

**Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers
and Partners
Association**

February 1999

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

Volume XIV

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1998-1999

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ELDERBERRIES

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From Our President

Your editor shudders whenever he thinks of the DeWolfes spending the winter in Maine. Farley Wheelwright thinks of me as an "escapist from the challenges of the real world;" in other words - a rusticator. Except for Iska, the rest of the Board thinks of Maine as a great place to visit between May and October. Life in Maine for Barb and me is a continuing peak experience.

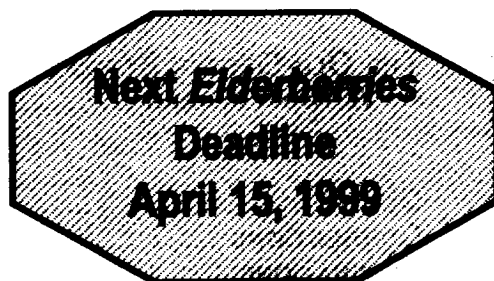
We f*cked out in the January 1998 ice storms, losing electricity for 3 hours, while Earle McKinney, a bit inland, moteled it for a week. This winter, the snow came late, stayed around a bit and is now gone. As the Calvinist Mainer has said, "We'll pay for it." Let it snow, spring will soon be here!!! What's a few nights below or near zero. Our usual snow is spending its winter in Massachusetts.

Christmas Day, Barb and I traveled to Pemaquid Point on a clear sunny day with a temperature of 18 degrees (F) and a wind chill below zero. The place was gorgeous. It was so clear that Monhegan Island (7 miles away) looked as if it were touchable. Bundled in our winter gear, we could think of no better place to experience the beauty of the natural world. The return trip took us through New Harbor, Rachel Carson Salt Pond, and Round Pond to home. Maine is a most beautiful place, especially when the tourists and the summer people have gone south.

I hope that in your life there is such consistent beauty as we enjoy. I hope that where you are is as fine a place as we have found in Maine. Incidentally one of the secrets of enjoying Maine year round is to getaway at least twice in the winter. We have just spent 10 days in Costa Rica with a Tufts University Tour and will spend two weeks in California at the end of March, when we will join in the Western UURMAPA Conference.

One piece of business. The UURMAPA Board will be meeting in mid-April in Damariscotta and Edgecomb, ME. If you have any matters to call to the attention of the board, please send them to me.

Think Spring!
Bill



The UURMAPA Board apologizes to those who have been inconvenienced by the unilateral cancelation of the March Knoxville Conference. The action was taken without any consultation with the board. Our procedures will be strengthened to avoid this happening again.

Bill DeWolfe

CARING NETWORK NEWS

Our roster has one change since it was published in the last *Elderberries*. BETTY BAKER is now the Contact Person for the Joseph Priestley District, North area. JANE KIBBY found she needed to give it up because of the pressure of other things in her life. We appreciate all you have done for UURMAPA, Jane. We wish you well and thank you. Thanks to you, Betty, for joining us. You sound pleased to be able to make these contacts.

I'm sure everyone is eager to know how we are doing on district affiliation!

- MICHIGAN**
- NEW HAMPSHIRE-VERMONT**
- OHIO-MEADVILLE**
- OHIO VALLEY**

have been added to the list of those having been recognized since my last report. Have I missed any? My goal is 100% this church year. We hope those districts yet to be affiliated will follow soon. As of January 17th my records indicate they are: Central Massachusetts, Connecticut Valley, Florida, Joseph Priestley, Massachusetts Bay, Metro New York, and Mountain Desert.

It was 31 years ago that I moved back to the US from India. By the time you receive this newsletter I will finally have returned there for a 3-generation nostalgic visit.

Ginny Crane, Chair

LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

From **Charles Eddis** (somewhat paraphrased by the Editor):

I agree with Orloff Miller that retired ministers should refrain from poaching involving acceding to all requests for services. This, however, does not require that ministers not retire in the last parish in which they have served. ... If we retirees do not let our egos get in the way, we can be valuable historical curiosities and resources in the congregation we may know best.

My own experience in helping the Montreal congregation in a building program with an interim minister and that of Max Gaebler's with the Madison congregation are testimonials to this.

I have since taken a back seat on the bus. I know what is happening when I read it in the newsletter. My chief task now is working on the church history.

I would submit to Orloff, and I am sure my successor Ray Drennan would back me in this, that I am making a valuable contribution to the church without in any way detracting from his role or ministry. While they are risks and dangers when a retired minister stays with the parish he or she has served, there are also rich, human, and humane opportunities.



Gerald Weary was named 1999 outstanding Maine tree farmer. This is not the first time that Farm #330 has been named the Outstanding Tree Farm for the State of Maine. In 1980, Wea-

ry and his Tree Farm received the same honor. More than 41 years certified, the farm is shown with pride as an example of how to do things the right way.

LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

From **Ernest and Beverly Cassara:**

We are retired, and yet, strangely enough, we are as busy as when we were both working. Beverly has earned a certificate in gerontology after a year of study at the University of Massachusetts, in Boston.

