

Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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“The Wheel Turns Again” Peter Raible, UURMAPA President

Years ago, my minister father was concerned about the number of our ministers who could not afford to retire during the Great Depression. They stayed on in their churches, and in my father’s opinion, often labored longer than they should have with great negative consequences both to themselves and their parishes. So he had the Dallas church put into its bylaws a requirement that the minister had to retire at age 65. By the time he came to retirement, he was not well, but he benefited from more than a decade when both he and my mother had good jobs and no longer any fiscal responsibilities for us children. For well over three decades, the general condition of our ministers in retirement became better—with, of course, many individual exceptions.

Now, because we have a number of ministers who came to the ministry comparatively late in life, many do not have adequate funds for retirement. In addition, the buffeting of the stock market has hit hard many clerics already retired. While many of us in the retirement ranks have labored on in interim ministries, most did not have to work out of necessity. But now we are finding more and more ministers, who are returning from retirement to at least partial employment, because they feel financially pinched.

This need to go on working, when health is marginal or abilities are limited, will grow as a problem in our ranks in the decade to come. We need to do a better job helping our colleagues to be able to afford to retire. I think UURMAPA can play a key role in anticipatory change. I hope all of us will respond positively to initiatives to make our concerns better known in the wider denomination.

I am glad that I can step down as your President and after half a century of service enter full retirement. But I hope to remain active in UURMAPA efforts to generate better preparation and deeper concern for the fiscal well being of the many in our ranks who suffer poverty because of their service as ministers. I hope this ongoing issue will garner continuing attention in the work of our Association. I thank you for the opportunity to serve and for the dedication of some many, who make UURMAPA a significant organization.

psr

EDITOR’S NOTE: Due to very tight space limitations in this issue we have had to postpone the “How Are You ... What are You Doing ... Any New Publications?” section, squeeze spaces between paragraphs and in a few instances reduce type size. We’ll try to catch up on the personal news in August and hope the crowding and smaller type doesn’t make reading difficult for some.

From Your UURMAPA Board

The bad news is that due to his heart problems Peter Raible was unable to meet with the Board at our meeting in March. The good news is that he expects to be at GA in Boston next month. Vice-President Joyce Smith conducted the Board meetings and wrote this report:

Your Board met in Florida where we also attended the Pan South UURMAPA meeting hearing interesting talks about Civil Liberties and early memories of Birmingham by our former President, Ed Harris, and enjoyed the cultural offerings of Sarasota.

Some of the highlights of the Board meeting concerned the survey which we just sent out. Peter Weller shared his analysis of the returns from members. (See his report elsewhere in this issue.) In addition to surveying UURMAPA members we also surveyed pre-retirement people (those over 50 still in active ministry) from which we received 382 returns—over 50%. Feeling that it is important that as many people in the denomination as possible are aware of the results and their implications and a need for UURMAPA to become more visible in the wider movement we voted to disseminate information from both surveys as widely as possible.

One side effect of mailing the survey was that we located a number of people who consider themselves to be retired but had not let the UUA know of their status and some people whom we did not list on our membership who are eligible. As a result our membership figures should jump this year in addition to the larger number of just retired people coming in.

We will very much miss the outgoing Board Members: Peter, who has opted not to stand for a second term due to his health; Doe Lockwood who has done a splendid job with the Caring Network and brings a delightful sense of humor to the Board. Dorothy Hopper who has done yeoman service in keeping the Regional Conferences on track, organizing General Assembly workshops, and getting the oral history project started. We will miss all of them.

Of course, the beginning of war which most of us opposed shadowed this all. May peace and healing come soon.

Vice-President Joyce Smith

The Caring Network

George & Priscilla Brooks have retired from the Caring Network after serving since 1998. Farley Wheelwright who lives in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico has taken over District 62, Florida for George and Priscilla. Farley has done this before so he will be an experienced old hand and it didn't bother him one bit that Florida is not his district. In addition, Peter Lee Scott has joined Faith Grover Scott as co-chair of the U.S. side of the St. Lawrence District.

A big thanks to all for serving this important function for UURMAPA.

CNCP Chairperson *Doe Lockwood*

UURMAPA Member Survey as of 4/14/03

We have received the gratifying total of 293 responses representing about 60% of our membership. Non-members returned three questionnaires and another 15 have come from presumably active ministers who had quietly retired without the UUA or our Board learning of it. Also, in the hope of making our survey even more complete and comprehensive, we recently sent a second mailing to the 40% who haven't yet responded. If you happen to be among that number, we urge you to take the time (soon!) to give us your input.

Joyce Smith has engaged a person to do the tedious work of tabulating and collating the results and we have set a goal of reviewing and approving a final and full report at the October board meeting.

