



## Elderberries

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### Creative Sageing Award Goes to Barbara Child

Annually, UURMaPA bestows its Creative Sageing Award “in recognition of outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement and building on one’s experience in creative ways.” This year’s recipient would likely eschew the word “retirement;” in truth, she doesn’t really know what the word means.

Makanah Morris, Marni Harmony, and Ellen Brandenburg served on the selection committee. Their decision was unanimous: The Reverend Barbara Child.

Makanah commented on Barbara’s thoughtful and responsive leadership of the Commission on Appraisal. “She offered us clear, strong, courageous, and positive leadership with this effort.” She also mentioned Barbara’s voice on the UUMA Chat as one that offers clarity, wisdom, and helpful practical ideas to those currently serving congregations. Said Makanah, “She embodies the role of ‘practical sage’ and offers us all a model for how to do this.” Ellen talked about Barbara’s energy, focus, and enthusiasm being “remarkably sage and creative.” Marni called her a “wise elder owl” (avoiding the word “old”) who has mentored Marni among many others.

A lengthy tribute from Transitions Director Keith Kron was shared. Keith mentioned Barbara’s work around Women and Religion; the Commission on Social Witness; the Commission on Appraisal; as well as her long service as an MSR and his work with her to publish *In the Interim*. He concluded, “The book has greatly



Barbara Child, recipient of the 2016 Creative Sageing Award, and Marni Harmony, UURMaPA Vice President

influenced our movement, specifically congregations as they move into interim ministry. Barbara is a tireless worker, with high expectations of others and even higher expectations of herself. She wants to do whatever she sets out to do well and thoroughly. Her commitment to our faith is remarkable. And thankfully she continues to live out that commitment each and every day.”

Most recently, Barbara has been working on a program she calls Espresso Strength Jump Start Transition Work — a program of short-term intensive consulting for congregations that have lost a minister, but for any number of different reasons are either not interested in or not able to engage a full-time interim minister. It’s a program that can appeal to retired or soon-to- retire ministers who have special skills and extensive experience. She’s also busily at work helping to create training videos for new Ministerial Settlement Representatives (today called Regional Transition Coaches). She serves as one of UURMaPA’s Outreach Connectors. And, of course, she continues her pattern of lifelong learning by taking courses at Pacifica Institute in Santa Barbara, CA.

In her message of thanks to the Committee, Barbara wrote, “To all three of you, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful honor you have given me as a Creative Sage. As you surely know, I was completely surprised — and Marni, your delayed revelation of who was getting the award was quite a piece of work! Also, you did some amazing sleuthing. I’m mightily impressed.

**“You did some amazing sleuthing. I’m mightily impressed.”**

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

## **From Your Editor:**

Huge and heartfelt thanks to the 304 of you who completed the recent survey about *Elderberries*. You represent about 30% of our membership, which is a HUGE response to a survey! I'm sure the statisticians are drooling over us.

This survey was requested by your Board in order to gather information to help us decide how best to distribute *Elderberries* in the future. The survey results showed that 58% of respondents prefer to receive an e-mail notification that the newsletter is available on our web site, while 42% prefer to continue receiving it by post.

At its July meeting, the Board decided that the "default option" would be to mail *Elderberries* to all member households, with members having the choice to "opt out" of getting it in the mail. If you identified yourself in the survey and said you'd "opt out" of mail delivery, we will delete your name from the *Elderberries* mailing list. As always, a message will go out on UURMaPA Announce when the newsletter is posted on line, including the link, and you can read it (and see the photos in color) on our web site.

***We will continue mailing Elderberries to every household unless you tell us that you prefer to read it on line.*** This will take effect with the Fall issue, mailed around November 1. You may contact our Membership Coordinator, Richard Speck, at any time to indicate that you prefer to read the newsletter on line. His e-mail address is [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org).

99.7% of you always or usually read *Elderberries*, and 71% of you consider it very valuable or valuable. You won't be surprised to learn that the regular columns deemed by far the most valuable are "Turning of Our Lives" and the obituaries. There was considerable interest shown in both reading and contributing to several new topics; you will see some new names in this issue, with many more to follow.

Thanks not only to the respondents, but to the Advisory Board members — in particular Anne Anderson and Peter Haslund — for their skilled efforts in designing the survey, and also to the Outreach Coordinators who mailed hard copies of the survey to members who don't use computers. This survey was a joint effort that will have significant and far-reaching results.

And speaking of the Advisory Board, with this issue we bid a sad goodbye to Anne Anderson and Ralph Mero, who have been stalwart members of that Board since I began editing *Elderberries*. Their replacements will be noted in our Fall issue.

— Judy Welles

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

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"I do want to say that, Makannah, you surely deserve as much credit as I do for efforts to preserve the Commission on Appraisal. Jim Hobart was no slouch either. And after all, as a retired interim minister, not *emerita* anywhere, I couldn't speak at GA or even vote. I was completely blown away that the delegates voted to keep COA. I guess I simply applaud all of us who worked in one way or another to educate people about what would be lost if COA was eliminated.

"But of course now I write to you mainly, once more, to say thank you for the enormous gifts you have given me — the generous check, of course, but especially the honor of your appreciation of the work I continue to love to do."

And so, as Barbara would say, "There you have it." Indeed. Congratulations Barbara!

— Marni Harmony

# A Word from Your President

## UU Ministers And Partners: A Number of Issues Have Come Up That May Be of Interest to You

We recently had a lively discussion on SpeakUp regarding the **Service Gratuity** and its proposed changes. Sheldon Bennett came to visit with your UURMaPA Board last fall and shared the need to make adjustments with the increasing number of ministers now retiring. We heard his concerns and supported the Pension Society Board's need to make changes. We were reminded then, and I remind us now, that this "gratuity" is a gift.

Sheldon, who is President of the Unitarian Service Pension Society, met with the Board on this issue last October, and wrote to me: *"It was my clear sense that the broad consensus of the UURMaPA Board supported the direction of the USPS Board to adopt a balanced mix of changes in eligibility and payment reductions. We were glad for UURMaPA's support, but in the end, the decision is that of the USPS Board. The USPS Board will monitor numbers and funds closely over the next few years, and whenever conditions warrant, payments will be increased, as has been done over the years."* He reported that the decision is to reduce payments by 5% (a \$15-\$30 reduction per quarter, depending upon payment amount), and to increase eligibility age and required length of service for new retirees.

