

Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XVII

FEBRUARY, 2002

NUMBER 2

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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 ...

Almost daily I am aware of some new problem one of our ministerial families is having with regard to medical insurance. Recent news reports now tell us that again in 2001 there was an inflationary spiral in medical costs of about 15% (far more than the rate of inflation). Nothing seems to be moving in Congress to undo the long neglect of any coverage in pharmaceutical costs for senior citizens. Meanwhile, our papers are full of ever new proposals to protect corporations from the dangers of terrorism—past or future. I begin to wonder where our priorities and values truly lie, when we say we cannot afford medical care for all our citizens and yet seem well-attuned to the cries of corporate America. We don't seem to hear about the free enterprise system, when corporate subsidies from government are in the offing.

I suspect all of us are partially to blame. We may complain but do we write or lobby? Are our voices heard? What if just 200 UURMAPA members wrote their member of Congress and forcefully asked for drug coverage in our Medicare system? Virtually every other industrial nation provides such insurance for its elderly. Are we destined to suffer simply from our lack of concern?

I am saddened by the tales of retired clerics and their families regarding medical costs. The Department of the Ministry does the best it can with the funds at hand, but the needs outstrip our resources more and more each year. The time has come for our voices to be lifted in mutual concern for one another.

Peter S. Raible

... AND AN APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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. This year the President's appeal letter for funds has been delayed, but will be along soon in a separate mailing.

Meanwhile, if you would like to go ahead and make 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. This would be helpful to our cash flow and help UURMAPA along for the 2001-02 fiscal year.

p.s.r.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Silliman died September 15, 2001. Deceased partner, the Reverend Vincent Silliman.

The Reverend Harold Buck died September 20, 2001. Surviving former partner, Jeannette Arneson Buck. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his son, Arne Buck, 148 Highland Avenue, Apt. A, Newton, MA 02465-2510 or his daughter, Kirsten Buck, 152 Woodrow Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591.

Evelyn Bird died September 30, 2001. Deceased partner, the Reverend Richard Bird.

The Reverend Thomas E. Payne died November 17, 2001. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his brother, Edward R. Payne, 516 Newton Place NW, Washington, DC 20010

Eva Gilmartin died November 20, hit by a car while walking. Deceased partner, the Reverend Aron Gilmartin.

The Reverend Albert Charles Niles died November 21. Surviving partner Isabel (Bell) Niles, Hc 75 Box 906A, Sebago, ME 04029-9610

The Reverend Junella E. Hanson died November 28, 2001. Surviving partner, James Hanson, 235 White Oak Circle, Petaluma, CA 94952-1955.

Jane Kibby died December 9, 2001. Deceased partner The Reverend David R. Kibby. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her son, Larry Kibby, kibbster@yahoo.com.

Virginia Lovejoy died October 21, 2001. Deceased partner, the Reverend Warren B. Lovejoy.

Katherine (Kay) Meserve died January 20, 2002. Deceased partner, Harry Meserve.

We are children of nature, living amid mysteries; bound together by joy and sorrow, beauty and pain, love and death. We realize the brevity of our existence and the wonder of it; we would support one another all the way. ... Thus shall we be blessed in realizing the sacrament of the shared life, and this earth shall be the richer for our having lived.

—W. Rupert Holloway

What We Are Doing

Gordon McKeeman is a new member of the Meadville-Lombard Center Committee and would love to hear suggestions and wisdom, from M-L folk about directions for that work. Additionally, one of his main projects at Alban has been to work with the Indianapolis Center for Congregations to produce an on-line resource guide for congregations (<http://www.congregationalresources.org>) They are offering a free Alban book to those who give three reader reviews of resources. Finally, they recently completed a redesign of the Alban Institute's magazine "Congregations."

