# Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

## Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXII

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NUMBER 1

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 2005-2006**

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New Attendees at the Northeast Conference in Attleboro, MA, October 3-5 were asked to liven up their portrait a little. From left are Ed and Marj Lynn, Joyce and Dick Gilbert, and Wallace Reid. Top: Vern Nichols, Vic Carpenter, Phyllis and Bucky McKeeman discuss "Where is our Center?" and Peter Baldwin entertains. Below, Keith and Peggy Munson's Odyssey, and Charles Reinhardt leads worship.





Elderberries is published quarterly in November, February, May, and August. Next deadline January 15. Send contributions to Eleanor Richardson, editor, grandmoot@aol.com

22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841; (207) 596-5502. Please be mindful of space limitations! If you don't edit, I will have to.

## President's Perspectives . . . Nancy Doughty

Early cold temperatures, yes, even with snow, were an unwelcome pre-Halloween "trick" faced by many in the mid-west and east this fall...a reminder to expect the unexpected throughout life.

In October your Board met in Boston specifically to meet with UUA staff. While there, we were "visible" on behalf of UURMAPA when we conducted the Tues. morning Chapel at 25 Beacon. Continuing our objective to





Rev. Beth Miller

serve the Association as well as our members, we spent time with the Rev. Beth Miller, newly appointed Director of Ministry and Professional Services, and Ralph Mero and Joyce Stewart, to explore our common concerns and shape ways to be supportive of one another. We agreed to share our membership list corrections quarterly and agreed the UURMAPA Board, through our liaison Barbara Prairie, would assist the Department in hosting a luncheon for surviving spouses at GA prior to the Service for the Living Tradition. We shared our desire to be recognized as a Professional Organization of the UUA with staff and Beth agreed to make an inquiry about this for us.

We received a preliminary report from the Creative Sage-ing Committee, chaired by Carol Fincher. In response to questions from the Committee the Board endorsed the schedule for the first award (\$500) to be given at the '08 GA to a UURMAPA member who had re-created him/herself and inspired others in the retirement years. Look for more information from the Creative Sage-ing Committee in later Elderberries. [Pan South will focus on this in February. – ed.]

At the GA Workshop, "Fitting into Church Life After Retirement", many good practices of relationships between settled and retired ministers and partners (now congregants) were exchanged. The UURMAPA Board wants to pursue collecting examples of these good practices, so later they can be circulated (and help with UUMA Good Practices). We are asking you for brief stories (250 words) about your experience in relationship with incubent ministers. Please send your contribution to Jean Rowe, UURMAPA Secretary, at uurevjeanr@aol.com or 845 N. Country Club Road, Bevard, NC 28712. Sample covenants are welcome too.

We also recognize partners have parallel issues that are not addressed by any organization. As a first step, a giant one I believe, your Board asked Board partners, Eleanor, Barbara and Gretchen to DRAFT proposed guidelines for good conduct for partners of retired ministers. Partners, please email your questions and/or suggestions of what needs to be included in a draft to Eleanor, Barbara or Gretchen.



Carl Thitchener set-up our web site, but he reported a more talented individual is needed to carry on and enlarge the possibilities of the site. Is there a willing UURMAPA member who will volunteer as UURMAPA web site developer? Contact Carl, please.

What a gem we have discovered in Marj Lynn [see cover photo] to be our representative to the Council on Church Staff Finances! For new members, Ralph Mero and Joyce Stewart both work out of the Church Staff Finances Office answering pension related and financial aid questions.

I feel honored to serve as President with energetic and committed Board Jovce Stewart members. If you have concerns or comments, please be in touch with me. -- Nancv

## Dear Abby...

... or The Question is the Answer. In the Board's attempt to address the issue of retired ministers and partners as congregants, we invite you to submit questions which we will publish in Elderberries as points to ponder. Example: "My minister husband was invited back to our former church by the new minister, to share a memorial service at the request of a dying man. I was former choir director. When we arrived, the choir urged me to join them, which I did. Was that wise?" --Voiceless in Mass.



