

# Elderberries



the newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXIX

NUMBER 1

Winter 2014

## Financial Resources in Retirement

In the winter, when everything feels a little more difficult for most of us, it seems natural to turn our thoughts to our personal resources: do I have enough stamina to shovel the front walk? Is my driving good enough to go out this evening? Can we afford to turn the heat up a little?



A 2009 survey of UURMaPA members and a follow-up survey in 2012 indicated that, although many of our members are getting along adequately, many others are notably cutting corners or cutting back in order to make ends meet. The recent economic downturn has affected investment income, housing costs, and other living expenses to a degree that some of us are being forced to change our lifestyles significantly.

Should a financial emergency threaten, or if your economic circumstances are such that basic living expenses are a continuing struggle, know that you don't have to endure your situation alone. Thanks to the care and generosity of lay leaders and colleagues before us, a number of funds and

resources are available for both short term emergencies and longer term support for retired ministers and surviving partners in economic hardship.

These resources include several emergency aid funds managed by the UUA Office of Church Staff Finance, and funds managed by the UU Society for Ministerial Relief. Be aware also that the Unitarian Service Pension Society provides a modest quarterly "Service Gratuity" payment to all UU ministers who have served 20 years or more and are age 66 or older, and to their surviving partners if that option is chosen, but you must apply when you become eligible. Although the gratuity is not based on need but is made in appreciation of service, it can give a welcome boost to a tight budget.

If you yourself are dealing with hard financial realities, or if you know a colleague or surviving partner who is, encourage them to consult with the Office of Church Staff Finances or let a Caring Outreach person know. Help may be possible.

Rev. Richard Nugent, Director, UUA Office of Church Staff Finances, [RNugent@uua.org](mailto:RNugent@uua.org) or (617) 948-6456.

Rev. Sheldon Bennett, President, Unitarian Service Pension Society, [SWBennett@earthlink.net](mailto:SWBennett@earthlink.net) or (617) 471-4946.

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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) and past newsletters 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:

Still having fun! Now that I'm retired, I can more faithfully follow one of my personal guidelines, which is "If it's not fun, why are you doing it?" Even in retirement this isn't always possible, but it certainly applies to this task as your editor of *Elderberries*.

There is a lot percolating at the Board level with new projects and procedures to make UURMaPA more effective in serving the needs of our members. I hope you will carefully read this and subsequent issues to learn more about the interesting ideas afoot. We count on you to send us your suggestions and your feedback about how well UURMaPA is meeting your needs and piquing your interests.

I was disappointed at the lack of response to the Pro/Con article in the Fall issue. Perhaps this was because the subject (moving the UUA from 25 Beacon St. to 24 Farnsworth St.) was already decided — a "done deal." Although there is no Pro/Con article in this issue, I haven't given up hope for a lively and nuanced conversation on these pages and on SpeakUp, our listserv. Please send me your ideas for interesting and controversial topics where there are several valid points of view; I'm especially interested in your ideas about whom to ask to write about them.

In this issue you will see a column called "The Bucket List," with some ideas from one of our members (who happens to be my husband) about what he'd like to accomplish in the time he has left. Your Editorial Advisory Board thought it would be interesting to know what's on *your* "bucket list," partly as a way of prodding us all into action, and also because there may be ideas or events we could participate in together (trips to take, resources to share). Please send me your "bucket list" ideas for future issues, and let's have fun together. It doesn't need to be as long as Duane's, or organized in the same way. Whatever suits you...

My hope for you for this end-of-winter season is that you have enough: warmth, satisfaction, companionship, and optimism. Spring is not far away!

— Judy Welles

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

#### "Sometimes," by Sheenagh Pugh

Sometimes things don't go, after all,  
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel  
faces down frost; green thrives, the crops don't fail,  
sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war;  
elect an honest man; decide they care  
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.  
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best efforts do not go  
amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.  
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow  
that seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you.

# A Word from Your President

## The Banking Theory of Aging

There we were – three generations of Gilberts – surrounding a beautiful, but old, ping pong hockey box. Berea College students built it over 40 years ago, and it has been a regular presence at our holiday family gatherings. This rectangular wooden box contains six wooden dowels, three light and three dark, with one, two or three paddles to emulate a hockey team. A ping pong ball serves as the puck. Each year the games become a bit more competitive as our grandchildren – now 5, 7 and 11 – are more physically able, and have inhaled some of the family competitiveness.



Three generations of Gilberts around the hockey box.

*Photo by Ron Richardson*

There was our older son fiercely battling to bang that innocent ping pong ball into the goal past the single wooden stick stubbornly manipulated by our younger son. There was our 11-year-old grandson quickly adapting to the fun as he delighted in scoring on his grandfather; there was our 7-year-old grandson trying to defend against father and uncle; and finally, there was our 5-year-old granddaughter trying to keep up her end of this intense game. Grandma wisely kept out of the scrum by keeping score, while our daughter-in-law enjoyed the raucous verbal mayhem from the kitchen.

I can't for the life of me remember who won – as if that mattered. We all won, judging by the “ohs” and “ahs,” and the “oh nos,” and other exclamations of success or failure. By the time the game ended we were all ready to eat around a single table. We have a small family and are able to be

together at the high holy days of the year. In that we are fortunate.

I think of the scene wistfully, and happily deposit the sights and sounds in my memory bank. These are what poet Wallace Stevens calls “moments of inherent excellence,” and they sustain me as I realize that these “moments” will not go on forever. On the other hand, such “moments” can never be taken from me or from those with whom I shared them. They reside safely in all of our memory banks.

I'm not such a captive of nostalgia that I don't count on a good many more such times. I relish them and only hope the others do as well. It is only that, having shared so many memorial services with so many people, I know how precious they are. When people come to remember loved ones, it is these withdrawals from the memory bank that come to mind – and heart – and voice – in laughter and in tears.

