



## Elderberries

VOLUME 30

NUMBER 3

Summer 2015

### UURMaPA Sweeps General Assembly Awards

UURMaPA members won all three of the major awards given at the 2015 General Assembly, a proud showing for this generation of activists and achievers.

The Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, the highest award bestowed by the Association, was given this year to the Rev. Clark Olsen. Olsen has had a long and varied career but is perhaps best known to UUs for having survived the 1965 attack in Selma, AL, that killed the Rev. James Reeb.

Reading from the award citation, the Rev. Mark Ward said, "In this 50th anniversary year of the events in Selma, we have been proud to see you lifted up as an exemplar of our faith, one who followed the call to justice, who showed up, and despite injury and intimidation remained a generous and compassionate leader in the cause of freedom and justice."

Ward praised Olsen's 56 years of UU ministry, saying that, "In a career of many phases from parish minister to organization consultant, from the board room to the classroom to the streets of Selma, Alabama, you demonstrated the transforming power of showing up and bringing your full self to the work that awaits us, and so showing the way to a higher calling that awaits us all."



Clark Olsen acknowledging his wife, Anna, as he receives the Distinguished Service Award

On the following day, during the General Session, the Angus H. McLean Award was given to the Rev. Ginger Luke. The Angus H. MacLean award, established in 1972 by the St. Lawrence University Theological School

Alumni Association and the Religious Education Department of the UUA, is awarded each year to someone who has made outstanding contributions to religious education.



Ginger Luke and Jessica York, Faith Development director

Using the familiar words known to thousands of UU children to explain our faith, Jessica York, UUA Director of Faith Development, noted that Ginger has a mind that thinks, a heart that loves, and hands that are ready to serve. Her citation reads in part, "Ginger Luke has served her congregation, her profession, and

Unitarian Universalism with dedication and enthusiasm in Angus H. MacLean's spirit of creativity, hospitality, justice and universal love."

It goes on to list her numerous accomplishments as a DRE and Minister of Religious Education with four congregations, her long and faithful service as a LREDA Good Officer, her published writing, and the various awards which have honored her in the past.

That same day, the President's Award for Volunteer Service was given to the Rev. Gordon Gibson. In his presentation of the award, UUA President the Rev. Peter Morales said, "Gordon's fifty years as a Unitarian Universalist minister began with jail time in Selma, one month before the violence erupted in 1965 that shook

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## From Your Editor:

Wow, a 20-page issue! We are a lively bunch, with a lot to report on and talk about. Thank you to so many of you who have contributed to this issue of *Elderberries* with articles and photographs. Keep it coming! Remember that the deadline for the Fall issue will be October 15, and your fellow UURMaPAns would love to hear your news and your thoughts.

With this issue, we make the transition to new leadership for 2105-16, as reflected on the masthead (left column). Many thanks for their helpful input to Jane Rzepka and Judith Walker Riggs on the *Elderberries* Advisory Board, and welcome to Dennis Daniel and Makannah Morris, who replace them.

This issue is the last in your Board's experiment with mailing *Elderberries* to every household, with the choice to opt out and receive e-mail notification only. (Only a few of you have done that.) At our meeting in late September, we will decide whether to make this a regular practice or return to notifying you by e-mail, with the choice to opt in and continue to receive it in the mail. Feel free to register your opinion about this decision by writing to [board@uurmapa.org](mailto:board@uurmapa.org) before the end of September.

We are gradually catching up on obituaries here and on the web site. Many thanks to Colleen McDonald and David Bumbaugh, who have offered to help Jay Atkinson with the backlog. I, too, wrote a few obituaries for this issue, and was reminded of the privilege we have enjoyed as ministers conducting memorial services. So much of these wonderful people's lives is shared by their grateful and grieving survivors; it is an honor to write the words that will honor them.

With my best wishes,  
— Judy Welles, Editor

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

### *UURMaPA Sweeps... continued from page 1*

our nation. ...this led to decades of a ministry that held racial justice at its core. His work over the years to lift up our involvement in the Civil Rights era through leading tours, helping to form the Living Legacy Project, and authoring a recent Skinner House book *Southern Witness*, has kept our heritage alive... He has done his work in a manner that embodies humility. He leads by example."

In Gordon's honor, the UUA has donated one thousand dollars to The Living Legacy Project. Morales concluded his remarks saying, "You have made this jewel of Unitarian Universalism even stronger with this gift."



Peter Morales, Hope Johnson, Judy Gibson, and Gordon Gibson receiving the President's Award for Volunteer Service

— Excerpted from [uua.org](http://uua.org) and *UU World* online  
All photos accompanying this article @Nancy Pierce/UUA.

# A Word from Your President

## UURMaPA Folks,

Let me introduce myself. I am Jim Eller, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and the newly elected President of UURMaPA. I am honored to serve you and our shared concerns. I came into our movement as a child of the All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. My childhood minister was John Wolf; Fred Campbell's mother, Sally Campbell, ran the Church School for much of my childhood.

There was great power and joy present in my home church. It was an expansive and dynamic community. I came to love our movement in large part because of the experiences I had when our family attended summer church camp at Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas, later known as SWUUSI, South West Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute.

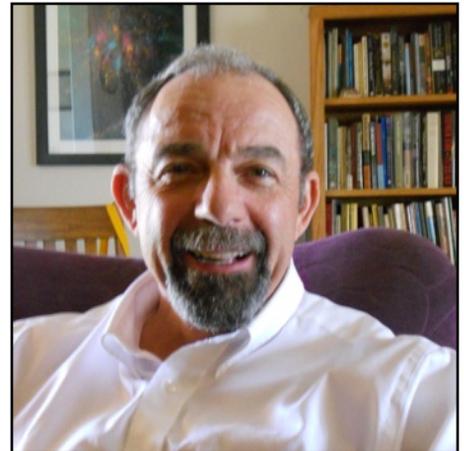
As a child, I was amazed by how much fun the adults were having. They seemed to be talking about the most important things in the world, visiting, singing, swimming and being so full of life. Most of the District ministers attended the summer camp, which seemed to add importance to the gathering. There was Bob Raible, Paul Carnes, James Madison Barr, Bruce Cleary and of course John Wolf and a host of other ministers. It felt like a time when giants walked the earth. The children's programming, youth activities and camp experience were wonderful. I thought, if church can be this much fun, then I want more of it. I thought about entering the UU ministry at a very young age.

Going to Starr King School for the ministry was a lot like going to summer church camp, except instead of it lasting just a week, it went on for three years. Anything I could imagine seemed possible. The students and teachers were engaging, and so bright. It wasn't just what happened when we were in the classroom, but the conversations between classes and over coffee which were both transformative and at times transcendent.

In parish ministry I hoped to help create and support communities of transformation, where people could be reminded of their best selves and come to terms with the meaning of their lives, including their weaknesses and their extraordinary talents. I hoped that our members would be imprinted with the feeling of love and joy that can permeate a healthy community.

I mention these things now because of the joy and connection I experienced at our UURMaPA spring conference in Orlando last February. There was, of course, the gathering of longtime friends and colleagues, good food, singing, beautiful surroundings, but most importantly there was a remembered Selma and the work of struggling for human dignity and integrity. Something truly moving began to take place for many of us. It felt as if we were talking about some of the most important things, about what it means to be human and alive. I remember thinking at the end of the week that it felt a lot like Petit Jean and other times where love and transformation had entered my life.

