

Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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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 (address at the left of this page).

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From Your President ...

In this issue of *Elderberries* you will find information on the four regional conferences of UURMAPA to be held in the coming church year. I urge each of you to take note of them and put them on your calendar. (No matter where you reside, you can attend any conference.) If you have never attended such a conference I extend a special invitation to do so. Here is a way to stay in touch with colleagues and to share your continuing concerns with us. You owe it to yourself to give such an event a trial. Remember, there are partial scholarships available from the Department of Ministry through Kenn Hurto's office at the UUA. khurto@uua.org.

Your Exec met in late April in California and struggled with many routine although important issues. What I hope will be of wider interest is that we are spending more and more of our time thinking about the role of UURMAPA in our lives and the wider world of the UUMA. We have efforts underway to start an oral history project among us. We want to find out more about the issues we confront in the transition into retirement status. We have plans to delve more deeply into how retirement is for us in ways ranging from finances to what we find exciting in our lives. In short, we are striving to increase our scope and provide a wider context for our efforts.

As always, I am interested in your feedback and comments. In late June I will be returning to Seattle where I will be this coming year. My address will be: 11300 First Avenue NE, #301, Seattle, WA 98125.

Peter S. Raible

... AND A THANK YOU AND A REMINDER

Many of you have responded to my letter regarding contributions. I thank you on behalf of UURMAPA members. We are still about \$2,000 short of budget so this is a reminder that if you have not made your annual gift, which is tax deductible, send your check made out to UURMAPA to Rev. Fred Campbell, treasurer, 1186 Wild Cherry, Williamson, MI 48895.

While there are no formal dues in UURMAPA, we ask our members to make a contribution each year. We run the gamut from a few dollars to several hundred dollars in individual giving with the average around \$50.

p.s.r.

Errata

In our February issue we reported on some newsworthy activities at Meadville-Lombard by a new member of the M/L Center Committee. The article was correct except for the fact that the activities were by Ian Evison, not Gordon McKeeman. Our incorrect information came from the M/L Newsletter. Our apologies to both Gordon and Ian.

Editor

In Memoriam

The Reverend Joseph Frank Nerad died February 16, 2002. Surviving partner, Gertrude Lober Nerad, 3007 Pickett Road, 509D, Durham, NC 27705-6032.

The Reverend Donald Guy Lothrop died February 20, 2002. Deceased partner, Helena Lothrop. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his children, Karla Wight, 693 E. Pointes Drive West, Shelton, WA 98584 and John Lothrop, 38 Union Street, Belfast, ME 04915.

The Rev. John Ogden Fisher died February 22. Deceased partner, Dorothy Stallworth Fisher. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his son, Eric S. Fisher, 320 Old Ayer Road Groton, MA 01450.

The Rev. Andrew Xerez Mahy died March 2, 2002. Surviving partner, Helen Hoag Mahy, 19310 Club House Road #516, Montgomery Village, MD 20886.

The Reverend Burchard A. Royce died January 16, 2002. Surviving partner, Jeannette D'Ewart Royce. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her through their son Jonathan Royce, 517 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City, CO 81212.

Mable Harkins died January 4, 2002. Deceased Partner The Rev. Albert F. Harkins.

The Reverend Charles William Phillips died March 16, 2002. Surviving partner, Elizabeth Phillips, 2 Burket Court, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Those who lived before us, who struggled for justice and suffered injustice before us, have not melted into the dust, and have not disappeared. They are with us still. The lives they lived hold us steady. Their words remind us and call us back to ourselves. Their courage and love evoke our own.

—Kathleen McTigue

The Caring Network

The New Hampshire-Vermont District has been split for UURMAPA Caring Network purposes. Alan Deale and Kathleen Hunter will continue as the New Hampshire contacts and Arthur Hoover and Ellen Dionna are the new Vermont contacts. Also new is Faith Scott of Little Falls, New York, replacing Jan Evans-Tiller as the contact for the U.S. side of St. Lawrence and Ed Peara replacing Roy Ockert in Pacific Northwest. A big welcome to Arthur, Ellen, Ed, and Faith and many thanks to Jan and Roy for their years of service.

Doe Lockwood

UURMAPA at GA 2002

Reconnect with your UURMAPA friends on Thursday, June 20 at 5:30 p.m. for dinner at Restaurant Cafe D'Europe, 27 Rue Saint Angele (corner of Rue Saint Jean and Saint Angele). Reservations a week ahead are suggested: (418) 692-3835. Be sure to tell them it is for the UURMAPA dinner.