So that is my banking theory of aging. I joyfully deposit as much as I can; I joyfully withdraw as much as I need.

— *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](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?

## Why I Write — Marilyn Sewall

I left my pulpit in order to write. It's not as though I didn't already spend hours at the computer composing, but my words were given to reports and newsletters, public speeches and prayers — and of course sermons, where my creative life was focused.

I remember thinking when I started preaching in seminary that crafting sermons would be easy — after all, I had been a teacher, a public speaker, a writer of newspaper and magazine articles. I was wrong. I started out doing what most beginning ministers do — saying everything I knew about the subject in one 20-minute piece. I began to realize that sermons were a genre in their own right, calling for form and unity. Hearing that congregants remembered mostly stories and not generalizations, I developed a storytelling style in which I universalize those truths through narrative. I became comfortable with the genre only during the final 7 or 8 years of my ministry.

I edited my first book for Beacon Press, *Cries of the Spirit*, an anthology of women's spiritual writing, while I was a doctoral student at the Graduate Theological Union. I put the book together because women's voices were seldom heard from the pulpit, and I wanted to change that. In one sense, the book was a denominational effort. Many Unitarian Universalist students and ministers suggested readings to include; my advisor at Starr King, Clare Fischer, guided and encouraged me. But I didn't have money for permissions, so Beacon wouldn't take the book. I wrote to Bill Schulz, then President of the UUA, and he suggested that I go to the Grants Panel of the UUA for help. I did so, and one day a check for \$25,000 arrived in the mail. With that, then, Beacon came back to me and said they wanted the book.

The anthology turned out to be a breakthrough book for women's expression of the sacred, used not only by ministers, but by women's spirituality groups, by universities, and by individuals for meditation, selling over 77,000 copies. Published in 1991, it is still in print and still selling. I went on to do three more anthologies for Beacon, another of poetry and two books of essays, but had never had the time and energy to do a book of my own. I loved my life as a minister, but I increasingly felt that I needed a new creative outlet. The years were going by — the time had come.

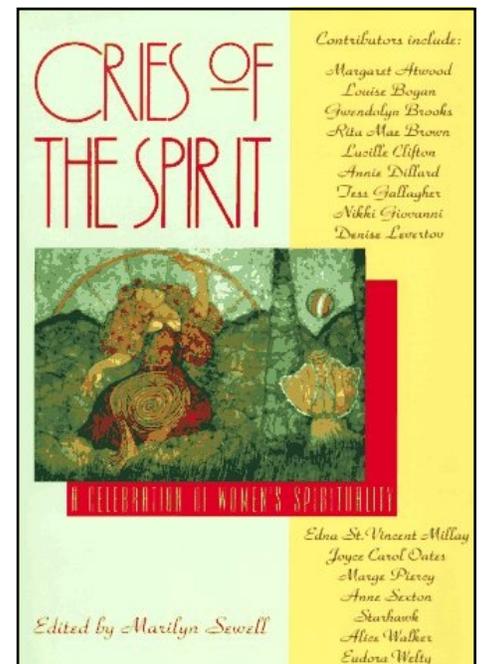


A memoir had been waiting in the wings all those years, so I began in earnest. I thought the book would be easy to write. Wrong again. I have struggled with the form, the voice, the focus. I have had several false starts, and now, four and a half years after leaving the church, I'm still working on the manuscript. Maybe this book will be realized, maybe not.

What I do not doubt is that I will keep writing. I have to write to feel whole. I bring my full presence to my work. As I search for just the right word or phrase, I find what is authentic, and I am changed, deepened. Writing has become a spiritual discipline for me.

As I age, as I lose friends and family to illness and death, as I grieve the suffering of our good green earth due to the flagrant use of fossil fuels, I need always to be birthing, to be bringing new life into this world in whatever way I can. So long as I can create, even as the flesh diminishes, the spirit flourishes. Without exaggeration, I can say that I write to live.

*Marilyn Sewall is the Minister Emerita of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR. She writes for the religion section of Huffington Post. She is the subject of a well-received documentary, "Raw Faith," available on Netflix.*



Contributors include:

Margaret Atwood  
Louise Boyan  
Gwendolyn Brooks  
Rita Mae Brown  
Lucille Clifton  
Annie Dillard  
Jess Gallagher  
Nikki Giovanni  
Denise Levertov

Edna St. Vincent Millay  
Joyce Kilmer  
Marye Pixey  
Anne Sexton  
Starhawk  
Alice Walker  
Eudora Welty

# Leadership Column

## Reducing Anxiety at the Transitions Office — Keith Kron

I'm finding it hard to believe I'm in my fourth search cycle. As the no-longer-new Transitions Director, I've become mindful of how difficult transitions are. This is true both of our congregations and our colleagues. Not only is it a lot of work and effort, but it's an often unpredictable process. I'm continually reminded of the famous Virginia Satir quote, "People prefer the certainty of misery to the misery of uncertainty." I see that phenomenon both in congregations who repeat their mistakes again and again, and in colleagues, most notably around the decision of not knowing when to leave a congregation, and thus staying too long.

Interestingly, neither the congregation nor the minister ever says they want to be in a rut, yet how often do they find themselves trapped in one? Actually, it's quite often. I suspect for many of you, you've seen this far more often than I have.

I've also been quite struck with how rigid Unitarian Universalists are, in some ways more so than our Christian colleagues. We are the only folks in the ministerial settlement business, other than the Central Conference of American Rabbis, who settle people on an academic calendar cycle. My hope that we could move toward a twice-a-year settlement system has been slow, if not glacial, to evolve and take hold. So I still see good colleagues trying to hold out in situations where they were better served (and better serving) by departing sooner rather than later. Though sometimes the departure happens and the congregation is stuck.

