

# Elderberries

*The Newsletter of the*

*Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association*

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NUMBER 1

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*Elderberries* is published quarterly in November, February, May, and August. Deadline for submitting material is the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

Material for publication should be sent to Ed Lane (addresses at the left of this page—e-mail preferred if possible).

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## From Your President ...

“Choice”

Peter Raible

I have been in hospital. I feel poorly; I make a medical appointment. Before it is over and without warning, I am in Urgent Care, then ambulance transport, and thence admitted to a hospital cardiac unit. Of course, there follow the tests without number, as one is wheeled from place to place. The constant poking and measuring at all hours of the day and night becomes part of my life routine.

At first, it seems surgery is not recommended, then a cautious evaluation that heart by-pass surgery could be attempted, though at relatively high risk. The choice becomes whether to try to live with diminished heart capacity or to go for “all or nothing” surgery—no definite positive answer is guaranteed by either course. I am deluged with tales of good and bad experiences by those who have been in similar situations. I decide to wait a bit and see how the recovery period goes. That decision at least gets me out of the hospital and into my own bed.

Despite the miracles of modern medicine we seem to hit the continuing quandary posed by choice-making with no definitive odds on either side of the equation. All we can do is choose as best we can, remembering ever it is our life and not that of the surgeon. Once a decision is made, then to abide content even as we may be made to realize that new developments can bring a similar choice anew.

Meanwhile, along with the reaffirmation of the dictum, “old age is not for sissies,” I enjoy the respite and the wonder of each new day.

*psr*

## UUA Directory Available

The new UUA Directory for 2002-2003 has just been published. Retired *ministers* who have officially notified the UUA of their retirement automatically receive copies. If you do not receive it, contact Kristen Radloff in the Publications Dept. [kradloff@uua.org](mailto:kradloff@uua.org) or 617 948-4644. If a retired minister has not officially notified Ministry and Professional Leadership of their retirement they should send a letter, including the retirement date, to Nancy Hezlitt, Settlement Office.

Surviving *partners* who wish to receive a free copy should phone or write Jean Hartman: 617 948-6437; [jhartman@uua.org](mailto:jhartman@uua.org); UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108; and she will see that you get a copy.

# The Caring Network

Once each year we publish the names of the Caring Network people whom Doe Lockwood calls “the most important people of UURMAPA.” Here are thirty-three people or couples—one near you—who are your vital contacts with UURMAPA. They keep us—and often the UUA—aware of your joys and sorrows, your needs and concerns. Please do contact them and let them know what’s going on in your life.

Ballou Channing - Dorothy Boroush  
 Central Massachusetts - Glen Snowden  
 Pacific Southwest - Ginny Crane  
 Central Midwest - Max & Carolyn Gaebler  
 Connecticut Valley - Joan Waterhouse  
 Florida - George & Priscilla Brooks  
 Joseph Priestley, South - Robert & Jean Zoerheide  
 Joseph Priestley, North - Joe Wesley  
 Massachusetts Bay, Coast - Eugene Navias  
 Massachusetts Bay, Inland - Charles Wilson  
 Michigan - Mary Ann Shokes  
 Mid-South - Jean McGehee  
 Mountain Desert - Walter Royal Jones  
 New Jersey - Shirley Hadley  
 New York - Robert M. Hemstreet  
 New Hampshire - Alan Deale & Kathleen Hunter  
 Northeast - Maurice Cobb,  
                   Joseph Majeau  
                   Keith Munson  
                   Iska Cole  
 Ohio Meadville - Carol Brody  
 Ohio Valley - Robert & Jeanne Reed  
 Pacific Central Bay Area - Open  
 Pacific Central Beyond the Bay Area - Al & Mary Thelander  
 Pacific Northwest - Edgar Pears  
 Pacific Southwest - Raymond & Gretchen Manker  
 Prairie Star - John & Drusilla Cummins  
 Southwest - Doe Lockwood  
 St. Lawrence, Canada - Charles Eddis  
 St. Lawrence, U.S. - Faith Grover Scott  
 Thomas Jefferson, North/West - George & Elise Briggs  
 Thomas Jefferson, South/East - Charles & Claudine Grady  
 Vermont - C. Arthur Hover & Ellen Dionna

## In Memoriam

**Clara Schacht** died November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999. (We just belatedly learned of this.) Deceased partner, the Reverend Robert Schacht.

**Jifka P. FitzPatrick** died June 20<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner, the Reverend Gerald R. FitzPatrick. Messages of remembrance may be sent to their son, Samuel C. FitzPatrick, 164 Main St., Montpelier, VT 05602.

**Mary Holmes** died July 12<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner the Reverend Robert Holmes. We reported this in August but did not have contacts. Her children are: Kristeen Farguharson, 724 Wilderness Acres, E. Stroudsburg, PA, 18301 and David Holmes, Box 51, Harrison, ME 04040. Bob and Jack Zoerheide are her brothers.