“**T**aking Retirement: A Beginners Diary,” is both the title of a Beacon Press book by Professor Carl Klaus (University of Iowa, retired) and the title of an event, sponsored by UURMAPA and Beacon Press, featuring Professor Klaus as the presenter. He will share his experience of confronting the vexing issues of identity and mortality as well as the delights of retirement. It will be held on Friday, June 21, 12:45-2:00 p.m. (in the GA's first round of special events) in Room 304AB of the Convention Center. Beacon will offer copies of his book for sale and signing by author.

“**C**an Our Clergy Afford to Retire?” will be held Saturday June 22 from 2:00 to 3:15 P.M.. Joyce Gilbert who was to do a survey of future retired ministers (which is now on hold) will chair the discussion. Shirley Ranck and Liz McMaster will share their personal stories from women who have gone into ministry as a second career with all the financial implications that holds. Wendy Innis who is a UUA Compensation Consultant and financial planner will discuss what financial planners believe is an adequate base for retirement. She knows and works with ministers who can't afford to retire.

The annual UURMAPA luncheon will be held in the Courville/Montmorency Room (not the Portneuf Room as previously announced) of the Hilton Hotel, on Sunday June 23 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. It will be a buffet with both meat and vegetarian selections. Reservations are to Joyce H. Smith, whose Her addresses and phone are on the front page of *Elderberries*. Deadline for reservations is June 17, 2002. Cost \$23. American. Checks should be made payable to Joyce H. Smith.

A Bioethics Workshop, proposed and organized by UURMAPA and sponsored by the Planning Committee will be held on Monday, June 24, from 3:15-4:30 p.m. Panelists are UURMAPA member Gerald S. Schatz, author, lawyer, member of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and teacher of Biomedical Ethics Law at the graduate level and Carol S. Nielsen director of Northwestern University's Office for the Protection of Research Subjects with daily hands-on application of bioethics. Issues covered will include life-death decisions, reproductive and tissue technology, end-of-life care, the rights of patients and research subjects, and public health crises

The UUMA has invited UURMAPA members to volunteer time at the UUMA booth at GA. It's a good contact point to see your friends and colleagues. To volunteer contact UUMA Administrator Peter Boullata at (617) 948-6414. e-mail: pboullata@uua.org.

Regional Conferences

Funds too tight to make one of the Regional Conferences? Partial scholarships are available through Kenn Hurto at the UUA: (617) 742-2100 – khurto@uua.org.

MIDWEST – September 27-29, 2002 – Signature Inn, Elkhart, Indiana,

The Midwest Conference for the fall of 2002 will be September 27-29 in Elkhart, Indiana, chosen for its central location. The featured speaker will be David Bumbaugh talking on “The Future of Unitarian Universalism.” Nancy Doughty will share her odyssey. We will visit the Shippshewana Amish community, for Saturday afternoon and the evening meal. Church Sunday morning will be with Gordon Gibson and his Elkhart Congregation. Cost: \$163 each for shared room; \$235 for single. Registrar: Fred Campbell, whose addresses and phone are on the front page of *Elderberries*.

NORTHEAST – October 8-10 2002 – LaSalette Center, Attleboro, Massachusetts

“A Celebration of Diversity Within Unitarian Universalism and in the World” is the theme for this conference. Peter Richardson, author of *Four Spiritualities*, will be the theme speaker. Watch for further details in the August issue of *Elderberries*. Meanwhile you may contact Peter Baldwin, chairperson: 113 Pancake Hill Road, Gilmanton, NH 03237. Phone: (603) 435-8037.

PAN SOUTH – Probably in March 2003 – Sarasota, Florida

This location may appeal to northerners—as well as those in the “Pan South” area—who would like to combine a UURMAPA experience with a Florida vacation. We’ll carry details about the conference as they develop. Meanwhile, if you have questions or suggestions contact Keith Munson, Chair of the Planning Committee at 9 Island View Avenue, Saco, ME 04072, e-mail kcmunson@maine.rr.com.

WEST – April 7-10, 2003 – Vallombrosa Conference Center, Menlo Park, California

Details will come later, but I have just returned from the UURMAPA West Conference at the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park. Vallombrosa means “beautiful valley,” and it is one of the most exquisitely beautiful conference centers I have ever attended. The food was also wonderful—for my palate, not my paunch! Contacts: Dick Allen, 131 Sunnyside Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94611-4419, loissong@link.net or Joyce Smith, whose addresses and phone are on the front page of *Elderberries*.

Board Items

UURMAPA LIVING ORAL HISTORY

Are you interested in exploring the minds of our elder statesmen and women and preserving their stories in oral histories? If you would enjoy being on a task force to carry out such a project phone Dorothy Hopper. Her addresses and phone are on the front page of *Elderberries*.

