

**Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers
and Partners
Association**

May, 2000

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

CARING NETWORK CHAIR

Doe Lockwood

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Larry Hamby

487 Cedar Walk
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912.634.9902
LmHamby@gate.net

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Dorothy Hopper

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

Edwin A. Lane

42 Wareland Road
Wellesley, MA 02481
781.235.4911
helen.lane@mediaone.net

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Charity Rowley

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

ELDERBERRIES

Number 3

On The Inside

FROM OUR PRESIDENT..... P. 2

CARING NETWORK NEWS P. 3

SECOND NOTICE: A PLEA FOR INFORMATIO..... P. 3

LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS P. 4

A FAREWELL P. 5

CANDIDATES P. 5

50 YEAR CLASS P. 6

THE OLD GEEZER P. 6

DEATHS P. 7

A FINANCE REPORT P. 7

PAN SOUTH CONFERENCE..... P. 7

A THANK YOU NOTE P. 8

GOD'S EMAIL..... P. 8

From Our President

Dear UURMAPA Friends,

As June draws nearer, I face the end of my brief term as your President, and the conclusion of four years on the Board. It has been a most exhilarating and rewarding experience.

This year I enjoyed the privilege of sharing in all four regional conferences, and look forward to our Annual Luncheon at General Assembly in Nashville on June 25th - when we will welcome our newly retiring ministers and their life partners into membership.

Each year, as Board members come to the end of their terms, I wonder how we will get along without them - for they have served our group extremely well - but, lo and behold, our new Board members step forward and serve with equal distinction. We are truly blessed with capable and generous leaders!

Departing from the Board after long service is our dedicated Treasurer, Iska Cole, who has been much more than Treasurer for something close to six years. She has been "Ms. Volunteer" of the Board - "our Ms. Friday." We love you, Iska, and we deeply appreciate your many, many contributions!

Charles Grady has served us as both Vice President and Secretary - and has always had a joke or two to share at our meetings. Enjoy retirement, Charles, and go with our warm thanks to the hills of North Carolina.

Our wordmaster - Larry Hamby, also has reached the end of his tenure as Editor of *Elderberries* - which took on a new format and developed a new style under his leadership. Larry retires as wordmaster / editor, but will remain as our webmaster and data base manager - so his influence will continue behind the scenes. Thank you ever so much, Larry!

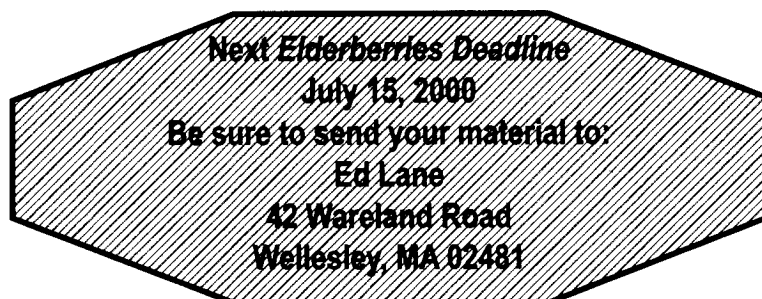
Also retiring are two members of the Nominating Committee - Chris Wetzel and John Cummins - who have supplied us with the fine nominees who have become the driving force of our organization. Thank you Chris and John.

As I write this, the results of this year's election are not yet known, but, knowing the calibre of the nominees, I have every confidence that we are all destined for strong leadership and good, solid programs.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. It is an honor I cherish! Hope to see many of you in Nashville.

Pax,

Scotty Meek, President



A GA GATHERING OF CARING NETWORK CONTACT PEOPLE

The UURMAPA Board cordially invites all contact people - past and present - for reunion, support, and unlimited thanks for past and present service to the Caring Network. We will gather at the UUMA Exec Suite at the Renaissance Hotel on Saturday afternoon from 3:45 - 5:15. The UUMA suite number will be posted on the hotel register board. It is our desire to gather helpful information to include in a booklet for Caring Network Contact Persons. If you are unable to attend GA this year, we still solicit your wisdom and experience. Please e-mail or mail Doe Lockwood (see masthead for address) information you would like to see included in such a booklet.

The Caring Network welcomes two new Contact Persons. Ed and Helen Lane have turned over their contact duties to Gerald Krick, in Mass Bay-Inland and Charity Rowley has put Prairie Star into the good hands of Charles Stephen. We thank all of these good volunteers - Ed and Helen and Charity for their continued commitment to UURMAPA in other important areas. We hope all of you will be able to meet with us at GA2000. And, many thanks to the UUMA for sharing their suite with us.

Doe Lockwood, Caring Network Chair

Excerpts from *SPRING TIDINGS*, a newsletter to UURMAPA members in the Thomas Jefferson District from their Caring Network Representatives

Happy post-Easter greetings to all! Is there a chance we shall see some of you at this year's General Assembly in not-too-faraway Nashville?

The Pan-South Conference in Charleston in late February was an unqualified success. Thirty persons attended, toured historic Charleston, sampled the Low Country cuisine, passed a strong resolution condemning the flying of the Confederate flag, and heard a fine sermon on Sunday from Bucky McKeeman.