A quick and partial review of your responses has revealed at least one item of good news. Most of us are finding our retirement years to be full and immensely rewarding, in a wide variety of ways. And we are doing so even in the face of the varied assortment of health issues and problems that can come upon us as we grow older. On the other hand, a lesser number of us are having a difficult time of it, mainly due to financial or health problems, or combinations of the two. You may be assured that your Board will be looking for ways, even with our limited resources, to better lend support and assistance to these members.

If any of you have questions or want specific information, do not hesitate to contact me. And thanks to all of you for your open and thoughtful responses to this venture.

Peter Weller

UURMAPA Programs at General Assembly

Our annual luncheon and welcome of new members will be held on Sunday, June 29 at 1:00 PM in Sheraton Ballroom A. For reservations send your check for \$20 to Dorothy Hopper (address and phone on front page).

UURMAPA will sponsor two very special events at this year's GA in Boston. One will feature Bob West, in his first appearance at a GA in more than two decades, who will reflect on the often stressful and turbulent era from 1969-1977, when he served as UUA President. Saturday, June 28m 1:30-2:45, Ballroom B of the Convention Center.

In the other event, we will hear from Dr. George Vaillant, Director of the landmark Harvard Study of Adult Development, who will speak on the topic of his recently published book, *Aging Well: Some Surprising Guideposts*. Friday, June 27, 2:45-4:00 PM in Room 311 of the Convention Center.

Peter Weller

In Memoriam

The Reverend Dr. Robert W. Brockway died December 10, 2001. Surviving partner, Catherine Brockway, 1817 Princess Avenue, Brandon, MB R7B 0H2 Canada.

The Reverend Anita Rowson died September 27, 2002. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her children: Stacey J. Bedard, 527 E. Second Avenue, Escondido CA 92025 and Richard Rowson, 1324 San Andres Street, Santa Barbara CA 93101

The Reverend Jody Shipley died October 9, 2002. Surviving partner, The Reverend Marilyn Gentile, P. O. Box 2370, Berkeley CA 94702-0370.

Frances Killam died December 1, 2002. Deceased partner: The Reverend Robert Killam. Messages of remembrance may be sent to their daughter Jeannie at jeannie@sover.net.

Dorothy Caiger Senghas died December 10, 2002. Surviving partner, The Reverend Robert Senghas, 54 Rivermount Terrace, Burlington VT 05401.

The Reverend Robert Edward Green died January 15, 2003. Surviving partner, Carole Green 21635 La Vereda Road, Sonora CA 95370-8202.

The Reverend Richard A. Perry died January 16, 2003. Surviving partner: Wana Perry, 4812 Birmingham Drive, San Jose CA 95136-2910

The Reverend Carol Jackson died February 2, 2003. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Earnest (spelling is correct) James Jackson, Jr., 3414 Londonderry Court Roanoke VA 24018.

The Reverend Margaret (Peg) Gooding died February 9, 2003. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her daughter, Frances Tilgner, 42688 County Road N, Mancos CO 81328.

The Reverend Barbara E. Edgcombe died February 26, 2003. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her two sons: David Cunat, 5429 N. Campbell #1, Chicago IL 60625; John Cunat, 2342 W. Melrose - 2nd Floor, Chicago IL 60618.

The Reverend Harry B. Scholefield died March 4, 2003. Surviving partner: Diene Scholefield, 344 Mt. Shasta Drive, San Rafael CA 94903-1030.

Gertrud Gelsey died March 28, 2003. Surviving partner: The Reverend Rudolph Gelsey, 2801 Lawnes Creek Road, Williamsburg VA 23185.

The Reverend Lee Hubert died April 15, 2003. Surviving partner: Shirley Hubert, 506 Sunglow Avenue, Alomogordo NM 88310.

The Reverend Harold Schmidt died April 13, 2003. Surviving partner: Elizabeth Schmidt, Bayberry Care Center, 1800 Adobe Street, Concord CA 94520.

The Reverend W. Hollis Tegarden died April 14, 2003. Surviving partner: Lois Teagarden, 25 Edwards Place, Princeton NJ 08540.

The Reverend William Wagner died April 17, 2003. Surviving partner: Barbara Wagner, 9 John Brian Lane, Buffalo NY 14227-3615.

[We have been] blessed by the sacrament of the shared life
And this earth is the richer for [their] having lived.
—W. Rupert Holloway

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 12-15, 2004 - Vallombrosa Conference Center, Menlo Park, CA

The program is incomplete at this point. Ed Lane will present on the topic, “Slow the Pace—Savor the Journey.” Co chairs: Al and Mary Thelander, theandr@nccn.net.

MIDWEST – October 18-19, 2003 – Hyde Park in and around Meadville

Our speaker for Saturday morning is Dean Grodzins the new history professor at Meadville who has just written a book on Theodore Parker. We will have time to visit a museum of choice and those who have ideas for activities are invited to send them along to Fred Campbell at fredffc@aol.com. We are holding the cost down and invite our friends to come and enjoy a weekend in Chicago.

