

# Elderberries



the newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME 29

NUMBER 3

Summer 2014

## Nana Kratochvil Receives Creative Sageing Award

Each year, UURMaPA invites nominations for the Creative Sageing Award, given to a retired Unitarian Universalist minister in recognition of outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement.

This year, the UURMaPA Creative Sageing Award was presented at the annual luncheon at General Assembly in Providence, RI to the Rev. Dr. Nana Kratochvil for her service to the Unitarian Universalist Association, to interfaith religious cooperation, to the Democratic party, and to her own family.



Nana is surprised to learn that the award comes with a \$500 honorarium.

Nana retired from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muskegon, Michigan in 2006, having served there since 1995. During retirement, she served as the minister to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan in Mt. Pleasant, MI. She recently completed seven years as the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Heartland District, and is currently the Chair of the UUA's Commission on Appraisal, where she has served for five years.

In fact, the award was bestowed to Nana immediately at the start of the luncheon, as she had to leave to attend a meeting of the Commission on Appraisal at which the new study item was to be announced. Those in attendance got advance notice that this new study item

will be "Class." It is the hope of the Commission that they can contribute to an understanding of how class structures in our society impact us as we Unitarian Universalists build the Beloved Community.

Nana helped form an Interfaith Study and Support Group in Muskegon, Michigan and continues to be an active and committed member. She also has been an active leader of the Progressive Democratic Women's Caucus of Western Michigan for the past seven years.



UURMaPA receives advance notice of the new study item of the Commission on Appraisal.



Jim Eller, Chair of the Creative Sageing Award Committee, and the Rev. Dr. Nana Kratochvil, 2014 recipient.

Currently, her 28-year old granddaughter and 5-year old great-granddaughter share her small home in a lively and energetic household. When she can get away, Nana enjoys a quiet sail on Lake Michigan — and when she can't, you can count on her for a wonderful conversation!

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Contact information for everyone above can be found in the on-line directory at [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) or in the printed directory.

You may view online or download the Membership Directory (updated regularly) at [www.uurmapa.org](http://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:

One of the benefits of editing your quarterly newsletter is that it gives me a position on the UURMaPA Board, putting me in regular contact with the fine colleagues who take care of this organization for you. We meet monthly by phone, except for the one or two happy occasions per year when we get to meet in person. This coming September we'll be in Attleboro just before the Fall conference, and again in February in Orlando just before the Winter conference.

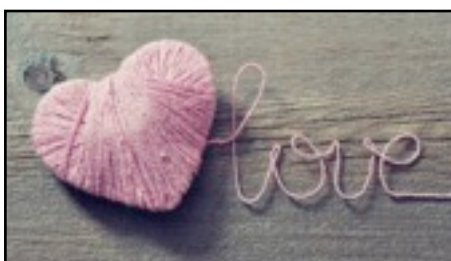
For a group of folks who are allegedly retired, these people work surprisingly hard on your behalf. Dick Gilbert, our President, is especially busy every month, sending out greetings to new members and condolences to members who have lost a spouse or partner. Myriad e-mail messages on a wide range of topics require his attention, as well as preparing meeting agendas and monthly President's reports for *Elderberries*.

Although all of us work diligently in our respective portfolios, I would like to draw your attention this month to your Caring Network Coordinator, Margi Nasemann, and her assistant, Liz McMaster. Between them, they stay in touch with the forty-two (or so... the exact number is a moving target) Area Coordinators, notifying them of new UURMaPAns in their areas, helping with resources for members who need assistance, and encouraging them to stay connected with the people in their area of care. You can reciprocate the favor by notifying your Area Coordinator of significant events or changes in your life, especially if the event has created the need for some support. (The UURMaPA Membership Directory lists all of the Area Coordinators on the back pages.)

All of us on the Board want to hear from you with ideas about how UURMaPA can serve you better. We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Remember that the deadline for the Fall issue of *Elderberries* is October 15, and please notify our Membership Coordinator, Marcia Olsen, of any changes in your contact information.

—Judy Welles

Please send your comments and feedback to [elderberries@uurmapa.org](mailto:elderberries@uurmapa.org).



For our newest members,  
on the occasion of leaving  
their congregations...

### How Shall I Say Goodbye?

Theresa Novak

How shall I say goodbye  
How can I loosen  
The heartstrings  
That have held us so close  
For the last seven years  
A lifetime it seemed  
A ministry true  
Hope and dreams  
Tears and laughter  
Music and prayer  
Were the cement  
That bound us together  
We trembled in awe

At the mystery of life  
Revealed each new day  
The blessings of birth  
The tears of grief  
The joy of weddings  
The hard work of justice  
I won't say goodbye  
I won't break my heart  
The ties are so deep  
The best I can do  
Is offer with grace  
A fond fare thee well  
My heart's strings will sing  
In memory and love  
A sweet song of gratitude  
For the rest of my life.

# A Word from Your President

## Of Green Tea and Prunes

My mother drank a great deal of green tea, swearing by its health benefits. It is hard to dispute her wisdom, as she lived to be 95 and had a mind clear as a bell until a stroke ten days before she died. My father firmly believed in eating prunes as the sure-fire way to a happy digestive and elimination system. Again, it is hard to deny the truth of this claim, as he lived to be 88 and was physically active working on his country house until very near his death.

