

# Elderberries

*The Newsletter of the*

*Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association*

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## Contents

From Your President .....	2
How are you? ... What are you doing? ...	
Any new publications? .....	3
Facilitate UURMAPA Communications.....	4
Ken Patton Writings Sought.....	4
In Memoriam .....	5
Regional Conferences .....	6
Caring Network Changes.....	7
An Idea for District UURMAPAs.....	8

*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).

Address changes should be sent to Larry Hamby, 245 McDuffie Drive, Athens GA 30605.

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## President's Perspectives . . . Joyce Smith

General Assembly was quite an event this year, with more than 7500 people attending and some 10,000 at the Service of the Living Tradition. We welcomed twenty-nine newly retired ministers into our midst. At the same time we mourned the loss of thirty of our ministers, some of whom were not retired. I don't have any figures to compare, but it seems to me that the number of deaths this year is higher than usual. Forty-nine members of UURMAPA shared a luncheon arranged by Dorothy Hopper.

We sponsored two workshops at G.A, which were well attended. Bob West graciously accepted our invitation to share his memories of the years of his presidency of the Association—his first time at a General Assembly since then. It was a refresher course in a turbulent part of our history. A second workshop we sponsored featured Dr. George Valliant, a Harvard researcher in aging studies, who shared his observations of the result of a more than fifty-year longitudinal study of changes people go through as they age. We are justifiably proud of the quality of those workshops, arranged by Peter Raible and Peter Weller.

We received very good news in June. Our request for funds to finance the analysis of our survey of retired ministers and partners and those ministers 50 or over who have not yet retired was generously granted by the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. The grant of \$13,000 was the largest given this year and includes money for programs to provide counseling for those approaching retirement and for training caring network people.

Thank you for your generous response to a request for funds. Although we have no dues we do depend on our members for support. We had some extra expenses for mailing the surveys in January, in addition to the usual expenses of Board meetings and publishing *Elderberries*.

Larry Hamby has set up the means to keep in touch by e-mail and the internet with other members who may be far away. See the item about the new Chat Line in the article on UURMAPA communications in this issue of *Elderberries*.

Lastly a warm thanks to the outgoing members of the Board: Peter Raible, Dorothy Hopper and Doe Lockwood. Peter took over as President when Ed Harris had his serious accident. Dorothy has done yeoman service making arrangements for events at G.A. and keeping some of our regional meetings going. Doe has kept the Caring Network staffed with people and given advice to its volunteers. They will be missed. Incoming board members are Dick Fewkes, Vice President; Glenn Snowden as Caring Network Chair and Nancy Doughty as Member at Large. I look forward to working with these new people.

Please note that my area code in the directory is incorrect. The correct phone number is on the masthead of *Elderberries*.

*Joyce*

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

**John Nichols Booth** published his seventeenth book last year about the philosophy and psychology of magic. It is a pioneering work for professionals. Some years ago he had six bypass surgeries. With only one artery now barely open the doctors don't know how he keeps going. But he turns ninety-one this summer.

**Dayton Yoder and Lucille Bursch** moved to a retirement home, the Camelot, which looks like a castle. They play bridge twice a week, and he enjoys the Braille Talking Books. Every summer they spend some time in Spokane, Washington near relatives of Lucille.

**Walter Baese** lives with his seven dogs in a lovely big house near the Los Angeles Memorial Park and Library. Had a quadruple bypass four years ago.

**Fred and Margaret Keip** live five miles outside of Grants Pass, in a rural Oregon home, surrounded by Douglas fir, pine, madroña and oak trees. Fred is a deputy sheriff with Josephine County Search and Rescue, serves as chaplain, and is trained to serve on the County Emergency Management Team should the need arise. He spends the rest of his time writing, walking their two small dogs, playing softball, and maintaining their two acres of woods plus container gardening. He never imagined that spending his later years amid such beauty as southwestern Oregon offers. Margaret is doing interim ministry, serving on the PNWD Contact Team (conflict management), and doing workshops on Carver Policy Governance. She may retire sometime in the future.

