

**Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers  
and Partners  
Association**

November 1999

An Association of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, their life partners,  
and the surviving partners of deceased Unitarian Universalist ministers

Volume XV

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1999-2000

**PRESIDENT**

**Alexander Meek**  
26231 Lakeside Drive  
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248  
602.895.8540  
golfrev@webtv.net

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Janet Bowering**  
13 Shady Lane  
Plaistow, NH 03865  
603.382.9843

**SECRETARY**

**Charles Grady**  
419 4th Avenue West, Apt A  
Hendersonville, NC 28739  
704.697.7325  
charclaud@juno.com

**TREASURER**

**Iska Cole**  
36 Clifford Road  
Edgecomb, ME 04556  
207.882.5034  
iskadave@clinic.net

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Larry Hamby**  
487 Cedar Walk  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522  
912.634.9902  
LMHamby@gate.net

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Dorothy Hopper**  
12902 SE 48th Place  
Bellevue, WA 98006  
425.643.8923  
clhopper@aol.com

**Doe Lockwood**  
1035 E. 37th Street  
Tulsa, OK 74105-3007  
dlockwood@gorilla.net

**Edwin A. Lane**  
42 Wareland Road  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
781.235.4911  
helen.lane@mediaone.net

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Charity Rowley**  
519 Park Road  
Iowa City, IA 52246  
uuroley@aol.com

# ELDERBERRIES

Number 1

## On The Inside

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT..... P. 2**

**NOMINATIONS NEEDED!..... P. 2**

**CARING NETWORK NEWS ..... P. 3**

**IS YOUR DIRECTORY LISTING UP-TO-DATE?..... P. 3**

**LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS ..... P. 3**

**MORE LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS ..... P. 4**

**THE OLD GEEZER REMINISCES..... P. 5**

**PAN SOUTH CONFERENCE..... P. 6**

**WESTERN CONFERENCE..... P. 6**

**DEATHS ..... P. 7**

**UURMAPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES..... P. 7**

**THE INSURANCE PROBLEM..... P. 7**

**ST. CROIX NEEDS A MINISTER..... P. 8**

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Who is to say what the perfect retirement is? Is it having enough money to do what you want and health to accompany your wealth? The answer varies for all of us. For my part, my retirement motto has been: If you are where you want to be, doing what you want to do, it doesn't get any better than that.

Of course, no one else can set the parameters for you. No one can tell you where you want to be, or what you want to do. It's strictly an individual matter. That's why our membership (around 600) doesn't all participate in UURMAPA's four regional conferences held annually, or why we don't all attend General Assembly - even though it was a regular part of our lives in our "working days." Hopefully, the majority of us read Elderberries, but even here I am sure we have some who have truly severed all ties with the profession of ministry - sad to say.

Our organization tries, through the Caring Network, to keep in touch with all of us, so that if we are overtaken by the misfortune of ill health, or if we encounter financial hardship, or other personal difficulty, we can be in a position to reach out to help in any way we can.

UURMAPA is a ministry to ministers, their partners, and their surviving partners. All ministries have high points and low points. The high points of celebration are much easier to deal with than the low points of grief and despair. We who comprise the volunteer leadership of UURMAPA are ready to reach out in an honest effort to make our group as inclusive as possible.

Pax,  
Scotty Meek



## NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR YOUR UURMAPA BOARD MEMBERS

Please put on your thinking caps and scan your memories to help the Nominating Committee choose good officers for our next year's board. We will be filling the following positions:

**President,  
Treasurer,  
and Newsletter Editor.**

Send your nominations to:

Charity Rowley  
519 Park Road  
Iowa City, IA 52246,  
UURowley@aol.com

John Cummins  
4238 Sheridan Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
612-922-2477

Chris Wetzel  
7109 Ruane St.  
San Diego, CA 92119-1210  
cwetzel@interworld.net

## CARING NETWORK NEWS

Since the Board Meeting preceded the NE Conference in Attleboro, I stayed for the conference and had the pleasure of meeting nine of our Caring Network Contact Persons. Keith Munson took a picture of the whole bunch and I am busy with my magnifying glass trying to figure out who's who.