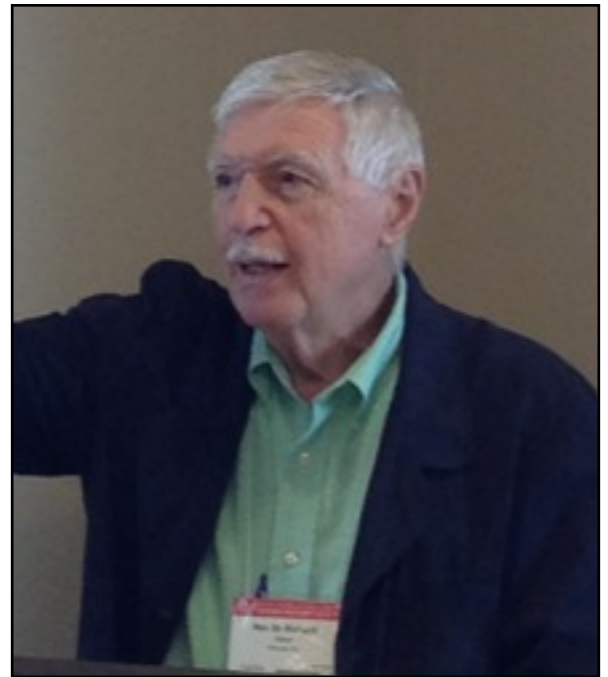
Now, I don't claim a causal relationship between drinking green tea (which I do) or eating prunes (which I also do) and a long and engaged life. My sons, scientist and historian respectively, would be sure to note that *post hoc* does not mean *proctor hoc*. (For those of you who missed Latin in school, that means that just because something happens after an event does not mean it was caused by that event).

No, my point is that our elders passed on certain terse and trenchant bits of wisdom which we will remember until our dying day. The benefits of green tea and prunes are not the greatest messages my parents gave me. My mother was the unofficial lay minister of our small, rural Universalist congregation. She took me on her many parish calls to the sick and the dying. No doubt my interest in ministry was fueled by her compassion. She was "the saint of Baptist Hill" and was ordained by her United Church of Christ congregation (formerly Universalist — she was still a Universalist) on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. My father was early disillusioned by small town church politics and was active mainly for potluck suppers and turkey dinners at the church. He came to hear me preach only occasionally, and under pressure.

My mother had always been a "woman for others," as she gave herself unstintingly to family, friends, church and community. She was that for me long before Dietrich Bonhoeffer described Jesus as the "man for others." My father's admonition "moderation in all things" passed into my ears long before I learned of Aristotle's "golden mean."

These sometimes symbolic, always wise words and witticisms stay with me yet, well into my 8<sup>th</sup> decade. They are a kind of shorthand reminder, emblematic of my parents. Pondering all this, however, it does cause me to wonder how my sons and grandchildren will remember me as they move through the life process. We inherit our past, but we also give inheritances to the future. And so when I sip my green tea or snack on my prunes, I give thanks for those of beloved memory now gone who raised me. That thought greatly concentrates the mind and heart.

— Richard S. Gilbert



**Send updates!** Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Marcia Olsen at [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org) or 285 NW 35th Street, Apt. 52, Corvallis, OR 97330. The most current Directory is online at [www.UURMAPA.org](http://www.UURMAPA.org) (ID: UU-SAGE, password WISDOM).

# What Brings You Joy?

## Cello as Spiritual Practice

Anne Anderson

After a thirty-year career in teaching and administration, I was clear that in retirement I needed to let go of facilitating, instructing, directing others. Instead, I would practice Beginner's Mind by learning to play the cello.

I found a teacher, a concert cellist who studied with the esteemed English cellist, William Pleeth, and shared stories of her friendships with "Jackie" du Pre and "Danny" Barenboim. Nona's first instruction to me was to read Pleeth's book, *Cello*, where I found passages such as:

*Playing some Bach at the beginning of the day sanctifies the house.*

and

*In the end it is not so much a matter of practicing something, but of living in a complete way and then starting to practice.*

Ah, cello as spiritual practice.

Music has always been a part of my life — childhood violin and piano lessons, and later, singing in some excellent choirs. As a soprano, I delighted in carrying the melody, knowing that my part was holding the audience's attention. The cello is another matter. Its range is the full range of the human voice, from bass to soprano. In ensembles and orchestras, the cello's role is to hold the center, to be the underpinning of sound and tempo. I'm learning to savor the importance of my "um-pa-pa" role in the cello section, and when it's our turn to shine with the melody, we cellists know that the audience is soaring with us. We hear it all the time: "Cello is my favorite instrument!"

I find performing in a group relaxing and enjoyable. But soloing is another matter. When I'm asked to play for a worship service, I'll warm up with a Bach Prelude. It feels so good, transcendent, not about me but about the music coming through me. I'll hear whispered appreciative sighs from the worship leaders, the ushers and early attendees in the sanctuary. But why is it inevitable that in my performance during the service, my eyes can't focus, I skip a line of music, my bow scratches rather than sings across the strings? I humbly remind myself I'm not There yet.

A Few Notes on the Cello:



- Walking down the street, cellists spot each other by the telltale dusty white mark on pant leg or skirt near the left knee, the "rosin patch." Our eyes connect, and smiles wash across our faces in knowing recognition.

- Every cellist has a favorite recording of the Bach Suites: Casals, of course, who played with the pure joy of primal discovery; Rostropovich, for his warm Russian elegance; Yo-Yo, for his brilliant, yet ultimately boring, technicality; and my new favorite, Jean Guihen Queyras. Look him up. He's adorable!

- Cellists delight in telling the story of their cello. I bought my 100-year-old German cello from a UCSB grad student who was returning to South Africa with his family, his dog, his books and research materials. There was neither money nor room to ship the cello. When I told him I would buy it, he looked downcast and asked if he might have one more hour to say good bye. Our cellos are not our cellos...

I practice every day, our shih tzu's head resting on the foot of my music stand, Ken snoozing in his chair across the room. I know I'm in the zone when Ken awakes, listening with quiet attention, and Bodhi gazes at me with love.

*After 25 years as a teacher and five as religious educator at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara with her husband, Ken Collier, Anne now spends her time working on political campaigns, painting, gardening, enjoying her growing family, and practicing her cello.*



# Leadership Column

## Gratitude to UURMaPA

Don Southworth

I'm looking forward to returning to Attleboro in October for my third visit to the UURMaPA Fall Conference since I began as the UUMA's Executive Director in October, 2009. What a difference five years has made in the life of the UUMA... and in our relationship with our partners in ministry, including UURMaPA.

At our annual meeting in Providence I compared the UUMA of 2009 with the UUMA of 2014 and our hopes for the UUMA of the future. In five years our membership has grown 15-20%; our budget has grown almost 200% and the number of programs and collaborations we have begun and strengthened has grown at least ten-fold. Today we have over 1800 members and at last count more than 28% were Life Members, the vast majority of whom are retired and members of UURMaPA.