My hope is that UURMaPA can be like a continental summer camp. We will meet at Attleboro, Massachusetts in the fall, Santa Barbara, California in the winter and at G.A. in Columbus, Ohio in the early summer. Of course there are lots of other ways to connect, like through *Elderberries*, SpeakUP, and Peer Group video conferencing groups. But no matter how we connect, my hope for us is that we find ways to maintain long friendships, to begin new ones, and to talk together about the most important things in life.



**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?

Carole Yorke

What brings me joy? What a great question, enough to give food to my ongoing quest for mindfulness on a daily basis.



Carole preaching at Nature Coast UU's in Citrus Springs, Florida

Having retired from parish ministry (part time) and a hospice chaplaincy (full time) mainly because of a diagnosis of and surgery for breast cancer in 2012, I felt the need to change my life and attend to my physical health: 36 years of Type 2 diabetes and I was headed to a life on a scooter — I'd already been using a cane for several years.

I joined a gym and engaged a personal trainer, sometimes having to drag myself to the gym, but going three times a week. (When I started this program I could hardly step up on a low step. Now I can basically jump over one.) My life was beginning to change; I was regaining confidence that I had forgotten I had. I no longer need my cane in my normal daily life. Because I live in Florida where there are basically no stairs to navigate, I was flying, and I believed that I could go on a tour to the UK that I had long promised myself — with no problems.

Leg pressing 300 pounds in the gym does NOT translate well into running up castle steps behind a tour group. Sigh. Despite my continued limitations, the trip was quite wonderful — I saw places I had only read about or studied: Shakespeare Museum; a working sheep farm in Scotland, with eight Border Collies herding sheep; Stonehenge — my god, there it was; the Essex Unitarian Church in Kensington (I got a taxi driver to stop there so I could take a picture); and I was able to set foot in York and Wales, from where my families once emigrated.

I continue to get joy from the improvements I experience in my health.

I am not perfect in this. Anyone who has experienced long term diabetes can understand what a daily battle it can be.

Joy also comes to me via my 5 (yes, five) Pomeranians, who own me. We live in Port St. Lucie FL (where I am able to attend the spring training games of the NY Mets, of whom I am a diehard fan). I used to rescue Maltese from puppy mills, but changed to Pomeranians after my last Maltese died.

These dogs all came from the same breeder and it is a belly-laughing life I lead on a daily basis watching them play with each other (grabbing each others' tails, for example); watching them interact as they run around the enclosure in the back yard; allowing all of them to sit on my chair with me, although the body heat in the summer is a little much. There is always a dog at my feet, in my lap, and beside me in the car. Four of the five sleep with me — they all actually go to sleep when they get on the bed.

Ministry, which brought me great joy, is not gone from my life. I still preach occasionally when a local congregation asks; I do weddings and memorials for the Vero Beach UU Fellowship when asked. "Once a minister..." and that brings me great joy.



Carol and her 5 (yes, five) dogs

From Linda Rose:

"Remember! If you have retirement savings in the denominational plan (UU Organizations Retirement Plan), you are age 70 ½ or better, and you are retired, then the IRS requires that you annually withdraw at least an amount equal to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Please do not wait until November or December to take this distribution. Avoid the rush, and email [retirementplan@uua.org](mailto:retirementplan@uua.org) today to request RMD withdrawal instructions."

# Partners' Column

## "I'd Like You to Meet My First Wife..."

Chris Lilly Backus

My husband of 49 years enjoys asking people, "Have you met my first wife?" I then quip, "And your *last*, unless I die first." We married young, so we have had time to practice this routine.

In the 1970s, Andy attended GA alone. People often thought he was a minister, not an organic chemist at Rohm & Haas Chemical Company in Philadelphia. Each noon at work he unpacked lunch and church files from his briefcase to call volunteers at the Unitarian Church in Cherry Hill, NJ.



I was brought up a Christian Scientist and Andy is a third-generation UU. When he told me of his call to ministry he hoped that I would join him as a co-minister. I heard no call, but remembered Gini Courter describing a "call to lay leadership." This "spoke to my condition," as the Friends would say.

In 1979 we moved to Cambridge, MA as Andy entered Harvard Divinity School. I worked for Harvard's Fogg Museum managing art history lecture materials. I later earned an Ed.M. at Harvard. I had run the slide library at the Goucher College Library in Baltimore (1968-72) and taught art at Moorestown Friends School (NJ) 1973-78.

We joined the Watertown (MA) church and I remained there while Andy interned at First Parish Lexington. In 1980 a friend invited me to a monthly lunch for UU ministers' partners. Reluctant, I was won over by the inspiring partners from the Boston area. They included: Debbie Greeley, Faith Scovel, Helen Pickett, Dorothy Hopper, Claudine Grady, Linda Lu Schulz, Chuck Campbell, Nancy Nichols, Sabrina Babcock and Debbie Heller. We coined the name "UUMPs" for UU Ministers' Partners. "Partners" was more inclusive than "spouses." Previously the group was "Ministers' Wives" and then "Ministers' Mates."

Andy and I completed our Harvard degrees in 1983. We pre-candidated at five churches, paying my way to be included. We chose Oneonta, NY where we served 11 years, then Schenectady, NY for six years and then Andy did interims in Vancouver, BC and San Diego, CA. I was very involved in Oneonta, but at other churches not so much.

In Oneonta, I worked teaching rape prevention and distributing surplus food at Opportunities for Otsego. I then worked at Fox Memorial Hospital in long-term care and later communications. Next I was a marketing manager at Community Health Plan in Latham, NY and VP of Administration at Whitney M. Young Jr. Health Center in Albany. During our time in Vancouver, BC, I studied personal and business coaching. In San Diego I worked at Neighborhood Healthcare in Escondido, CA as director of program integration.

Andy worked hard and did a good job. I believe our own marriage provided a healthy role model for parishioners. Because we chose not to have children, our life was much simpler than it might have been. I am still amused when people tell me, "You don't seem like a minister's wife." I answer, "Well, he was a chemist when I married him."

In retirement we teach safer boating for the US Power Squadrons and Semiahmoo Yacht Club, and write for the Marine Trawler Owners Assn. We work on sets and do PR for Bellingham Theatre Guild, where Andy is now president. I have campaigned for local candidates and Planned Parenthood. When we retired, we joined Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, only to learn we couldn't become laypeople again, and so we left. Happily, UURMaPA provides us with a strong collegial network.

Now, after two years, we have completed our full-length musical drama "Older But Not Wiser, Younger But Not Cute." It includes 20 original songs. Andy wrote the music and I wrote the lyrics. We hope to build on the success of our 2014 performance of Act 1.

See you in Attleboro and Santa Barbara!