**The Reverend Roger Cowan** died August 28<sup>th</sup>. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his sons Christopher Cowan, 730 Darwin Drive, Chelsea, MI 48118 and Donald Cowan, 24 East Sharon Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45246.

**The Reverend Dr. Gerald (Gerry) Krick** died September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Surviving partner, Paula Krick and daughters Keldra and Kaley. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Paula at 31 Daniel St., Newton Centre, MA 02159.

**Virginia Westwood** died September 17<sup>th</sup>. Surviving partner, the Reverend Horace Westwood, 51 Castle Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719-4207.

**Ruth Sommerfeld** died August 16<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner, the Reverend Ernest H. Sommerfeld. Messages of remembrance for the family may be sent to their son, Bill Sommerfeld, 1573 Old Orchard St., White Plains, NY 10604.

**The Reverend George A. Robinson, III** died September 21<sup>st</sup>. Surviving partner, the Reverend Tracey Robinson-Harris, Unitarian Universalist Association 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108.

**The Reverend Anita Rowson** died September 27<sup>th</sup>. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her daughter, Stacy J. Bedard 527 E. 2nd Ave., Escondido, CA 92025 and her son, Richard (Rick) Rowson, 1324 San Andres St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

**The Reverend Nicholas Cardell** died October 7<sup>th</sup>. Surviving partner, Cathy Cardell, 219 Candee Ave., Syracuse, New York 13224-1607.

**The Reverend Jody Shipley** died October 9<sup>th</sup>. Messages of remembrance may be sent to the family through The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County, 2172 Kiernan Avenue, Modesto, CA 95356, uuf@thevision.net or admin@stannuu.org.

**Ramona Sawyer Barth** died October 20<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner, the Rev. Joseph Barth.

**Reverend Robert P. Wheatly** died October 31<sup>st</sup>. Surviving partner, Kenneth J. English, 11 Ware St., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.

## Regional Conferences

*Funds too tight to get to a Regional Conference? For partial scholarships contact Michelle Bentley at the UUA: 617 742-2100 – mbently@uua.org.*

### **WEST - April 7-10, 2003 - Vallombrosa Conference Center, Menlo Park, CA**

West coast elderberries, plan to come to the Western conference at the beautiful Vallambrosa Center, about halfway between the San Francisco and San Jose airports. Programs on “What Happened to Transcendentalism,” a workshop on becoming a Spiritual Elder to learn to harvest our years of experience and hard-won wisdom and live the rest of our lives fully led by Stan Stefancic. Sam Wright and Ken McLean are presenting and there will be plenty of time to be reaffirmed by colleagues and be with people who want to know what you have been doing. We will send a flyer with details and a registration form early next year to West Coast people. Contact Dick Allen, 131 Sunnyside Avenue, Piedmont CA 94611-4419 - loissong@link.net.

### **PAN SOUTH - March 20-23, 2003 - Sarasota, Florida**

“Florida’s Cultural Coast” offers museums, natural and historical attractions, and performing art centers. We will spend an afternoon sightseeing the area, spotting places to explore further and attractions to attend on your “night on the town.”

The program-will include Howard Simon, Executive Director of Florida ACLU, Ed Harris on “Birmingham in the 50’s,” Judith Frediani, Director of the Lifespan Department at the UUA, and Herb Adams has arranged a special Friday night program featuring New England humorist Joe Perham.

A special Saturday night social event will be “A Night On The Town” when you may choose from a variety of cultural events—ideas for possible choices to be included in the registration mailing.

The Sarasota church has arranged B & B accommodations at a GREAT PRICE! (Three nights for \$65!) We also have reserved a few rooms in nearby AmericInn, at the special price of \$114 a night—\$119 if less than 12 people register. Breakfast included at both. We’ll attend the Sunday service followed by a luncheon at the church. Add \$55 for other conference expenses and two meals at the church. Put it on your calendar now. Sarasota has a nice small airport.

Registrar: Polly Leland-Mayer, 705B West Venice Avenue, Venice, FL 34285  
uumum68@aol.com - 941 834-4791

## How are you? ... What are you doing? ... Any new publications?

*At the last UURMAPA board meeting there was a discussion of our need to be “reporters” and aggressively seeking more people stories of what our members are up to. A letter to the editor from Maryell Cleary makes a similar suggestion. The “In Memoriam” list we publish in each issue is important, but we want to know things about one another while we are still alive! So tell us about the interesting things you are doing, how you are coping with life’s challenges, what you have recently published, etc. and we’ll share it with your colleagues through the pages of Elderberries. Here’s a start, much of it from our wonderful Caring Network people (See list elsewhere in this issue.)*

—Editor

**D**oe Lockwood reports that Dick and Mary Weston-Jones are in Auckland New Zealand where Dick is doing an interim ministry. In March they’ll be leading eco-spirituality tours co-sponsored by ANZUA (Australia New Zealand Unitarian Association) for North American UU’s. The information is in their website at, [www.wuurld.org](http://www.wuurld.org). They also lead whale-watching tours.