One of our primary partners continues to be UURMaPA. In the last year I have worked with our Continental Good Officer, Fritz Hudson, and Doug Gallagher and Jim Eller from UURMaPA on ways we can expand our Good Officer program with Regional Specialists who will have expertise in specific areas. Our first regional specialization will be in Transitions, and we will begin accepting applications next month. We are hopeful that some Life/UURMaPA members will apply, and will help us strengthen the work we do with colleagues during transition times, including retirements.

One of my goals when I became Executive Director was to find ways for our retired members to stay engaged with their colleagues — if they wanted to be — in addition to their UURMaPA connections. Our relatively new coaching and mentor programs include several retired ministers who are sharing their wisdom and experiences with grateful colleagues. There are still a few recommendations from the UUMA/UURMaPA task force that we are working on, including developing a joint training that will better prepare ministers and their families for their transition to retirement. Our continuing education team, CENTER, and I will be looking for the right person at UURMaPA to work with in the coming year.

We at the UUMA are laying the foundation for the future with the kickoff of our first endowment fund campaign, *Sustaining the Call: A Campaign for Today's and Tomorrow's Ministries*. We are excited about this campaign not only because of the opportunity to raise money to ensure the long-term vibrancy and health of the UUMA for those ministers who are coming up behind us, but also because it will give us a tangible way to say thank you and honor those ministers, many who are in UURMaPA, who paved the way and showed people like me how to do ministry. The campaign will last for three years; the first year is exclusively for UUMA members to become charter

members and make a pledge or legacy gift to the campaign.

At our kickoff meeting for the campaign in Providence, a retired member's spouse moved me to tears when she shared how important colleagues had been to her and especially to her husband. The same could be said for every member of UURMaPA. I'm hopeful that the UUMA can continue to learn from UURMaPA how to support partners, since we ministers would be lost without them. Thank you for all you do!



*Don Southworth has been the first Executive Director of the UUMA since 2009. He has served congregations in San Francisco, Atlanta and Durham, NC. He has led workshops on growth and abundance throughout the world, and his current passion is entrepreneurial ministry and "callpreneurship" — the intersection between business and spirituality. He lives in Durham, NC with his wife Kathleen and has two grown sons, Justin and Lucas.*

Some lines of poetry that are especially meaningful to Don:

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by  
And that has made all the difference.

"The Road Not Taken"  
— Robert Frost

# Partners' Column

## Make Mine - MUSIC

Joyce Gilbert

Music has always been central to my life. From early childhood I have a repertoire of World War I songs sung by the whole family in my uncle's car on the way to — wherever. That same uncle (Frank), usually accompanied by one of his sisters, made a yearly trip to New York City to see — and hear — Broadway shows. He'd buy print copies of the songs he particularly liked and take them home, where either another sister (my mother) or I would play a song through so another brother (Ed) could hear it. Then Uncle Ed would sit at the upright and play that song — perfectly — usually in a different key. He couldn't read music, but boy! Could he play the piano and sing! Great family times, sharing music across generations.

Eventually I was old enough to be invited on some of those Broadway adventures. Sid Caesar doing his Penny Gum Machine routine in "Make Mine Manhattan." Ray Bolger singing and dancing his way through "Where's Charley?" The fabulous voices of Alfred Drake and Doretta Morrow in "Kismet" — with songs based on rich, lyrical compositions by Borodin. Of course I dreamed of doing what these talented people were doing to bring music and color and whimsy into the lives of others. And mine.

From high school and Universalist church choirs to the University of Rochester Women's Glee Club, the Chapel Choir, and student-created musicals — there I found opportunities to learn music from different times and places, with others who shared those interests. Music was a significant part of my education. Making music, shaping sound — together. Not listening passively, but *singing together*, just as we had done at Ferry Beach and Unirondack and Universalist Youth Fellowship gatherings.

Choral music and international travel fit together well, I've found. What a delight it's been to sing in Puerto Rico for the Festival Casals, to sing American folk music in a cave that's entered from both Hungary and Slovakia, in a glow worm cave in New Zealand, in Transylvania, in England. Our group spontaneously singing Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* in the church where the Edict of Torda was signed. Powerful. The acoustics tempted me to sing Faure's *In Paradisum* in Istanbul's Blue Mosque, but I squelched that one.

And then there's my third child, the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN), now 31 years old. It's been slow going, but acceptance of the concept of music ministry seems to be reasonably solid now. In 1981, music director Ed Schell of Rochester, NY, Unitarian mentioned that many denominations had organizations for church musicians. He didn't have time to start one, but I found time at the 1982 GA. A meeting I set up quickly for people interested in such an organization had standing room only — clearly an idea whose time had come. Ed and I were two of the UUMN Founding Five, and we're very proud of this "child."



Joyce wearing the pendant that was a gift from the Board of the New York Universalist Convention when she finished her term as President. She told them the necklace would have its debut at Carnegie Hall.

Now? May 7, 2014, I was back on stage in New York's Carnegie Hall, joyfully singing some of the most gruesome words ever set to lovely music in a concert version of Howard Hanson's American opera *Merry Mount*. My earlier time performing in Carnegie was to sing Pablo Casals' *El Pessebre* with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. Casals' plea for peace, which we also sang at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the United Nations, contrasts sharply with the cultural and religious intolerance in *Merry Mount*.

Rehearsing and performing under the batons of Robert Shaw (Cleveland Orchestra Chorus), Margaret Hillis (Chicago Symphony Chorus), and William Weinert (Eastman School of Music) have enriched my life in ways I could never have imagined while riding in Uncle Frank's Hudson all those years ago.

