

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 Eleanor Richardson who will become our new editor (e-mail preferred if possible). Grandmoot@aol.com; 22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841; (207) 596-5502.

Address changes should be sent to Fred Campbell, 1186 Wild Cherry Drive, Williamston MI 48895.

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President's Perspectives . . . Joyce Smith

We just finished our Board meeting in California. This was the last meeting with four of our Board members who have served us for four to five years. We will miss their activity and their wisdom. Going off the Board are Secretary, Sue Nichols, Treasurer, Fred Campbell, Newsletter Editor, Ed Lane (five years) and Member at Large, Peter Weller. They have all had important and busy jobs. Sue was burdened with producing copious notes on actions we took; Fred paid all the bills and collected contributions with thank you letters sent. He also took on the very complex task of completing the forms for the 501(3) (c) to obtain tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. This was necessary for the first time since, with the receipt of moneys from the UU Fund, our budget exceeded the limits of the IRS. Ed turned out four editions of Elderberries each year and Peter did a variety of tasks including managing our programs as General Assembly and many of the luncheons there and creating the survey we sent out and mailing the results to our membership. We owe them all warm thanks for their important work.

There is another person who is stepping down this year after nine years of loyal service. Larry Hamby has been a behind the scenes source of keeping a continent wide organization functioning. He served as a Board member and Newsletter Editor from 1995-2000 and also managed the list of our members. He has continued to act as List Manager for the past four years and also set up the Speakup chat line for retired people. He helped translate the survey we did to a form we could e-mail to anyone interested and has generally been our computer guru. Too often such unseen service receives little thanks when it is done well. We appreciate you service, Larry.

For those of you attending the General Assembly, a general reminder that the Service of the Living Tradition has been scheduled for Friday evening instead of the Sunday morning slot it has held for several years. The change is for the purpose of using the Sunday morning service to attract new people. Our luncheon will remain in its normal position on Sunday at 12:00 noon. I hope that as many of you who can, especially in the West, will attend that lunch. Other programs we are sponsoring are featured elsewhere in the Elderberries.

One last thing is the Financial Education Seminars that we are sponsoring this coming year at UUMA Chapter meetings. We have trained ten people to present these seminars and they would be appropriate for retired ministers as well as non-retirees. Please talk these programs up among your colleagues and plan to attend one yourself.

Joyce

UURMAPA at GA '04

Here are the four UURMAPA programs for GA '04 in Long Beach, California—one each day from June 24-27. Note that prepaid reservations are required for the annual luncheon.

Informal Dinner With Other UURMAPians on Thursday, June 24 (opening night of GA). You are invited to gather about 5:00 PM at the Island Sunfish Grill, 423A Shoreline Village Drive, just a few blocks from Convention Center. Specializing in seafood, but with other choices, the varied menu ranges from \$5.95 to \$15.95. Reservations not required. Just show up if interested.

“Harvesting the Wisdom Years: From Aging to Saging,” presented by our colleague, Stan Stefancic on Friday, June 25, 1:30-2:45 PM, Room 203A, Convention Center. (*Ed note—in February Elderberries I reported this topic as “Sagging”—a Freudian slip?!*)

“Ministry, Issues of Retirement and, Yes, Money Matters!” A panel of speakers will share results of UURMAPA's recent surveys and introduce the new financial education program being generated as a result. Saturday, June 26, 5:00-6:15 PM, Room 103A, Convention Center.

Annual Luncheon with newly retired ministers and their partners as our invited guests. For members, cost is \$25 per person. Reservations should be made by June 15 with Peter Weller. Please mail check payable to him at 1644 Northbrook Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80526. Indicate if you prefer chicken or the vegetarian option. Sunday, June 27, 12:00-1:30, Hyatt Regency Ballroom E

Editor's Swan Song

Four years ago, after being on the Board for a year as a Member at Large I was asked to edit *Elderberries* and this issue concludes both my term as editor and Board member. Eleanor Richardson has been nominated to succeed me. Although the balloting is not complete since there is a single slate I think it's safe to presume that she will be elected! Material for the August issue should be sent to her by July 15—her address is on the front page.

