries, living as a true steward of the land and an ardent conservationist. Hillbrook Orchards became for many years a popular pick-your-own destination for apple lovers from all over Massachusetts, and the Rev. Mr. Rosenberger would conduct sunrise worship services among the apple blossoms atop the orchard's highest hill.

Reflecting on a life of gratitude, Andrew Rosenberger memorably wrote:

“If I were to make a short list of my gratitude to others at this time, it would include: my mother and father whose faith, hope, love and benevolent spirit inspired me to enter the ministry; Harvard College and Harvard Divinity School which helped me to prepare for that sacred calling; my marriage to Willamena Parks whom I had courted for three years at Radcliffe before our wedding at Christ Church in Cambridge a week

In Memoriam, contd.

after graduation; and the intimate contacts with men and women and children in the churches I served in nearly every condition and circumstance, sharing their births and deaths, hopes and fears, joys and sorrows, successes and disappointments, as I tried in some small measure to help make their lives a little better and more meaningful... The longer I live, the more important it seems to me for all of us to be engaged in some form of human service. To find real satisfaction and true peace of mind, we have to recognize at least a few of the endless opportunities to fulfill our obligation to life by tangibly reaching out to the physically and mentally challenged — the often forgotten people who need our help so badly, more than ever, because of the systematic reduction in public funding for their care and support. When Billie and I look at our fifty-five years of happily married life together with our four children and their spouses, our ten grandchildren, and our great grandchild, all of whom have filled our lives with abiding joy, we enter our golden years together with heartfelt thanks for all our blessings and with great expectations for the days ahead.”

Andrew George Rosenberger was born in Oak Park, Illinois, on August 21, 1918, son of Emily Williams and Andrew Fretz Rosenberger. He earned a B.A. from Harvard College in 1941 and an S.T.B. from Harvard Divinity School in 1944, was ordained by the First Congregational Unitarian Church of Northborough (now First Parish UU) on June 25, 1944, and remained there as minister until 1950. Following a number of interim ministries over the next decade, he accepted a call to the First Parish Church of Groton in 1963, serving there until his retirement in 1979. He was doubly honored with the title of Minister Emeritus by his churches in both Northborough and Groton.

Andrew Rosenberger is survived by a daughter, Wilhelmina Gustavson; three sons, Eric, Karl, and Leif Rosenberger; ten grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Willamena (“Billie”) Parks Rosenberger.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Parish Church, 1 Powder House Road, Groton, Massachusetts 01450, and notes of condolence may be sent to Eric Rosenberger at 29 Auburn St, Concord, New Hampshire 03301; or via email at edfirst@aol.com.

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On May 26, the Eugene (Oregon) *Register Guardian* published a column by Edgar Peara titled “How to Celebrate Memorial Day.” Below are brief excerpts from his column:

In November, 1942, I was among the American troops taking civilian fire from Arzew, Algeria. I was ordered to take action to stop the shooting. Realizing enemy helmets are fearsome, I removed mine, and told my platoon I would first go down every street, to every house; they were not to fire unless they were fired on or unless I told them to do so.

I knocked on every door saying, “We come in peace. We will not harm you. If you have any weapons, give them to us and we will leave.” No one resisted us. We collected many weapons. There was never a shot fired in Arzew again.

War will cease, as slavery did, when populations demand nonviolent solutions to the causes of wars — including exploitation, revenge, genocide, seizure of land or resources; and when many more of us insist that governments stop considering war as an instrument of foreign policy.

Think of how our country would benefit if the hundreds of billions of



Edgar Peara

Pentagon dollars went into our schools, hospitals, infrastructure, social welfare.

On this Memorial Day may we remember with esteem and appreciation the dead multitudes who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy. Let us become worthy of their sacrifice by dedicating ourselves to the serious, difficult, indispensable work necessary for peace to reign on earth.



The NJ/NY UURMaPA Chapter on July 12th enjoyed heritage fare from the Ukrainian East Village Restaurant menu in Manhattan, followed by (a current format of their repasts) the mental stimulation that only a game of Scrabble can provide.

Standing in front of the restaurant's sign are (left to right) Bob Hemstreet, Wendy Moscow, Sue Nichols, Vernon Nichols, Barbara Ratzlaff, Paul Ratzlaff, Jim Wentz. (Photo courtesy of Jim Wentz.)

UURMAPA President Dick Gilbert announces the publication of three books and plans for a fourth. Included are two books of meditations, *In the Holy Quiet* and *Thanks Be for These: Meditations on Life and Death*, as well as an anthology of UU writings on religious education/faith development, *In the Middle of a Journey: Readings in Unitarian Universalist Faith Development*. The fourth book, *Growing Up Absorbed: Religious Education Among the Unitarian Universalists* (a statement of UU RE philosophy) will be out before the end of the year. All are available from iUniverse, 1663 Liberty Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403, www.iuniverse.com or 1-800-288-4677.

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