NOW we look forward to the next Pan-South, coming up April 6-8, 2001, in Asheville, North Carolina.

That's the news from here; now it is time to hear from you. Please write us, tell us how you are doing. We want to hear of grandchildren's achievements, trips and tours undertaken, poems written, writings published, maladies overcome, your interests and avocations, your take on the news of the day or sort of news or comment you can contribute.

Charles & Claudine Grady

SECOND NOTICE!!

A New Directory of UURMAPA

is to be issued when new officers are elected

Please check your entry in the old Directory and notify Larry Hamby (see the masthead) of any changes in address(es), phone or fax numbers, email addresses, partners and the like. Also, if you have any suggestions about the format of the Directory, let him know.

Letters and Personal Happenings

From Maryell Cleary

I have written and published, for private distribution, a memoir called *A Depression Childhood*. I illustrated this with family photos and ads from old magazines. It is mainly for my family, but a few friends are borrowing my "loan" copy and finding it interesting.

There are two anniversaries coming up. Ruth Smith, long the minister of the East Liberty, MI, Universalist Church, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of her ordination on June 17th. The church is having a celebration for her. I'm sure she would appreciate a message from UURMAPA members. She stepped in as minister, without theological school training, at a time when women ministers were rare, and she kept that church alive. Now it is booming. Send messages to the Rev. Susan Smith (no relation), at the church.

I will celebrate the 50th anniversary of my graduation from Meadville and my ordination to the Unitarian ministry in early June. I am the only woman in the 50-year class.

From Grant Haskell

"We are somewhat isolated here (Greenville., PA) being 25 miles from either the Meadville or Youngstown, OH churches ... so there is little opportunity to participate. There are four UU couples resident at this retirement community."

From Donald Lothrop

"Greetings from "Last Resort" in Alna, ME. I will celebrate my 95th birthday on July 3."

Letters to Iska Cole

Iska is the lucky one. As Treasurer she is in frequent mail contact with UURMAPA members, and receives many, many notes during the year. To share them all would be impossible, and some are too personal to put in a newsletter, but a list of letter writers gives some idea of the involvement and interest in UURMAPA. So, in no particular order... Beatrice E. Wood ... Elizabeth Silliman ... Harriet Wyman ... Marjorie Leaming ... Betty Baker ... Naomi Kuebler ... Carolyn Duncan ... Roy Ockert ... Grace Lindquist ... Bob and Nancy West ... Barbara Cheatham ... Malcolm and Mary Ann Sutherland ... Joan Waterhouse ... Monica Sharp ... Ramona Barth ... Madkyn Gold ... Al and Belle Niles ... Joe Craig ... Lois Lewis ... Freda Carnes ... Carolyn and Duncan Howlett ... Ingeborg Jack ... Philip and Vonne Giles ... Tom Best ... John Brigham ...

The letters tell of problems with aging, appreciation for the Caring Network, *Elderberries*, UURMAPA's existence, joys at being alive in wherever, memories of ministry ...

And nobody whimpers or whines ...

Farewell and all that stuff.....

Six years ago, I began assisting Bucky McKeeman in the production of *Elderberries*; four years ago, I assumed the editing of *Elderberries*.

It has been a truly interesting experience.

I have never felt myself to be one of the "stars" in our movement, and never thought I would be accepted in a post like editing this newsletter. But I have been and now find myself deeply grateful to all of you, especially the board members I have worked with for the chance to end my professional life in a successful kind of way -- even though (I suspect) some of you don't agree with that assessment.

It has been fun! And even though I have complained about the deadlines and the boredom of sticking stamps and address labels on some 600 pieces of paper four times a year, I look back with a great deal of satisfaction that I have amused you, offended you, maybe comforted you, teased you -- but most of all, I have enjoyed you. As I hope you have me.

The Old Geezer and Ms. Geezer and I will miss all this. But we will stay in contact, I hope.

If I had one wish, it is that you be more responsive. But, then, maybe we are all tired, and are resting. Lord, I hope not! There will be plenty of time for that!

I leave you in the capable hands of Ed Lane who will bring his own style and changes, all for the better.

Don't forget to have fun in the midst of all the seriousness of life!

Larry Hamby

WE HAVE A SLATE!

Ed Harris for President

Fred Campbell for Treasurer

Sue Nichols for Secretary

Ed Lane for Newsletter Editor

Peter Weller for the Board

Janet Bowering will continue as Vice President

Doe Lockwood will finish the two year term of Caring Network Person

Dorothy Hopper continues on the Board

Dick Woodman and Gene Navias are the additions to the Nominating Committee

Charity Rowley,
Chair, Nominating Committee

50 Years in the Ministry

One of the highlights of UUMA days at General Assembly is the message of the representative of the 50 year class. Recently there has been some confusion about how this is determined. Though ordained in 1952, I was notified by the UUMA that I am a member of the 50 year class in 2000. Mel Van de Workeen, ordained in 1951, was also notified that he was a member of the year 2000 50 year class. This is only a problem for those of us who were Universalists before merger.