Frank and Alice Schulman have made a \$1.5 million gift to Meadville-Lombard to create the Frank and Alice Schulman Chair in Unitarian and Universalist history that will serve the movement for centuries to come. "Congregations are truly hungry for history and theology," said Frank who views them as important keys to revitalized congregations. Academic excellence, he believes, has an important role to play in this revitalization because, to survive and flourish in our movement, an idea must be intellectually sustainable. Theological education must enable the leaders of Unitarian Universalism to articulate these intellectually viable ideas in ways that make a vital difference in the lives of congregations.

Speaking about their decision to make this wonderful contribution to the school and movement, Frank cited three considerations for making it. First is their loyalty and gratitude to the Unitarian Universalist movement. Second is their long connection with the school. (Frank's D.Min. in 1974; Alice's grandfather, Franklin Chester Southworth was President of the school; both of her maternal grandparents, Richard and Harriet Boynton were graduates in 1895.) Third, is Frank's long interest in our history and its importance to a learned ministry. He cited the 1643 statement of the explanation for founding of Harvard College: "After God has carried us safe to Neu England, and wee had builded our houses, provided necessaries for our lively-hood, rear'd convenient places for God worship and settled the Civil Government: one of the next things we longed for, and looked after was to advance Learning and perpetuate it to posterity; dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the churches when our present ministers shall lie in the Dust."

We have just learned from Ralph Mero that UURMAPA is the beneficiary of 25% of the estate of Mable Hill Harkins, widow of the Reverend Al Harkins, who died in 1976. Details are unavailable at this time, but we'll keep you posted. But how grand to think that our work is recognized by colleagues, who have gone before and let us hope also encourage some of us still among the living to want to make some similar provision in our wills.

UURMAPA At GA 2002

BIOETHICS WORKSHOP, MONDAY, JUNE 24, FROM 8:30 TO 9:45 AM

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.

CARL KLAUS, AUTHOR OF *TAKING RETIREMENT: A BEGINNER'S DIARY*
CO-SPONSORED BY UURMAPA & BEACON PRESS

Carl Klaus, is a retired professor of non-fiction writing at the University of Iowa. He will share his experience of confronting the vexing issues of identity and mortality as posed by retirement. Beacon will have copies of his book available for purchase and signing by the author. This event is presently scheduled for Friday, June 21.

UURMAPA ANNUAL LUNCHEON, SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Our annual luncheon, where we invite as guests newly retired ministers and their spouses/partners, will be held at noon on Sunday, June 23rd following the **second** Service of the Living Tradition. This has come to be a very special event for those of us who come to GA and, given the special attraction of Quebec City, is expected to be an occasion not to be missed. You will receive mailed information with details of the cost and making reservations.

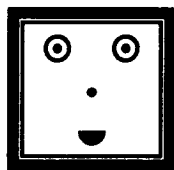
et cetera ...

Donald Lothrop has moved to a nursing home near to his son in Belfast, Maine. He is in his nineties.

Does anyone have an address for Martha Newman? Mail sent to her at 47 Turner Street, Skowhegan, ME was returned "not forwardable."

Clarification on Caring Network persons: Dru and John Cummins have two areas: Western Canada and Prairie Star.

Wanted By the Nominating Committee



WANTED

The UURMAPA Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for elections in May 2002. We elect the following officers in even numbered years:

Secretary	One Member-At-Large
Treasurer	Two Members of the Nominating Committee
Newsletter Editor	

Several of the incumbents are eligible to run again.

Please send your suggestions for these positions to me at:

Email: ebnavias@aol.com Phone: (617)436-2128 FAX: (617)825-0360

Postal Mail: 69 Ocean St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

Thanks for your help!

Gene Navias
Chair, Nominating Committee

Crane/Tufts & St. Lawrence Alumni GA 2003 in Boston?

Harry Sherman, Alan Seaburg, and Ernest Cassara, have been discussing the possibility of holding a reunion of the alumni of the Crane Theological School, a.k.a. the Tufts School of Religion, in conjunction with the UUA General Assembly in Boston in 2003. It is hoped that non-UU alumni would also attend. The possibility of inviting St. Lawrence theological alumni has also been discussed. Should enough interest be expressed by prospective attendees, Harry, Alan, and Ernest, will approach the Tufts Alumni office to discuss its cooperation and to explore the possibility of holding a luncheon meeting on campus, with a possible tour of the much-changed hill. If you are interested in such a possibility, please drop a note to Cassara at 2130 Mass. Ave., Apt. 3B, Cambridge, MA 02140, or, write him by e-mail: E.Cassara@alumni.tufts.edu.