USPS will continue to offer "buffer compensation" for older colleagues. He wrote: *"Although the Service Gratuity is not a contractual pension payment, [and] is not based on need, but is a gift in recognition of years of service, we know that the quarterly payments, as modest as they are, are counted on by many recipients to make ends meet, especially in their later years. We know that many of our older colleagues did not have the opportunity to build up sufficient funds in the UUA contributory retirement plan. For these reasons, in 1997 the Board authorized a supplemental grant of \$200 (\$50 quarterly) beyond the usual gratuity for all recipients 75 years and older. This supplemental grant will remain unchanged and will not be reduced."*

I appreciate Sheldon Bennett's remarkable service and the Pension Society's thoughtful stewardship. I am also grateful that some acknowledgement was made of the increased need of some of our older colleagues and their spouses.

Of note for our future UURMaPA **conference in Santa Barbara** (Feb. 27 - March 1, 2017) is the news that **John Buehrens** has agreed to be our keynote speaker. We are excited that he has offered to speak and attend, although not yet retired. There has never been anything particularly retiring about John.

Speaking of conferences, I understand from Ginger Luke, our conference coordinator, that our registrations for our **UURMaPA Attleboro Conference** are running a bit behind our last couple of years' registrations at this point. So, if you have been considering attending, please do go ahead and get your registration in. The form is on page 15.

Also of note, UURMaPA is cooperating and participating with the UUMA in creating a **UUMA Family Life Task Force**. The feeling is that the UUMA and others might be of greater service to the families and partners of UU clergy. For example, young families are often surprised by "all of the things they never told you" about congregational life and the sacrifices this often means for the family of clergy. Or how can families and partners find support when "members of the congregation seem to have lost their ability to maintain healthy and appropriate boundaries" around their minister or the minister's family. These are just a few of the concerns we are hoping to address in the next year as we muster this new working group.

Happy Summer into Fall. And here is hoping that it has been a good few months for each and every one of our faithful members. Best to you all,

— Jim Eller, President of UURMaPA



**Send updates!** Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Richard Speck at [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org) or 4721 Mermaid Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19808-1803. The most current Directory is online at [www.UURMAPA.org](http://www.UURMAPA.org) (ID: UU-SAGE, password WISDOM).

# What Brings You Joy?

## The Most Consistent Joy-Bringer

I promised myself I'd never be one of those retirees who moves away from everything else in her life to be near her children. I wanted the life I'd created and did *not* want to depend on my children for my social life in old age. At 60 I "semi-retired" with my husband, Dan, to Maine, where I exchanged parish ministry for self-employment in spiritual direction, retreats, and pastoral care training and consultation. I loved it, and we were close enough to our previous home that our new life was threaded through with a sense of continuity with previous relationships, work, and identity.



But something in me began to shift when my granddaughter, Cordelia, was born. Spending two weeks with my daughter and son-in-law in Charlottesville, Virginia, doing the cooking, cleaning, and laundry so they could focus on becoming parents, I found myself in a state of what I can only call Bliss. I was useful, engaged, and not insignificantly, immersed in a deep sense of connection with this powerful newborn. Not to mention in love with her! Over the next couple of years I noticed the allure of more time for family, a new heaviness in my work, a longing for more spaciousness in my life. Guest preaching one Sunday, I didn't bother to don my robe; I knew that was a sign. I was *aging*, and I mean that positively — the word "retirement" no longer sounded like a death knell, but an invitation to new life.

So when my daughter and son-in-law asked us to move to Charlottesville so we could see our granddaughters grow up (Dan's granddaughter is two years older than Cordelia and lives near Washington, D.C.), and so they can provide "the help we don't yet need but will someday," I found I was turning into "one of those retirees who..." And so it came to pass: last fall as I approached seventy, we arrived in Charlottesville with our three cats, houseplants, and a few plants from my gardens in Maine. I'm not an easy transplant, and the move happened much faster than we'd expected. Its speed left little time to plan or transition — and upended my world. I was confused, disoriented, and grieving everything about our old life, with no new life in sight. I couldn't even find my way around Charlottesville!

Through that hard time, one indissoluble thread kept me sure that this move was not a mistake, but offered a yet-identified beginning. At least once a week we spent time with Nancy, Jon, and Cordelia, eating dinner or walking the downtown Mall. We celebrated Cordelia's fourth birthday party and holidays, and hung out with their friends. Cordelia comes to Grandma and PapaDan's to play for a while with her mommy's old toys. I walk in the door and she hollers, "C'mon Gramma, let's play!" We do puzzles, read, play hide-and-seek, have dance parties. (Wanna stay young? Boogie with a three-year-old.) I soon realized that the times I feel most fully present, fully alive and attuned to what is happening right around me, are those times.



As I've learned to find my way around town, established the bones of new gardens, begun to find friends, joined interest groups and a UU church and the choir, I feel my physical and metaphorical roots extending outward into the red Virginia clay. I realize a sense of contentment and wellbeing I thought was lost. Though I still engage in spiritual direction, I no longer feel identified by ministry or what I "do." This is new for me. I don't jump into commitments or strive to re-design my new life, but am leaving intentional fallow time for a while. I'm intrigued to notice what's around me, especially the things that bring me joy because they will create my life here. Maybe retirement is the one time we can build our lives around what brings us joy.

The most consistent joy-bringer — not yet four feet tall and full of energy, ideas, passion, and surprises — lets me be the little kid still in me. She effortlessly elicits my unconditional love. She opens a new layer of generations in my family, connecting my body and soul to family future. How different is frequent, informal time with my daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter, from intensive visits four times a year. Our relationships deepen, grounded in the stuff of everyday living. I had no idea this would occur and I'm so grateful. I love to see my daughter be a calmer, smarter mother than I was. I'm surprised and gratified to find myself becoming, apparently, an elder — offering support and listening in difficulty. This living near family, the way generations before us did and we don't all get to do (and I thought I'd never do), turns out to be a profound bringer of joy as I live into the beginning of retirement.