*Joyce Timmerman Gilbert, a 5th generation New York Universalist married to another "cradle" NY Universalist (and minister), Richard Gilbert, recently retired as president of the NY State Convention of Universalists. Her background includes public education, radio, and TV. She has served on numerous denominational, regional, and local boards, and calls herself a professional volunteer.*

# Report on General Assembly

## “We Came, We Saw, We Presented”

It was a good General Assembly for UURMaPA. Board members Dick Gilbert, Jim Eller, John Weston and Judy Welles, and Webmaster Duane Fickeisen were an active presence. Dick and Jim presented a trial run of a seminar on retirement for nearly 35 UUMA members during Professional Days. It was well received by an attentive and participatory group. Richard Nugent, Director of the Office of Church Staff Finances, and Linda Rose, Administrator of the Pension Plan, gave helpful financial information. The real emphasis, however, was on the spiritual, psychological, social and professional issues of clergy and spouse retirement. The worksheet and bibliography can be accessed at the UURMAPA website [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) in the Resources section. This is both a resource and an invitation for feedback to [Rsgilbert@uuma.org](mailto:Rsgilbert@uuma.org). Dick will do another trial run of this program at the fall 2014 St. Lawrence UUMA chapter meeting.



This was Scotty Meek's 56th General Assembly in a row!

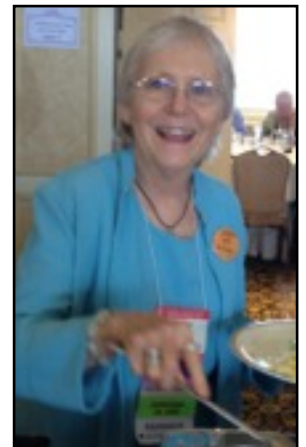
Some 55 clergy and their partners attended the UURMaPA luncheon at GA and were formally welcomed into membership. The Creative Sageing Award was presented to Nana Krachtovil (see article, page 1). Jim Eller arranged the event. Dick Gilbert, in his annual mini-homily, paid tribute to fellow minister/UURMAPaN the late Bob Dick, who was a vital part of Dick's decision to enter the ministry. He reminded us that while we were inspired by seminal figures in our personal history, we may well have had the same kind of influence on those who follow us. This message was echoed by the 50-Year speaker at Ministry Days, Judith Walker-Riggs.

Jim attended the annual lunch hosted by the UUA for families of ministers who have died during the past year, and was present with them at the Service of the Living Tradition. Dick represented UURMAPA at the annual lunch for presidents of professional groups.

At the SOLT we welcomed an unusually large group of retirees into the fold — 64 ministers were “called forth” by Dick Gilbert to recognize completion of a ministerial career.

UUA President Peter Morales paid prayerful tribute to those clergy among us who died during the last year.

UURMaPA was a lively presence at GA, representing our nearly 1000 members in over 650 households. Your support makes our presence possible.



Makanah Morris at the luncheon.



Linda Rose, Retirement Plan Director in the Department of Ministries and Faith Development.



New UURMaPA members Barbara and Bill Hamilton-Holway celebrate at the Service of the Living Tradition.

## Why Elderberries? Bets Wienecke

Recently I had the honor of welcoming our colleague, Anne Hines, into the illustrious ranks of retired UU ministers after thirty years of service in the Pacific Southwest District.

In my remarks, I told her she would begin to receive the UURMaPA newsletter called *Elderberries*. But why that name? I had asked a number of people, including Gene Pickett, who recalled that the Rev. Bob Palmer came up with the name.

No one really knew why “Elderberries” was chosen. But by doing a little research on the Internet, I discovered some reasons why being an elderberry is a good thing. First of all, they are believed to be magical. They possess the ability to calm babies, see fairies, and tell the future. Elderberries can heal and improve immune systems. Thus they make excellent mentors for ministerial students and new ministers.

However, they are known to also have some less endearing qualities. They can take over a whole area if they are not pruned, and they possess some toxic components. So that’s why we retired ministers make covenants to stay within our boundaries and leave well enough alone. We commit to self-prune and keep our toxic stuff in check.

Oh, and some say that elderberries are high maintenance, but of course, we know that isn’t true.

I also took the liberty of suggesting to Anne that the following was an Elderberry prayer:

“*Senility Prayer:*” God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

## Newest Members

The following people have joined UURMaPA since our last newsletter went out May 1. Their most recent contact information can be found in the on-line Directory on our web site, [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org), on the Publications page. The ID is UU-SAGE and the Password is WISDOM.

Emmy Lou Belcher  
Michelle Bentley (and partner Ray)  
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Wendy McNiven  
David Robins (and partner Jean)  
Tom Schade (and partner Sue)  
Arvid Straube (and partner Sonya Prestridge)  
Susan Weickum (and partner Michael Rich)

## UURMaPA Winter Conference In Orlando, Florida San Pedro Retreat Center February 24-26, 2015

Was it an act of brilliance for your UURMaPA Board to decide to offer a conference in beautiful, sunny, warm Orlando in February? I’d have to say yes! And was it yet another act of brilliance to invite the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed to be the featured speaker? And then to top it off by having the Rev. Gordon Gibson respond? (This just goes to show that brain cells keep right on firing post-retirement.)

The program focus will be on Unitarian Universalism before, during, and after the Selma confrontation. Mark is the author of the newly released book *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism*. And Gordon is the author of a forthcoming book titled *Freedom Moves South*, focused on Southern UUs during the civil rights era. In addition to his theme program, Mark will also offer one worship service titled “We Are What We Sing: Diversity and Hymnody.”

The conference begins with a social hour before dinner on Tuesday, February 24 and ends with lunch on Thursday, February 26. San Pedro is a lovely center with an especially beautiful chapel. (<http://www.sanpedrocenter.org>) If you’re coming from a distance and love trains, there is a train stop in nearby Winter Park, FL. And if you’re anywhere near the D.C. area, you can hop on the overnight auto train and have your car arrive with you, ready for further travels in sunny Florida.

I’m looking forward to seeing you in Orlando,

Marni Harmony  
Conference Organizer

The registration form will be included in the Fall issue of *Elderberries* and will also appear on our web site, [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org).

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• A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. “We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods.” The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, “I sure wish I’d gotten to know you sooner!”

• My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him eighty. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, “Did you start at 1?”