*Chris has been active in UUMPs since 1980 and in UURMaPA since 2004. She edited the UUMPs newsletter for nine years and served on the UURMaPA Board for four years as newsletter editor. She now compiles partners' obituaries for Elderberries. Chris has also served on the boards of the New York State Convention of Universalists and of the St. Lawrence District of the UUA.*



## Leadership Column

— Richard Nugent, Director of Church Staff Finances

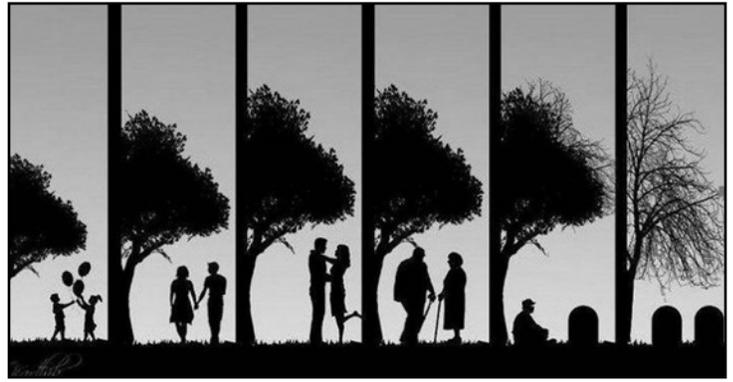
I'd like to share a few thoughts about the recently concluded **"Economic Sustainability of Ministries Summit"** in St. Louis. This gathering arose from conversations about trends in congregational staffing that I have been having with the Reverend Sarah Lammert, Ministries and Faith Development Director. Some smaller congregations can no longer afford full-time parish ministry, or if they can, it may come at the expense of other staffing reductions. Far too many congregations are not providing benefits to their hardworking non-clergy staff. We see an increasing number of new ministers carrying seminary debt exceeding \$50-70,000. Many ministers and staff rarely receive merit increases or even cost-of-living raises. For community ministers, well-paying hospital chaplaincy jobs are being converted to on-call positions without benefits. Many ministers are increasingly forced to be bi-vocational, holding down two or more jobs.

These trends mirror much of what's happening in the broader community. The middle/professional class is shrinking as educational costs skyrocket and well-paying jobs with benefits decline. In academia, professorships are increasingly turned into adjuncts without benefits. Our congregations are populated by individuals whose own careers are not what they might have hoped a decade or so ago. As income declines and debt grows, the hope of home ownership is postponed, saving for retirement is challenging (pensions are largely gone), and the hope of paying for the education of one's children is becoming a dream unfulfilled.

Rather than dwelling in these depressing facts, the UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff team, together with other UUA leadership (both lay and clergy) are working to get ahead of the trends. Our St. Louis gathering, broadly including most of the professional groups, seminaries, and credentialing bodies, was an opportunity to step back for a few days and assess the current situation, identify additional steps that we might take to help address this situation, and challenge ourselves to think out-of-the-box to find un-imaginable solutions that will sustain the various ministries found in congregations and in the broader community. Jim Eller represented UURMaPA.

Six different work groups identified steps that might be taken in the coming year or two. But much more work needs to be done, particularly work that leads us to the new road in the wilderness that the individual(s) known as Isaiah wrote about so long ago. The well-traveled road will not help us ensure the economic sustainability of our varied ministries, including parish, community, religious education, music, program, and administration.

We live in challenging times, but like our ancestors, I am confident that we will find a path through the wilderness.



### *Landscapes of Aging and Spirituality*, edited by Kathleen Montgomery, Skinner House, 2015

This is not a book to read from start to finish, or to race through to find out what happens at the end. We all know what happens at the end. This is a book to savor, a book to underline and dog-ear, whose margins should be filled with exclamation points and asterisks.

Under the able editorial guidance of Kay Montgomery, 19 writers (most of whom you know personally) have shared their musings on the process of aging and its effect on their inner lives. Her intention in assembling this book, Kay writes, was to invite "companionship for this latter-part-of-life journey," and indeed, any reader, regardless of religious orientation, will find companionship within these pages.

Many writers mention the phenomenon of long-ago memories suddenly resurfacing, unbidden. Mark Belletini writes "The spiritual path of growing older, illuminated by ten thousand memories, seems fused to my days." Jane Rzepka reflects on the "welcome tethers" of memories and connections, realizing that "All this connection in the face of letting go leaves me in a bit of a pickle. A paradox."

Others reflect on physical challenges. Burton Carley's ultrasound gives him plenty of time to think of that procedure as a metaphor for his life in retirement, "...facing the unknown, the movement from what is to what if to what now." Three brushes with cancer have taught Denny Davidoff not to sweat the small stuff, "...and the definition of small is getting larger every day."

Only by quoting the entire book could I indicate its breadth and depth. You will have to read it for yourself. But I will leave you with this reflection on immortality, written by John Cummins: "Each of us in our lifetime climbs the mountain of human experience — our own and that of our race. When we reach the heights and see what is to be seen, we lie down on that mountain... The small measure of our dust adds to its height, whereby our peers and companions and those who come after us may see a small way farther than we... No soul... is without its significance in the ongoing life of the universe."

— Judy Welles

# Ahoy Hanoi

Stephen Shick

Ha Noi, literally means “River Inside.” The Vietnam War was a river inside me for almost a decade. After seminary in 1969 I abandoned career plans and became Program Director of Philadelphia SANE (a national peace organization). President Nixon put SANE on his “enemies list” and I, along with hundreds of Philadelphia peace activists, was also on the FBI’s enemy list. I carried this river of memories to Hanoi in June.

At the airport the young taxi driver asked a question I anticipated, “have you been to Vietnam before?” Wrongly assuming this was code for “were you here during the American War” I said no, and quickly added, “I worked to end that war.” With a “What did you say?” expression he nodded and we were on our way. That was my first lesson — my history was just that, my history.

My second lesson was that here, unlike in many parts of the world, the idea of “enemy” does not travel from generation to generation. One expat who had lived in Hanoi for ten years explained, “The people are forward looking and practical.” This cultural foundation is contributing to a growing prosperity that welcomes American and other past “enemies.”

I was introduced by a friend to Bao Ngoc Le, the Director for *Pathfinder International* in Vietnam. Bao and his wife Ha are very positive people filled with enthusiasm for their work in reproductive health services. Ms. Thuy, one of Pathfinder’s interns, joined us. She recently graduated from college and anticipated a career in economic development. She would be my guide while in Hanoi.

Thuy had been a guide at the Ho Chi Minh Museum and Mausoleum where we started our day. She grew quietly reverent as we walked into the mausoleum and silently filed by Ho Chi Minh’s body. With only passing interest, Thuy pointed out the adjacent French style government stilt house.” This was a simple of a quiet carp pond. With focused Minh lived.” Looking in I saw a Quickly a new image of Ho emerged. himself in Confucian simplicity and mausoleum be built to preserve his burial. There was another lesson. times, gives every moment a Perhaps this is why many consider his own character so others might



The “stilt house.”

palace. “Now,” she said, “let me show you the structure with clean unadorned lines set in view interest, Thuy said, “This is where Ho Chi simple desk, chair, lamp, bed and table. Here, in the midst of war, he would daily center order. It was not his idea that a grand body. No, his choice would have been a simple Keeping life simple, especially in difficult balanced order between the past and the future. him Quan Tu (the ideal human who develops succeed).

I spent my final day in Hanoi alone. I got up early to experience the quiet of Hoan Kiem Lake. Upon arrival at 5:30 I was late. Hundreds of folks were already there and well into their daily Tai Chi routines, group dancing, or singing. That afternoon, as it started to rain, I entered the Hoa Lo prison, known by Americans during the war as the Hanoi Hilton. As I looked at the pictures of the “happy American prisoners” playing basketball, the old adage “the victors write the history” was confirmed. But there was another lesson here. Built by the French to confine and torture those who resisted their imperial rule, this prison, with its torture chambers and guillotine, shouted out a witness to the human will to resist oppression and seek freedom.