**Ted Webb** has two publications, well-reviewed by eminent historians and UU members, about Maine's most famous family, the Washburns, with Maine and Wisconsin governors out of seven brothers, along with ambassadors to Paraguay and France, two millionaires, a Major General in the Civil War, the "maker" of Grant as president, and two presidents of the Universalist national convention. One book is entitled *Seven Brothers: Millionaires and Vagabonds*. The other is *Impassioned Brothers*. Order the first from the publisher—toll free phone: 1-888-232-4444. Purchase the second from Ted at 2212 Ralston Road, Sacramento, CA 95821-4633. \$23 each.

**Ernest Cassara's** biography, *Hosea Ballou: The Challenge to Orthodoxy*, is now available in paperback. During Ballou's long Boston ministry he had several public debates with William Ellery Channing and the biography provides insight into early Unitarian-Universalist relationships. Contact Ernie by e-mail, [ipatch5@aol.com](mailto:ipatch5@aol.com), and the publisher—Cambridge Cornerstone Press—will mail you a copy with an invoice for \$12 (\$3.95 under list price).

A fictional account of Ballou, *Murder on Boston Common: A Father Ballou and His Dog Sport Mystery*, is available via the same process for \$10. Another book of fiction *Murder on Beacon Hill: A Father Ballou and His Dog Spot Mystery* is now out of print.

The late **Maryell Cleary** has edited a book, *A Bold Experiment: The Charles Street Universalist Meeting House*, with articles by several other retired UU ministers. Published by Meadville/Lombard Press, it is available from the UUA Bookstore.

## 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 that 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](mailto: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.

## Canadian UU Seeks Writings of Ken Patton.

Don Fraser is active in local congregations, has given a talk on Patton and plans to offer a workshop on Patton's contribution to "the Celebration of Life" at next year's Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting in Edmonton. He would like to have all of Ken's works for his own use and it would be great to have some extras for those whom he gets interested in "Universal Religion." He will pay postage for shipping. E-mail him at [leedon@sympatico.ca](mailto:leedon@sympatico.ca).

## In Memoriam

- ✓ Correction from May issue: Lee Huebert incorrectly listed as Hubert.
- ✓ **The Reverend Anne R. Buehler** died March 1, 2003. Messages of remembrance may be sent to the family in care of her son: Guy Crumpley, 9304 Antler Court, Fredericksburg, VA 22407.
- ✓ **The Reverend W. Hollis Tegarden** died April 14, 2003. Surviving partner: Lois Tegarden, 25 Edwards Place, Princeton, NJ 08540-5113.
- ✓ **The Reverend Duncan Howlett** died May 19, 2003. Surviving partner: Carolyn Chance Howlett. Messages of remembrance to his family may be sent to his son, Albert D. Howlett 302 Great Falls Street, Falls Church VA 22046.
- ✓ **The Rev. Fern C. Stanley** died May 23, 2003
- ✓ **The Reverend Louise A. Robeck** died June 3, 2003. Surviving partner: Don Wade. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Don and their son Thad at: 358 S. Peach Ave., Fresno CA 93727.
- ✓ **The Reverend John Papandrew** died June 12, 2003. Deceased partner: Betty Papandrew. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his son, Jonathan Papandrew, 14 Pollock Drive, Rye NH 03870.
- ✓ **The Reverend Maryell Cleary** died July 1, 2003. Messages of remembrance may be sent to her sons, Bruce Cleary, 3111 Broadway 3-J, New York, NY 10027 and Kevin Cleary 870 Whitlock Road Rochester, NY 14609.
- ✓ **The Reverend Rhys Williams** died July 20, 2003. Surviving partner: Eleanor Barnhart Williams, 1 Avery Street, 25 A, Boston, MA 02111-1022.
- ✓ **Irene L. Perry** died July 24. Deceased partner: The Reverend Albert Perry

When we form loving relationships we are choosing to become vulnerable, to be wounded by the pain of death and grief. Without love there would be no grief—but what a bleak life that would be! Our tears are tears of joy and sorrow as we weep for that which has been and continues to be our delight.

—Ed Lane

## 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.*

### **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 and renew old friendships, make new ones, hear stimulating speakers, worship and dine together.

Keynote speaker will be Fred Campbell, on the topic of his UU adult education curriculum “Four Faiths—A Unitarian Universalist Exploration of the Diversity, Roots and Growth of Religious Belief Systems.” His book, *Religious Integrity for Everyone: Functional Theology for Secular Society*, may be read or purchased on line at iuniverse.com. Typing in his name as author brings up the entire text. Peter Richardson will be the respondent for Fred’s presentation.