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## UURMaPA at Seabeck

Our Seabeck, Washington (May 13-15) conference drew people from Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Arizona, California and Rhode Island. We enjoyed the usual excellent food and nice weather.

On Wednesday, in small groups, we worked on responding to the question, "How Do We Experience Beauty in Our Lives?" Then, after time to ourselves, we reconvened to make large collages — for some, the highlight of the conference.

It was a joy to have Gretchen and Ray Manker with us again. Their daughter, Kathy Manker, and her husband, Bruce Gardner, made it possible for the Mankers to attend. Kathy and Bruce joined us for activities, as time permitted.

Shirley Ranck presented her Odyssey, which told of overcoming many challenges while bringing much richness to her academic work on Women and Religion. She raised her children while earning a Masters of Divinity degree at Starr King and a PhD in Psychology from Fordham University.



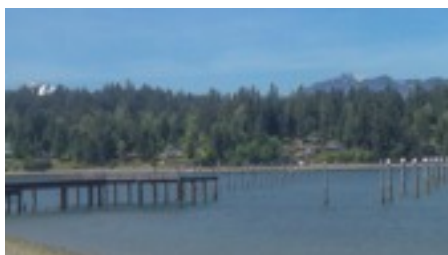
Shirley Ranck

We were very pleased to have John and Susan Weston with us, all the way from Rhode Island. This meant that the UURMaPA board was represented by two members: Marcia Olsen and John.

Worship leaders for the conference included: Chris and Andy Backus, Ev and Joan Morris, and John and Susan Weston. Sylvia Falconer put together the first evening's memorial service for 37 UURMAPAns, but was unable to attend because of her health. Her work was presented by Andy, so Sylvia was with us in spirit. Andy played the piano for the conference, and Duane Fickeisen provided very nice refreshments for our social hours. We were well fed (both in mind and body). Thanks to Marcia Olsen, Chris Lilly Backus and Andy Backus for bringing the conference to life.

This was our third year at Seabeck. It was a beautiful setting and a lovely, intimate conference.

— Chris Lilly Backus



Barbara Burke considers her collage.

## Distinguished Service Medal Awarded to Ken MacClean

One of the most prestigious awards given annually by the UUA was given this year to the Rev. Kenneth MacClean for his 54-year ministry to his colleagues, his congregations, and the wider community; and for his outstanding efforts to establish organizations and associations to sustain Unitarian Universalism in America and around the world.



L to R: Rev. Susan Ritchie, Chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee; Rev. Kenneth MacClean; Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, who read the citation.

A graduate of Brown University and Harvard Divinity School, Ken was ordained and fellowshipped in 1960, then was called to the Rosalind and West Roxbury, MA churches; during his tenure, he reunited these two historic churches. In 1964, he went to the Tennessee Valley Church in Knoxville, TN, where he helped to establish the first chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in that state. In 1972, he was called to Cedar Lane Unitarian Church in Bethesda, MD, one of our largest churches, and he served for 20 years before becoming their minister emeritus. In 1999, he began what grew to become an 11-year ministry to the Church of the Desert in Rancho Mirage, CA.

He was the founder and organizer of the Senior Ministers of Large UU Congregations, and served as the president of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, where he was instrumental in helping establish the Office of Church Staff Finances and supported the ordination of ministers of religious education. During his two terms on the board of the UUA, he established the UUA's task force on AIDS.

He also served on the board of the UU Service Committee, and for five years worked as the Special Assistant to the President of the UUA for International and Interfaith Affairs under President John Buehrens. In that role, he worked tirelessly to strengthen our heritage worldwide and helped organize the founding meeting of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists.

On behalf of our association, he traveled to and lent his support to our churches and partners in the Philippines, India, Japan, New Zealand, Hungary, Romania, Canada, the

## How Do I Want to Be Remembered?

Alfred Nobel, the Swedish chemist and industrialist, had the life-changing experience of reading his own obituary. His brother had died, but a Paris newspaper made a mistake in reporting the death of “the dynamite king.” So Nobel awoke to find his life laid out on the front page of his morning paper. The shock was overwhelming and life changing. He saw himself portrayed as a weapons dealer, trading in death and destruction. Nobel had a kinder view of himself. He understood the purpose of his life as bringing different people together, breaking down barriers between diverse nations and people. He resolved to make clear the true purpose of his life. He devised the plan for disposition of his fortune so that it might support individuals and groups who were effective in working for understanding and peace. The Nobel Peace Prizes were born from a mistaken obituary.

UURMaPA invites members to write their own obituaries and share them with us. Why? One of the functions of *Elderberries* and the UURMaPA web site is to memorialize the lives of members — ministers and partners alike. The UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff provides brief obituaries for ministers, but not for partners. We would like you to include in these memoirs how you would like to be remembered at the time of your death. The writing process is also a potentially powerful spiritual experience. The following guidelines are to help you think about what you might want to say to those who remember you. Then summarize your writing into a few paragraphs and submit your “pre-obituary” to [secretary@uurmapa.org](mailto:secretary@uurmapa.org) to be kept in confidence until it is needed. It will be sent to members when we are notified of your death, that we may share it with one another and honor your life.

### Guidelines for Writing Your Pre-Obituary

Questions for reflection:

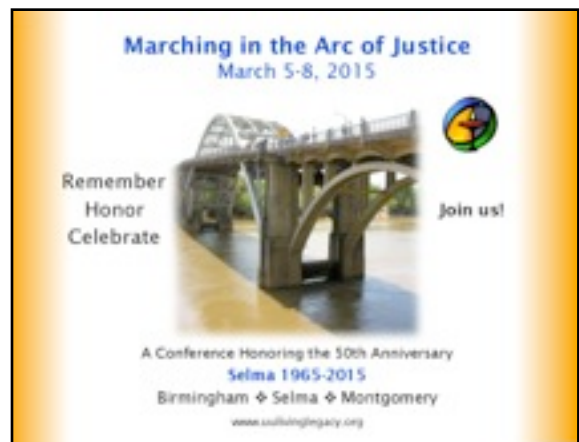
1. Life functions in space. What are the places in which significant things have happened to you? We might call this process mapping the spirit.
2. All life is meeting others. Who are the three or four people who have had the greatest impact on your life? Why?
3. Experiences shape our religious faith. What are two or three formative experiences of your life and why are they important to you?
4. We live in communities. Which communities, religious or not, have had lasting influence on your development?
5. We are choosing creatures. Think of the important decisions in your life and discuss what they meant to you, how they were made, and the result.