Here is where I ask for your leadership and help. All too often when there has been a negotiated ending, the best thing for a congregation is to have a short term seasoned minister who can provide both the life and pastoral experience to these congregations, providing stability, leadership, and comfort to those who most need it. Often it is just for a few months. (Additionally, sometimes we have a minister who gets ill, and stability and comfort are needed for a worried congregation.) If you are interested in doing short-term ministries like this, let me know. Both Sarah Lammert and I believe that this kind of ministry can do so much good for a congregation and help keep the anxiety down.

And after three and a half years, I find the most useful thing I can do is create and maintain systems that lower the anxiety. I continually notice how much better people cope and make decisions when they aren't anxious.

To that end, we are a wonderfully intellectual denomination. I revel in that. We ask deep questions and live comfortably with ambiguity about good and evil and in our theology in ways that give me great comfort. I do believe that for both congregations and colleagues, we

could increase our emotional and spiritual intelligence. Often when talking to a colleague who is in search yet fearful of letting the congregation they serve know (and is thus scared of asking for a reference from within the congregation), I find myself asking, "There is an adult in your congregation, isn't there? Someone who understands that that life changes, and who can hold a confidence?" Invariably the colleague laughs and admits there are a few such people.



I'm continually amazed at how much anxiety pervades our congregations around transitions, and how it trumps emotional intelligence and adult behavior. So I see my work as creating fewer opportunities for anxiety — whether it be through clear systems, providing different options, or working to equip our ministers in stronger ways. I'm delighted that the accredited interim ministers have chosen to focus on emotional intelligence for their continuing education this spring.

I'm also pleased to see how other new options — developmental ministry, changing the search calendar, a move toward giving congregations a consistent arc of care as they transition, a better defined understanding of what interim ministry is — all are helping to reduce misery, however much some might cling to living in that state.

I'm grateful to you for your help and wisdom for our colleagues still serving congregations and communities, thankful for those of you who offer supply preaching, and appreciative of the good boundaries so many of you maintain after you've left a ministry.

If you are available to help congregations who need a short term ministry, please e-mail the Transitions Office ([transitions@uua.org](mailto:transitions@uua.org)). I thank you in advance for those who do.

*Rev. Keith Kron has been the Director of the Transitions Office since June, 2010. He previously served as Director of the UUA's Office of B/G/L/T Concerns and has traveled to over 450 of our congregations in his 18 years of service. In his spare time, he collects children's books (over 8,500), studies the Enneagram, and plays and teaches tennis.*

# Partners' Column

## The Delicate Dance Dorothy Hopper

It happened many years ago during the reception following Leon's installation as the new minister of a church. Surprise! An old man entered the reception hall, and I recognized the beloved founding minister of this church, who had traveled 3,000 miles to attend this ceremony. Immediately people joyfully clustered around him, and he went from person to person, shaking hands, asking people about their children, and receiving hugs. I was suddenly aware of an odd feeling in my stomach: I felt like a wall flower, ignored at my own party. "Why am I having these irrational feelings?" I wondered. A thought came to me: a minister and a church bond with each other. They have a contract together, a relationship in some ways like a marriage. And wouldn't be hard for a new marriage to be consummated if the "ex" is hanging around the house?

When Leon retired he stayed away for two years and worked in the denomination. I continued to attend our former church during the two years of the interim ministry, but changed my location from greeting people at the front door to working in the kitchen. I avoided being asked me to pass on a request to the talk with him." Leon only returned to the to participate in his installation. minister and asked if it would be okay for though in retrospect, it put him in an say? If he had paused before answering, I

Leon and I then attended the church responsibility to be supportive, and to the minister. Once when he was at a criticize the minister, Leon got up and left well, and the fellow later apologized to

I think that if there were issues between would have had to leave, because we would have been an attraction for discontent. The relationship between the new minister and the former minister has many delicate facets. It is up to the former minister to provide total support for the new minister. The retired minister and partner should never, never, never participate in church gossip. This is also true when attending any church with another minister.

We have been very fortunate that our "new" minister (now of 16 years) is so wise, secure and loving. We are deeply grateful for the pastoral care of the two fine ministers of our church.

The task of a retired minister and partner is to construct a new identity with new interests and new involvement in the outer community. Good luck!

*Dorothy married Leon Hopper in 1951 and they moved to Boston so he could attend Harvard Divinity School. She was an active minister's wife in churches he served in New England, Colorado, and the Seattle area. She has been a social justice activist and her favorite employment was in the Wellesley College music department during the time their daughter was a student at the college.*



active on committees. Once, someone interim minister but I replied, "No, you church when the new minister invited him Sometime later, I went to the new me to be on the membership committee, unfair position, because what could he hope that I would have backed off.

regularly. Leon was very aware of his only participate in events when asked by men's group and a malcontent began to the room. Others then rose and left as Leon.

the new minister and the church, we would have had to leave, because we would have been an attraction for discontent. The relationship between the new minister and the former minister has many delicate facets. It is up to the former minister to provide total support for the new minister. The retired minister and partner should never, never, never participate in church gossip. This is also true when attending any church with another minister.

### Lost Members

We occasionally lose some UURMaPA members to follow-up, and we'd like to find them again. If you know the whereabouts of the person below, please notify our secretary and membership director, Marcia Olsen, at [Membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:Membership@uurmapa.org).

Richard R. Gay, whose last known address was in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Thank You!**

"Last night I had a typical cholesterol-free dinner: baked squash, skimmed milk, and gelatin. I'm sure this will not make me live any longer, but I know it's going to seem longer."

— Groucho Marx

## From the Treasurer Paul L'Herrou

Though it is often mis-attributed to Emerson, it was Heraclitus who wrote, "The only constant in life is change."

