

# 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 (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.  
Phone: (706) 543-3315  
e-mail: larryhamby@mac.com

## From Your President ...

## Annual Appeal

**Peter Raible**

UURMAPA receives each year a tad of money from the UUMA and the St. Lawrence (Universalist) Foundation for which we are indeed grateful. But virtually all our support (90% or so) comes from the annual giving of our own members. We do not have set dues for we want all retired clerics and partners to be with us. We are also assisted by the fact that retired UUMA life members need no longer pay dues to that group.

We have a newsletter, as you know for you are reading it. We have a care network to stay in touch with each other and to help one another. We have regional meetings with great programs and good fellowship. We are now embarked on a major survey of our group to learn more about who we are and what our concerns and needs will be in the future. We are a growth organization for the number of ministers in our ranks, who are over 50, is significant. We will burgeon in years ahead. This also means that our denominational aid funds will be increasingly taxed. Do we need to lobby to add such a project to UUA capital campaigns?

Meanwhile, we must keep UURMAPA alive and we are the only ones who can do so. My great hope is that each of us will contribute something, however small, to our group, as a sign of mutual ownership of our group by us all. We also need more generous support from those of us, who are not financially stressed in retirement. We have a number of members, who give us \$200 or more per year. We have many who give in the \$50-100 range, which is our average membership gift. And, of course, we have a flock of folk who send us \$5, \$10 or \$25. We need the participation of all.

Checks should be mailed to Fred Campbell, treasurer (1186 Wild Cherry, Williamston, MI 48895-0443). If you respond now, you will save us from the expense of soliciting you directly.

*psr*

P.S. I appreciate all who have evinced concern about my health. Having been found a bad candidate for surgery, I am going the change of life style and drug therapy route. I am now back at work with the Bainbridge Island, WA group for the remainder of the year. In June, I plan to “hang up my spikes” and fully retire after 50 years in active ministry.

## The Caring Network

I am pleased to announce that The Reverend Margaret (Margo) Tyndall of Oakland, California has joined the Caring Network team as the contact person for the Pacific Central Bay Area. Thanks, Margo—and a hearty welcome.

*Doe Lockwood*  
CNCP Chairperson

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

*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.*

**H**erb Vetter served as project director and editor of *Notable American Unitarians*, a collection of illustrated biographies highlighting 100 Unitarians. He also recently edited the volume *Catholic Power vs. American Freedom*, a study of the conflict between Roman Catholicism and American democracy.

**C**harles A. Howe received the 2002 Distinguished Service Award for Unitarian Universalism from the Thomas Jefferson District.

**A**nnie Foerster has a book coming out this spring—tentatively titled *For Praying Out Loud*. It is a collection of public prayers designed to be inclusive.

**F**arley Wheelwright writes: Dear Ed, You ask in Elderberries for a report on what we are doing. This from me: Today (December 5) is my 86th birthday. How I got here is still a mystery. You really begin to feel old, as I did last October attending the memorial service of Hoppy Robinson, a dear and special UU minister whose ordination sermon I preached. Why he and not I becomes a recurring theme in my mind as one after another of my junior friends and colleagues like Nick Cardell, Roger Cowan Jody Shipley “leave the world to darkness and to me.” I try to make up for still being here by being busy. I preach once a month in the local (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico) fellowship and on the board of directors for the local Gringo bilingual library, most recently the Acting President. It still is not the same as being in the vortex of ministry. The Mayan calendar presciently stops in 2012. Do you suppose they knew something we don't?

**C**lark Olsen (Asheville NC) reports: “Anna and I are both fine.” He says they both continue to combine retirement with some professional work. They do several kinds of facilitating and training for corporate and non-profit groups, and he finds very satisfying his regular meetings with high school students on a trip called “Sojourn to the Past.” They gather at the MLK, Jr. memorial in Atlanta, Clark tells them of the attack on James Reeb, they view the CNN documentary about Selma, and they meet with Congressman John Lewis and others who were active in the civil rights movement. Clark presented his “Odyssey” at the SEUUMA meeting last fall, gave an address at the UUMA Convocation last March, and received an honorary degree from Starr King School in June, 2001. He concludes, “I am deeply grateful for those honors!”