6. Life is made of joy and sorrow. List a few of the happiest and saddest experiences of your life.

7. Each of us has a “master story,” a theme that summarizes our life endeavor. Can you discern your master story, detect what might be a theme for your life thus far? Can you reflect upon your odyssey and discern any theological values that have informed you?

If you take the time to do this writing exercise now, you will be remembered the way you wish to be, and your obituary will have authenticity and depth.

— Marcia Olsen  
UURMaPA Membership Director



In early 1965, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference appealed to people across the United States to join in the struggle for voting rights in Selma. Many Unitarian Universalists answered the call, including President Dana Greeley and members of the UUA Board of Trustees.

Fifty years later, March 5-8, 2015, UU's are gathering with others in Alabama for a significant civic, political, and interfaith celebration.

- March 5-6 — Gather in Birmingham for a dynamic program.
- March 7 — Visit historic sites in and near Selma. Return to Birmingham along the route of the Selma-Montgomery March.
- March 8 — Travel to Selma to attend local church services and participate in the re-enactment of the crossing of the Edmund Pettis Bridge.

Join UUA President Peter Morales, the UUA Board of Trustees, voting rights movement veterans, and others as we return to Selma to affirm our solidarity with all those engaged in the ongoing struggles for human dignity, human rights, and social justice.

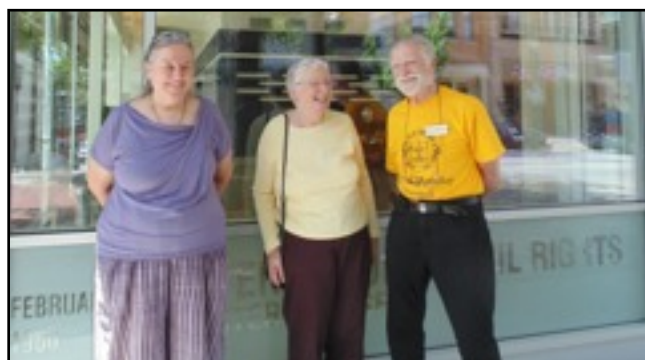
For more information, go to [www.uulivinglegacy.org](http://www.uulivinglegacy.org)

# Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

Early in June **Susan Archer** arranged for retired ministers and partners in the Raleigh-Greensboro area to meet for lunch and a tour of the Civil Rights Museum, located on the site of the Woolworths where, on February 1, 1960, four students from the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University sat down at the lunch counter and asked to be served. They were refused, but their sit-in launched a movement that lasted for months, until finally the management changed its segregation policy. **Ruth Gibson, Jim Gibson** and **Dick Weston-Jones** attended; Dick had to leave a bit early in order to attend training as a marshal for the ongoing Moral Monday rallies in protest of the repressive actions of the NC Legislature. (See below.)



L to R: Ruth Gibson, Susan Archer, Dick Weston-Jones

**Barbara Child** writes: Fellow retiree **Olaf Nieuwejaar** and I are among a small team of experienced Ministerial Settlement Representatives (MSRs) who are making a collection of videos to serve as training tools and refreshers for new and experienced MSRs. Over the past few years I have also worked up a program I'm calling Espresso Strength Jump Start Transition Work (ESJS), a program of short-term intensive consulting for congregations that have lost a minister but are either not interested or not able to engage a full-time interim minister. It is appealing to other Accredited Interim Ministers on the verge of retiring but not ready to put their skills and experience fully to rest. Right now I'm writing ESJS up in considerable detail and figuring out what might be the best way to get it to others who can put it to good use.

**Milt Hetrick**, partner of **Gail Collins-Ranadive**, has just published an account on how they retrofitted his forty-year old Denver home to be off the grid. *Living Without Fire, Just the Sun and Earth*, available Amazon.com, documents how easy it was to go fossil fuel free through converting to rooftop solar and geothermal heat exchange for all their energy needs, including an electric car they've named Emerson because it is so quietly subversive. What a delicious synchronicity that at GA in Providence the UUA delegates voted to divest our collective portfolio from fossil fuel industry investments. The personal and public are truly conjoined!

**Bob Hill** is within a year of completing a PhD in Human Movement Studies at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. His area of interest is persons over 65, physical activity, health, and 'sense of coherence.' His wife Kristi is a senior lecturer in public health and health promotion across town at the Queensland University of Technology. They have joint AU/US citizenship and are loving Australia despite missing friends and family intensely.

**Dick Weston-Jones** was among 14 Moral Monday demonstrators who held a sit-in in the office of North Carolina Speaker of the House Thom Tillis. The demonstrators were repeatedly warned that they could be arrested if they refused to leave; at about 1:45 the next morning, police finally did arrest them, led them out of the building in handcuffs, and then released them with citations.

The 50th anniversary of the Selma March comes up in the spring of 2015 and **Dick Leonard** finds himself caught up in various aspects of its celebration. (See related article, page 10). His book *Call to Selma* will get a limited reprinting from Skinner House this summer. He plans to take copies to Chautauqua Institute in 2015, when they will devote a week to honoring the march and the civil rights events around it. Meanwhile, he has discovered two plays about Selma. One of them, *Selma/1965* by Catherine Filloux, is getting its premier at La MaMa Theater in New York on September 28, and he has been asked to speak at its opening. It will then go on the road and hopefully be performed at Chautauqua during the week that he is there. Dick will be showing the manuscript for the other play, *Night Blooms* by Margaret Baldwin, to the Chautauqua theater people in the hope of having it staged as well.