Ed Lane

# Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for 2007 for the following 2-year terms. No one may serve more than two <u>full</u> terms on the Board <u>in one position</u>. No one may serve on the Board for more than <u>six consecutive years</u>. Keep balance in mind.

(\*Minister +Partner)

- **President:** (Nancy Doughty\* is eligible for nomination to a second two-year term and has indicated her willingness to be renominated.)
- **Vice President:** (Carl Thitchener\* is eligible for nomination to a second two-year term and has indicated his willingness to be renominated.)
- Caring Network Chair: (Glen Snowden\* is completing his second two-year term and is not eligible for renomination.)
- **Member at Large:** (Gretchen Manker+ is eligible for renomination to a second two-year term but does not wish to continue.)
- Nominating Committee Chair [not a Board member]: (Ed Lane\* is eligible for nomination to a second two-year term and has indicated his willingness to be renominated.)

Please send your suggestions to any or all three members of the Nominating Committee:

•Ed Lane (chair – see masthead) •Leon Hopper c/o Horizon House, 900 University St. 11-Q, Seattle, WA 98101; clhopperjr@aol.com; 206 382-3191 •Fia Scheyer 334 Jim Corbin Rd. Franklin, NC 28734; scheyer@peoplepc.com; 828 524-5274

# The UU Radio Project

Thanks, in part, to funding by the NY State Convention of Universalists, we now have a weekly liberal religious voice which can be heard all over the world. The program was first aired in October 2004 in New York State: The program may now be heard on the World Wide Web both in streaming audio and as a Podcast at www.uuradio.org. (You can subscribe your iPod or deskop podcast receiver to http://www.liberalreligion.org/uuradio/lrh\_uuradio.xml or see the setup information on the About podcasting page.) The format of the program is a combination of music and talk. Each show includes a 10 to 15 minute interview with a person active in public witness on topics which are congruent with Unitarian Universalist values. Our long term goal is to help ...congregations carry the voice of liberal religion not only to UUs but to the general public.

— Rev. Carl Thitchener

# **Regional Conferences**

Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!

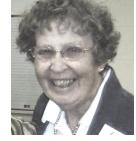
The Board has extended the \$200 grant to four **first-time** attendees at each conference for another year. (You must telephone the registrar to see if you are among the first four). As previously, requests for continuing education grants to attend conferences should go to Rev Michelle Bentley at mbentley@uua.org or at the UUA, 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108. Tel. (773) 643-6988

**PAN SOUTH – Feb. 6-8, 2007**. We have been invited back to the lovely UU Church of Fort Myers.



Pat Hoertdoerfer

Program includes Ageing and Sageing by Pat Hoertdoerfer and Cynthia Ward's odyssey. Pat is one of 300+ trained Sage-ing Leaders who is dedicated to the spiritual dimension of aging and conscious living and committed to teaching individuals how to harvest life's wisdom and transform it into a legacy for future generations. Emily Palmer, docent, will lead us on a trolley tour of Ding Darling Bird Sanctuary, Sanibel Island (optional: \$10). Registrar is Herb Adams, (207)928-2607 or (863) 465-1587 (winter). herbadams32@hotmail.com. --Peter and Eleanor Richardson, chairs.



**Emily Palmer** 

## Pan South UURMAPA Conference February 7-9, 2006

# Registration Form: This is the only form you will receive!!

Name(s)		# f	first-timers:	
Address				
City	State	Zip	Country	
Telephone	Email			
Enclosed for confer	ence, food, and speake	rs (\$65/person		
(Meals except	breakfast will be cater	ed at the churc	ch.)	

Please make your own arrangements.

**Home hospitality** \$50/night/single; \$75/night/double in Fort Myers. call Phyllis Brewer, 239/489-0889

Best Western Motel 1/4 mile from church: 8955 Daniels Highway; 888-490-2600x518 @ 149.95/night + tax (\$16.49) includes breakfast. (Sorry, their rates keep rising – shop around!)

\*You must telephone the Registrar to determine whether you are among the first four "first-timers" to register, thus qualifying you for a \$200 grant per person. Send registration to: Herb Adams, 252 Brentwood Drive N., Lake Placid, FL 33852. Tel. 863/465-1587. email: herbadams@webtv.net.