I know the ubiquity of change, or I should by now. When I saw retirement looming ahead, I worked with a spiritual director on the issues of letting go of my active ministerial career and exploring the open possibilities of the next stage of life. When the time came, I was emotionally and spiritually prepared to retire, to let go, to set appropriate boundaries on my old life, and to pick up a new active life of involvement in new directions.

But change often sneaks up on us, and I now see myself at another turning point.

I had been looking forward to serving as UURMaPA Treasurer for another two years. So, when I received the phone call from Sheldon Bennett, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, asking if I was willing to serve another two-year term, I surprised myself with a sudden hesitation at doing so.

Over several days of discernment I realized that the deaths of friends and acquaintances; my spouse Sylvia's recent hospitalization with a serious case of pneumonia (she is now pretty much back to her old self.); and the awareness of the next generations of our family coming along, have made me aware of the preciousness of time. I realized that I was at the threshold of another stage of life. I called Sheldon back to say that I had reached the decision to leave the Board at the conclusion of my term on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Happily, the Nominating Committee has found an excellent replacement for me – which you will read about elsewhere in this edition.

But, some things do not change. A hallmark of my parish ministry had been the use of humor to loosen congregants up for the 'Offering' segment of worship. Now, since I will be sending you one more appeal letter before I leave the UURMaPA Board, I would like to remind you that in Second Corinthians (9:7), the other Paul wrote, "God loveth a cheerful giver." But, I'll tell you, God (and UURMaPA) also accepteth from a grouch.

November 25, 2013

Dear UURMaPA,

We were not aware of the gratuity for long-serving ministers until Richard Nugent mentioned it at the G.A. luncheon in Louisville.

In that sense UURMaPA served a very useful purpose for us. The enclosed check is to assist in your continuing work.

Appreciatively,  
[name withheld]

## Some Dates to Add to Your Calendars *Now*

### General Assembly

G.A. this year will be held June 25-29 in Providence, RI. Specific dates for UURMaPA events had not yet been confirmed at press time. Look for more details in the Spring issue of *Elderberries*, to be published May 1, 2014.

As always, there will be a luncheon for UURMaPA members, welcoming our newest retirees. There will also be a luncheon for the family members of the deceased ministers recognized at the Service of the Living Tradition; our President will participate in that solemn service on behalf of UURMaPA.

### Attleboro

The dates for our UURMaPA Fall Conference are September 30 through October 2, 2014. Once again we will be at LaSalette Retreat and Conference Center in Attleboro, MA. Plan to join us as we enjoy each other's company while delving into the topic of "Deep History." Carol Taylor and Joel Weaver are our conference planners. For inquiries, contact Carol Taylor at 610/296-0762 or [catuuminr@verizon.net](mailto:catuuminr@verizon.net). More detail and a registration form will be included in the Spring *Elderberries*.

### Ta Daa! Something New!

There will be a Winter Conference in Florida some time in February or March of 2015. Here's your excuse to head south and enjoy the companionship of your fellow UURMaPAns in the warmth of the Sunshine State. Our colleague Marni Harmony is closing in on the details now, and there will be more information forthcoming in the spring. Start planning now!

"I have learned to prize holy ignorance more highly than religious certainty and to seek companions who have arrived at the same place. We are a motley crew, distinguished not only by our inability to explain ourselves to those who are more certain of their beliefs than we are, but in many cases by our distance from the centers of our faith communities as well. Like campers who have bonded over cook fires far from home, we remain grateful for the provisions that we have brought with us from those cupboards, but we also find them more delicious when we share them with one another under the stars."

from Barbara Brown Taylor's *Leaving Church*

## Placing Retirement on Chapter Agendas

One of the items on the UURMaPA Board agenda is helping active ministers and their partners prepare for retirement. The UURMaPA Board has created a retirement seminar to help ministers in the occasionally difficult transition from career to retirement. We have sponsored two such iterations during UUMA Collegial Conversations at General Assembly with substantial attendance and enthusiasm, and we hope to do so again.

UURMaPA President Dick Gilbert will lead one such workshop at the St. Lawrence UUMA Chapter meeting in the fall of 2014. We encourage such programming at UUMA gatherings. UURMaPA members might want to suggest such programming in their chapters.

Dick writes, "As one who regularly attends chapter meetings as a retiree, I can speak to the importance of connecting active and retired ministers. I do it to model continued commitment to UUism, to be as much of a resource as I can to my active colleagues, and because I enjoy it. I would urge chapters to invite retirees to attend, and to help those who need it with scholarships (UURMAPA can help here) and transportation to chapter meetings. We need each other.

Contact me at [Rsgilbert@uuma.org](mailto:Rsgilbert@uuma.org) if you are interested or have questions."

## Nominating Committee Report

The following members have been nominated for the UURMaPA Board. All nominations are for 2 year terms. This slate of nominees will also be posted in UURMaPA-Announce, our e-mail list for official business. If no other nomination for any position is made from the membership by April 1, then the slate is considered to be elected, and begins serving on July 1, 2014.

Secretary — Judy Gibson  
Treasurer — Joel Weaver  
Elderberries Editor — Judy Welles (incumbent)  
Member-at-large — John Weston (incumbent)  
Nominating Committee — Chris Lilly Backus (incumbent), Sheldon Bennett (incumbent)

On behalf of UURMaPA members, we gratefully thank Marcia Olsen, who is stepping down as Secretary, but continuing as Membership Coordinator; and Paul L'Herrou, who is stepping down as Treasurer. Each of them has given valuable time, energy and wisdom to the Board for several years. Those continuing Board members — Dick Gilbert, President; Jim Eller, Vice President; Margi Nasemann, Caring Network Chair; and Doug Gallager and Liz McMaster, Members-at-large — have our continuing kudos for all they do for our organization.

Submitted by Nominating Committee members: Nancy Doughty, Chair; Chris Lilly Backus; and Sheldon Bennett.