How is the list determined? The policy, worked out in the early years of consolidation (George Spencer was involved in setting it up), is that the 50 year class is composed of those Unitarians who were given the green light for settlement by the Fellowship Committee, and those Universalists who were licensed by a Fellowship Committee, State or Central, in the year, 50 years ago.

Who creates the list? The UUMA (not the Department of Ministry) office person in Boston compiles the list from the records of the UUA's Ministry Office. This is not a UUA recognition but a UUMA recognition.

The problem, if it is one, will go away in ten years. In the meantime, if you are unhappy about it, contact the UUMA not the UUA.

Bill DeWolfe



Go Get 'em, Geezer!!!!

I'm wicked ticked off with the management of *The UU World* for accepting advertising from Grolier for their *Beginners Bible Card Collection*.

Most of us spent years and years trying to convince parents that the Bible is an adult collection, not a children's book. And now look! Pictures of "The Last Supper" "Adam and Eve" "Jesus Feeds 5,000" "The First Rainbow" "fascinating and inspirational stories of men and women in communion with an all-knowing, all-loving God" and "all 48 cards for only 99¢ Postage FREE!! And we will bill you! Don't pay until you get the cards!"

Sigh.... Well, the door is open now. The *World* is not any longer an advocate for traditional UU principles, and will accept any kind of advertising provided it is paid for. So, we may be endorsing Liberty and Bob Jones Universities, Creationism, Jews for Jesus....

I always thought that tolerance could be carried too far. So, what the hell, let's let the KKK in and the Nazis, and whoever else.

Tom Stites, you owe us all an apology!

O. Geezer

P.S. to all UURMAPA's: it's been fun, and I'll miss you! (Me, too! Ms. O. Geezer)

DEATHS**Margaret Ruth Avedovech Bach**February 23, 2000
(Partner: Karl Bach)**Ibbie R. Nagy**March 4, 2000
(Partner: Imre Nagy)**Dorothy Fisher**April, 2000
(Surviving Partner: John Ogden Fisher)**Frances Moore**March 7, 2000
(Partner: Arthur Moore)**William P. Horton**March 16, 2000
(Surviving Partner: Marjorie F. Horton)**Fred Russell**February 14, 2000
(Surviving Partner: Howard Brown)**Daniel W. Weck**

February 28, 2000

.....

Report from Our Representative to the Council on Church Staff Finances

A review of the various welfare funds through June 30, 1999 held by the UUA was done by a Council subcommittee, which I chair. Our findings are that everything is in order. The funds are being used appropriately and the unexpended balances fully accounted for. In our review, we discovered that at the above date, the UUA had on hand over \$900,000 for welfare purposes.

The subcommittee, meeting with Jerry Gabert and Richard Crowell of the Finance Office, concluded that a major reason for this "on hand" amount is primarily due to the "reticence of potential beneficiaries" to apply for assistance.

Thanks to the 1999 Living Tradition Service Offering at GA and funds for Ministerial Aid, the UUA was able to assist 107 ministers reduce their student debt by over \$200,000.

At its May meeting, the Unitarian Service Pension Society will be considering a 5 percent increase in the service gratuity.

Ralph Mero has been incapacitated with a serious sciatic nerve problem, but stays in almost daily contact with the office.

Bill DeWolfe, UURMAPA Representative

**Plans are going ahead, sparked by Bob and Ann MacPherson,
for next year's Pan South Conference in Asheville, NC.
Maureen Killoran and the Asheville church are enthusiastically aboard, and
a stellar program is in the works.**

The dates will be April 6, 7, and 8, 2001.

**The planners hope strongly that the UURMAPA Board
will hold its spring meeting in conjunction with the conference as in the past.**

More details later; meanwhile, please mark this date on your calendars.

Once again, we are indebted to the New York State Convention of Universalists for a substantial gift (\$1500.00) to UURMAPA. It is support such as this which enables us to continue our efforts to build community for a group scattered all over the world.

God's E-Mail
(Thanks to Ginny Crane)

One day God looked upon the Earth and saw that evil was going on and decided to send an angel down to Earth to check it out. He called one of His best angels and sent it to Earth for a time.

When she returned she said to God, "Yes, there is evil on Earth. 95 percent of the people are bad and 5 percent are good."

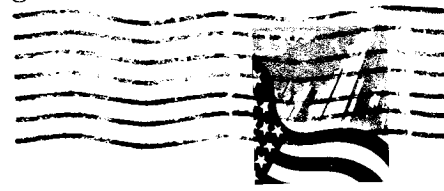
God thought for a moment and said, "Maybe I'd better send down a second angel to get another point of view."

So He called another angel and sent her to Earth for a time too. When the angel returned she went to Him and told him, "Yes, the Earth is in decline, 95 percent are bad and 5 percent are good."

And God said, "This is not good." So He decided to Email the 5 percent that were good to encourage them, give them a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what God's Email said? Or didn't you get one either?

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