Ernest, meanwhile, has seen the publication of his second mystery novel set in Boston in 1842, *Murder on Boston Common*. But he has not left his field of history behind, and he tries not to neglect Gretchen, she pulling on the leash as they walk the streets of Cambridge three times a day.

It was a great emotional tug to sell the Maine mountain farmhouse that we bought exactly 41 years ago. But we are pleased that the couple who bought it will be living there year around. There will be plenty of life up there, with sheep and goats and a half-dozen dogs prancing around.



From *The Boston Globe*, 12/28/98:

Elizabeth Allen plays the handsome old pipe organ at First Parish Church in Dorchester with an assurance born of 28 years' intimate association of woman and machine.

But it is when she turns from the great instrument and focuses on people that her spirit is evident - a spirit she has contributed to First Parish, the oldest congregation in Boston, and the surrounding community.

Her husband, the Rev. James K. Allen, with whom she came to First Parish in 1954, died in 1991; a son perished in a plane crash, and her other six children are spread across the country from New Hampshire to the Pacific Northwest. The family orchestra they formed here, which made six cross-country tours to raise money for the church and the children's educations, is a thing of the past. None of her 25 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren lives nearby.

But Elizabeth Allen abides, continuing the family's legacy of music and openness in the church on the hill.



A Memorial Garden at the Annapolis, MD church is being dedicated to the memory of

Bill Barnett,

who served there 1963-83



From **Harry Thor:**

I want to describe an exciting new component of my Ministry that has evolved. While looking for a gift for my great grand daughter at a Toys r Us store, I discovered a game that addresses the process of learning to read in a way that I had never seen before. This game is designed to help children overcome several obstacles to beginning reading. The game is called 'Phonics Desk' by Leapfrog and it is a multisensory device that teaches children the alphabet, spelling, reading and pronunciation. With the help of my Congregation, and the direction of the learned staff at Leapfrog, I equipped 12 very receptive Head Start facilities with a Phonics

Desk. The investment for the reading toys as purchased is: \$44.99 for the Phonics Desk. The cost of a years supply of batteries, is about \$5.00. Imagine, for a total investment of \$50.00, the "world of poverty" for Head Start Children has an excellent chance of being overwhelmed by means of literacy! Please follow suit and donate these units to your local Head Start facility so another child can gain the advantage he or she needs. Please inform me when you drop off games at your Head Start. I will act as the Information Center for our national effort and post a list of participating Churches.

EIGHTH WESTERN CONFERENCE

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association
4 p.m., Monday, March 29 to 1 p.m., Thursday, April 1, 1999
Mirianist Center, Cupertino, California

Gibbon, appraising Rome's attitude toward religion once observed: "The various modes of worship which prevailed in the Roman world were all considered by the people as equally true; by the philosopher as equally false; and by the magistrate as equally useful. And thus toleration produced not only mutual indulgence but even religious concord."

In this time of fundamentalist fanaticism, religious wars and massacres, and the need for those truths and attitudes that allow us to be human and humane with one another, perhaps Rome's tolerant attitude is the best we can hope for. Is it a UU core value?

Bill DeWolfe, President of the UURMAPA will open the conference after dinner on Monday.

Fred and Marge Keip will present the Tuesday morning worship and lead a discussion on Journey Toward Wholeness and Fulfilling the Promise.

Ken Helms will presents, humorously and seriously, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning sessions on "Memory, How It Works and Sometimes Doesn't."

Dick Henry will share his research experiences in writing a new book on Norbert Capek.

Ric and Barbara Masten will present a unique program of music, poetry and stories.

Joyce Smith will lead the Thursday morning worship

The 1999 Conference Planning Committee:
Ted & Marguerite Webb; Roy & Delta Ockert

Some West Coasters at Christmastime



Back Row: Leon Hopper, Dick Henry, Joe Wesley
Front Row: Dorothy Hopper, Pat Henry, Lex Crane, Alice Weslet, Ginny Crane

FROM THE OLD GEEZER...

Last time I wrote, "What's happening to our courage? Two resolutions, one from the East Coast and one from the West Coast calling for brotherhood, sweetness, light, and world peace have recently come my way. Is that the best we can do? Who's willing to make sweetness and light exciting? Can you? Is Hegel dead? Or are we? Besides, what have you done to advance world peace lately – except complain about the human condition?" And, joy of joys, someone responded! sent in the following:

"One of the functions of *Elderberries* is to keep the Brothers and Sisters informed of what we are doing and thinking. When the Northeast passes a Resolution (unanimously) at their Fall Conference, it should be reported for all to see. When a Resolution comes from the West Coast, it is for us all, not just you.

"It may be cute to cast aspersions on them, but why not print the Resolutions and let the members decide for themselves That 's the UU way – or should be.

"You ask, 'What's happening to our courage?' If you have the courage to print the Resolutions, perhaps members will be able to sharpen them up so that they can have a greater impact. Your censorship kills the process."

