

**Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers
and Partners
Association**

February, 2000

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

Volume XV

ELDERBERRIES

Number 2

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1999-2000

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From Our President

What a joy it was to meet with our colleagues attending the Pan South Conference in Charleston. The Board is trying to arrange to hold its meetings with all the conferences by piggybacking its meetings on the conferences. We have not met with Northeast and Pan South and plans are being made to meet with the Mid-Continent and Western conferences.

In Charleston, Diane Miller of the Department of Ministry joined us and told of a renewed interest in the UUA in retired ministers and partners. Our Board is invited to attend the dinner for newly retired ministers at GA as guest of Ministry. The UUA is trying to find additional information about retired ministers and partners and their physical and financial conditions. We are invited to set up our own page on the UUA website. We are invited to contribute to the Worship web. We also had an interesting and inconclusive discussion with Diane about her candidacy for the UUA presidency.

We were visited by Qiyamah Rahman, the UUA Field Staff Person in the TJ District who discussed district issues and involvement with UURMAPA.

The board meeting was lively, productive and brief. We adjourned early for the first time in memory!

I continue to be encouraged by the good feelings between Board members. We work together, we make decisions, we disagree, we joke, we are serious, and we are cooperative. Altogether, we embody, I think, in microcosm, the best in our movement.

And, I hope we serve as a model for UURMAPA! UURMAPA in microcosm! And thus we will all act out the best in liberal religion!

Pax,
Scotty Meek

Do You Need A New UUA Directory?????

Every retired minister and surviving partner is entitled to a UUA Directory. If you have not received one and want one, contact the UUA and one will be sent to you.

Write the Department of Ministry or email at <dmiller@uua.org>.

Carrying on with the Caring Network

The well-planned, well-executed, well-attended Pan South Conference in Charleston, SC, included eight Caring Network Contact persons. It was a joy to meet, for the first time, well-tanned and hearty George and Priscilla Brooks, contact persons for Florida, District 62.

All Caring Network Contact Persons - past and present - attending GA 2000 will have the opportunity to meet together, share experiences, and brainstorm ways to improve our services. The gathering will be held in the UUMA's suite and the details will be mailed to you as we close in on June.

Our beyond-competent treasurer, Iska Cole, provided us a detailed accounting of reimbursed expenses to Network Contact persons showing less than \$200 reimbursed for 1999. NOT ENOUGH! This reveals many of you are not requesting expense reimbursements and are considering your expenses a gift to UURMAPA. Please don't! It gives us a false accounting of the true costs of our most important task: keeping in touch. We really need to know the genuine costs. Gifts to UURMAPA should come in the form of membership donations or other separate gifts, which are, of course, essential.

Much thanks to all,

Doe Lockwood, Chair



**Next Elderberries Deadline
March 15, 2000**

Letters and Personal Happenings

From A New Board Member:

Dear Good Folk,

As a new member of the UURMAPA Board, I am enormously impressed with the talent and devotion of our Board members.

For example, Doe Lockwood coordinates the Caring Networks for the entire continent with approximately 30 persons who in their turn call and visit retired ministers and partners. Doe, what a lot of time you put in on this and with such a compassionate heart. We so appreciate you.

(Continued on next page.)

A big "Thank You!" to our outgoing Board members:

As President, Scotty Meek combines a gentle nature with efficiency to produce very effective results. Scotty, we will miss you.

What a great job Larry Hamby has done with *Elderberries*. A big thank you, Larry.

Iska Cole, as Treasurer, you have been impressive for your efficiency and quick response to requests. Also, you go out of your way to give us useful trends and comparisons. You have done a superb job!

Iska has just volunteered another contribution to UURMAPA. She has offered to sew for us a banner to carry in UUA parades. She has asked us to send her our ideas and sketches. Here is my effort, designed to stimulate you to come up with something better. For example, one of the Board members suggested a pair of crossed canes. We can find an artist to perfect the design. Cheers for Iska!