A SURVEY OF OUR MEMBERS

We are interested in doing a survey of our members in regard to what they see as key quality of life issues about aging and retirement. We would like some expertise assistance in two areas: (1) An expert in aging who can help us with defining the areas in which we need to ask questions and (2) An expert in designing questionnaires who can help us create a questionnaire that meets a high standard of scientific polling. If you have names to suggest please send them to: Joyce Smith. Her address and phone is on the front page of *Elderberries*.

FORMING CLUSTERS

Although many of you attend Regional Conferences, some find this difficult due to the cost and distance from home. It has been proposed that in areas where there are enough UURMAPA members to make it work there might be one-day “cluster” meetings that would not require long travel or overnight stays. Possibilities might be a potluck with check-in and discussion of a pre-selected topic; a brown-bag lunch followed by a “presentation” by one of the members; going to a museum, theater, concert, historic sites, etc.; picnics in warm weather—the number of possibilities is as long as your imagination can reach. Are you interested in convening or being a part of such a group? Doe Lockwood, using her Caring Network lists, can supply you with names of people in your area. Dorothy Hopper can help you get started. Their addresses and phones are on the front page of *Elderberries*.

E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

There have been a host of e-mail address changes and your Caring Network Contact Persons have had some difficulty contacting some of you. If your e-mail address has changed please send your new address to Doe Lockwood, dlockwood@gorilla.net. Thank you.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Gene Navias, Chair

Here is the report of the Nominating Committee. You should have received the report and your ballot by mail:

Secretary - Sue Nichols

Newsletter Editor - Ed Lane

Treasurer - Fred Campbell

Member at Large - Peter Weller

Nominating Committee - Ann MacPherson and Polly Leland-Mayer

A Fallen Giant

An Editorial

Which of our colleagues served for thirty-nine years (1936-75) in a Boston church; during part of his ministry it was the largest Protestant church in Boston? Donald Lothrop, who died on February 20 at the age of ninety-six. The church—founded in 1920 by Clarence R. Skinner—was Community Church. Many of its Sunday services were held in Symphony Hall.

Don was a social activist. He supported Spanish democracy in the 1930's, defended Sacco and Vanzetti, had an integrated church long before the civil rights movement, welcomed speakers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Rabbi Stephen Wise, and African liberation leaders to his pulpit—on one occasion he was physically attacked when he invited a supporter of Fidel Castro to speak.

His most defining moment came in the McCarthy era in 1958 when he was accused by a commission of the Massachusetts legislature of “giving aid and comfort to the Communists.” He replied:

“Gentlemen, I plead guilty to this charge. I have given aid and comfort to all kinds of people, black and white, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, Mohammedan and Buddhist, rich and poor, capitalist and communist, democrat and anarchist. I have never selected those who use my ministry nor have I ever refused. My exemplar is one, Jesus of Nazareth, who feared not to associate with and to minister to prostitutes, thieves, and tax-gatherers. He believed in virtue by association, not guilt by association.”

In the words of John Haynes Holmes, New York City minister of another of our Community Churches:

Memory keeps with loving care
Deeds they did and tales they told.
But living men are hard to spare.

A giant has fallen. I will miss him.

Editor

UNABLE TO LOCATE

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Christina Gray-Smith? The last address we have is the John Scott Nursing Home in Braintree, Massachusetts. They list her as “discharged but have no further information.

A Letter From Sylvia Falconer

Editor's note: Keeping track of retired UU ministers and partners is sometimes a little like trying to herd cats. Our Caring Network Contact Persons do a great job on this and Walter Royal Jones recently discovered that Sylvia Falconer was missing from our list. He wrote to her and here are some excerpts from her reply:

Good to hear from you. First, I would like to be on the [UURMAPA] list. Don't know how I was missed—perhaps because I have not been active for so long. Thank you for writing. I have been feeling a bit abandoned by my fellow ministers and had to realize that I pulled away, also. In a sense I have closed the door on the ministry. I am going through the process that many of us go through at this age of “letting go” in order to make room for something new.

I have made a shift to my next career and am putting most of my time and effort into writing books and article for children and young adults, spending time with my 8 mo. old grandson (in Denver) and enjoying Jerry (my partner) and my friends. I recently won a Paul Gillette award for one of my Middle grade unpublished books, have eight children's books finished or in process, and three middle grades in process. It is really a dream come true for me with my new Dell computer, research on the internet and libraries, and a wonderful critique group in Ft. Collins.

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