— Karen Lewis Foley

*Karen Lewis Foley served congregations in Concord, Monson, and Chelmsford, Massachusetts, then moved to Maine for part-time spiritual direction, retreat leadership, and consulting. She and her husband, Dan, are exploring full retirement in Charlottesville, Virginia.*

## Elders in Action

### Your Skills Are Needed in an Unusual Social Justice Niche

*The Reverend Doctor Enid A. Virago is a research ethicist at Virginia Commonwealth University & Health System in Richmond, Virginia. She monitors, mentors and educates biomedical and social behavioral researchers. She served congregations in Pensacola, FL (Extension, 1996-99); San Dieguito, CA (Interim, 1999-2001); and First UU Church of Richmond, VA (Settled, 2001-2003) before moving to community ministry. Her hobbies include gardening, travel, and family activities.*

There is a hidden gem of volunteer opportunities where your skills would be useful and highly valued. It is volunteering to be a Research Ethics Reviewer on an Institutional Review Board (called "Ethics Board" outside the United States).

Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) were set up after the Tuskegee Syphilis study came to public attention. The Tuskegee study was just one in a long, sad line of research studies that took advantage of disempowered populations for use as research subjects.

Unfortunately, socially unjust studies from recent times continue to come to light. In order to reduce their workload, researchers have recruited from "convenience populations" such as prisoners, mental hospital patients, disadvantaged children, terminally ill patients, and impoverished people. These are populations that may feel coerced to volunteer or might not understand that they can decline participation in research.

All reviewers, especially community reviewers, are asked to offer feedback on whether any part of the research (population, monetary incentives, free treatment or medications, etc.) might be coercive to the targeted recruitment population.

IRBs are federally mandated review boards designed to reduce these injustices. The IRB is tasked with protecting human subjects in research. There are federal guidelines (Federal Drug Administration, Office of Human Research Protection, etc.) that research investigators are required to follow, but only a minority of investigators have had thorough training in these protections. Many times investigators don't have enough knowledge to "know what they don't know." So investigators and institutions rely on their IRBs to review research to ensure that human subjects are being protected. In addition, most professional journals will not accept research articles unless the researcher can produce their IRB approval letter.

Every federally recognized IRB is required to have a community member. This community member has similar reviewing responsibilities to social-behavioral and/or biomedical scientists on the board. Everyone reads the research proposal (or Lay Summary), Informed Consent document (ICF), and other documents.

Community members are usually asked to pay particular attention to the ICF because they have a cultural understanding of the local populations. The IRB depends on community members to give feedback related to how the research subject may be impacted by the study procedures and whether this is made clear in the ICF.

Every institution (hospitals, universities, medical schools, etc.) where human subject research is conducted is required to have an IRB. Usually community members must not be affiliated with the institution for a minimum of three years. The institution trains the IRB members in federal, state, and institutional policies related to human subject protections.

The amount of time spent volunteering will vary depending on the institution. I work at a very large institution that does biomedical and social behavioral research. I estimate that a community volunteer may spend ten hours per month, but that is negotiable. We also give a small stipend to community members, but not every institution does that. Many community members are people who volunteer to give back to their communities.

Please contact your nearest hospital, university, medical center, etc., for volunteer opportunities. Ask for the IRB office. Please go to this link for more information on the history of human research subject abuses and the resulting codified principles of human subject protections.

<http://www.solutionsirb.com/ethical-human-subject-research-history-and-principles/>

If I can be of any help, please contact me at [viragoea@icloud.com](mailto:viragoea@icloud.com)

*Enid writes, "Our office carries enormous responsibilities for human subject safety and reliable research data. We also operate in a resource-scarce environment. This picture recognized the importance of the work and the dedication of our staff. It was my way of encouraging all of us." (Taken at an office Halloween party.)*



## Leadership Column - A Love Letter Meg Riley

*A word of appreciation for the ministry done by retired ministers, from those of us still collecting a paycheck.*

You may not know this so I'm telling you: we watch you closely, you retired folks. Most especially those of us within ten years of our own retirement. We watch to see what changes and what doesn't when 'professional' leaves the equation and instead of DOING ministry, you simply ARE a minister.

Because we wonder, those of us collecting a paycheck for this work. We wonder about the minister we were called to be and how that translates to the work we are doing. So much administration. So much fundraising. So many meetings. We wonder who we would be without all of that, and how to find the ministry in it all.

And then we watch you. You are still ministers. You minister to us when we come to you, and you minister to the world in the ways you choose. Some continue administration and fundraising, serving on boards or volunteering in organizations without pay. Some choose to tutor or to paint or to commit civil disobedience. We watch your ministry continue, and we see that the 'professional' part, perhaps, isn't as important as we thought it was.

I have several close friends who are retired, with whom I speak regularly. I love to see how life unfolds without the structure of a paycheck and those massive to-do lists, how the years unfold. These are precious and instructive relationships to me, as important as the ones early in my career where I studied mid-career colleagues.

So this is a love letter to you, and an urging to share your ministry publicly as it continues to unfold. Sometimes the world seems to act as if retirees are invisible or unimportant, but nothing could be further from the truth! I'm thrilled that my collegial lunch group has women from brand new ministers to retired ministers, and we get to hear one another's stories each month. The detachment and compassion of the retirees greatly enhances those of us who are living with the massive stress and urgency of full-time professional ministry. We need your wisdom at least as much now as we ever did!

Thanks for all you've done and all you do...



— Signed,  
A Fan

*Meg Riley is the Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.*

## 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 Outreach Coordinator, 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

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## UU Staff and Schedule Update

Your UUA Office of Church Staff Finances has a strong staff team, several of whom are taking their earned sabbatical time off this year. UUA employees eligible to apply for sabbatical are those who have been in continuous, regular employment with the UUA for seven years or longer, who have demonstrated a good work record, and are currently in good standing. Reverend Richard Nugent, Director of the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances, is taking the first half of his sabbatical now through the end of August, and will step away again next calendar year to take the second half of his sabbatical.

Beginning on September 16th and continuing through the end of this year, Linda Rose, Director of the UU Organizations Retirement Plan, will take her sabbatical.

Handling transaction requests (withdrawals, loans, required minimum distributions), is our recently hired half-time Retirement Plan Assistant, Joshua Craft (use [assistplan@uua.org](mailto:assistplan@uua.org) to reach Joshua regarding retirement plan matters).



Joshua has been serving the UUA for four years in the Communications Staff Group, and continues to serve half-time as Periodicals Administrative Assistant. Since his June 1<sup>st</sup> start date as Retirement Plan Assistant, our plan participants have welcomed his solid administrative skill set and experience with UUs.