Vietnam is now a developing country with great potential. Its deep cultural quest for collective betterment through individual moral and ethical discipline provides a hopeful counterpoint to the excesses of its emerging free market. And its ability to look forward and be practical will serve it well as it faces the challenges of creating a more open and human rights affirming future. And I, still moved by my history, live in hope.



Morning at Hoan Kiem Lake

## Newest Members of UURMaPA

William and Eva Alberts  
Terrence Ellen and Amy Boscov  
Karen and Daniel Foley  
Alicia Forsey  
Jeanne Foster  
Becky Gunn

Mark Hayes and Catherine Vandenberg  
Carol Hepokoski and John Berquist  
Linda and Lloyd Horton  
Carol and Hollis Huston  
Dottie Mathews and Rosann Geiser  
Robert Murphy and Lyn Dalzell  
James Nelson and Kathe Kelly

Theresa Novak and Anne Spatola  
Stephen and Cynthia Phinney  
Dacia Reed and Edward Bennett  
Kathy Sage  
Mary and Michael Samuels  
Mary Wellemeyer  
Alison Wohler and Milton Harris

## News from the General Assembly

2015 was an excellent year to be an UURMaPAn at General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. Between the 25-50 Year Service at Ministry Days, the Collegial Conversations, the luncheon, and the sweep of awards (see page 1), UURMaPA was visible, vocal and useful at our annual UUA gathering.

For the first time (but hopefully not the last), the UUMA offered to pay transportation and lodging for any members of the 50-year class who wished to attend



Ministry Days. The class was well represented, with Gordon Gibson, Ralph Mero, Mike Young, Dave Weissbard, Dave Sammons, and Peter Richardson attending, resplendent in real leis that Nancy Young had brought from Hawaii. Dave Weissbard was the chosen speaker for the 50-year class,

Dick Gilbert and Jim Eller ran a Collegial Conversation during Ministry Days intended to confront some of the weighty questions facing ministers considering retirement:

what will be my identity after I retire? What will be my relationship to the UU faith? What is on my spiritual “bucket list?” As usual, the conversation was well-attended (30 people) and helpful.



Terry Ellen is happy to be honored at the Service of the Living Tradition.

Our UURMaPA Luncheon on Thursday welcomed 35 new UURMaPA members in person (out of a total of 66 retirees this year) for a delicious Thai meal followed by a business meeting, during which the winner of the Creative Sageing Award was

announced (see article page 9). Dick Gilbert closed out his term as our President with some — as always — wise words (see box, this page), and handed the figurative gavel to our new President, Jim Eller.

Next year's General Assembly will be held in Columbus, OH June 22-26. See you there?

## Dick Gilbert's Thoughts

Retirement and old age are about framing. They give us that rare opportunity to step back and see the life we have lived in a larger — even a cosmic perspective. In the midst of career and family, to say nothing of saving the world, we don't allow ourselves the time to put a frame around what we have done and what we are doing.

I try to put myself into Cezanne's shoes. He was an old man. He had painted out of love for the truth and the beauty he saw in the world. He had given away what he created.

His hands were unsteady now, his best painting days behind him. After all these years, someone had framed his paintings and put them on public display. What a thrill to see them! What a warm glow to know your work has been appreciated! What an overwhelming sense of joy that your life has been worthwhile!

I have written meditations for decades now. Every Sunday they were for me, and I hope for the congregation, a kind of pastoral prayer from a mystical religious humanist. One Christmas, a member of the congregation took a few of them, put them into a lovely cursive script — and framed them! They are prized possessions.

Whether it be paintings by an artistic genius or the meditations of a journeyman preacher, framing makes all the difference. And so it is with me as I put a frame around all those years of being and doing.

In my wiser moments I am grateful for the mountains, valleys and plateau experiences that have been mine. Yet I do not really “own” them — they are simply a part of me that can never be taken away.

Here I become mystical. I have come to believe — without benefit of proof — that these experiences, like matter, can never be destroyed. They are simply abroad in the spiritual universe of my imagination. I know, we are a rational faith — give me the facts, the facts and nothing but the facts. The fact is we are spiritual creatures immersed in meaning as well as physical creatures precipitated out of cosmic reality.

As I say, my mission statement is to grow a soul, to love and to be loved and to help repair the world. It has been that way, more or less, for 78 years. I hope and pray it will be the same for the rest of the way.

## Fred Lipp Wins Creative Sageing Award

Each year, a member of UURMaPA is given the Creative Sageing Award for service/ministry which the minister or partner has done since retirement. This year's award was given to the Rev. Frederick Lipp. The citation, read at the UURMaPA luncheon at General Assembly by Jim Hobart (who nominated him) is as follows:

In 1960, Fred Lipp entered Meadville Lombard. He and I were classmates for the next 4 years, graduating together in the class of 1964. From 1964 until 1997, Fred had a distinguished career in the parish ministry, including Beverly, MA; Hope Church, Tulsa, OK; West Hartford, CT; Portland, ME; and Rosslyn Chapel-Hampstead/London.

Following his retirement from the parish ministry, in 1998 Fred published his first children's book, *That Cat is Not for Sale*, a true story of a cat who lived in Gillingham's General Store in Vermont.

In 2000, Fred published *The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh*. It soon garnered a number of prizes, including "notable book for a Global Society" from the International Reading Association, the Silver Horn from Parent's Choice, and the Amelia Bloom award for feminist literature from the American Library Association. In 2005 the book was distributed by the French publisher SIPAR

to all children in Cambodia in the Khmer language.

However, this gets me ahead of Fred Lipp's story.

In 2001, during a visit to Cambodia, Fred saw the deplorable circumstances of Cambodian girls in the provinces. They received only rudimentary education before going to work in the fields and/or getting married. Fred was profoundly moved by this deeply ingrained Cambodian practice. In typical Fred fashion, he said to himself, "I've got to do something about this." And so he did. The "something" was to found the Cambodian Arts and Scholarship Foundation (CASF).

In 2001, CASF funded three girls to continue their educations, providing tuition, housing, meals, transportation and stipends to their families, and in addition, support services for the girls to make this transition. Staff were hired in Cambodia. Fred and others



Jim Hobart reading the citation

in the US volunteered their time, including offering their financial support and soliciting support from others.

The foundation motto is *Change the world one girl at a time*. Since 2001, over 300 students have participated in the CASF educational program. In 2015, over 60 graduates of the program have completed university educations and are working as doctors, lawyers, accountants, NGO leaders and in other professions. Currently there are 65 students in the CASF program, 6<sup>th</sup> grade through university.

A student can be educated through high school for \$250 a year. A year at the university costs \$1500. The total budget of the foundation is only \$100,000. If anyone wants more information or would like to make a contribution, details can be found at: [www.cambodianscholarship.org](http://www.cambodianscholarship.org)

I won't go into the details, but the CASF achievement has often involved hardships and sometimes has been a dangerous road for Fred and Kitty Lipp, his partner and wife, who provides strong support and active engagement in the CASF program.

In addition to his volunteer work for CASF, Fred continues to write children's stories. There are now nine stories about girls and boys in several Southeast Asian countries, including Cambodia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Their titles are: *Running Shoes*, *Chalk*, *End of the Road*, *Bread Song*, *Tea Leaves*, *Clay Truck* (also distributed to all children in Cambodia) and *Fatima*. These books have been variously published in English, French, Khmer, Catalan, Korean, and Portuguese.