The program will also feature Earl Holt, who will bring us up to date on the work of the Commission on Appraisal on “Where is the Unity In Our UU Diversity?” followed by questions and comments by Gordon McKeeman. Janet Bowering will share her Odyssey. At our business meeting we’ll have a report from the UURMAPA Board and Tracey Robinson-Harris will give us an overview of the latest programs and plans at the UUA. 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.

Cost: \$155; mail to Peter Baldwin, Registrar, 113 Pancake Hill Road, Gilmanton, NH 03237. Questions?: pbaldwin@aol.com, Phone: (603) 435-8814.

*Dick Fewkes* rmfewkes@juno.com, Chair of the Program Committee

### **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, *American Heretic*, 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.

## **PAN SOUTH – March 4-7 2004 Clearwater, Florida**

“Shared Memories” will be the theme of the spring conference in beautiful Clearwater, home of the white sandy beaches.

Author Ed Harris will be one of the presenters, but so will we all be presenters. Come prepared to share the formative experiences of your lives, including “Hilarious and Outrageous Experiences I Have Had” and “Wisdom Learned the Hard Way.”

We will have a day trip to St. Petersburg with choices of museums: The Salvador Dali Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Holocaust Museum, or the Sunken Gardens.

You will have a choice of housing: Hampton Inn Clearwater Central, or home hospitality, which is a fund-raiser for the church. Last year many people reported that the home hospitality was an especially delightful part of the conference.

Contact person: *Dorothy Hopper* 206-382-3191 (New phone) [clhopperjr@aol.com](mailto:clhopperjr@aol.com)

## **WEST – April 12-15, 2004 - Vallombrosa Conference Center, Menlo Park, CA**

Ed Lane will present on the topic, “Slow the Pace—Savor the Journey.” Other speakers will offer ideas for our discussion on the theme “Thinking Outside the Box.” There will be odysseys from Joyce Smith and Richard and Lois Allen, plus daily chapels and free time to explore the area south of San Francisco.

*Al and Mary Thelander*, [thelandr@nccn.net](mailto:thelandr@nccn.net), Co-chairs

## **Caring Network Changes**

Gene McGhee has moved from Mid-South and Larry Hamby our data manager has taken over as the Caring Network Contact Person. Thanks Gene and thank you Larry for wearing yet another hat. In addition, Charles and Claudine Grady, after many years of service to UURMAPA as Conference Coordinators, serving on the board, and as the Caring Network Persons for the Thomas Jefferson District for eight years (even before it was split) decided to move on to other more local concerns. Those are big shoes to fill and Elinor Artman says yes, she will do it. Elinor has taken over the South/East portion of Thomas Jefferson. Thank you Elinor and thank you Charles and Claudine for your many years of service to UURMAPA. Also, I want to welcome my successor, Glen Snowden, as Caring Network Chair. Glen and Lorraine are the Caring Network co-chairs of Central Mass.

*Doe Lockwood*, outgoing chair

## An Idea for District UURMAPAs

UURMAPA Board member Dorothy Hopper suggested it. Boston Area Caring Connectors Gene Navias and Charles Wilson orchestrated it. David Hubner, UUA Director of Ministry, generously hosted it. What? A lovely luncheon in Elliot Hall at the UUA. Twenty-three UURMAPAs from Boston and environs came, reunited happily, and had a delicious catered lunch. They heard UUA President Bill Sinkford give a most interesting talk on "new horizon programs and actions" that he and the UUA are involved in, asked questions, chatted with Ralph Mero, Director of Church Staff Finances, with David Hubner, and lengthily with each other. In fact, they didn't want to go home.

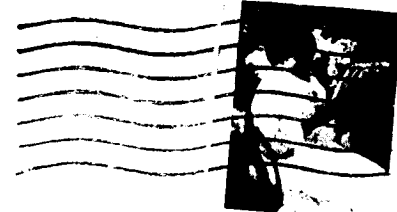
Many thanks to Dorothy for the idea and for the UUA in making it possible! Now we have to figure out our next area gathering. It's a long time between New England UURMAPA conferences.

*Gene Navias*

**Senility Prayer:** God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Sent in by Hvezdon Kafka

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