Guy Meyer, the Caring Network Contact Person for Pacific Central District says he has been focused on his radio program, "The Power of Love" (Sundays, 9 AM, KWMR in West Marin) and wishes to be replaced. Dick and Lois Allen of Piedmont immediately took up the cause. Thanks for saying "yes," Dick and Lois and thank you, Guy, for serving since February, 1997.

Al and Mary Thelander, also of Pacific Central, thought the "Non-Bay" description of their portion of California sounded too negative and asked to have it changed to "Beyond the Bay." So, Beyond the Bay it is - a kinder, gentler name for sure. Thanks, Al and Mary.

Doe Lockwood, Caring Network Contact Chair

### IS YOUR DIRECTORY LISTING UP TO DATE?

Take a good look and see if your UURMAPA Directory listing is all right. Does it have correct names for partners? Is your partner not even listed? What about up-to-date email addresses, zip codes and telephone numbers (especially area codes)?

We seem to be missing quite a number of partners. Are you shy?  
Everyone is welcome.

**Next Elderberries Deadline**  
**January 15, 2000**

## LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

**Congratulations to Bill and Priscilla Gardner** who have just completed 60 years of marriage to each other. Given the marriage habits of today, this may be a world record! Or at least a record among us!

**Ora Eads** was recently surprised with an appointment by Governor Don Sundquist to the position of Colonel - Aide de Camp for the Governor's Staff. He writes *Elderberries*: "I'm doing unusually well. I work more than 50 hours weekly. Literary periodicals throughout the United States have published more than 3000 of my poems, and I've been published in several foreign countries." (Hey, Ora, how come you haven't sent some poems to *Elderberries*? Ed.)

## MORE LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

From **Dick Boeke**, quoting from Jerome Goldstein, Boca Raton, FL:

"We are probably the only members of society in the history of mankind for which the younger generation has so little respect and has demonstrated such a shameful lack of regard for its older citizens. Senior citizens are constantly being criticized, belittled, and sniped at for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real and imaginary.

"Upon reflection, I would like to point out that it wasn't the senior citizens who took the melody out of music, or the beauty out of art, or the pride out of appearance, or the romance out of love, the commitment out of marriage, the responsibility out of parenthood, togetherness out of family, learning out of education, loyalty out of Americanism, service out of patriotism, the hearth out of the home, civility out of behavior, refinement out of language, dedication out of employment, prudence out of spending, or ambition out of achievement. And we are certainly not the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from relationships."

Dick's response:

Ah, yes, the Confucian virtue of respect seems to be fading.

Except that "respect" was largely a responsibility within the family. If the old person had no family, like with the Native Americans, the old person was left to die. At least in England today, the society is doing a bit better than that.

My lament this week is that Senators who voted down the nuclear test ban treaty may have condemned the world to a nuclear race among the small powers which in turn will lead to a literal nuclear "hell on earth."

In the Air Force I saw a hydrogen bomb, 100 times more powerful than that dropped on Hiroshima. And at times like the Suez Crisis, we had 35 bombers each loaded with one, all lined up ready to fly out on 15 minutes notice, refuel off North Africa, and head into Russia. Didn't the senators see films like "Terminator Two?" Nuclear Holocaust is a REAL possibility.

From **Bill Gardner**, a Thanksgiving piece:

I would like to share with you some thoughts on approaching death Seven years ago I began receiving treatments for prostate cancer and have received various treatments and medications ever since. My doctors tell me there is nothing more they can do. (I have opted not to have chemo.) So I have been thinking a lot about my life and coming death.

For the most part I have a great feeling of gratitude for having been given a good life of 87 years. I give thanks for my family whose love and affection have sustained me. I give thanks for 60 years of marriage which Priscilla and I celebrated last month with some twenty other family members. I give thanks for having no pain whatsoever from my cancer due chiefly because it did not enter my bones.

I give thanks for my ministerial career which, for the most part, has brought me a great deal of satisfaction. (I'm sure some former parishioners would wonder why) I give thanks particularly for the association of more than 60 years with my colleagues in ministry. I give thanks that after official retirement in 1978 I could continue to serve twelve congregations in a part-time capacity. I give thanks for the UURMAPA, several of whose members have been an inspiration to me. As I look to the days ahead I anticipate the compassionate care I will receive from Hospice workers who will keep me comfortable in my last days. They will have my heartfelt gratitude.