Most of the material in *Elderberries* comes from Board members, Ralph Mero, and Jean Hartman (who provides the death notices). A large thank you to all of them. Larry Hamby, whom I followed as editor, continued the management of the mailing list and printing of the labels. I do not have those computer skills and without him could not have been your editor. So a very special and large thank you to him—a colleague that I did not know five years ago but who is now a special friend.

Ed Lane

Regional Conferences

Funds too tight to get to a Regional Conference? For partial scholarships contact Michelle Bentley at the UUA: (733) 643-6988 – mbently@uua.org.

NORTHEAST – October 5-7 2004 – LaSalette Center, Attleboro, Massachusetts

The Conference Theme is “Social Responsibility and Outreach.” There will be a panel on the theme consisting of Charles Clements, Director, UUSC; Rob Cavanaugh, Washington Office for Advocacy; and Devorah Greenstein, Program Associate for Accessibility, UUA. We’ll also be “Singing Our Visions of Social Justice” with Gene Navias and James J. Buckley narrating and Eleanor Richardson as Music Director

Bill and Barbara DeWolfe will present their Odyssey. Tracey Robinson-Harris, Director, UUA Congregational Services and Joyce Smith, President of UURMAPA Board and other Board members will be with us.

Cost of the Conference is \$155, and covers Room, Board and Registration.

Contact Persons for further information are: **Registrar:** Med Anderson revmua@sover.net; 353 Fisher Road, Orwell VT 05760; (802) 948-2508. **Conference Chair:** Richard Fewkes, rmfewkes@hotmail.com; 41 Cygnet Drive, West Dennis MA 02670-2829; (508) 398-6006

PAN SOUTH

UURMAPA Board Nancy Doughty is hard at work and in contact with people in the south area to plan a Regional Conference there. She assures us that there will be a Conference, although dates and location and program are in the planning stages at this moment. Watch for information in the August issue of *Elderberries*.

WEST – April 18-21 – Vallombrosa Conference Center, Menlo Park, CA

Co-Chairs *Al and Mary Thelander* thelandr@nccn.net

MIDWEST

Due to low attendance at the last Conference and no one volunteering to step into plan another one there is no Midwest Conference being planned at present. If any of you living in the area are interested and willing to take a leadership role in creating a Conference, please contact Nancy Doughty. (See page one for her addresses and telephone.)

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

Carl Scovel's *Never Far From Home* has been published by Skinner House. These are about a hundred of the nearly one- thousand radio talks that he gave on WCRB on Sunday mornings between 1977 and 1999. It may be purchased through the UUA Bookstore at a cost of \$16.

Victor Carpenter's new book, *Long Challenge: The Empowerment Controversy (1967-1977)* introduction by UUA President William Sinkford. A look back at the conflict involving African American and white UUs that exposed the deep racial tensions which remain today. In this personal and provocative book, Vic raises challenges that go to the heart of liberal religion. Published by Meadville Lombard, \$12.00.

Herb Vetter has lead the founding of "The Notable American Unitarians" project which began three years ago and grew to feature 150 twentieth century biographies now online. Soon will come celebration of Notable Unitarian women and men who contributed to American civilization from 1740 to 1900.

The Notable American Unitarians project of the First Parish in Cambridge and its Cosponsors—including the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program—now communicates worldwide on six continents via the Internet (www.harvardsquarelibrary.org). The statistics reported in March 2004 state that it is getting nearly a quarter of a million hits per year. The leading continent is North America: the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

It is being viewed and read in six South American countries, twenty-seven European nations, ten in Asia and the Middle East, in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and the Cocos Islands.

To learn more go to the web site above or contact Herb Vetter, hfvetter@post.harvard.edu.