Regional Conferences

PAN SOUTH Spring on the Mountain March 18-21, 2002, Mountain Conference Center, Highlands, N. C.

There is still time to register if you act quickly! The conference begins March 18th after dinner and ends after breakfast on the 21st. Freeman Owle, a member of the Cherokee Nation, will speak on "Mother Earth, Living at Peace." The Rev. Calvin Knapp will have a session on "Religion after the Jesus Seminar." The Rev. Melanie Sullivan will talk on "They" and other racisms. The Rev. Edward Harris will share "Higginson—Hidden History" (the Unitarian abolitionist clergyman who led the black regiment seen in the film *Glory*). Jean McGehee will discuss Faulkner's racial views. Ed and Jean will also speak on "Birmingham in the '50s." We will share humorist Gary Carden's presentation with an Elderhostel group meeting at The Mountain.

The Mountain offers van service to the Atlanta airport—\$50 round trip per person if you check this (and your arrival time) on the registration form. There will also be monies available to help those of us who need it. Early bird discount registration forms will come from The Mountain around December 1—later registration forms will be mailed about February 1.

Chair: Jean McGehee, P.O. Box 439, 21410 Scenic Drive Mentone, AL 35984

WEST – April 22-25, 2002 - Menlo Park, California

The Eleventh UURMAPA West Conference will be April 22 to April 25 (Monday to 1:00 pm on Thursday) at the Vallombrosa Center, Menlo Park, CA. The program features Scotty McLennan speaking and discussing "Finding Your Religion When the Faith You Grew Up With Has Lost Its Meaning." Phillip Hewett will present an extended firsthand report on contemporary Polish Unitarianism and Peter Raible, UURMAPA President, will present a report. There will be other wonderful things including an odyssey and chapel.

Cost: One person single room, \$330.00; two persons in double room, \$285.00 per person. Send registration fee of \$90.00 now to Sue Ayer, Treasurer, UURMAPA West Conference, BPM, box 452, 4117 S.E. Division, Portland OR 97202. For questions or further information you can reach her at sayer3333@aol.com or by phone 503-233-1618.

MIDWEST - September 27-29 - 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 Rev. David Bumbaugh talking on "The Future of Unitarian Universalism." Nancy Doughty will share her odyssey. We will go to Amish country, Shipshewana for Saturday afternoon and the evening meal. Church Sunday morning will be with Rev. Gordon Gibson and his Elkhart Congregation.

Half-Time Minister Sought in Bozeman, Montana

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bozeman, Montana is searching for our first minister to serve in a half-time position, living in the area. We are looking for someone who can be a catalyst for growth to enable us to move to a full-time minister within five years. We are following UUA guidelines for the TCM.

We have strong lay leadership, and are committed to a shared ministry. We are a vibrant and growing fellowship with 54 members, 17 friends, and 10-12 children and youth. We need help with our children's Religious Education program as that is our weakest area. The fellowship began as a discussion group in 1959 and is a diverse group with both humanitarian and spiritual leanings. We meet at the Senior Center in Bozeman.

Bozeman is home to Montana State University with 12,000 students. It is a beautiful community within a rapidly growing county of 65,000 people located ninety miles north of Yellowstone Park. There is considerable vitality within the arts and there are numerous cultural activities. Fly fishing, hiking, skiing, etc. are readily available in the surrounding mountains:

Contact Amanda Cater (406) 587-9411, gugguru@mcn.net; or Susie Cole (406) 587-0810, scole100@hotmail.com; or view our website at www.gomontana.com/uu; or write Amanda Cater, 19 Hodgman Canyon Drive Bozeman, MT 59718

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