My cup runneth over! I am grateful to all who have filled it to the brim.

## The Old Geezer Reminisces...

Back a few years ago when I told people I was entering the ministry, they would respond, (generally they would, when they weren't wondering what kind of strange sect I was entering) with a statement, "You must have a great deal of faith in people." My answer was, "No, I don't, but I do have hope for people." ..... Now, I wonder..... For example, here's something from *The New York Times* of August 30:

### Beaming Prayers to God's Last Known Address

Now here's an even-handed approach to the debate between creationism and science. Newprayer.com is offering to use a directional radio transmitter to beam prayers to the part of the universe "where we know God resided."

According to the NewPrayer.com web site, God's last-known approximate whereabouts have been determined as follows:

"What do we know about the location of God? We know that God was at the birth of his universe. We know how the universe began—with a big bang. We know where the oldest part of the universe is located. We can transmit radio messages to this precise location."

And what, pray tell, is the going rate for this convergence of E-commerce and evangelism? Five dollars will send one prayer on its way, with bulk rates of \$25 for six prepaid prayers and \$75 for 20.

As precisely as NewPrayer.com may have pinpointed God's last known whereabouts, though, finding the company is a bigger challenge. The site does not say where NewPrayer.com is based, provide any contact information or otherwise indicate who is behind this venture.

So doing business with Newprayer.com may require a leap of faith.

I recall, reading that at the time of the Dayton, Tennessee Monkey Trial, the Missouri legislature, in its great wisdom, concerned that the Missouri school children not be forced to deal with long and difficult numbers, decreed that the value of pi be 3.5 so as to simplify things.

Recently, the Kansas School Board removed the requirement for teaching evolution in the Kansas public schools.

Now, the Roman Catholic bishops are asking that they be allowed to issue a *mandatum* certifying as to the orthodoxy of Catholic university theology professors. I wonder what the Jesuits think about **that** reversal of history.

Once upon a time, we wondered if humankind (actually, it was **mankind** in those days) was improving.

Forgive me my moment of despair: this country is going to the intellectual dogs.

There will be a **Pan-South Conference of UURMAPA** this winter!

And we earnestly solicit your attendance!

Where? In beautiful, historic Charleston, South Carolina!

When? Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Feb. 4, 5, & 6, 2000.

Charleston is famous for its antebellum neighborhoods and its fine Low Country restaurants. The Charleston church in which we'll meet is an architectural gem, and there will be Sunday morning worship led by one of our own, Bucky McKeeman, in the pulpit. Also, speakers on Charleston history, an account of resident minister Jacqueline Collins recent Civil Rights tour, and a conducted bus tour highlighting the Gullah tradition in the African-American community. Diane Miller, director of the Dept of Ministry, will attend and make a presentation on "New and Emerging Issues In Ministry."

Again, as in Savannah, the cost is reasonable: only \$230 per couple, \$178 per single (but if two singles can share a room it would be only \$115 each). The price includes: lodging at the Hampton Inn, with continental breakfast; catered meals at the church (Friday dinner and Saturday lunch); reception and social hour Friday afternoon; and the Gullah Tour.

Send your registration and payments to:

Charles Grady

419-A Fourth Ave. West

Hendersonville, NC 28739-4258.

Your check for \$230 or \$178, should be made out to UURMAPA. (Singles : indicate whether you are willing to share a room; if we can work it out, you'll receive a refund.) Absolute deadline for registration is January 4, 2000, so act promptly.

**Please note: scholarships are available to help with costs, if needed.**

And, there will definitely be a **9th Annual Western Conference** this winter!

Where? In the Marianist Center, Cupertino, California!

When? Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, April 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2000.

Attending this conference will cost \$40.00 less per person than in 1999 - and scholarship grants are available. The charge is per person, not per room and is the same whether you come as a single or not. Total cost is \$230.00.

The program is a full one, with Dorothy Hopper (UURMAPA Board member) introducing Scotty Meek (UURMAPA President), Ted Webb (Tuesday worship), Bill Houff ("It Matters What We Do With Our Beliefs), Alicia McNary Forsey ("Keeping Up With History"), Leon Hopper ("Ten Years of Partnership"), Barbara Cheatham (Wednesday worship), Lex Crane ("Underlying Unity: the Hidden Secret of UU Religion"), Peter Weller and Khoren Arisian ("Humanism and the Postmodern Challenge") and Shirley Ranck (Thursday worship), as well as Carol Edwards and Scotty and Dorothy Meek presenting Odysseys. And, of course, the usual business meetings.