## New Members

The following people have joined UURMaPA since our last newsletter went out October 1. The best contact information will always be found in the on-line Directory, which is updated approximately monthly. From our web site, [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org), go to the Publications page, scroll down, and click on the image of the Directory. The ID is UU-SAGE and the Password is WISDOM.

Helen Baylies	Martha Niebanck
Robert Eddy	Ken Phifer
Claudia Efferdink	Carol Rudisill
Julia Older Fankuchen	Arline Sutherland
Neil Gerdes	Matt Tittle
Greta Godbey	John Paul Ware
Frank Hall	Walt Wieder
Linda Hansen	Valerie Wills
John Higgins	Carole Yorke
Hyun Hwan Kim	Sara Zimmerman
Carol Meyer	

## Calls for Nominations

### Creative Sageing Award

UURMaPA's annual Creative Sage-ing Award recognizes members for outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement. Such ventures might include publication and other creative work, community service, and mentoring. Last year's honorees were **Farley and (posthumously) Virginia Wheelwright**. The winner(s) will be announced at General Assembly in Providence and awarded a cash prize of \$500.

Send your nomination, together with your rationale for making it, to:

Jim Eller, 215 S. Margene Drive, Midwest City, OK 73130; [wjimeller@gmail.com](mailto:wjimeller@gmail.com)

### UURMaPA Unsung Hero Award

Every organization has people who work behind the scenes to make the group successful. UURMaPA is no exception! Help the Board to identify this year's "unsung hero." Last year's honoree was **Iska Cole**. The award is to go to someone who has not previously been publicly recognized — minister, partner or spouse, or couple. The honoree for 2014 will be announced at either General Assembly in Providence or the Attleboro Fall Conference, and will be awarded a cash prize of \$500.

Send your nomination, together with your rationale for making it, to:

John Weston, 35 Winfield Rd., Providence, RI 02906  
[johnweston@gmail.com](mailto:johnweston@gmail.com)

# Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25



**Andy Backus and Chris Lilly Backus** (Bellingham, WA) have spent the last year writing a one-act musical play and are delighted to say that their show will be performed three times in February as part of a one-act play festival in Bellingham, WA at the Bellingham Theatre Guild. “Older But Not Wiser, Younger But Not Cute” tells the tale of a 12-year old girl, Sarah, and her grandfather, who are thrown together – despite their own wishes – for three successive Saturdays while her parents go skiing. They get to know each other through song and spoken word.

**José Ballester** (S. Weymouth, MA) writes: "Susan continues to work for the National Fire Protection Association, which is fortunate since she carries our health program. The arthritis in my hips and knees has left me nearly immobile. I walk around with a four-wheel rollator, which means I don't get around much. I have begun doing some work with the Rev. Patricia Jimenez, documenting the history of Latino involvement in the Unitarian Universalist movement. We began this work at the urging of the Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed.

Other than that not much has changed. I don't know if I can make it to any UUMA local gatherings. However, if my health holds out, I do plan to attend General Assembly in Providence."

Colorado retired UU ministers fared reasonably well in last September's floods, according to a long message from **Barbara Molfese** (Lafayette, CO). **Penny Rather** (Boulder) had water and sewage in the basement, but nothing valuable was damaged. **Catharine and Dick Harris** (Boulder) had water in their first level, guest room and unfinished storage area. Dick got the rooms mostly dry and they hired a teenager to scoop up the mud and rocks that washed down from the greenbelt. **Barbara and John Molfese's** son was evacuated, and only allowed to return to his home in Lyons after six weeks. **Ellen Johnson-Fay** (Colorado Springs) summed it up by writing, “It’s been very tough for a lot of people, [but] the good part of that is the way these difficulties bring people together, and may wake us up to live in more sustainable and cooperative ways.”

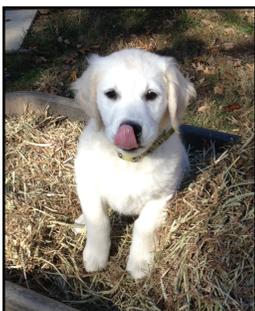


**Nancy and Bob Doughty** (Traverse City, MI) take weekly yoga classes. Bob enjoys building model boats. He designed and built a model of “Brendan,” an Irish boat built by monks in the 7<sup>th</sup> century to sail to Newfoundland. Nancy took quilt blocks her grandmother made and created a quilt from them. Nancy’s twin sister and her husband traveled with the Doughtys to Annapolis, MD and St. Martins on Chesapeake Bay, where they enjoyed being immersed in the history of the region. Nancy has even tried zip-lining with her grandsons.



**Dick Leonard** reports that at 86, he is still alive and kicking. The music program that he initiated has staged 61 events and moved into facilities near Lincoln Center. And he's delighted to announce his engagement to Shirley Mapstone, whom he dated in 1944 when they both were 16. Dick’s wife of 40 years, Polly, hasn’t recognized anyone for five years; Dick will divorce her, with the support of his wonderful family, but she will remain in his loving care. He is already getting feelers about appearing somewhere in 2015 for the 50th anniversary of the Selma march.

**Ray and Gretchen Manker** (Phoenix, AZ) now have two great-grandsons born in 2012 and 2013. The Mankers made a trek to Rocky Point, Mexico, with Susan and Curtiss, to return to a familiar apartment there. Gretchen says they could sit on their porch and enjoy the changing tides, which are extreme. They enjoyed the pelican, porpoises, fishing boats and sunsets.



**Bob Morriss** (Forest, VA) sings with the Jefferson Chorale, an 80 voice community choral group, as well as lending his voice to their small but dedicated Lynchburg church choir. He has learned that his organic garden tastes good to groundhogs, rabbits and foxes but they don't care for green peppers. Bob and **Makanah** installed solar panels this summer and have slashed their electric bills. They have taken on the role of "green sanctuary coaches" for the UUA. Makanah is part of a "Guiding Team" for the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard. And the Morrisses are enjoying their newest family member, Wisdom, a three-month old English Cream Golden Retriever who is already helping with chores around the farm.