## UURMAPA –Who Is a Member?

This question was asked at the Northeast Conference. Here is bylaw specifying membership eligibility (as amended by the Board on October 5, 1999):

Article III MEMBERSHIP: All ministers in fellowship with the UUA classified by the Association as retired, their life partners, and the life partners of deceased Unitarian Universalist ministers, as well as all ministers granted life membership by the UUMA and their life partners, are eligible to become members of this organization. Other persons may become members by application to, and approval by, a majority of the Board.

## Nominating Committee Needs Your Suggestions Please!!!

The UURMAPA Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for elections in May 2003. We elect the following officers and board members in odd numbered years:

President (currently Peter Raible who is unable to run again for health reasons)  
 Vice President (currently Joyce Smith)  
 Caring Connections Chair (currently Doe Lockwood)  
 One Member-At-Large (currently Dorothy Hopper)  
 One Member of the Nominating Committee (currently Gene Navias)

The incumbents who are eligible to run again are Joyce Smith and Gene Navias

Please send your suggestions for these positions to me ASAP at: e-mail, [ebnavias@aol.com](mailto:ebnavias@aol.com); postal mail, 69 Ocean St., Dorchester, MA 02124, or phone, (617) 436-2128.

Thanks for your help! The Nominating Committee  
*Gene Navias, Chair Ann MacPherson, Polly-Leland Mayer*

## UURMAPA Programs at General Assembly

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. 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*. It is expected that Vaillant will be scheduled on Friday afternoon and West on Saturday afternoon.

*Peter Weller*

## UURMAPA Member Survey

Look for the questionnaire, which you should have received by now. It is three pages long and asks for your assessment of your retirement status, satisfaction and conditions of your housing and financial resources. There is a place for both minister and partner to fill in so it is a joint endeavor. The material in these questionnaires should help us to serve UURMAPA members more fully in the future. All information will be kept confidential and only released as statistical data.

If you have not received your copy of the UURMAPA Member Survey questionnaire, please contact Peter Weller (see front page for addresses and phone). If you have the questionnaire and have not completed and returned it, please do so as soon as you can. We would like them returned by March 1.

*Peter Weller and Joyce Smith*

Questionnaire Committee, UURMAPA Board

## In Memoriam

- ✓ ***Eleanor MacPhee***, died November 30<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner the Rev. John MacPhee, Messages of remembrance may be sent to her daughter Stephanie (Stevie) Michaelson, 22 Governor St., Canton, NY, 13617.
- ✓ ***The Reverend Clifton G. Hoffman***, died January 15<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner Katherine Hoffman. Daughter Frances Hoffman, no address available at press time.
- ✓ ***The Reverend Richard Perry*** died January 16<sup>th</sup> - Surviving partner Wana Perry, 4812 Birmingham Drive, San Jose, CA 95136-2910.
- ✓ ***Mary Aymar Hobart*** died January 8<sup>th</sup>. Deceased partner, the Reverend Al Hobart Messages of remembrance may be sent to her son, the Reverend Jim Hobart, 5201 South Ingleside Avenue, Apt. 1, Chicago, IL 60615-4319.
- ✓ ***The Reverend Angela Marie Davis*** died January 10<sup>th</sup>. Surviving partner Ms. Kitty Chapman 717 Westwood Avenue, Lodi, CA 95242

## Regional Fellowship Committee Suggestions

Chris Mat at the Department of Ministry is seeking suggestions of folk for nomination to the Regional Fellowship Committees, which you will remember does screening, etc. for prospects for our ministry for large geographic areas, e.g. the west coast. If you have suggestions for such nominees, particularly in our UURMAPA ranks please forward to me ASAP. I assume you all know that this is both lay and ministerial. peter@raible.com *Peter Raible*

## 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/.*

**PAN SOUTH - March 20-23, 2003 - Sarasota, Florida**  
 Registration Deadline, February 15<sup>th</sup> “Come on down!”

“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

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

West coast elderberries, there are many reasons to come to the Western conference at the beautiful Vallambrosa Center, about halfway between the San Francisco and San Jose airports. Here are some of them:

- Renewed contact with your cherished colleagues of bygone days.
- Exciting programs such as Stan Stefancic’s presentation of “Aging and Sagging,” and another on “What Happened to Transcendentalism,” and odysseys by our beloved colleagues Sam Wright and Ken McLean, and dramatic presentation and discussion based on “Pooh” a bear of very little brain yet with outsized theological insight.
- Chapel service each morning. You can even give one if you volunteer early.
- Afternoon excursion. Choices: short trip to Filoli, a great estate with famous gardens, a short walk to Kepler’s, a world-class paperback bookstore, Sunset Magazine’s garden tour.
- We want you to be with us. Conference costs are: \$300 for a single, \$555 for couple. Financial help is available. Contact Dick Allen, 530-247-7661 or e-mail at: loissong@earthlink.net or snail mail at 131 Sunnyside Avenue, Piedmont CA 94611-4419

### **MIDWEST – October 18-19 – Hyde Park in and around Meadville Theological School.**

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](mailto: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**

THINK NORTHEAST IN OCTOBER! The annual conference of UURMAPA-NE will take place October 7-9, 2003 and will feature Fred Campbell, author of a UU adult education curriculum, "Four Faiths—A Unitarian Universalist exploration of the diversity, roots and growth of religious belief systems" as keynote speaker. Earl Holt 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 be on hand to discuss with us current developments within the UUA. So mark your calendar now and be with us for fellowship, workshop, a bit of free time, and the opportunity for discussion about trends within our beloved UU community.

Contacts: Connie Sternberg [revconnies@aol.com](mailto:revconnies@aol.com) and Dick Fewkes [rmfewkes@juno.com](mailto:rmfewkes@juno.com)

## **Overseas Ministry Opportunities**

Do you miss some of the tasks of your active ministry? Are you ready in your retirement to do ministry in a new and interesting place? There are Unitarian and Universalist congregations in many parts of the world that would welcome you and benefit from your experience as you minister with them for a few months. The ICUU (International Council of Unitarians and Universalists) has been matching fellowshipped ministers with congregations eager to benefit from professional leadership.

Time spent varies from one to six months. It is a volunteer opportunity but some travel expenses and living accommodation will be provided. The visiting minister leads worship and helps with other programming, sharing with lay people the ideas, possibilities, and dreams they hope to make reality.

If you would like to make a part of your retirement an adventure and a gift to our liberal movement, please contact the Reverend Polly Guild, 4 Kendal Common, Weston, MA 02493 or [polly@pollyguild.com](mailto:polly@pollyguild.com). You and your partner may find a new venture to round out your ministry and open new doors.

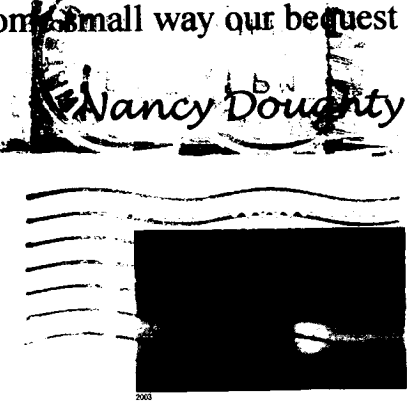
## Ministry and Estate Planning

At a Midwest UURMAPA Conference Rebecca Scott, from the UUA Development Office, shared with those gathered the many ways for charitable giving to the UUA. Some years ago, my husband Bob and I made provisions for a bequest to the UUA. We wanted our gift to support those who are and have been the ministers in our movement. After discussions with Ralph Mero we designated our gift as an endowment for the Financial Aid Sustentation Fund to benefit active and retired ministers and surviving partners with demonstrated financial needs.

We understand how new ministers can struggle financially with hefty student loans while meeting the demands as religious leaders. At the other end of the life cycle are retired ministers and surviving partners who may have immediate and pressing financial needs and who need assistance.

If you are a UURMAPA member thinking about a charitable gift to the UUA, I urge you to consider the future financial needs of unknown colleagues who will enter ministry in the future, as well as those who have served with us through the decades, in making any estate plans. We know the Financial Aid Sustentation Fund needs to grow larger. In some small way our bequest will help it grow!

Unitarian Universalist Retired  
 Ministers and Partners Association  
 c/o L. M. Hamby  
 245 McDuffie Drive  
 Athens, GA 30605



Address Service Requested