When I informed him of the honor, Fred responded, "You caught me off-guard, so the honor kind of took words away. We do what we are called to do over the years, and I am probably the one most surprised, learning that we never really retire as we are involved with family, inner landscapes, and the world. This is the really, really big surprise!"

Fred Lipp is a most worthy recipient of the UURMaPA's 2015 Creative Sageing award.

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## Call for Nominees: Unsung UURMaPAN

There are among us wonderful people doing wonderful things for others who rarely blow their own horns. They just quietly go about doing good! Your UURMaPA Board would like to recognize and reward them for all this, and we have just the way to do it — the Unsung UURMaPAN Award. If you know a colleague or partner who deserves some horn-toting, let us know. Send their name and a bit about what they're doing to deserve horn-toting to the Board's Caring Chair, Liz McMaster at [revliz29@gmail.com](mailto:revliz29@gmail.com) by the end of August. If you've got a question about this, let Liz hear from you. The Board votes in September, so get your nominees in! And thanks!

By the way, the award includes a \$500 honorarium.

— Liz McMaster

## Update on the Commission on Appraisal

*“We are all volunteers trying to do our best to serve our faith community.”*

*(Nana’s mantra during this year)*

In January of 2015, representatives of the UUA Board of Trustees working group on committees met via telephone conference with members of the Commission on Appraisal and notified us that the BoT was submitting an amendment at General Assembly to eliminate the Commission on Appraisal. They had concluded that since we were just a research group, that function could be done more efficiently through staff or an ombudsman.

Before our meeting was concluded, the BoT members learned more about our goals and how we worked. They learned that our discernment process about what to study and how to do it was deeply tied to our independence. They later learned that many Unitarian Universalists also believed this. Members of UURMaPA helped them learn.

Under our previous moderator, the UUA Board of Trustees adopted the Carver method of policy governance. This method was created to maximize the effectiveness of boards of non-profit organizations. Two members of the COA had served on such boards. The theory is that the board is strictly a policy making entity, and implementing the policies adopted is the task of professional and volunteer staffs. Independent entities, funded by the board, are not allowed. Thus we understood, even though we did not like, why the BoT was seeking the amendment.

After our initial conversation, the BoT decided that getting rid of the COA was not in the best interest of the UUA, and the COA decided to see if collaboration could produce a compromise that both would find acceptable. A lot of credit is due the members of the COA and the board who took on this task. We eventually agreed to support the amendment that was presented at General Assembly, because we would be able to continue our process, and contribute to the board’s better governance by our interactions with Unitarian Universalists. During this time the board held a webinar (some of you participated) and employed other social media strategies to inform Unitarian Universalists about this proposed amendment.

As you know, the General Assembly turned down the amendment. They professed that they liked the COA the way it was, and did not like what they saw as the board’s “power grab.” (See Nana’s mantra above.)

I appreciated the process at General Assembly. The amendments from the mini-assembly that were helpful were passed, and those that were not (in my view) were defeated. The board learned that even though they thought they were being transparent, they were not perceived that way. Delegates learned that the democratic process works.

The Commission on Appraisal returns to a nine-member independent commission, charged with completing our study of class and classism, but with a better relationship with the Board of Trustees. The BoT now better understands our process and contributions. It will be interesting to see how both entities develop in the next few years.

If the Board of Trustees continues to implement the Carver policy governance method, there will be other discussions at General Assembly. In my view, learning just what this method is, and how it works would be in the best interests of all Unitarian Universalists.

— Nana Kratochvil, Chair  
Commission on Appraisal

## UURMaPA Peer Groups: Have a Great Conversation and Make New Friends

We have been experimenting with starting peer groups for newly retired ministers. In the book, *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi suggests that in the retirement process, having accountability relationships can be very helpful.

Each year as a new group of ministers retires, we invite those who are interested in such a group to consider joining in a monthly conversation for one year.

It is a bit like a covenant group. We meet for an hour and a half once a month to check in and take time to discuss issues and concerns that strike our interest. There are expectations around good group process and communication. Those of us who have participated in this opportunity have really enjoyed it. One group that began two years ago liked the sharing so well that they extended for a second year.

This is a facilitated conversation that uses video conferencing. We have found that being able to see each other makes a difference. If you are interested in joining a newly forming group, please contact Marni Harmony at [revharmony@gmail.com](mailto:revharmony@gmail.com) by **August 21**.

### Why Bodhidharma Went to Howard Johnson's

“Where is your home,” the interviewer asked him.

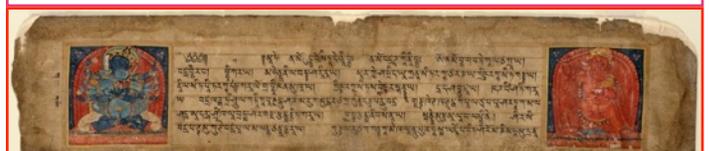
Here.

“No, no,” the interviewer said, thinking it a problem of translation,

“when you are where you actually live.”

Now it was his turn to think, perhaps the translation?

~ Jane Hirshfield ~



## UURMaPA FALL CONFERENCE

### “Prophecy: Past, Present and Future”

October 5 to 8, 2015

La Salette Center

947 Park Street

Attleboro, MA 02703

The Fall Conference is right around the corner. It is less than 3 months away!!! What will you be doing Oct. 5th to 8th??? We think you will enjoy an adventure with other UU ministers and their partners in Attleboro, MA.

The Keynote speaker is Dan McKanan, Emerson UUA Senior Lecturer in Divinity at Harvard and author of *Prophetic Encounters: Religion and the American Radical Tradition* (2011) and winner of the Frederic G. Melcher Book Award. Our Odyssey will be done by Andy and Chris Backus. We will have our fabulous musician, Dawn Chung with us again this year. All worship leaders are in place. All small group facilitators are in place (some repeats, some new). There will be an evening dramatic presentation of Emily Dickinson followed by a discussion of how Dickinson's poems were published.

What makes a conference memorable are the participants. So come — have fun with old and new friends — enjoy excellent worship — be challenged by a gifted UU speaker — learn something new — explore an area you haven't considered exploring before, like drumming. You will be glad you did.

We will have a “Book Sale” table, an “Art Sale” table, and a “Craft Sale” table. Each person is responsible for his own work and whatever sales may take place. We have no insurance coverage for your creations. Use discretion and be considerate of others when sharing space on the tables.

We will also have a “Writing Notes” table for those of you who would like to send a note to a friend who isn't able to be at the Fall Conference. We'll have an up-to-date Directory, note cards, pens, and stamps available at the table. Your notes will be mailed the day after the conference ends.

You can find a registration form in this issue on page 18 and on our website. The cost for four days of programming, three nights of overnight accommodations, all meals and a field trip to Boston is a mere \$250/person, thanks to *your* generosity. If that \$250 is beyond your reach, please do not let that stop you from coming. UURMaPA is offering scholarships to those who find the cost prohibitive. Contact Joel Weaver at [weaver\\_je@hotmail.com](mailto:weaver_je@hotmail.com).

### Registrations must be in by September 1!

All other concerns/questions can be directed to co-chairs Carol Taylor, [catuuminr@gmail.com](mailto:catuuminr@gmail.com) (610) 558-2323

Ginger Luke, [gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com](mailto:gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com) (301) 520-0753.