NORTHEAST – October 7-9 2003 – LaSalette Center, Attleboro, Massachusetts

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO BE IN OCTOBER! Come to Massachusetts for the annual conference of UURMAPA-NE. Keynote speaker will be Fred Campbell, author of the UU adult education curriculum “Four Faiths -A Unitarian Universalist exploration of the diversity, roots and growth of religious belief systems.” The program will also feature Earl Holt, who will bring us up to date on the work of the Commission on Appraisal, with Gordon McKeeman to offer his reflections. Tracey Robinson-Harris will discuss current developments within the UUA, and we will be blessed with the odyssey of Janet Bowering. Mark your calendar now and be with us for fellowship, workshops, a bit of free time, and the opportunity for discussion about trends within our beloved UU community.

Contacts: Connie Sternberg revconnies@aol.com and Dick Fewkes rmfewkes@juno.com

PAN SOUTH – March 4-7 2004 Clearwater, Florida

The theme of the 2004 Pan South Conference will be, “Shared Memories,” as we talk together about the formative experiences in our lives. Our keynote speaker will be Ed Harris, author of a forthcoming book about growing up in Birmingham and his experiences as a journalist during the civil rights struggle. We will have an evening for “Hilarious and Outrageous Experiences I Have Had” and for “Wisdom Learned the Hard Way.” We will also have a tour of the Clearwater area. We will have a choice of home hospitality or nearby Hampton Inn Motel. Contact person: Dorothy Hopper (425-643-8923) or e-mail Clhopperjr@aol.com.

Facilitate UURMAPA Communications

Being out of touch with friends and colleagues is a common problem for those of us who are retired. Here are some things you can do to facilitate good communications:

- Check your listing in the new UURMAPA directory for both accuracy and omissions on your address, telephone, and e-mail. Send to Larry Hamby (see front cover for addresses).
- Some of you have a web site. If you would like that published in *Elderberries* send it to Ed Lane (see front cover for addresses).
- UURMAPA now has its own chat list for all you computer savvy ones. It enables you to post items of interest (please, no jokes and no promotions of your new book). To subscribe, go to this web site and follow the instructions: <http://www.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/speakup>. There have been some initial problems in setting this list up, but they will, hopefully, have been resolved by the time you read this.

After you have subscribed, you'll get a welcome message and a password which is used to change items in your subscription and to look at the list of subscribers. Those with basic Juno will need to contact Larry Hamby in order to enroll because basic Juno doesn't have web access and he can handle this for you.

To post a message, send it to speakup@uua.org. It will be sent to all subscribers. To answer a post, simply press the “reply button” and your reply will be sent to the list. You can also send a private reply by using the poster's email address.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The UURMAPA Nominating Committee presents the following slate for the positions to be elected for two-year terms. (Ballots have been mailed to you.): President, Joyce Smith; Vice President, Richard Fewkes; Caring Connections Chair, Glen Snowden; Member-at-Large, Nancy Doughty, Nominating Committee Chair, Eugene Navias. Continuing in office are: Secretary, Sue Nichols; Treasurer, Fred Campbell; *Elderberries* Editor, Ed Lane; Member at Large, Peter Weller; Nominating Committee, Polly Leland-Mayer and Ann MacPherson

The Nominating Committee *Gene Navias*, Chair *Ann MacPherson*, *Polly-Leland Mayer*

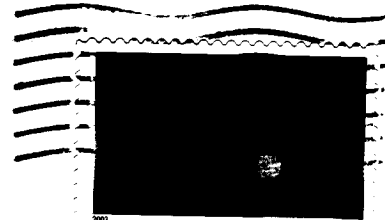
Part-time Ministerial Opportunities

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of New Bern, North Carolina is seeking its first minister, to work with us on a half-time basis. Our Fellowship is eight years old, has forty members, and has been affiliated with UUA since 2000. We are a well-educated and diverse group. In theological orientation those who identify themselves as ethical Christians is the largest group, with Humanists the next largest. Also included are agnostics, Buddhists, and earth-centered. We seek a minister who will encourage us on our spiritual paths and challenge us intellectually.

Visit our website: www.uufnb.8m.com then contact Duncan Harkin at: daharkin@earthlink.net

PARTNERS IN PARADISE- the UU Fellowship of Key West, Florida, seeks a spiritual partnership with an experienced minister in fellowship with the UUA for a half-time consulting position. We are looking for someone to inspire, facilitate vitality, participate in our community, to be a sensitive partner, and to bridge our small 55-member congregation with UU resources and programs. Perfect person would be comfortable with pastoral care and sharing the pulpit. See our congregational record in the Minister Settlement on UUA website. Contact person: Rev. Mary Higgins, (407) 894-2119 or uuaflldistoffice@aol.com

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