Dick Weston-Jones in handcuffs, May 28, 2014

Ten years ago, **Sue Nichols** and her three sisters decided to meet annually with their husbands, just to enjoy each other's company, knowing that they wouldn't live forever. She and **Vern** recently spent a week in Boonsboro, MD visiting one sister, and another sister from NH was there as well. Sue and Vern's oldest son, Howard, is now a chaplain with the Portland, OR Veterans Hospital, looking forward to final steps with the UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee, ordination and (sometime in his future), UURMaPA membership.

**Marilyn Sewell**, Minister Emerita of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, has published a new memoir, *Raw Faith: Following the Thread*. The book treats her growing up days in the segregationist South, her struggles as an adult trying to find place and purpose, her discovery of Unitarian Universalism, her time at seminary, and her finally finding her call in ministry. Available on Amazon in print, digital, and audible, in her voice.



UURMaPA Fall Conference  
September 30, October 1 & 2, 2014  
The LaSalette Center, Attleboro, MA

FEATURED SPEAKER: DR. DANIEL LORD SMAIL  
TOPIC: DEEP HISTORY: WHY IT MATTERS  
ODYSSEY: THE REVEREND ROBERT R. WALSH

WORSHIP LEADERS: DAVE HUNTER & KERRY MUELLER  
JOYCE GILBERT & ELEANOR RICHARDSON  
RICHARD SPECK

Because of our overflow numbers last year, the LaSalette Center has opened a few more rooms for us this year, but we have already received registrations for one third of the available space. If you are planning to attend, REGISTER NOW so you can be sure to have a place. **The registration form is on page 15 of this issue.**

We will have a BOOK TABLE and an ARTS & CRAFTS TABLE. Anyone bringing items for these tables will be responsible for the care and/or sale of their items. A reminder to all, we have limited space, so be discerning about what you bring; nothing can be hung on the walls and we have no insurance coverage.

A "THINKING OF YOU" TABLE will be set up for outreach to those who are unable to attend this year. We will provide the materials. If you write a "thinking of you" note and address it, we will mail it for you.

If you are new to retirement, we recommend our Attleboro conference to you. The fall colors are beautiful, the company is outstanding, and the conference has the potential to renew your spirit. Special things happen when retired ministers and their partners come together in community!

We are very excited about this conference and look forward to sharing the experience with you. Your presence is what makes the magic happen. We are amazed and humbled by people's willingness to volunteer, and want to thank those who have said "yes" when we have asked for help. Until September 30th.

Carol Taylor: 610-296-0762  
Joel Weaver: 610-296-0762

## *In Memoriam*

*Longer and more detailed versions of all obituaries can be found on the UURMaPA web site at <http://www.uurmapa.org/obituaries.html>. No password is necessary to access that page. Many thanks to Chris Lilly Backus and Jay Atkinson for their careful and sensitive work writing the partners' and ministers' obituaries, respectively.*

One by one we leave, but we leave so much in our wake of which to be proud — and as a blessing to others.  
— Joyce Gilbert

**The Rev. Elinor Artman**, parish minister, passionate advocate for gender equality, and “a minister’s minister,” died at age 87 on March 16, 2014 after brief illness and a stroke.

Elinor McHale was born on January 30, 1927 in White Plains, NY and was graduated *summa cum laude* from St. Lawrence University in 1948 with a B.S. in chemistry. She moved to Colorado for graduate study in chemistry, where she met and married fellow chemist Neil Artman. By 1961 the couple had five children and was living in the conservative Cincinnati suburbs, where Neil worked for Proctor and Gamble.

In an atmosphere of heavy-handed corporate pressure to conform as “a P&G wife,” Elinor rebelled. Her search for a very “un-P&G” religious home led her to the First Unitarian Church, where her children grew up in the church school and she became an increasingly active lay leader.

Her UU activity led her toward deeper religious study, and she began taking courses at United Theological Seminary in nearby Dayton. She earned an M.Div. degree and in 1980 received ordination by her home church in Cincinnati.

Rev. Artman first served as Extension Minister for the UUA’s Ohio Valley District from 1980 to 1983, then in Kokomo, IN, and then in her primary settlement at the Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church of Cincinnati (1989-2001), which named her Minister Emerita in 2001.

Elinor Artman lived out her professional commitment and service to the wider UU movement in manifold ways. She contributed importantly to curricula for exploring feminist theology, served twice as board member of the UUWF, as a member of the UUA Task Force on Congregational Responses to Clergy Misconduct, a member of the UUMA Executive Committee, liaison to the UUMA’s CENTER Committee, consultant to the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center Staff, board member of the Women’s Heritage Society, and chaplain of the UUMN for eight years. In 2010, she was honored with membership in the UUWF Clara Barton Sisterhood, and in 2013 she received the Distinguished Service Award for the UUA’s Southeast District. In retirement she lived in Highlands and then in Asheville, North Carolina, a member of the UU church there.

Her daughter, Martha, remembers how passionately Elinor “wanted to see women equally represented” and described her habit of scanning through magazines to count the relative numbers of female and male contributors. In her 80s, Ms. Artman began working on a book about women in Unitarian Universalism. Completion of the book by friends and co-workers is planned.

Elinor Artman is survived by her son, Linus Artman, daughters Martha Griffin, Sarah Artman, and Vanessa Fox, and three grandchildren.

Celebration of life services were held on April 6, 2014 at the Heritage UU Church of Cincinnati and on April 26, 2014 at the UU Congregation of Asheville, NC.

Notes of condolence may be sent in care of Sarah Artman, 1495 Teeway Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43220.



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**The Rev. Albert Francis Ciarcia**, 89, died on Friday, July 26, 2013. He was minister emeritus of the UU Church of Greater Bridgeport (Stratford, CT), which he served for 32 years. He was a tireless advocate for accessibility, and earned a commendation from the Governor of CT. He is survived by his wife, Jane Ciarcia, his daughters Holly McCann, Joyce Ciarcia-Levy and his son Christopher.

At the request of the family there will be no further obituary.