## UURMaPA SPRING CONFERENCE

### “Life Transitions”

February 29 to March 2, 2016

La Casa de Maria Retreat Center

800 El Bosque Road

Santa Barbara, California 93108

Join beloved colleagues and friends for learning and laughter, great meals, social time, and relaxing in the serene and beautiful foothills of Santa Barbara at the *La Casa de Maria Retreat Center* from **February 29 to March 2, 2016**. We may all be at various stages of retirement but the program is designed to speak to you wherever you are on your life journey.

We gather on **Monday after 3 p.m.** for check-in, a social hour and dinner, followed by a worship Service of Remembrance for members who have died in the past year.

On **Tuesday morning** after the worship service, we'll gather for the Keynote presentation.

*“A Band of Sages or How Retired Ministers Saved Souls, Congregations and the UU Movement”*

Our colleague, the Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, will bring his experience as a long time parish minister (retired 2014), Buddhist practitioner, and Spiritual Director to our collegial gathering, as he leads us to explore questions of identity, well-being, and spirituality in retirement, and to ponder the question “What is my calling, now?”

The afternoon provides time for relaxing and continuing to explore the questions raised by Arvid's earlier presentation in various small groups, including “Writing Our Ethical Wills,” and a discussion of *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. That evening we'll hear an Odyssey by Thomas Anastasi and Robert Holler.

On **Wednesday** we will engage in collegial conversation before the closing worship and lunch.

All this for a mere \$250 registration fee that covers 2 nights, 6 meals, refreshments, and general expenses! Thanks to your generosity, we are able to offer this amazingly low registration fee and to subsidize UURMaPA members with very limited incomes. Registrants who can afford to make an extra contribution may do so. You will receive a confirmation, travel information, and a schedule shortly after we receive your registration(s).

### Please get your registration in by October 29!

Space is limited! Thanks!

(Registration form is on page 19.)

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Santa Barbara!

Bets Wienecke: [betswienecke@cox.net](mailto:betswienecke@cox.net) (c) 805-895-3687

Ken Collier, Registrar: [uurevken@gmail.com](mailto:uurevken@gmail.com) (c) 805-729-4798

# Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

UURMaPA in Vermont meets monthly for lunch. Here is a picture from our most recent gathering in Brandon, Vermont. Upcoming meetings will be in Montpelier and Norwich. Pictured are **Meredith Anderson, Johanna Nichols, Liz Benjamin and Brendan Hadash.**



**Chris and Andy Backus** enjoyed a visit with Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale in May, at the Colophon Cafe in Bellingham, WA.



**Charles and Nancy Eddis** were featured in a May story in the Montreal Gazette concerning the effects of World War II on Canadians who lived through it. In the photo, they are looking at scrapbook photos of an uncle and a cousin who served in the war.



**Jeanne Foster's** new book of poetry, *GOODBYE, SILVER SISTER*, is out from Northwestern University Press (Spring 2015). Poet Richard Tillinghast says “Jeanne Foster is a poet of great originality, writing in a way that makes a reader feel he is entering deep into what Yeats called ‘the labyrinth of another’s being.’” The book is available through Amazon.

**Anne Orfald** has recently had two cataract operations, and, she writes, “the results astound me. The world is about 50% brighter! With one new lens focusing on distance, and the other on close-up, I can drive (even at night), read, work at the computer, sing and play my horn, all without glasses. My brain is still adjusting to the fact that wherever I am focusing, one eye has sharp vision and the other is blurry. But it’s plastic, so they say, and I’m optimistic, and most grateful to my eye surgeon, and the Ontario Health Insurance Program.”



Reverend Olympia Brown preaches in Knoxville, Iowa! For the last three years **Charlotte Shivvers** has impersonated Brown for the chapel service featured in the Marion County Historical Society’s annual Civil War reenactment. Rev. Brown brings Civil War song and her passion both for freeing slaves and freeing women – despite the protesters outside the church (led by Shivvers’ husband, **Bob Baker**). It’s probably the first Universalist presence in Knoxville since their 38 years here in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Alas, Brown says the trip from her Weymouth, MA congregation is too far, and she will be too busy with her woman suffrage leadership for a return to Knoxville.



Maine UURMAPA members met for a picnic lunch (indoors) at the home of **Peter and Eleanor Richardson** in Rockland, co-hosted by Brad and Chris Mitchell. Attending were **Iska Cole, Charles Stephens, Rolf and Susan Gerhardt, Paula Moulton, and Kitsy Winthrop**. Both Peter and Rolf are celebrating their 50th anniversaries of ordination, having graduated in the same class at St. Lawrence.

Hello Everyone,

My name is Judy Gillis and I am a new board member whose portfolio specifically includes Partners.

When my late husband, Fred Gillis, retired from his church in Rhode Island after 26 years, I had no idea how wrenching it would be for me. Fred was a strong adherent of UU policy that requires a departing minister to leave both physically and practically for two years. A move to New Hampshire left me devoid of a loving, supportive, active congregation. Now there was new state, new home, new church, and new job. Lots of “new” in my life. Fred still had his colleagues, committees, and research to do. He also did two interims after we moved.

I learned that partners face many new challenges when the minister retires. There are many differences that I think are unique to partners. I would love to hear about your experiences and see if sharing would be of help.

See you in Attleboro?

## *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 (and their helpers) for their careful and sensitive work writing the partners' and ministers' obituaries, respectively.*

JANE C. ALEN (d. 2015)

Jane C. Alen, 93, formerly of Hopedale, MA, died February 11, 2014 at Beaumont Nursing Home in Westborough. She was the widow of the Rev. Joseph Alen, minister of Hopedale Unitarian Church from 1962 until his death in 1976.

A graduate of Cambridge High and Latin School and Hickox Business College, Jane worked as a secretary in various law offices in Gardner, MA, for the Mass Dept. of Fish and Game, and the Mass Dept. of Public Welfare. After retirement, she was a volunteer with Elder Services Corps of Massachusetts and an outreach worker at the Bellingham Senior Center.

She founded and led the Polish Conversation Group for Seniors that met weekly at the Bellingham (MA) Public Library. The group began with ten members, and over the 15 years of her leadership, grew to have more than 60 regular participants.

Jane leaves a son, Joseph, and a grandson, Samuel, both of Lexington, MA. A memorial service was held February 15, 2014 at the Hopedale Unitarian Church, 65 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, MA 01747.

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JANET H. BOWERING (1930-2014)

The Rev. Dr. Janet Bowering, parish minister, religious educator, and UU historian, died on July 17, 2014, at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, in Haverhill, MA; she was 83 years old.

Janet Hartzell was born on December 7, 1930, the only child of Allen Reiff Hartzell and Catharine May Weiser. She earned a B.A. from St. Lawrence University in 1952, and in 1953 was certified as a religious educator by the St. Lawrence Theological School. She was ordained to the Universalist ministry on January 30, 1955 by the North Carolina Universalist Convention and was called to the Universalist Church of Kinston, NC, in 1957, serving as part time minister for two years.



In 1959, when her husband, the Rev. Vinton Bowering, was called to First Parish in Milford, MA, Janet turned her attention to assisting her husband in church growth and working in the church school, as well as raising their own children. Shortly after Vinton had been called to Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill, MA, in 1974, Janet was hired to serve alongside him as the DRE; she continued in that position while also serving as part-time minister at First Parish of Tyngsborough, MA, from 1977 to 1979. In 1979, upon her husband's death, Jan was called by the Haverhill congregation as their minister, where she served until her retirement in 1996, when she was voted Minister Emerita.