**Marcia Olsen** (Corvallis, OR) is happy to have a permanent home after living at three different addresses this past year. She sings in her church choir and is on the membership committee (as well as serving as UURMaPA's secretary). In retirement, she notes that the only "ministerial" aspect of her life is the pastoral care and friendship she offers to an inmate in a penitentiary in Salem, OR. She is enjoying Corvallis's size and the beauty of the region. She has the Willamette Valley with coastal hills to the west, the Cascades further east, and is only one hour from the Oregon Coast.

**Dee Dee Rainbow**, 81, who was married to the Rev. Peter Raible from 1950-1968, died November 12. A native of Seattle, born Delores Yvonne Wardall, she was the mother of four children. Dee Dee was an art teacher for 29 years, who was known for many things, from her colorful clothes to her creativity teaching ceramics. She will be remembered by many as "The Rainbow Lady." Her daughter described this persona as a "living performance piece."

She founded an art gallery at University Unitarian Church in Seattle in 1964, after her husband was called to serve that church. The gallery's first show featured the paintings of Mark Tobey, who was a family friend.

Dee Dee Rainbow is survived by her sister, Marsha Valentine, and her children Deborah, Stephen and Robert Raible, as well as eight grandchildren. Her daughter Robin died in 2006.

Notes of remembrance may be sent to the Rev. Deborah Raible, 1704 36<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98122.



**Charity Rowley** (Iowa City, IA) has accepted a position on the board of the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship. She has been a part of her local congregation's small weekly Buddhist meditation and discussion group since it began 9 or 10 years ago and is now its facilitator. Reading in Buddhism and meditating have enriched her life and she is interested in where this latest endeavor will lead. She recently attended a weekend-long silent Mindfulness retreat at a nearby Franciscan retreat center.

**Audrey Vincent** (Santa Paula, CA) continues well thanks to yoga, advocates for housing for farm workers, enjoys gardening, reading, and supporting her home church, the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, as a congregant.



My memory is awful, Mildred, so I changed my password to "incorrect." That way, when I log in with the wrong password, the computer will tell me ... "your password is incorrect."

### Rules to Live By Satchel Paige, Baseball Star

- Avoid fried meats which angry up the blood.
- If your stomach disputes you, lie down and pacify it with cool thoughts. Keep the juices flowing by jangling around gently as you move. Go very light on vices, such as carrying on in society. The social ramble ain't restful. Avoid running at all times. Don't look back. Something may be gaining on you.

## *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 Lily Backus and Jay Atkinson for their careful and sensitive work writing the partners' and ministers' obituaries, respectively.*

**Roxanne Catherine Tullsen Cohen**, MD, 69, widow of the Rev. Albert Orlando, died Mar. 5, 2013 of complications from a stroke. She was a renowned obstetrician/gynecologist who served the New Orleans community in private practice for 35 years. A native of Cincinnati, she graduated from Bucknell University and studied at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

She earned her medical degree from the University of Rochester and completed her internship and residency at the University of Chicago's Lying-in Hospital. She was a U.S. Navy medical officer at Camp Lejeune, NC, before joining The Women's Medical Centers. She also provided medical expertise at Planned Parenthood of Louisiana. She supported the ACLU.

An active member of the First UU Church of New Orleans, Cathy was married to long-time minister and civil rights leader, the Rev. Albert D'Orlando, who died in in 1998. Cathy was a choir member for many years and also served as President of the Board of Trustees.

Her love of classical music was matched only by her dedication to TV sitcoms. Long indifferent to professional sports, after age 60 she developed a passion for the Saints and became fluent in football statistics and knew about every player.

Cathy is survived by her brother Peter Tullsen (Nancy), niece Barbara Hill (Dan), nephew John Tullsen (Evan Siegel), grandnephew Wesley Hill, and grandniece Alaina Hill. She is also greatly missed by her companion, Nick Napolitano.

Notes of remembrance may go to her nephew: John Tullsen, 3525 North Marshfield Ave., Chicago, IL 60657.



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**Robert Cameron Duncan**, 71, husband of the Rev. Lucinda Duncan, died October 21, 2013 at his home in Concord, MA. After beginning his career as a teacher in the Lincoln (MA) public schools, Bob was hired by the Fenn School in Concord as teacher, coach, head of the Lower School, and assistant headmaster for 29 years.



A native of Concord, he graduated from Lawrence University in Wisconsin, and from Tufts University with a M.Ed. Bob and Lucinda also served as Peace Corps volunteers, building one-room schools in rural Honduras.

Bob was a lifelong sailor, who relished summers on sailboats off the coast of Maine. He loved serving as the Fenn School "band aide" and marching alongside the Fenn School Marching Band in Concord's annual Patriots Day Parade.

Bob wrote the last edition of *The Cruising Guide to the New England Coast*, following several decades of authorship by his father and grandfather. Bob earned his captain's license and for many years assisted his father and later his son, Alec, in taking passengers for hire aboard their 32-foot Friendship sloop, "Eastward," in Boothbay Harbor.

He is survived by his wife, Lucinda; his twin brother, William Duncan and sister-in-law, Lizbeth, of Burke, VA; brother, John Duncan (Carol), of Charlotte, NC; sons, Roger Duncan (Martina), of Bath, ME; Ritch Duncan (Rachel), of New York City; and Alec Duncan of Denver, CO. He is also survived by two granddaughters.

Condolences may be sent to Lucinda Duncan, 76 Upland Road, Concord, MA 01742.

**Isabel A. Gehr**, 99, the widow of the Rev. Harmon M. Gehr, died October 7, 2013. The Gehrs served the Throop UU Church in Pasadena, CA for 19 years.