For best results, please plan transaction requests with some lead time when possible, and join the Office of Church Staff Finances in welcoming Joshua's service to our plan participants.

## Let's Retire the Word Retire!

As stated on the UUA website in the section on retiring from the UU ministry, "Retirement means different things to different people." And indeed it does.

A couple of years ago, our creative *Elderberries* editor asked for members to finish the sentence "You know you're retired when..." and then published lots of answers. Most were humorous; nearly all were positive.

I have been thinking about this word/concept RETIREMENT. Every time I fill out a form asking for a work place phone, etc, I have to write "retired." Yet two years into "retirement," I find that I am having difficulty relating to the word. There is only one basic definition that I find meaningful — something on the order of "no longer having an income-producing full-time job." That's ok. I get that one.

But there's a whole host of images that go with being "retired" that I argue are just out of date. Yet hang on they do. If you go to a good old-fashioned dictionary and look up the word, you will find a string of definitions that don't seem to relate much to the "retired" people I know. Here's a sample: give up work, pack it in, call it quits, withdraw, withdraw from circulation, withdraw to or from a particular place, go away, shut oneself away, retreat, fall back, disengage, go to bed, take out of use, remove from active service.

When we gathered for our Winter Conference in Santa Barbara, Tom Owen-Towle expressed his own discomfort with the word. In trying to find a more descriptive term, he proposed "re-firement." That's certainly getting closer to expressing something about this stage of life — and definitely an improvement on "retirement."

Tom's sermon got me thinking. And then I was interviewed by a woman working on a project about aging issues for women. I have just kept stewing about this word retirement. I want another word entirely. Things have simply changed in the last couple of decades. Whether "80 is the new 60" remains to be seen, but there is no question that "retirees" as a whole enjoy better health, more energy, and a bit more financial security.

I did some reading; listened to some talks. Zalman Shalomi speaks of "Sage-ing." Ron Pevny talks about "conscious eldering." Kay Montgomery likes the French term *l'heure bleue* that suggests a time when it's not exactly daylight but it's not yet dark. Mary Catherine Bateson calls this time in life "Adulthood II." (That's ok, but it sure lacks pizzazz!)

So I sought some help from two enormously creative friends who love word play. They began by asking me for some words that I associate with this time in life. Of course I wanted to say "wisdom," but truthfully that's not a guarantee with age. Two words, however, floated up that I think all retirees can claim: SEASONED and EXPERIENCED. Seasons of life is a pretty common metaphor — and yet, do I really feel like I'm walking in winter these days? I was coming at this project with retired ministers in mind, so we started talking about the new retirement picture for ministers as being REVVED-UP. We focused on the word "up" for awhile; then started playing with "UP-season." It seemed about as far as we were going to go. And then one of the women sat looking rather puzzled and thoughtful and finally said, "I wish there was a fifth season." And that was it. FIFTH SEASON.

I propose that we scrap the word retirement and begin to talk about being in our FIFTH SEASON. I love this concept because it's wide open. It's ready for a new language and new understandings about this stage of life. What are we going to do with our experience and energy? What new roles might we take on? Might we not become the visionaries our society so surely needs? In an interview with Krista Tippett, Bateson challenges us by saying, "*We need to reengage, make our voices heard, clear off some of the stuff we've accumulated over the years, and focus on what we care about the most. We are opening up to a second and different kind of adulthood.*" Just change it to opening up to the FIFTH SEASON, and you've got it!

— Marni Harmony

## New Members Since April, 2016

Amanda Aikman and Nancy Flowers  
Diana Allende  
Darrell Berger and Katleen Lyon  
Christine Fry and Isao Fujimoto  
Ann Galloway-Egge and Trygve Egge  
Linda Hoddy  
David and Diann Johnson

Gary Kowalski and Dori Jones  
Peter Luton and Linda Berg  
Erinn Melby  
Wendy Pantoja  
Judith and Paul Smith-Valley  
Gail Tapscott  
David Usher and Vail Weller

W E L C O M E !

## Third International UU Women's Convocation

Look at it this way. Imagine a world where women and girls can make choices — get an education, have a business, earn equal pay for equal work, participate in politics and live free from violence and discrimination. Through the International Women's Convocation (IWC), you can help advance women's rights and support women's empowerment.

The IWC grew out of the first International UU Women's Convocation in Houston, Texas in 2009. There, over 600 women and men gathered to develop partnerships. Over eight months in 2012, IWC sponsored both a meeting in the Philippines and the Second International Women's Convocation in Transylvania — which brought together over 500 women and people of liberal faiths from 12 different countries.

In November, 2015, 60 women from Bolivia and around the world came together in Bolivia to build a common vision and action plan to address climate change.

The Third International Convocation will take place at the Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA, from February 16 to 19, 2017. Here, women and men will be joining to strengthen the international UU women's movement.

IWC helps incubate programs and innovative grassroots projects that enhance the lives of women and their families worldwide. For background and additional information, go to [www.IntlWomensConvo.org](http://www.IntlWomensConvo.org).

- IWC and the African Rural Schools Foundation, founded by UU minister Renee Waun, operate a micro-loan program in Mutundwe Village near Kampala, Uganda, funded through IWC's Africa Fund. 54 women received business training and 40 women successfully borrowed (and paid back) funds to expand their businesses.
- Women in Transylvania, led by Nagy Gizi, used proceeds from the Second Convocation there to begin a five-module Leadership School and to provide grants to women for additional leadership projects.
- In India, Khasi women, inspired by the Second Convocation, have organized local workshops addressing domestic violence, health, education, and economic empowerment. They have launched a successful leadership development program.

There is more to tell than can be included in this brief article. It would be very good to see members of



Barbara at Machu Picchu, Peru, on a side trip from the conference

UURMaPA in California. There we will be in touch with UUs from around the world. The facilities are breathtaking, and the program will engage and inspire you. For information and help making that connection, go to the IWC website and contact Barbara Kres Beach ([barbarakresbeach@gmail.com](mailto:barbarakresbeach@gmail.com)) with your additional questions. I served as Founding President of the International Women's Convocation; it is an organization whose time has come. You won't be surprised to learn that I am very enthusiastic to share it with you.

— Barbara Kres Beach

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

In his 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 being part of a peer group to sign up. While the group can exist for more than one year, we expect an initial commitment of one year.