Neal Ferris has published a book, *Natural Religion: Reconnecting to the Real World*. Drawing from many traditions he develops a sense of wonder and oneness in the human relationship with all of creation and offers a guide to the future of our place in the cosmos. Hardcover \$25, soft cover \$15 (plus \$1.50 shipping): Neal Ferris, 24 Woodridge Road, Durham NH 03824.

In Memoriam

The Reverend Raymond J. Pontier died January 12, 2004. Surviving partner: Barbara Van Buskirk Pontier, 12 Grant Avenue, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

The Reverend R. Paul Mueller died February 15, 2004. Surviving partner: Margaret (Peg) Mueller, 17 Boulder Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873-2926.

The Reverend Nathaniel Page Lauriat died February 22, 2004. Deceased partner: Jane (Welch) Lauriat. Messages of remembrance to his daughters may be sent to Anne Lauriat, 100 Horace Rd, Belmont, MA 02478.

The Reverend Calvin Raymond Knapp died March 13, 2004. Surviving partner: Ruth Gregory Knapp, 1605 Glen Echo Road, Nashville, TN 37215-2907.

The Reverend James L. Bosveld died Thursday, March 18, 2004. Surviving partner: Jennifer Bosveld, 81 Shadymere Lane, Columbus, OH 43213

Barbara Lewis died (date unknown). Deceased partner: The Reverend Ford Lewis.

The Reverend John B. Isom died April 23, 2004. Surviving partner: Elien Isom, 1532 Coral Bells Drive, Tucson AZ 85745-5216.

If I can let you go as trees let go
 Their leaves, so casually, one by one;
 If I can come to know what they do know,
 That fall is the release, the consummation,
 Then fear of time and the uncertain fruit
 Would not distemper the great lucid skies
 This stranger autumn, mellow and acute.
 If I can take the dark with open eyes
 And call it seasonal, not harsh or strange
 (For love itself may need a time of sleep),
 And, treelike, stand unmoved before the change,
 Lose what I lose to keep what I can keep,
 The strong root still alive under the snow,
 Love will endure—if I can let you go.

from *Autumn Sonnets* by May Sarton

Missing Persons

We have a number of people on our mailing list whose mail is being returned as undeliverable. If you know their whereabouts, please have them contact Larry Hamby so he can update the records. If they have died, please let him know that.

MINISTERS:

Diana Heath
 Barbara Kulcher
 Robert Latham and Cynthia Green
 Heinz and Mary Rettig
 Robert Schaibly and Steven Storia
 Frances West
 Roberta Wood

PARTNERS:

Catherine Brockway, Partner of Robert Brockway
 Connie Curry, Partner of Vern Curry
 Betty Cyrus, partner of John Cyrus
 Priscilla Gardner, partner of William Gardner
 Christian Gray-Smith, partner of Roland Gray-Smith
 Richard Lincoln, partner of Richard Hasty
 Lora McMillan, partner of Donald McMillan
 Marjorie Williams, partner of George Williams
 Amy Worthly, partner of Evans Worthley
 Diana Heath
 Barbara Kulcher
 Robert Latham and Cynthia Green
 Heinz and Mary Rettig,
 Frances West
 Roberta Wood

Budget for 2004-05

Your Board adopted the budget below for the 2004-05 year at our April meeting. Our expenses remain roughly the same even though our contributions were soft in the 2003-04 year. We trust your support will continue to sustain our modest level of activity. I have found my four years as your Treasurer fulfilling and wish my successor well.

—Fred Campbell

Income

Member Contributions	13,000
NY Universalist	<u>1,500</u>
Total Income	14,50

Continued on page 8

Expenses

Executive Board	8,000
Elderberries	2,200
Nominating Committee	200
GA Luncheon	200
UUA Directory Listing	100
Church Staff Finances, UUA	1,400
President's Travel	1,500
UURMAPA Directory	1,000
Caring Network	500
Treasurer's Expenses	800
GA Speaker	<u>500</u>
Total Expenses	16,400

Unitarian Universalist Retired
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Address Service Requested