Her daughter, Julia Nelson, reflected on her mother's sense of adventure. "She was fearless, whether it was speaking out on an issue, camping alone or trying a new recipe. She passed on to her children the idea that they could do anything they set out to do."

Isabel spent the end of her life in Portland, Oregon with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She had a constant stream of company — "Not a single meal alone," Julia said. "She said goodbye to us all and told us not to worry about her, but also to remember her when she was young and vibrant and strong, not old and infirm. She remained alert and cheerful until she took her last breath."

When Isabel and her husband were camping in Canyon de Chelly in Chinle, AZ years ago, she had a vision of a large white bear who told her that everything would be all right. She kept a small plush polar bear with her all the time she was in Portland. Julia said, "The bear is with her now, next to her blue urn. In the spring her ashes will be scattered on her son Elliott's land in Eugene, near her husband and daughter, as she requested."

She continued, "She was a strong and unique person and we all feel lucky to have had her around for almost 100 years!"

Notes of condolence may go to Julia Nelson, 85710 Doane Road, Eugene, OR 97402.



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**Fia B. Scheyer**, 82, wife of the Rev. John David Scheyer, died Dec. 1, 2013. Born in Brooklyn, NY, she was the daughter of the late Sasha Bartnovski and Antonette Salisbury Bartnovski.



Fia was a Julliard-trained professional singer and recording artist. She was the author of numerous articles and curricula, and two books. She worked for the Unitarian Universalist Association as the Director of Volunteers and Fundraising. She was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Franklin, NC, and was also an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Partners for many years.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years and by three children, Suzie DellaPenta and son-in-law, George of Cheektowaga, NY; David Cefkin and daughter-in-law, Mia of Franklin, NC; and Beverly Calobrace of Tamarac, FL; two sisters, Helen Lamb of Pompano Beach, FL and Beverly Smalheiser of Tamarac, FL; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Her son David says, "Fia's memorial service was fantastic. She was honored in a way that would please her. Friends, family and colleagues told stories of their time spent with her, and how she changed their lives. She was a remarkable woman who touched the lives of many. Her work and contributions to the world will have a profound effect for years to come."

Sympathy notes may go to David Scheyer at Macon Valley Nursing Home, 3195 Old Murphy Rd., Franklin, NC 28734.

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**Diene Bull Scholefield**, 91, widow of the late Rev. Dr. Harry Scholefield, died Oct. 11, 2013, with her family at her side. She had lived on her own until the final week of her life.

She was forever active in politics and community service. Diene worked to make schools more inclusive, government more responsive and everyone more compassionate.

Her many meaningful contributions to her community over the course of her long life included service as the Chair of the Board of the San Francisco League of Women Voters, a member of the Sierra Nevada Girl Scout Council, and a representative of private schools on the Post-Secondary Education Commission of the State of California. Diene also served as a long-term member of the Board of Directors of the ALL Student Loan Corporation and both founded and managed Campaign Data Service, a cutting edge data mapping company. She volunteered for more than 30 years at the San Francisco Society of Christian Work.



She raised a daughter and a son with her first husband, Robert Bull, who died in 1981. Diene and her family knew the Scholefield family through the church. After Sarah Scholefield died of lupus, Diene and Harry began a courtship and were married in 1987.

Diene is survived by her children, Penny Chambers and Charles Bull and their families; and by three stepchildren, Joel Scholefield, Sarah Ellen Scholefield and Anne Thomas and their families. At the family's request there was no memorial service.

Condolences may be sent to Penny Chambers, P.O. Box 118, Fairfax, CA 94978.

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**Robin Spry-Campbell**, 90, widow of the Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, died Oct. 23, 2013. She was born in Schenectady, NY, on Nov. 12, 1922, and attended Skidmore College, studying arts education. Her artistic talents were put to use for weapon design at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, MD, where she served in the U.S. Army — an irony she relished later in life as an ardent and life-long civil rights and peace activist. She later shipped out to Germany with the Army, where she met her first husband, Bill Spry. On her return stateside she participated in the WPA project and attended Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, eventually accepting a position as an art teacher at the Putney School in Vermont.

There she met and married her second husband, Jeffrey Campbell. He had been a conscientious objector during World War II and was a UU minister who served our church in Amherst, MA during the 1960's and 1970's. He and Robin continued their work for civil rights and for peace and justice over many years.

Robin worked at the Putney School for 35 years. When she retired in 1985, she returned to upstate New York. She is survived by her daughters, Jocelyn Lash of Burlington, VT and Allison Campbell of Sebastopol, CA. A memorial service for Robin will be held at a later date.

Sympathy notes may go to Jocelyn Lash, 364 Governor's Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482.

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**The Rev. Art Wilmot**, parish minister, opponent of the nuclear arms race, and lifelong advocate for peace and justice, died at his home in Corvallis, OR on August 6, 2013, aged 75, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease.

Arthur Dean Wilmot, son of Dean Arthur Wilmot and Evelyn Cecil (Getty) Wilmot, was born on August 17, 1937, in Port Angeles, WA. While a student at the University of Washington, he was attending a local Presbyterian church whose conservative minister preached one morning about the theological failings of the nearby Unitarian church. Art decided to hear for himself, and found that he agreed with the Unitarians more than with the Presbyterians. He earned his B.D. (later M.Div.) at Tufts University in 1962.