The groups function 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 emerge from the group itself. There are expectations around good group process and communication. While each group begins with a facilitator, we have found that facilitation easily rotates once group members begin to know each other better.

We use ZOOM so that we're able to see each others' faces. If you're just not sure if such a group is for you, please see Nancee Campbell's article in the Spring 2016 issue of *Elderberries* — it provides a better glimpse of the life in these groups.

I hope to have two new groups beginning in September. If you weren't able to sign up at the UURMaPA luncheon at GA (where I passed around a sign-up sheet) and you'd like to be in a group, please contact me. And, as I'll always add, please do it immediately after reading this article — just so you don't end up forgetting!

— Marni Harmony  
([revharmony@gmail.com](mailto:revharmony@gmail.com))

**STAY TUNED** for news of our **NEW** web site, coming soon to a computer near you! The new site will enable on line conference registration and all sorts of other goodies.

# UURMaPA at General Assembly

## Laurel Hallman Receives Distinguished Service Award

In the citation read by Laurel's successor as Senior Minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas, the Reverend Daniel Kanter, Laurel was praised as "preacher, pastor, leader, grandmother, visionary, teacher, guide, and friend — for 50 years, you have ministered to UU congregations, colleagues and communities in so many cherished ways. Builder of congregations, UU institutions and leaders, spirituality and friendships — you have brought a vision of the larger truth and a keen wisdom to everything you have done."

Laurel responded in her acceptance speech by saying "...if grace is ours according to our capacity to receive, I first have to answer the 'Who am I' question by acknowledging that I am here because grace has come to me in the form of people in congregations and on denominational task forces and committees who met me where I was, as I was, and blessed me with acceptance and love and support."

## 25-50 Year Service at Ministry Days

As always, one of the highlights of Ministry Days in Columbus was the worship service honoring those who were ordained 25 years ago and 50 years ago.

Representing the 25-year class, Joel Miller spoke of the old goal of interim ministry — disruption — as no longer appropriate. "Now interim ministers come into congregations [that are already] reeling from disruption. A significant goal of interim ministry today is to help congregations be adaptive in times of relentless, endless disruptions."

He then told the story of a phone call received a few years before the attack on Columbine High School, in the town where Joel was the UU minister, when an unidentified young-sounding caller asked if his church believed it was okay to be gay. "'God loves us no matter if we are gay or straight,' I answered."

Several days after the Columbine shootings, a young woman who had just come out as lesbian came to see him. Her family had expelled her from their home and banished her from their lives... "She told me she had been that lonely high school kid whose only ray of hope in life had once been... a payphone call to a small, new church and its courage in the face of hate. She told me that we had very literally saved her life.

"There are times we must choose to disrupt," Joel continued. "But disruption is not why we are here. We are here for what happens in its aftermath."

In his sermon representing UUMA colleagues ordained 50 years ago, Joe Bassett said, "It is written in the Bible,

'The Spirit is the Lord and where the Spirit is there is Liberty.'

"The word translated 'liberty' might be translated 'freedom.' In the era of Freedom Rides, many freedom songs were sung. But the one that meant the most was a hymn Pete Seeger contributed to a slim yellow hymnal put out by the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles in 1960 — 'How Can I Keep From Singing.'

"Through 'all the tumult and the strife' we as parish ministers enjoyed a blessing denied the Reverend Dr. King. We met and assembled every First Day of the week with a congregation, to sing, pray, listen and argue... This wasn't 'Meet the Press' nor was it Woodstock. In our congregations we heard 'the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation...'"

## Register Now!

### UURMaPA Fall Conference La Salette Retreat Center Attleboro, MA October 3-6, 2016

**CREATIVITY** is our theme. **Andy and Chris Backus**, our keynote presenters, will be leading us in "The Creative Process: Minds at Work Together?" They invite us into the creative process — not a solitary one so much as a discipline practiced with others. The work of creation of their musical play, "Older But Not Wiser," will be one venue through which they will explore the topic and invite you to participate..

**Dick Fewkes** has agreed to offer his *Odyssey* for us.

"**A Day in Providence**" will offer (for a minimum cost depending upon your choices) the opportunities for:

- "*Artists' Ideas, Material and Process*," a guided tour exclusively for us with a special approach to creativity at the Rhode Island School of Design
- *A Providence River Boat Trip and lunch at The Hot Club*
- *The Culinary Arts Museum, historical sites and more*

**Worship Leaders:** Phyllis Hubbell, Carol Taylor, Dick and Joyce Gilbert, and David Hunter and Kerry Mueller will inspire your heart and your mind

There will be more information about the Minister on Loan 2.0 program (now called TEmP) and — perhaps of most importance — our lives will be affirmed by plenty of time to greet old friends and meet new ones: **Our Colleagues.**

Register now! On-line registration is not yet available (though it will be soon on our NEW web site), so fill out the registration form on page 15 or the one on our web site, and mail it with your check to Ginger. For more information contact Ginger Luke ([gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com](mailto:gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com) 301/502-0753).

# Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

**Meredith Anderson** is involved with the congregation in Orange, MA, a 6-7 hour round trip from her home in Orwell, VT. She opens the sanctuary a few Sundays per month and makes the occasional pastoral call as well.

**Barbara Beach** continues to make education a high priority of her retirement. She serves as president of the Madison County (Virginia) Education Foundation, a nonprofit that supports county students, teachers, and schools through scholarships, grants for teacher projects, and coordination with school board and administration. For an inside look, please go to [www.madisonedfoundation.org](http://www.madisonedfoundation.org). Questions? [barbarakresbeach@gmail.com](mailto:barbarakresbeach@gmail.com)

**Kim Beach** writes: “The June issue of UJME News (UUs for Justice in the Middle East) carried my essay, ‘Do Palestinians Have Human Rights, Too? Decision Time for UUs.’ The Business Resolution approving UUA ‘screening’ investments in companies complicit in the occupation of Palestine failed the necessary 2/3, with 55% voting yes.”

At the end of July, Kim will be the theme speaker for The Point (formerly SWUSSI) conference in Oklahoma, talking on “The Jacob’s Ladder of an Examined Faith.” The titles of the four talks are from lines by four poets: Wallace Stevens, Emily Dickinson, Howard Nemerov, and W. H. Auden. Denise Levertov’s wonderful poem, “The Jacob’s Ladder,” is also in the mix: “The ladder is not/a thing of gleaming strands/... It is of stone.”