**The Reverend Robert T. Dick**, a resident of Doolittle Home, Foxboro, MA since October, 1994, died May 31, 2014.

Born in Stockton, IL on December 17, 1916, Robert Tyrrell Dick graduated from Stockton High School in 1935. After thirteen months in the Civilian Conservation Corps in ID and OR, he attended the University of Dubuque, IA, and received an AB degree from Tufts University in 1942. Although he was a student at Crane School of Religion, he waived his theological exemption and served in Civilian Public Service units during WWII, in NH, VT and NY, doing forestry work, ward duty in mental hospitals, and as a subject in experiments in nutrition, high altitude, heat and dehydration at the University of Rochester Medical School, Rochester, NY. In later years he edited a booklet, *Guinea Pigs For Peace*, about those experiments.

In 1948, Mr. Dick received his BD degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, NY, and was ordained to the Christian ministry in the Universalist Church of Bristol, NY, on September 19, 1948. The Rev. Mr. Dick served Unitarian Universalist parishes for 36 years in Bristol, NY; Lyons and Belpre, OH; South Acton, MA; Springfield and Chester Depot, VT; Elkhart, IN; and as the Associate Minister in West Hartford, CT. When he retired in 1984, he was named Minister Emeritus of the UU Fellowship of Elkhart, IN. The UU Church of Springfield, VT also named him Minister Emeritus on the 40th anniversary of his ordination. He will be remembered for his dedication to peace, justice and race relations. In 1981, the UU Peace Fellowship presented him with its Adin Ballou Peace Award.

In 1986, Bob and Helen moved back to Springfield, VT. Bob was a volunteer for Hospice, RSVP, and served on the Senior Center Advisory Board, as well as being active in the formation of a VT Chapter of the United Nations Association of the USA. He was a charter member of Common Cause, a member for over fifty years of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and a life member of the NAACP.



Bob and Helen Dick, always a team.

Bob's spouse, Helen Hersey Dick, whom he married in Danbury, CT in 1943, died in 2008. He is survived by a son, Nathan Dick of Estes Park, CO; a son, Jeffrey Taft-Dick, of Springfield, VT; a daughter, Noreen Redd, of San Diego CA; and three grandchildren.

His ashes will be buried in the Ladies Union Cemetery, Stockton, IL. Condolences may be sent to Nathan Dick, 205 Shadow Mountain Court, Estes Park, CO 80517.

**Elizabeth (Betty) G. Haskell**, 91, widow of the Rev. Grant F. Haskell, died March 6, 2014 in Brooklyn, NY.

During their long marriage, the Haskells reared three children, as they served congregations in Milford, NH; Littleton, MA; Biddeford, ME; Medford, MA; and White Plains, NY. During summers in the 1940's the couple directed youth camps for the Unitarian Service Committee.

They enjoyed camping, hiking and square dancing.

Betty is survived by her sons, Richard A. Haskell of Alamogordo, NM and Jonathan F. Haskell of Newark, NY, and her daughter, Beth M. Haskell of Brooklyn, NY; and by grandsons, Kenneth Haskell of Brooklyn, NY and Grant W. Haskell of Baltimore, MD.

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#### *Distinguished Service Award, cont'd*

United Kingdom, and beyond. In Prague he worked for many years, and ultimately prevailed to rescue the church of Norbert Capek from people who had seized it illegally.

Even as he worked on a world stage for the betterment of the human condition, he is well known among his colleagues as a pastor to pastors. For decades, he also mentored young ministers who went on to serve our faith well here and in other countries.

“Indeed,” his citation concludes, “the reach of your more than half a century of ministry has touched and strengthened our faith to the far corners of the earth. You’ve given your vision and leadership to fortify the individuals and institutions of Unitarian Universalism.”

In his acceptance remarks, Ken acknowledged early mentors, friends, and colleagues Brad Gale, Joe Barth, and Ralph Norman Helverson.

He said, “We don’t talk so much about freedom in ministry, but it is real and it is important. And each of us has great leeway in choosing the ways we will shape our ministry, what social injustices we will try to respond to. That is a tremendous freedom.” He then noted his focus on the criminal justice system, racial issues, and his “tremendous opportunities making friends around the world, friends for the UUA.”

He concluded by saying, “... becoming a Unitarian before merger and then a Unitarian Universalist minister gave me a life, ... a life that always seemed worthwhile. You became my people. I could not be more honored by your validation of the choices I made along the way, the things I tried to do, the benefit, and friendship, and collegiality I received. I have nothing but gratitude. And after all, isn’t that the basis of our religion? Thank you.”

**For more information contact** [www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2014/business/v/296138.shtml](http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2014/business/v/296138.shtml)

## UURMaPA Fall Conference Registration

September 30 – October 2, 2014

La Salette Center, Attleboro, MA



Please register me/us for the UURMaPA @ Attleboro Conference. I enclose **\$195** per person. This fee covers the program, a single room (bath shared with another single room) for two (2) nights, six (6) meals, social time refreshments, and general expenses. The fee for conference attendees not staying at the La Salette Center overnight is **\$105** per person.

**Name/s:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate any special needs, dietary or otherwise:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to “UURMaPA @ Attleboro” enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK** must be received no later than **September 9th, 2014.**

Mail this form and your check to: **Joel Weaver**  
**104 Amity Dr.**  
**Wayne, PA 19087**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Determine the amount of assistance that you require to attend the conference. Remember to include costs for travel, caregiver for a dependent partner, etc. in addition to the registration fee in your request. Contact Paul L’Herrou.

Email: **paulherrou@gmail.com** phone: **(978) 290-7285**

**Note:** La Salette Center’s toilets and showers in the sleeping quarters are not wheelchair accessible; however, it is only a few steps from the sleeping room to the toilet. There are wheelchair accessible toilets on the first floor and there is an elevator for access to the sleeping floors and chapel.

**Confirmation** of your reservation and directions to the La Salette Center will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form and check.

**Questions? Concerns?** Feel free to contact Joel Weaver.

Email: **weaver\_je@hotmail.com** Phone: **(610) 296-0762** Cell Phone: **(267) 566-2386**

**Unitarian Universalist Retired  
Ministers & Partners Association  
285 NW 35th Street, #52  
Corvallis, OR 97330**

**Address Service Requested**