For a complete registration package, contact:

Roy Ockert

4311 Vasend Court NE

Salem, OR 97305-4703

rdokrt@earthlink.net

**DEATHS**

**Reverend J. Robert Bath** ✓  
October 15, 1999  
(Surviving Partner: Phyllis Bath)

**Leroy Congdon** ✓  
October 30, 1999

**Mary Ivaree Eads** ✓  
July 24, 1999  
(Surviving Partner: Ora Eads)

**John Godbey** ✓  
November 5, 1999  
(Surviving Partner: Greta Godbey)

**Barbara Hopkins**  
October 10, 1999  
(Surviving Partner: Raymond Hopkins)

**Marion Jellis**  
August 15, 1999  
(Surviving Partner: Arthur Jellis)

**Ralph O. Johnson** ✓  
October 30, 1999  
(Surviving Partner: Helene Johnson)

**Elizabeth Tarbox** ✓  
October 30, 1999

**UURMAPA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

(Excerpts from the October. 4 & 5 meeting)

The president introduced a suggestion (from a nameless "someone") that the association change its name from "UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association" (UURMAPA) to "Retired UU Ministers & Partners" (RUUMPS). The change met with general approbation, and got unanimous (and uproarious) endorsement. The meeting was then called to order.

Treasurer Iska Cole presented her report, announcing an unexpected gift from Dorothy Emerson, a friend of Ginny Crane's, in the form of stock. She said that though member contributions have increased considerably over the years, we are still not self-sustaining, but rely on special grants and assistance from the UUA Dept. of Ministry. We do not require dues, depending instead on members' voluntary contributions. Currently, we receive much of this support from only two extremely generous members.

The President reported that our relations with the UUMA remain cordial and close. Turning to a new project by the Dept. of Ministry, the "Worship Arts Website," He noted that materials are now being loaded into the site. A front page is being designed. An editorial board will be created to decide on content and to issue an electronic newsletter. New material is welcome, but we must have accurate sources so as to obtain permissions. Original material welcome; send it direct to Diane Miller. NO sermons at present.

Doe Lockwood asked for a new UURMAPA event at GA: a meeting of all Contact Persons, past and present, who might be attending GA "to meet, greet, thank, and share ideas." From this experience she would hope to expand the Caring Network's job description, and implement new ideas. The President will talk to the UUMA about this. UURMAPA would cover cost of mailings and refreshments.

**THE INSURANCE PROBLEM**

(From Ralph Mero)

The only life insurance we were able to obtain for retired ministers under the UUA Group Insurance Plan with Guardian Insurance Co. was to have them treated separately from the 800 or so employed clergy and church staff of local congregations. (Continued on page 8)

### VISITING MINISTER FOR ST. CROIX

Small UU Fellowship in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, seeks visiting minister for a month or more this winter. Senior airfare for two and accommodations provided. Write

Emy Thomas  
P.O. Box 3034  
Kingshill  
St. Croix, VI 00851  
email: emy@viaccess.net

Comments from Emy: "We have enjoyed visits from two of those who replied in the past. Our dream is to find someone who wants to live here anyway but has another source of income. If you happen to hear of such a wonder please let us know."

### INSURANCE (Continued from page 7)

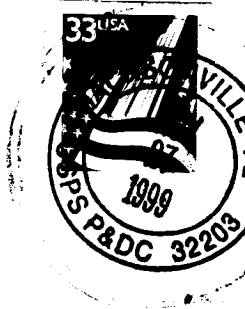
The life coverage previously offered to retired ministers was way below market rate for that demographic group, and deaths in that population partly led to the rate increases for everyone.

We understand that a \$5,000 term life policy for \$26.70 per month is a very large increase for a person of retirement age, but it comes with no medical examination and may be very desirable depending on one's health situation.

It is the best we could do, and we hope our UURMAPA members understand that we could not continue to include them with the pool of considerably younger persons.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o L. M. HAMBY  
487 CEDAR WALK  
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522



**Forwarding and Address Correction Requested**