Kim at Shenandoah National Park

**James Ford** is now definitely retired from parish life, though he will be attached to the Long Beach congregation with a “community minister” title. He is focused on tending a new small Zen group, which is meeting at the Long Beach church and, yes, writing, with a contract with Wisdom Publications to do a book on Zen’s meditation discipline, koan introspection. He is also working on a book on Zen and Unitarian Universalism, hoping to submit it to Skinner House.

**Jan** continues to work for Perkins School for the Blind at a distance at less than full time, editing a couple of journals and maintaining one of their web-based projects. They are enjoying Long Beach thoroughly, poking about, taking walks, etc.

**Heather Lynn Hanson** writes: I’m “really” retired because I broke my hip last December and decided to focus my energy on getting back on my feet and on singing again. Ministry — the whole enchilada from Sunday AM to the board room and staff meetings and all — no longer fill my soul the way music does. With unknown years remaining, I’m returning to my first passion.

Through May and June I traveled to Corvallis for rehearsals with my brother’s church choir, preparing for a concert in Dublin, Ireland. The trip to the Emerald Isle was a bit grueling, but the concert with two other choirs was exciting and memorable. And we visited several historic sights around Dublin and Limerick before we returned.

Home is in Forest Grove, OR, a small town west of Portland, where I share an apartment with my two cats. I enjoy the senior exercise class across the street, and attend the UU church in Hillsboro, singing in the choir, of course.



NH colleagues clockwise from lower L: Judith Gillis, Olav and Jeanne Nieuwejaar, Manfred and Pat Hoerdoerfer, Peter Baldwin, Dick Woodman, Jane and David Brown, Carolyn Baldwin, David Robins and Tom Robinson

**Barbro Hansson** reports that on June 9, 13 ministers and spouses from **New Hampshire** gathered at the UU Church of Concord for a time of fellowship and lunch. After an informative check-in, thoughts about how often to meet were shared and everyone enjoyed lunch. At this gathering, **Jeanne** and **Olav Nieuwejaar** handed over the leadership of the NH Caring Circle to Barbro, their recently retired colleague.

**Marge and Fred Keip** write: “Realizing that our 1900+ sq.ft. home and deck set atop 2 acres of woods on the outskirts of Grants Pass, OR, is way more than we can well maintain, we’re prepping it to sell. By late summer we eagerly hope to settle into a smaller house in town, directly across the street from elder son Dave and his spouse Michelle. Downsizing after 18 years is our spiritual challenge of the moment! Meanwhile the fellowship here in Grants Pass (where we came north from Monterey to retire) is just now buying its first-ever home — in the heart of town — and will be moving at the very same time. We’re diving into a whirlwind summer!”

**Jacqueline Luck’s** welcome to the life of retirement can not be as exciting and celebrative as the send-off she was given by the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in East Tennessee where she has served since 2007. On May 14, the members and friends of the church, including members of the local interfaith community in which

Jacqueline has taken a leadership role, threw a party for her. It included great memories, great food, and great singing. The songs included one to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In” that celebrated her forthcoming retirement destination of New Orleans.

**Ken MacLean** writes: “I will eventually settle in Asbury Village in Gaithersburg, MD, but I do not know when that will happen; I would like to be there in mid-October. Meanwhile I am preaching at Cedar Lane, staying with good friends in Bethesda. After a few days in Rhode Island, I will get to the Old Ship Church in Hingham for the memorial service for my good friend, Robby Walsh. I preached the sermon at his ordination thirty-five years ago in Tennessee, and I grieve at his passing. After the International Affairs Week at Star Island, I go to England, to Bishop’s Stortford, where my partner Terry Watson lives. We will come back to Rhode Island for my 90th birthday party on October 8th!”



L to R: Alison and Charles Stephens, Joan and Richard Beal, Kitsy Winthrop, Peter and Eleanor Richardson, Brad Mitchell, Susan and Rolfe Gearhardt

The **Maine** UURMaPAns got together for a picnic on June 6 at the Richardsons’ barn in Rockland. **Peter Richardson** and **Richard Beal** really got off on the history of UU churches in Maine. Peter has been working on his history of U’s and U’s in Maine for 3 years and Richard is a great resource person. The sun came out just in time for the photo and picnic.

**John Morgan** is now back where he started lo many years ago, campus ministry. For the past ten years he has been teaching philosophy and ethics, now at a four-year liberal arts college in Reading, PA. His out of print Skinner House book, *Awakening the Soul*, which was a collection of 365 meditations for UUs written by UUs and often about UUs, has been picked up by another publisher, Wipf and Stock; it is now available in print and Kindle form. This publisher reaches a much wider audience, so he is curious to see how it will be received.

Here is a non-human relative (a red panda) encountered when **Wendy Moscow, Sue Nichols, and Barbara Ratzlaff** explored the wilds of the Central Park Zoo on June 17th. Afterward, they met up with **Vern Nichols** at an Asian fusion restaurant, Lilli and Loo. It was a wonderful spring day in New York City!



**Marcia Olsen** recently enjoyed a marvelous 3-week trip to England and Switzerland, her first trip to these countries. The Great Rail Journeys tour in Switzerland was grand, with many train trips into the majestic mountains and beautiful valleys. In London she made short visits to the British Museum, Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London, and watched the Changing of the Guard. The tour continued to Bristol, Salisbury, Bath and Wells/Glastonbury, and then on a private tour to Stonehenge, which enabled her to go inside the circle of stones after regular visiting hours. Grand — and tiring trip!

**Bruce Russell-Jayne** serves as treasurer for Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light (HIPL), a non-profit which helps Indiana congregations install solar panels and conserve energy in their buildings and in members’ homes as a faith response to global climate change. He is a member of All Souls Unitarian Church, Indianapolis. The All Souls EarthCare Team was instrumental in securing a grant thru HIPL from the Indiana Office of Energy Development which allowed them to install 15 Kilowatts of solar panels on the church social hall roof and start generating renewable energy in May.

In June HIPL sponsored a meeting of Unitarian Universalist “Green Teams” with over 30 members from nine congregations. Six (of 17) Indiana UU churches already have solar panels on their roofs. We met at the UU Church of Indianapolis, which has reduced utility bills by over 45% thru energy conservation actions and solar panels. Topics included: the UU Green Sanctuary program, the proposed UU Congregational Study Action Issue on Climate Change, the UU Ministry for Earth Environmental Justice resources, and HIPL’s Using Energy Prudently programs.