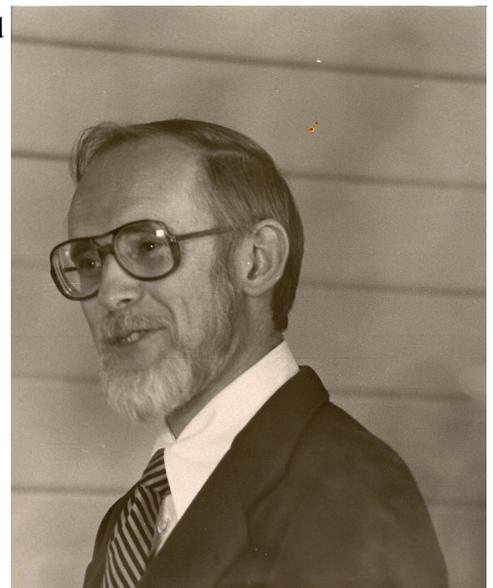
He served UU churches in Chico, CA, where he was ordained in 1973; Victoria, B.C.; Binghamton, NY; and Corvallis, OR, where he was named minister emeritus in 1996 after 15 years as their minister.

He had a deep and lasting friendship with Art Morgan, a Disciples minister; they were known in Corvallis as "the liberal Arts," occasionally signing joint letters to the editor of the local paper. This "other Art" recalled Art Wilmot's laughter and humor, the giant picture of Michael Jordan on his wall, and his one-time passion in earlier years for cigars and Cadillacs.

He is survived by his second wife, Heather Stevens Wilmot; three children, Pamela Condick, Deana McNee (both of Kitchener, Ontario) and Jon A. Wilmot (of Corvallis); 15 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Heather Wilmot, c/o Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 Northwest Circle Boulevard, Corvallis, OR 97330.

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## UURMaPA at Seabeck, Washington: May 13-15, 2014

### Refresh yourself with UURMaPA colleagues in the lush Pacific Northwest



Photo by Andy Backus

Join us at Seabeck Conference Center on beautiful Hood Canal, in southern Puget Sound, Washington. The theme this year is: **“How Do We Experience Beauty in Our Lives?”** In small groups we will reflect on our experience of beauty and related questions, as we share what is meaningful for us now.

We are delighted to announce that Shirley Ranck will share her Odyssey this year. She may be best known for her course *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*. She completed a new book, *The Grandmother Galaxy*, in 2012 and is still going strong in her 80s. Shirley has been recognized internationally for her work in women’s spirituality. We appreciate her ongoing participation in UURMaPA.

We will commemorate the lives of those we lost since our last meeting. We will rest, play and stretch our minds and souls in good company. Seabeck is the perfect setting, with beautiful grounds, excellent food (including vegetarian and vegan menus,) and simple but comfortable accommodations.

Some scholarship assistance is available upon application (see registration form, next page). The registration deadline is April 10 – we encourage you to register early.

Come find out why Seabeck has been popular for decades with UUs in Washington State, Oregon and British Columbia. Watch for details on the website and via email, or contact the conference planners.

Marcia Olsen - [Marcia.olsen29@gmail.com](mailto:Marcia.olsen29@gmail.com) or 541-661-0889

Chris Backus - [chrisbackus@msn.com](mailto:chrisbackus@msn.com) or 360-201-0838

### My Bucket List — Duane Fickeisen

([dfickeisen@gmail.com](mailto:dfickeisen@gmail.com))

#### Family:

See all of my grandchildren graduate high school

#### Personal and craft:

Make credible beer (ale)  
Write memoirs  
Mount a credible photography show  
Learn to recognize local edible mushrooms

#### Home and Garden:

Install a sauna (or wooden hot tub)  
Finish the basement study and guest room  
Install patio and back porch, landscape back yard

#### Travel:

Alaska on small, natural history cruise  
The Grand Canyon by raft  
Eleuthera, The Bahamas (return trip)  
Luxury train across Canada, including Banff  
Hike into Goat Rocks Wilderness Area again  
Retreat on Oregon coast or Big Sur for at least two months, including winter storm season  
Stay in a lighthouse and/or fire lookout

There are dreams of love, life and adventure in all of us. But we are also sadly filled with reasons why we shouldn't try. These reasons seem to protect us, but in truth they imprison us. They hold life at a distance. Life will be over sooner than we think. If we have bikes to ride and people to love, now is the time.

— Elisabeth Kübler-Ross



Point Wilson Lighthouse, Port Townsend, Washington

Photo by Duane Fickeisen

UURMaPA at Seabeck  
Hood Canal, Washington State  
May 13-15, 2014

**Refresh yourself as we rest and play. Stretch your mind and soul in good company.**

Conference Planners: Marcia Olsen [marcia.olsen29@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.olsen29@gmail.com) 541-661-0889  
Chris Lilly Backus [chrisbackus@msn.com](mailto:chrisbackus@msn.com) 360-201-0838



**Registration deadline is April 10, 2014**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred contact: Email \_\_\_\_\_ Snail mail \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Plan for arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs: (for room, meals, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a: Single Room \_\_\_\_ Double Room \_\_\_\_ I'd like to share with \_\_\_\_\_

(Rooms have two or three single beds and private bath; we may ask you to share a room if you are coming alone.)

Conference fee is **\$250 per person** (covers six meals, two nights lodging, social hours, and program).

Include a check for \$50 per person deposit or send the full amount of \$250 per person, payable to "UURMaPA".

**Balance is due before 4/10/2013**, which is the registration deadline. Please mail to:

**Barbara (Morgan) Burke, Registrar**  
UURMaPA at Seabeck  
2519 First Ave., Apt 018  
Seattle, WA 98121-1350  
206-330-7358  
[revbarbaramorgan7@gmail.com](mailto:revbarbaramorgan7@gmail.com)

Partial financial assistance is available from UURMaPA. You may apply by contacting Paul L'Herrou, Treasurer, at [paulherrou@gmail.com](mailto:paulherrou@gmail.com) or 978-290-7285 or 38 Kimball Ave #12, Ipswich, MA 01938.

State the amount of assistance you need, including costs for travel, caregiving for a dependent partner, etc. in addition to the registration fee of \$250.

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

**Address Service Requested**