Dorothy Hopper



A New Spring and Easter Anthology

Available in time for Easter (April 23) is a new UU anthology: *Celebrating Easter and Spring*, by Carl Seaburg and Carl Harris. Just \$10.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. All profits from sales will go to the Carl Gerrard Seaburg Scholarship Fund at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

It is available from The Anne Miniver Press, P. O. Box 381364, Cambridge, MA 02238-1364. Enclose your check with your order please. The Press will not fill orders without payment.

This UU Anthology has been made possible by the thoughtful support of several UU laypersons, ministers, and churches. Their aim has been to bring to our ministers and congregations some of the best contemporary writings by Unitarians and Universalists on this widely celebrated season with its message of renewal.

Carl Seaburg was the editor of several popular and helpful UU worship resources: *Great Occasions*, *The Communion Book*, and *Celebrating Christmas*.

Mark Harris, our minister at the First Parish of Watertown, MA, through his historical writings and ministry continues Carl's commitment to enhancing our common worship through sharing the best reflective writings and services created by our churches, congregations, and ministers. The book comes with ten drawings by the UU artist Tom Dahill suitable for use as Sunday service covers.

The Old Geezer Strikes Again!

Dorothy Hopper, on page 4, tells us that Iska Cole's willin' to make us a bannah for UUA parades and events at GA and suchlike whenever we want to display ouahselves. Must be cold in Maine this time a' yeah and not much to do other'n shovel snow and sew. Oh well, to each his/her or her/his own. Sewing's better'n shovelin', enyday.

Dorothy sent along her suggestions about the bannah to get us started on ideahs. The editah told me that the Boahd had lots of ideahs, like a flamin' chalice with a beahrd, or a chalice with a spluttrin' flame. Now, what kinda organization's that? A bunch a' decayin' old preachahs, sittin' round waitin' to find out whether the Baptists're right? Not! (That's a mod'n word, people!)

Me'n Ms. Geezer, allus ready to lead, spent a few minutes wonderin' and come up with some ideahs which'll do bettah. Even includes partnuhs and such.

The Editah, cranky as usual, complained about changin' addresses for *Elderberries* and suggested a movin' van. He also thought a 1968 Gold Dodge with a always on left turn signal and a bumpuh stickah sayin' "Honk If You're Not Suah" was good. Nuts to him!

Me an' the missus suggest maybe a pictchah of a minister bein' booted out of his church by a youngah man with the caption, "...an' stay away!" might be fittin'. How 'bout a group of us sittin' in heaven (think Michelangelo) tryin' to light a chalice. But, we lost our flame

Or a group turned away from heaven by St. Petah for not payin' for UURMAPA memberships. Or because we didn't ask enough questions.

Maybe a new symbol of a golf club with wings! Or a beach scene, complete with chair'n umbrella'n book with "Enough Time To Read!"

Finally, a slogan: VIAGRA FOREVER!

Now, if you good folk can't do bettah'n Dorothy or Ms. Geezer and me, then you run the risk of Iska sewin' suthin' you don't like. Send notions to me at *Elderberries* or to Iska (see the masthead) or to somebody!

OG

A New Directory of UURMAPA

is to be issued in the near future.

Please check your entry in the old Directory and notify Larry Hamby (see the masthead) of any changes in address(s), 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.

More Nominations Sought for UURMAPA Board Members

The nominating committee is still collecting names for our UURMAPA board, and nominations are still needed for the following:

President,
 Secretary,
 Treasurer,
 one Member-at-large, and
 two members of the Nominating Committee.

Please send your suggestions to:

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

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 4238 Sheridan Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55410
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A Resolution adopted by the Pan South Conference Charleston, SC February 5, 2000.