Bruce on far left with Hoosier environmentalists from nine UU congregations

**Ann Schranz** writes: “I retired from full-time parish ministry on June 30. I will continue living in my mobile home in Upland, CA. I look forward to spending more time with family and friends, as well as engaging in my hobbies of bird watching, photography, amateur radio in service of emergency preparedness, and exercise (primarily boxing and Muay Thai for fun and fitness).”

**Carol Taylor** is recovering from a complete knee replacement of her right knee on June 1. According to the professionals (doctors, therapists, etc.) Carol is progressing at a very good speed. Her goals are to ride her bike again and to hike trails in Acadia National Park, where she and spouse **Joel Weaver** will be headed in October.



Pat and Danielle in Chicago

**Pat and Mel Webber** attended the graduation of their granddaughter, Danielle Webber, from Meadville/Lombard Theological School. This was also an especially poignant time for Pat, who completed the original Independent Study Program for the Ministry of Religious Education in 1994, the year that program transitioned from the UUA in Boston to M/L. This year marked the end of an era with the last of its graduates.

To top things off for Pat, the Rev. **Makanah Morriss**, the former director of the ISP, received an Honorary Doctorate at this commencement. Makanah had mentored Pat and shepherded the ISP move from the UUA to Meadville. It was wonderful to witness this honoring and recognition of all her incredible accomplishments for UU religious education over the years. They had not seen one another for many years and it was a wonderful reunion. (Incidentally, Makanah wonders if Danielle and Pat are the first granddaughter-grandmother team to have ministered in the UUA. Does anybody know of another such team?)

Lock, stock, and barrel, **John and Susan Weston** have relocated from New England to a Philadelphia retirement community. Their move was spurred by John’s chronic and as yet mild cognitive impairment, and by their conclusion that of the two choices presented — moving too early and moving too late — early was better. Their new location puts them a half-hour by bike or car from their son and family, and provides rich opportunities for Susan’s enthusiasm for life-long learning and John’s for long days biking.

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### A Note from a Friend

My Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Ministry is my second career. I heard the call to UU ministry in mid-life. I had previously served in the U.S. Air Force, and then devoted 14 years to urban planning and teaching in Oklahoma. I have a daughter, Tonya, from an early marriage. I married Jean Lamer in 1982. Jean’s companionship has sustained me through this 35-year journey of dedicated professional and personal discernment and deepening. I offer you this lens because my life has been guided largely by a “Still Small Voice Within.” Jean has been the mainstay of my boat. I have steadily lowered the keel into ever deeper waters.

This vulnerable vision of my journey does not speak from the roles of ministry (full-time settled, consulting, interim), which are now completed. This image is the real me, the fluid, underlying feeling life, of the intuitive Meyers-Briggs NF Roy, the Enneagram 7 (deepened to 5) Roy. This me is ever-guided by longings and vision that want to “out” through creative and caring expression. This is the course I have continually steered back to through life. Every decade I have dipped more deeply into the waters of human struggles, into paths of hope for humanity, while always listening to Earth’s needs calling to me. I have plumbed and probed, persevered and produced from within the depths I have reached.

You might prefer hearing things about me that characterize the clever dance of irony and humor and personality. I prefer, instead, to invite you into what my heart feels. I prefer to share with you a deeper calling I have felt for over 20 years. I see something sadly missing from our UU movement. We try, but we get diverted. I invite us into a heart-centered relational vision, dedicating ourselves—our souls and spirits and public faces—into living love from within Beloved Community. I think our movement could benefit from being grounded in the Universalist gift of God’s Love. I say to you what I am saying to myself. I boldly invite us to share this last dive into life—our elder years—as our most creative venture yet. By taking this dive we can help guide our people, and our faith, and leave our very best legacy: Deep Qualities of Love.

— Roy W. Reynolds

### *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>. Special thanks to Roger Rochester and Jay Atkinson for their careful and sensitive work writing the partners’ and ministers’ obituaries, respectively.*

#### **Dorothy Wright Davis (1926 - 2016)**

Dorothy (“Alden”) Wright Davis, age 89, died on March 1, 2016 in Eugene, OR. She was the wife of the Rev. Charles A. Reinhardt.

Born in Bryn Mawr, PA on July 29, 1926 to Guier Wright and Dorothy Battles Wright, Alden was an intellectual and a



scholar who grew up with the insatiable conviction that women could do whatever they chose. She was graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Mt. Holyoke in 1947, earning a graduate degree from the University of Michigan, where she met Robert I. Davis; they were married in 1949.

During their 36-year marriage, the couple lived in Mexico and several areas of the U.S. while raising their three children. As she watched her own children develop, Alden began working with children with developmental issues, particularly autism. In the 1970s, she earned her second graduate degree, this time in developmental disabilities.

After Bob's death in 1985, Alden worked for, and joined, South Church, the UU church in Portsmouth, NH, where she met the Rev. Charles (Chuck) Reinhardt, who was the interim minister there for a time; they married in 1997.

Alden joined Chuck in his home in Sheepscoot, ME. Alden soon joined a local University of Maine Extension group serving local women, providing transportation for those members who no longer drove. She joined Chuck in the local Midcoast UU Fellowship as well, notably in the special effort to rescue the Sheepscoot Community Church with new growth.

She is survived by her husband; three children; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren. Notes of condolence may be sent to Chuck Reinhardt, 65 W 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., #3403, Eugene, OR 97405.

**Barbara Mosher DeWolfe (1929 - 2016)**

Barbara DeWolfe, lover of knitting, gardening, cribbage, and bridge — and the center of her family's life — died Sunday May 8, 2016, after a brief illness. She was the widow of the Reverend William A. DeWolfe.



Barbara Mosher was born in Brewer, ME on March 3, 1929, and was raised in Bangor. She met the love of her life, Bill DeWolfe, at Ferry Beach in 1945; their journey through life together included stops in Massachusetts, Texas, Missouri and Ohio. She and Bill retired to Maine in 1996.

She attended Jackson College and received her AB in 1950. She worked in public education, religious education, fair housing, community development, real estate, and hospital volunteer management.