She served her denomination(s) and her colleagues both prior to and after the Unitarian Universalist consolidation in many volunteer positions, especially as supporter and promoter of the Clara Barton Camp for over fifty years. Jan valued her Universalist roots, and found it important to preserve the Universalist legacy. She was known for her dramatic portrayal of Olympia Brown, still available via YouTube.

She is survived by daughters Dawn Jordan (John Hyland) and Diana Bowering, and her son Alan Bowering (Leslie); a granddaughter; and a great-grandson. A Celebration of Life took place on September 20th, 2014, at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill.

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EDITH ELISE BRIGGS (1925-2015)

Edith Elise Briggs, 89, wife of the Rev. George Briggs, died April 12 in hospice care in Winston-Salem, NC. She was born June 7, 1925 in Portland, Oregon to Alfred Holman and Edith Wilcox Holman. Elise graduated from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Her professional career included working with migrant workers in Oregon, working for the USF&G Insurance Company in Portland, and as a librarian in Beaumont, Texas, after she was married.



She married the Rev. George Briggs in 1957 and became a devoted minister's wife in Methodist churches and then in Unitarian Universalist congregations for the remainder of her life. As her daughter, Irma, was growing up Elise served as a Brownie leader and a Girl Scout Leader. She also led a junior nature club during their time in Pittsfield, Maine.

Elise became interested in genealogy in her 60s and over a 20-year period researched several lines of her family tree and those of her husband's. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting and sewing until she lost much of her vision in later life. Never one to sit by, she started to study Braille when she was 86.

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. George Briggs; her daughter, Irma Briggs Polster (Mark); and three grandsons. A memorial service was held June 7 at the UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem. Condolences may be sent to George Briggs, 2945 Reynolda Rd., Apt. 226, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

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#### JANET BOYKIN JOHNSON (1942-2015)



The Reverend Janet Boykin Johnson, social worker and activist, chaplain, spiritual director, and parish minister, died at age 72 on March 25, 2015.

Janet was born on 4 June 1942 to Thelma and Hubert Dallas. She earned a B.A. from Hunter College in 1966 and an MSW from the University of Chicago in 1972. She was a social worker in the Chicago Public School System for 18 years.

Janet was very involved in her community, ministering to the public long before receiving fellowship. She attended Starr King School for the Ministry, receiving a Master of Divinity in 2002. Ordained in 2002 by the First Unitarian Society of Chicago, IL, she served as a hospital chaplain in Richmond, CA until 2004, when she started a private spiritual direction practice. From 2004 to 2007 she worked in the practice and as a part time minister to the Mt. Diablo Church of Walnut Creek, CA. In 2008 she became consulting minister to the UU Church of Cortland, NY, serving there until her retirement in 2013.

She enjoyed camping, knitting, crocheting, reading poetry, and listening to music

Janet is survived by her two daughters, Kimari Johnson (Valentin Klinnert) and Kairis (Boykin) Bonella; two step-children; and six grandsons.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, 4 April 2015 at the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca NY. For more information about where to send condolences, please e-mail [johnsonklinnert@yahoo.com](mailto:johnsonklinnert@yahoo.com).

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#### ROBERTA M. NELSON (1935-2015)

The Reverend Roberta (Bobbie) Nelson, teacher, religious educator, author, sexuality educator, and chef, died in Deer Isle, Maine, on January 2, 2015 from complications of influenza.

Bobbie's outstanding career in Unitarian Universalist religious education and ministry reveals a courageous trailblazer who was deeply respected by her colleagues. She was one of the first ministers to be credentialed as Minister of Religious Education in 1980. She chaired the joint UUA/UCC Sexuality Education Task Force, and vigorously defended the value of truthful, comprehensive sexuality education on national television in 1998.

Roberta Martin was born in Boston, MA to Raymond A. and Vera R. Martin on June 9, 1935. She grew up in Boston, attending Girls Latin High School and earning a BS degree from Tufts University in 1958, with a certificate from the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development.

Her career in religious education spanned three churches — First Parish in Needham, MA (1959-1973); the UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA (1973-1987); and Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, Bethesda, MD (1987-2001) where she was named Minister *Emerita* in 2002.

The list of her professional achievements is significant. She was the UUMA Berry Street Essayist in 2002, and received the Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education in 1975; the Doctor of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1996; the Axel Award for Teaching Excellence from Meadville Lombard; and the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Ministry to Women Award, both in 2001.

Her volunteer efforts are equally impressive. She served on many UUA committees, and served on the UUA and Meadville Lombard joint Envisioning Committee, which established the Sophia Lyon Fahs Center at Meadville Lombard. She served on the Board of the UUMA and was president of LREDA. Over the years, she led or co-led hundreds of



religious education workshops and trainings for volunteer teachers and trainers of teachers throughout the United States and Canada.

After retirement, Bobbie and her husband, Chris, moved to Sedgwick, ME where she was a classroom volunteer for ten years at the local elementary school. She continued to enjoy traveling, entertaining, cooking, knitting, and theater. She was an intrepid grandmother, rising to any challenge from her grandkids and, when they turned 14, taking the two older grandchildren on separate special trips to Europe.

Bobbie was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia in 2012.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Christopher Nelson; their daughters Heather of Surry, ME; Jennifer of Portland, ME; Joy Saams of Gambrells, MD; three grandchildren; and her brother Donald Martin of Ellsworth, ME. Memorial services were held at the Ellsworth, Maine, Unitarian Church on January 10, 2015 and at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda, MD on April 25, 2015. Condolences may be sent to Chris Nelson and family at 41 Astbury Lane, Sedgwick, ME 04676-3423.

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#### MARGARET D. TYNDALL (1923-2014)



The Reverend Margaret "Margo" D. Tyndall, a director and minister of religious education, peace and justice activist, and dedicated servant of the UU tradition, died at her home in San Rafael, California, on 29 March 2014 at the age of 91.

She was one who walked her talk. She and her husband, Gordon, raised thousands of dollars for the Tibetan Refugee Children's Education Fund, and housed a number of Tibetan refugees in their home; they were active with the Berkeley Buddhist Peace Fellowship; and studied Vipassana meditation. Her interests included swimming, hiking, painting, calligraphy, and short story writing. Over the years Margo pursued a somewhat itinerant career in education and ministry, serving wherever Gordon's career moves took the family.

Margaret Patricia Davies was born on 7 March 1923 in Berkeley, California, to Harold and Kathleen Davies. She attended Anna Head School for Girls, then studied at Stanford and UC Berkeley, where she met teaching assistant Gordon Tyndall; they were married in 1942. She completed a bachelor's degree in English from Carnegie Mellon University in 1952.

Settling in Berkeley in 1953, she and Gordon were among the founders of the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarians; Margo served as their DRE in 1961-62. This led her to study for professional ministry at Starr King School for the Ministry, where she earned her M.Div. in 1968.

She served the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (Alberta, Canada) alternating between roles as DRE (1967-71, 1976-78) and associate minister (1971-73, 1977-78), receiving DRE certification from the UUA in 1970 and being ordained to UU ministry by the Edmonton church in 1971.

After Gordon's retirement in 1978, the family moved back to California, where Margo joined the UU Church of Berkeley, volunteered in the RE program, and became active in the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant (EBSC). She returned to professional work in 1989, serving the UU Fellowship of Redwood City as Minister of Religious Education until 1992. In retirement she continued her dedication to working with children as a tutor in the Richmond (CA) Reading Project.