- WHEREAS**, citizens of the United States of America pledge allegiance only to the flag of the United States; and
- WHEREAS**, South Carolina is the only state in the United States to fly the Confederate flag over its State House; and
- WHEREAS**, that flag is a symbol of civil insurrection, and an insult to African-Americans not only in South Carolina, but to more than ten percent of the U.S. population who are African-Americans; and
- WHEREAS**, symbols of slavery and racism are repugnant to the religious sensibilities of Americans of all faiths; and
- WHEREAS**, that flag's continued presence disgraces and disparages the feelings of a likely majority of South Carolinians, both black and white; and
- WHEREAS**, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on January 1, 2000, officially launched economic sanctions against the tourism industry of South Carolina, to persuade the South Carolina legislature to remove the Confederate flag from the State House dome; and
- WHEREAS**, all previous attempts to remove this Confederate insignia through legislative channels have been frustrated by certain legislators with exclusive control over its placement;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the members of the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association who are assembled in Charleston, South Carolina, affirm their support of the NAACP sanctions as legitimate and well-founded; and be it further resolved that the Association is urged not to schedule any further meetings in this state until the Confederate banner is removed from the State House dome, and relegated exclusively to a place of historical interest, such as a museum or monument.

DEATHS

Martha M. Bihldorff
February 1, 2000
(Partner: Carl Bihldorf)

Arthur W. Foote
December 9, 1999

Dorothy T. Spoerl
December 2, 1999

Helen Thorsell
January 1, 2000
(Partner: Earnest Thorsell)

Doris Whitney
October 10, 1999
(Partner: George Whitney)

Joy and sorrow, love and pain, life and death. These are the fabric of human existence. Like the Ying and Yang of ancient Chinese religion or the conflict of a Greek tragedy, the tensions of these forces confront us with the paradox of life itself. We live with the awareness that life and death are inseparably one, that the price of being born is that we must also die. Without exception, every relationship must come to the moment of death. When we form loving relationships we are choosing to make ourselves vulnerable, open to being wounded by the pain of death and grief. But the gift of love is so precious that we wisely continue to create loving relationships, willingly accepting the vulnerability to pain and grief that it brings. These are the terms of love, and our remembering our companions who have died is testimony to the centrality of love in our lives. The capacity to love is our most precious gift. To have it we willingly pay the price of grief. If we love nothing we will never grieve, for there will be no loss. And so our tears are, indeed, tears of joy and sorrow as we weep for that which has been, and in our remembering, continues to be our delight.

Edwin Lane

9th Annual Western Conference
April 3-6, 2000
Mount Alverno Conference Center
Redwood City, CA

N.B.: The location of the Conference has been changed.

The Program remains the same.

Mount Alverno requires that the number of participants be **guaranteed** by March 18, so your full price of \$230-\$272/person, depending on accommodations request, is due by that time.

Contact Delta Ockert, Treasurer (503.315.1029) for full details.

Looking for Work?

We are looking for a part-time minister (somewhere between 1/4 time and 1/2 time). Our congregation is 25 years old and we have our own building. Eventually, we hope to be able to have an extension minister. In the meantime, we are looking for a part-time solution.

It occurred to us that perhaps a retired minister might still want to keep up with a congregation and ministry and a reduced level of responsibility. For a number of reasons, this might occur, such as supplementing retirement income, helping a small vibrant group move ahead, keep themselves in the "swim of things, etc."

I would like to enter into conversation with anyone possibly interested and we would see where it went from there.

My e-mail address is <orts@wju.edu>.

The name of our congregation is the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Ohio Valley. Our building is a geodesic dome that is located about 4 miles west of Wheeling WV. The building is located in the State of Ohio which sometimes makes our directory listing complicated.

Wheeling is a small city on the Ohio River. It is about a one hour drive southwest of Pittsburgh and two hours east of Columbus, Ohio.

Our congregation has a part-time paid RE director (1/4 time) and she is excellent. We have had two intern ministers who worked very well with us and spoiled us regarding the advantages of a professional clergy who might move to our area.

The congregation has 50 active members, assorted friends, and an enrolled RE program of about 20.

Carol O. Orts

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