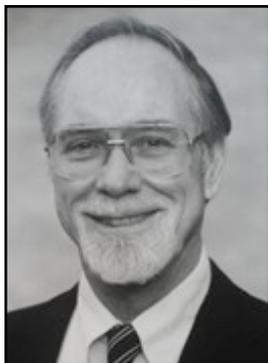
Her dedication to the Unitarian Universalist faith was demonstrated throughout her life. She advocated for peace, human rights, civil rights, and women's rights through her work with the church and in the community. She was among the first certified Directors of Religious Education in the UUA. Barbara and Bill's dedication to Ferry Beach Park Association in Saco, ME culminated with their lead donation for the construction of the DeWolfe Dining Hall in 2011.

She is survived by her sons, Rick and Paul; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, William A. DeWolfe, and her oldest son, the Reverend Mark Mosher DeWolfe, who was a Unitarian Universalist minister. A Celebration of Life was held at Granite Hills Lodge on May 21, 2016.

The family requests donations in her memory be made to the Ferry Beach Park Association, 5 Morris Avenue, Saco, ME 04072.

**Robert M. Doss (1927 - 2016)**

The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Doss, devoted parish minister, talented singer and artist, and one of the many who marched in Selma with Dr. King in 1965, died on February 12, 2016, aged 88.



Bob was widely known for his gentle and faithful personal presence with both parishioners and ministerial colleagues. One of his successors at the Wilmington church described Bob's 31-year ministry there as "one long sermon" whose message was that "the legacy of our finite lives is a function of the connections we have to other people."

Robert Mabry Doss was born to James and Sarah Doss on September 12, 1927 in Jacksonville, FL. After service in the United States Army, he earned a B.A. from the University of Richmond in 1949. He later studied at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School before completing his B.D. at Starr King School for the Ministry in 1959. In 1980 he was honored with a D.D. by Meadville-Lombard Theological School.

Mr. Doss was ordained to the ministry in 1959 by the Unitarian Church of Rockville, MD, and served there four years until a call to the First Unitarian Society of Wilmington, DE, in 1963,

where his pastorate lasted for nearly 31 years. In 1994 the congregation named him Minister *Emeritus*.

The Reverend Dr. Doss gave long and varied service to the wider UU movement, to his ministerial colleagues, and to local communities. He was chair of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and president of the UUMA, served on the boards of Beacon Press and the St. Lawrence Foundation, on the UUA Panel on Theological Education, and on the UUA RE Accreditation Committee. Beyond UU institutions, he was a member of the NAACP; board member of Planned Parenthood; and a board member of the ACLU.

Bob had many talents — singing, drawing designs and caricatures, and writing children’s stories to accompany his sermons. His love of nature as a “naturalistic humanist” led to camping summers in Maine where he hiked, canoed, and carved walking sticks.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret W. Doss, a daughter; a son; and five grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Peggy Doss at 112 Wynwood Drive, Wilmington, DE 19810-4428.

### **Elizabeth Fordon (1945 - 2016)**

Dr. Betsy Fordon, 71, died April 3, 2016 after a long illness. She was the spouse of the Reverend Dr. John Fordon. He reports that she loved to travel, attend opera, theater, and concerts, and play bridge. She embraced Unitarian Universalism with unbounded enthusiasm, letting all who knew her see her values and belief system. In later years, she focused on raising money for young and impoverished women seeking abortions of unwanted pregnancies, until poor health began to diminish her strength.



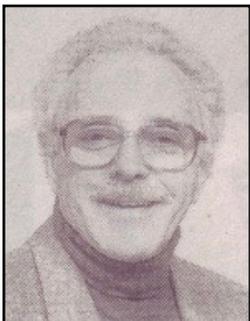
She was the devoted mother of Andrew (who passed away at age 23,) and her grown son Philip Reed. She loved being grandmother of Philip’s children - Claire, Connor, and Brendan - and stepmother to John’s five adult children.

Betsy’s passion was her profession as a librarian. She held every possible position in public libraries, from being a teenage book-shelver to a professional Reference and then Children’s Librarian, in Florida and New York. She was a consultant for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries of Pennsylvania, an adjunct professor at several colleges and universities, and finally the director of a multi-library system in Pennsylvania.

She held a Masters of Science in Library Science from Florida State University, a Masters of Public Administration from Long Island University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Library Science, also from Florida State. She was an ardent advocate for all libraries and their staffs, collections, and programs.

John suggests that gifts of remembrance be directed to the donor’s local library.

### **Earle Ramsdell (1921 - 2016)**



The Rev. Earle R. Ramsdell, American Baptist minister, pastoral counselor, and beloved colleague in the Southwest Chapter of the UUMA, died at home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April 23, 2016.

Earle Ramsdell was born May 27, 1921 in Somerville MA, to Lloyd and Anna (McDonald) Ramsdell. He graduated from Boston University with a BS in Education in 1944, then obtained a Master of Divinity at Andover Newton Theological School in 1946 and a second masters degree in counseling in 1972 from the University of North Texas.

He served two American Baptist pastorates between 1946 and 1953. He then served as the Associate Director of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches from 1953 to 1959, where, as the Director of Radio and Television, he produced and participated in religious programming. In 1959 he became the Executive Director of the Greater Flint (Michigan) Council of Churches,

where he served as co-chair of the successful effort to pass an open housing ordinance, with Flint becoming the first city in the nation to enact such an ordinance by public vote. He was also instrumental in the creation of that city’s Human Relations Commission.

In 1973 he joined the staff of the Pastoral Counseling Center in Dallas TX, retiring in 1995 after twenty years as Director of Education and Training.

In retirement, he served as the volunteer Director of Pastoral Care at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, also serving on the RSCC and as a volunteer in the Southwest District.

He is survived by his wife Penny Smith Ramsdell; two daughters, two grandsons, and two great-grandsons. Notes of condolence may be sent to Penny Ramsdell, 1904 Beechgrove Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

**UURMaPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION Form**  
**October 3 - 6, 2016, 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 9th**.

Mail this form and your check to: **Ginger Luke, 5202 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20814**. Confirmation of your reservation and directions to the La Salette Center will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form and check.

**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.

**Questions? Concerns? Special Requests?** Feel free to contact Ginger Luke.  
 Email: [gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com](mailto:gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com) Cell Phone **301/502-0753**

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.

**Unitarian Universalist Retired  
Ministers & Partners Association  
c/o Richard Speck  
4721 Mermaid Blvd.  
Wilmington, DE 19808-1803**