Margo is survived by a daughter, Caroline Salcedo; sons, David and Benjamin; three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Notes of condolence may be sent in care of David Tyndall at 1510 Stallion Court, McKinleyville, CA 95519.

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#### HERBERT F. VETTER (1923-2014)

The Rev. Dr. Herbert F. Vetter Jr. died in Boston of ventricular fibrillation and myocardial infarction on March 7, 2014, at the age of 90.

A true intellectual, a scholar, and a lover of books, he is best known as the man who introduced Unitarian Universalism to a wide population of National Public Radio listeners through his syndicated radio program, *The Cambridge Forum*.

Herbert Ferdinand Vetter, Jr., was born in Baltimore, MD, on September 27, 1923 to Herbert Ferdinand Vetter Sr. and Kathleen Wilson. He was a conscientious objector during WW II and served a term in Federal prison in West Virginia before entering the University of



Chicago. There he met and married Dorothy Hagquist in 1950. He received a BD degree from Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary in 1952.

Mr. Vetter was ordained on October 26, 1952, at the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, in Sharon, MA, where he served from 1952 to 1953. He then served the Unitarian Church of Franklin, NH (1954-57), the Unitarian Church of Delaware County, PA (1958-59), the First Parish of Milton, MA (1959-1960); and the First Parish of Northborough, MA (1960-1964). His last settlement was as Associate Minister, then Minister at Large at First Parish, Cambridge, MA, from which he retired in 1990.

In 1967, Mr. Vetter founded *The Cambridge Forum*, a platform that brought together renowned thinkers and ordinary citizens to discuss and examine social and political issues. Following his retirement from the ministry and Cambridge Forum, Herbert Vetter founded the Harvard Square Library in 2000, a digital library that features biographies, books, historical documents, and other materials about Unitarian Universalism and religious liberalism.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy H. Vetter; daughter, Kathleen E. Vetter (John Zurich); son, James B. Vetter; son-in-law, Tim Kutzmark; two grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Three brothers and one sister also survive him.

A memorial service was held on March 22nd at First Parish in Cambridge. Notes of condolence can be sent to Dorothy Vetter, 1573 Cambridge St., Apt. 306, Cambridge, MA 02138.

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## 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 [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org) to be kept in confidence until it is needed. It will be sent out 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



## You know you're retired when...

- ... two pages in a row in your date book are blank.
- ... three months have gone by without your looking at the online newsletter of your former church.
- ... you can't remember who the president of the congregation is, or was.
- ... you don't bother to answer the phone when it rings.
- ... you go an entire day without the phone ringing.
- ... you're glad when the phone rings.
- ... the phone rings, not from a parishioner, but from someone in the community saying, "I hear you're retired and we'd like you to..."
- ... you make excuses that you're too busy when asked to volunteer for something.
- ... you look forward to the mail delivery so you can linger over the junk mail with a good cuppa coffee.
- ... you have the occasion to wonder "What shall I do now?"
- ... you planned to travel anywhere, any time, but got a dog instead.
- ... you no longer need to ask for the senior discount.
- ... much of the discussion with colleagues centers on the shortcomings of medical insurance.
- ... you get more mail from Linda Rose than from Don Southworth.
- ... you open the morning paper to the Obit section before checking on global affairs.
- ... whenever you think it might be nice to preach on a timely topic, the thought evaporates with the next breath.
- ... the outline for a next book can't get past the third chapter.
- ... it really makes no sense to get your robe cleaned or shop for another stole.
- ... you're trying to design a new "business" card for yourself and can't come up with anything to put on it.
- ... you get on the bus and six people offer you a seat.
- ... the bank suspends your professional checking account and credit card for lack of activity.
- ... you wait for a junior moment to come along once in a while.
- ... you never set your alarm clock.
- ... you think getting out of bed at 8 a.m. is early.
- ... the first decision you have to make when you wake up Monday morning is whether or not to go back to sleep.
- ... you buy a new book and actually read it.
- ... time with grandchildren is more important than anything else you have to do today.
- ... you go to AARP's free "Movies for Grown-Ups" in the middle of the day.
- ... you keep waiting for your "day off" until you realize every day is a "day off."
- ... you have nowhere that you have to go and all day to get there.
- ... you can take that afternoon nap and not feel guilty.
- ... you wonder how you ever had time for work!



— Submitted by UURMaPA Board members and members of the Elderberries Advisory Board



**UURMaPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION Form**  
**October 5 - 8, 2015, La Salette Center, Attleboro, MA**



Please register me/us for the UURMaPA Fall Conference in Attleboro, MA. Enclosed is **\$250.00/person**. This fee covers the program, a single room (bath shared with another single room) for 3 nights, 9 meals, social hour refreshments, and general expenses. The fee for conference attendees NOT staying at the La Salette Center overnight is **\$125.00 per person**.

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

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

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

**Please indicate any special needs, dietary or otherwise (see note below about shower grab bars):**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Full registration fee: \$250/person	\$ _____
Commuter registration fee: \$125/person	\$ _____
Additional Contribution to help others attend	\$ _____
This form & check payable to "UURMaPA" enclosed in the amount of	\$ _____

**REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK** must be received by **September 7th**.  
 Mail this form and your check to: **Carol Taylor, 535 Gradyville Rd Unit V-212, Newtown Square, PA 19073**.  
 You will receive a confirmation and directions.

**Questions/concerns? Contact Carol; 610/558-2323 Email: [catuuminr@gmail.com](mailto:catuuminr@gmail.com)**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Determine the amount of assistance that you want to attend the conference. Be sure to include costs for travel, caregiver for a dependent partner, etc. in addition to the registration fee in your request. Contact Joel Weaver, treasurer. E-mail: [weaver\\_je@hotmail.com](mailto:weaver_je@hotmail.com) or 610-558-2323.

**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.

Thanks to YOUR generosity, UURMaPA has donated five grab bars (10 people's worth!) for the showers at La Salette. Please indicate (above) if you need one of those showers.



La Casa de Maria  
RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

**UURMaPA SPRING CONFERENCE**

**Registration Form**  
**February 29 through March 2, 2016**  
**La Casa de Maria Retreat Center**  
**800 El Bosque Road**  
**Santa Barbara, California 93108**

Please register me/us for the UURMaPA Spring Conference in Santa Barbara. Enclosed is \$250 per person which covers the program, 2 nights in a private room with bath, 6 meals, social refreshments and general expenses.

The Commuter Fee for conference attendees NOT staying at the La Casa de Maria Retreat Center overnight is \$125.00 per person.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phones \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Accessibility needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

I request a single room (14 available) \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to room with \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Registration fee:</b> \$250 per person	\$ _____
<b>Commuter fee:</b> \$125 per person	\$ _____
<b>Contribution for Scholarships</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total amount enclosed</b>	\$ _____

Requests for financial assistance should be addressed to Joel Weaver, weaver\_je@hotmail.com or 535 Gradyville Rd, Unit V-212, Newtown Square, PA 19073

Please make a check payable to "UURMaPA" and enclose it with this registration form. Send to: Rev. Ken Collier, 714 W. Pedregosa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (c) 805-729-4798

Don't delay sending in this registration. The Retreat Center has an absolute deadline for reserved rooms.

***Your registration form must be received by October 29, 2015.***



# Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

**c/o Marcia Olsen  
285 NW 35th Street, #52  
Corvallis, OR 97330**