David Van Strien

Well, David, with much trembling and moral uncertainty, I dare to publish this courageous affirmation as passed unanimously by the UURMAPA in Attleboro, MA last October:

~~As this is the 50th Anniversary of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, we honor the occasion by affirming our support of its Principles for all people, and urge the Executive Committee of UURMSA to be an advocate to assure these rights for our membership .~~

What we affirm for others we affirm for our selves.

(Passed unanimously without debate by the 1998 Northeast UURMAPA conference)

I'm puzzled. Are we affirming these rights for us? Do we need them? Don't we already have all the rights we can cope with?. Have I somehow missed the point of all this? What is UURMSA?

O.G.

P. S. Now, here are some people who're doing more than talking, and I nominate them,

Exemplary Retired Minister and Partner of This Issue of *Elderberries*.

"Having learned by six years of village experience what not to do, we're trying a new approach. We're building a Gandhi-like Ashram in a poor neglected village, a combination of personal home and Center for Research Experiment and Education in Village Development. We are doing this with what's left of my lifetime savings, but have also created a tax-exempt Transylvanian Economic Development Foundation just in case we find someone who wants to help."

Donald and Aniko Harrington

DEATHS**Rachel Blanchard**

1/4/98

(Partner: Miles Blanchard)

June Bradley

(Partner: Preston Bradley)

Mary Elizabeth Bowman

July 11, 1998

(Partner: Robert Bowman)

Elaine Brown

February 1, 1998

(Partner: Ernest A. Brown)

Dorothy Howard

(Partner: George Howard)

Paul Husted

April 13, 1998

(Partner: Elizabeth Newell Husted)

James Hutchinson

December 6, 1998

Walter Donald Kring

January 15, 1999

(Partner: Mary Sage Kring)

J. Ford Lewis

December 22, 1998

(Partner: Barbara Lewis)

Harold W. Patterson

November 21, 1998

(Partner: Sarah (Sally) Patterson)

Carl Gerrard Seaburg

December 16, 1998

Helen Trapp

February 1, 1999

(Partner: Jacob Trapp)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

There are a number of errors in our new Directory, some were our mistakes and some because the information available was out of date. It is impossible to correct all of them because of space limitations, but one is serious.

We received the following from Bob West: "When the Directory arrived, I could not find my name in it. However, in looking over the entries, I noticed the name of Robert Nelson, who is apparently living with my wife Nancy at my address."

Please everyone, change *Robert Nelson* to *Robert Nelson West*. And, our apologies to the Bob's and Nancy.

Please let us know when you move, get new phone numbers, email addresses and the like. Every wrong address we use in mailing costs us \$0.50 in postal fees for each correction.

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN! BUT FIRST, DON'T VOTE, NOMINATE!

Important positions are open on the UURMAPA Board this year. We shall be electing a President, Vice President, two Board Members, and a Nominating Committee Chair. Your Nominating Committee invites, nay, urges you, to send suggestions of nominees for these positions. You may nominate yourself!

William DeWolfe, Virginia Crane, and Farley Wheelwright are ineligible for reelection, having served their maximum four consecutive years. Charles Grady, completing one term on the Board, is eligible for a second term; Elizabeth Anastos respectfully declines a second term.

Please send your nominations for President, Vice President, two Board members and Nominating Committee Chair to a Nominating Committee member: by March 10. Thank you!

Elizabeth Anastos, 221 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, MA 02138 > meanastos@earthlink.net <

John Cummins, 4238 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410

Christine Wetzal, 7109 Ruane St., San Diego, CA 92119 > cwetzal@inetworld.net <

Absolutely the Best Christmas Letter of 1998!

'Been a tough year folks, many, many chemo trips to Searcy, AR, an 80 mi. round trip. At our stage we are all pushing back the inevitable, so enjoy the season, the seasoning and the present moment (a prime Buddhist concept). Corinne basically is feeling okay. When I, Gene, stepped off a ladder too soon in late April, I stepped promptly into old age.

Let me state clearly that a broken back does not make one more spiritual, nor does the continual pain coming relentlessly day after weary day up to and including the present, but let us not get into an organ recital, as we are all competent symphonic conductors.

We did not accomplish much this year. Corinne had an excellent organic garden and I did the mowing and, oh yes, I gave my grandson the Apple which he quickly crashed and I splurged on a powerful 400 mgh IBM type computer. Fortunately, I have a talented, generous, patient and good neighbor who has invested hours, days and weeks ushering me through the horrors of Windows 98, (Don't buy it) and into the maze of the Internet. I may even learn to do Email. Let me say, **STAY AWAY FROM COMP USA. THEY DID NOT HONOR THEIR GUARANTEE AND DID NOT SOLVE MY WINDOWS 98 PROBLEM BUT DID EXACT A HEFTY CHARGE FOR THEIR INCOMPETENT "SERVICE."**

We are just like you, to quote Linda Tripp. We would like to give Bill Clinton a big kick as our Xmas present for his incredible reckless actions; and the religious right, those pious fascists, give us daily nausea. Hasten the day when the stupid vicious religiosity wanes into a more tolerant secularism. So, that is our Xmas message for 1998.

Corinne and Gene Kreves

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Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