**NORTHEAST CONFERENCE–October 2-4, 2007** Join us as the leaves begin to turn for the Northeast Conference, again at LaSalette Retreat Center in Attleboro, MA. For more information contact registrar Med Anderson: (802)948-2508; revmua@sover.net. We have just finished a very successful conference for 2006 with 50 attending!

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

George Briggs: Our minister, Charlie Davis, is on sabbatical. During his absence, a retired Presbyterian minister and I are on-call for pastoral care. It is reassuring to discover that I still remember how to do some of these things, such as making hospital visits. I enjoyed filling the pulpit one Sunday. Bill Weir: I am charing The First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis' Committee on Emergency Preparedness. We are reaching out to congregations who may appreciate help in planning for pandemic flu. If anyone would be willing to help a congregation or district take actions that will probably reduce the toll of the next pandemic, please let me know at weirwilliam@msn.com

From Max Gaebler: UURMAPA is an important part of the UUA. I remember my years on the Board with great pleasure. But at 85 I'm pretty much retired from "retirement." All best wishes.

Virginia Wheelwright writes that Farley will celebrate his 90th birthday Dec. 5. He lives in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, mailing address: 220 N. Zapata Hwy, #11, Laredo, TX 78043.

Sylvia A Falconer writes: My daughter, Rebecca & I performed my youngest son, Curtis' wedding ceremony in Yosemite National Park. What a spectacular place to have a celebration.

Nancy Doughty recently chaired the annual meeting of the Women's History Project in Travers City, MI, with former first lady of MI, Helen Milliken, as speaker.

From Bob Schaibly: (exerpts) I had a horrific car accident six months ago in April. I remember nothing of it and very little of the weeks that followed....I was driving to a UU ministers' gathering near Seattle when my car went over an embankment and fell thirty feet. I've been home since July 11. I had to resign my interim ministry in Hillsboro. To my great relief the pain that was so debilitating is enormously lessened. The most serious effect of the accident is that I cannot swallow normally. My nutrition comes through a feeding tube through the abdominal wall into the stomach...My spirits have been raised by the outpouring of love and concern from hundreds of people My body is scarred and marked with changes; it will not be the same. I garden almost daily. My roses had a good year! I walk to the P.O., the bank, and the grocery store and these are over a mile. A mocha at the coffeehouse is a special treat.

Word from **Nancy Hutchison** that husband, **Larry**, is recovering well from recent quadruple bi-pass heart surgery and they will be in FL for the winter. **Ken Hawkes** suffered another stroke - his fourth in recent times. He is home and answering the telephone! **Margaret Odell** fell and broke her femur after moving to assisted living. She celebrated her 94th birthday October 3. Cards appreciated: Cherry Lane Rehab Hospital Room 210, 9001 Cherry Lane No. 1, Laurel, MD 20708. **Muriel Davies**, widow of A Powell Davies, is home following surgery and rehab therapy for a broken hip. Cards can be sent to Muriel at 19310 Clubhouse Rd #524, Montgomery Village MD 20886. Her 100th birthday will be

celebrated and she will be installed as Minister Emerita at the River Road UU Church in Bethesda MD on November 19th. **Clarke Wells** is receiving hospice care and is resting comfortably at home in Bloomington with Barbara. He is grateful for the notes and cards he has received and welcomes prayers and messages from colleagues which can be sent to 1213 Hearthstone Ct., Bloomington, IN, 47401 (e-mail: barbarac1700@aol.com)

Glenna Norsworthy was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer at New Year's, and was given only weeks to live. Her chemo resulted in a 99% reduction in the cancer, and we headed to Maine where we spent eight glorious weeks. The cancer returned, resulting in a quick return to Tucson, on Aug. 14. A new chemo plus radiation has resolved the cancer in several places. We know that the cancer is incurable, but it is a good life, more up days than down. [I have become] a respectable househusband. Ralph Mero and Glen Snowden, through their respective offices have spared us from financial ruin, while communicating their deep personal concern for us. Jan Knost and Larry Hamby's emails have brought us pleasure and smiles. We do regret, just a tad, that we have not seen one of the brothers or sisters in the faith since Glenna's diagnosis. We have no idea how long she will live, but we are looking forward to Dexter, ME next April. Warm regards, Dick