In June they go to Alaska to lead three tours there before moving into their new home that they are building near Chapel Hill, N.C.—a shift from Arkansas to get to a place with better medical care (Duke Medical Center in Durham) for Mary.

**C**huck Eddis has been in mail contact with Barbara Earl who suffers from spino cerebellar ataxia type 6, a fairly rare genetic disorder at the cellular level allowing too much calcium to enter the cerebellum. Gets worse, at no predictable rate. She spends most of her day in a wheelchair has difficulty speaking and is hard to understand when she does speak. She feels neglected by the UU and was very glad to hear from Chuck.

**J**oyce Smith will be going to Stockholm in December to attend the Nobel Prize awards where her former husband Vernon Smith is receiving half of the Nobel prize for Economics.

**G**ene Kreves, Minister Emeritus and Founder of the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church in Naperville, Illinois, has a new book of poetry and prose out: *The Hungry Fire: Poems Affirming the Strength of Our Humanity*. It is a collection of 66 poems and several short prose pieces, some autobiographical, others reflecting the experiences of close associations, and still others that are responses to the turbulent political times of the 50’s through the 80’s. A final section is about this secular humanist’s search for meaning along the roads of life sciences and modern cosmological theory. The poems are written with humor, tenderness, and imagination. Copies may be ordered through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [xlibris.com/bookstore](http://xlibris.com/bookstore) (search by author).

**W**ard Knights writes: “I did want to say how much I’ve appreciated receiving *Elderberries*. I’ve not been able to be active in retirement matters because I’ve been too busy. Although I officially retired in 1993 I shortly thereafter began working as a supervisor of clinical pastoral education at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. I’m still there, but I do have plans to retire again in December of 2003. Maybe then I can be appropriately retired.”

Ward has just had his fifth book published. *Pastoral Counseling: A Gestalt Approach*, Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice St. Binghamton, N.Y., 13904-1580. The soft cover is \$24.95, the hardcover \$39.95. It is available directly from the publisher—also through Barnes & Noble and amazon.com.

**S**kinner House has published a book of writings by Jack Hayward entitled *Through the Rose Window: Art, Myth, and the Religious Imagination*. The governing theme of the book is that works of art, though humanly made, sometimes transcend the verifiable meanings of human experience. Thus the rose window—a real one, above the altar of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago—polarizes into visible form and color the brilliance of the sun which is otherwise unbearable for direct contact with the eye. Just as astronomy and physics can give us partial knowledge of the unapproachable sun, so the arts, though finite and limited, can give us partial insight into the universal meanings of our lives. Jack views religion as one of the human arts. By its use of music, story, myth, and many visual and liturgical methods, religion expresses and establishes varieties of meanings and relationships to an infinite mystery. Accordingly, religion ought always to be liberal and never claim to be the final, imperial, last word—whether handed down from on high or up from below.

## World Congress of Faiths - Events 2003

The following conferences are sponsored by WCF or jointly with other organizations. For details go to the web site [www.worldfaiths.org](http://www.worldfaiths.org).

“*Religion in the Multi-Faith Century*” – January 16-19, Ramada Inn, Palm Springs, CA. Speakers include Dr. Robert Traer, Richard & Johanna Boeke and Dr. Huston Smith.

“*The Future of Multi-Faith Britain*” – July 20-22, University of Leicester, England.

“*Lessons from Servetus for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*” – October 27-31, John Knox Center, Geneva Switzerland. The encounter of John Calvin and Michael Servetus became a classic case in the issue of Religious Freedom. This program will present Servetus as scientist, doctor of medicine, and geographer.

## Watch for Your UURMAPA Survey

The board of UURMAPA voted to apply for money from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to mail out a questionnaire to all UU ministers and partners over 50 years of age to assess their plans and hopes for their retirement years, particularly concerning health and financial well-being and areas of interest and involvement. We decided to send the questionnaire to our current membership also. (Did you know that about three-fourths of our clergy are over 50!?)

This will give us a picture of you and those approaching retirement so that we can assess realistically the needs in the future and, if necessary, advocate for the means to meet those needs. Our concern is that our needs for the coming years may be greater than our resources to meet them, but we have no hard data to prove it one way or another. You will be receiving this questionnaire in January and are asked to fill it out as completely as possible and return it by March 1. All information will be kept confidential and only released as statistical data.

*Joyce H. Smith*  
Vice President, UURMAPA

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Address Service Requested