### **NEW BOOKS:**

Robert and Cindy Latham have relocated to Wilmington, DE, where Robert is Interim at the First Unitarian Church. Robert recently published *Moving on from Church Folly Lane*, which addresses churches stuck in a holding pattern. It outlines the four major attendance-size cultures while focusing on the critical shift that occurs between the Pastoral Congregation and the Program Congregation. To order copies go to: www.mythinglink.com or email to: latham@mythinglink.com

**Ron Mazur** is amazed at the fascinating Biblical discoveries and possibilities of interpreting earliest Christianities. He invites you to enjoy the spiritual journey of the search for Jesus and the story of *Christianity as FairyTale*. Website: AstroVentureSociety.org/. It is published by iUniverse, Inc. ISBN:0-595-40144-9; 68 Pages. Price: \$9.95. To order, call 1-800-288-4677.

**Peter Richardson** has just published, *Exploring Unitarian Universalist Identity*. his Minns Lectures in Boston in 2005. It traces our genesis and background; the move from Standing Order, to Free Association, to Pluralism; an excellent introduction to the Transcendentalists; and a vision of our future moving "from Unsectarian Sect to Multifaith Faith." Copies available from Peter, \$14.95. (207/596-5502) or PTEMR@aol.com.

**Herb Vetter** The untold story of Harvard's Unitarian presidents is now available online via Harvard Square Library. For 123 years the world's now most highly esteemed university was headed by Unitarians. Our illustrated biographies illuminate the lives of these nine pivotal figures. You can view this story on our website, www.harvardsquarelibrary.org, (hfvetter@post.harvard.edu)

## To the Editor:

A Matter of Concern to Retirees & the National Board? How much influence do we need, or want, or seek? In what ways can we, now retired and less active, yet continue to make contributions to this

continuing liberal religious movement in the United States? Are we being encouraged by each other, and by UU members in general, to consider publishing, -writing out of sometimes long and exciting, meaningful experiences as ministers in churches across the country?

--A Program Exercise for Regional Organizations

--Ted Webb

**Thanks** to A'ashia Short at the UUA for sending us the information below:

Right: A'ashia Short

## In Memoriam

Reverend Brigitte Elisabeth Brunhart, 51, died September 28.

She was born in 1954 in Germany. She served at the Olmsted UU Fellowship in Olmsted, Ohio, and the Westshore UU Church of Cleveland. She introduced members of the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland to Sufism, and aspects of Goddess worship. She was chaplain at Hospice for the Western Reserve, Metro Health Medical Center in Cleveland, Cleveland Clinic Foundation and St. Vincent Charity Hospital. Her partner wrote: "Although she struggled all her adult life against debilitating illness, she pursued a career in ministry with great determination..." She will be mourned by her husband John McBratney and her children Indra and Kumar Brunhart-McBratney. Letters may be sent to: John McBratney, 11516 Parkway Road Chardon, OH 44024.

Constance Meta Cheetham, 97, died Aug. 1. She was born in England. In 1953, she and her husband, Rev. Henry Harris Cheetham, boarded the QE II for America. She loved life in the U.S., in Newport, RI, Boston, and Charlottesville, where she lived 1955-1962 and from 1968 until her death. She promoted reading among children, managed the gift shop at University of Virginia Medical Center, and spent years helping out at Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church in Charlottesville. For this work she received the Clara Barton Award from the UUA. A lifetime service award was named after her. She is survived by her daughter, Ann C. Colley of Buffalo, New York; and one granddaughter.



Reverend Ronald Eugene Clark, 70, died August 16. He served at May Memorial of Syracuse, NY; the First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City; and First Unitarian Church of Stoneham, MA, where he was named Emeritus Minister. He served the UUA 1976-1985 as Extension Director then as Director of Church Staff Finances. He later founded the Clark School in Danvers, MA, a private elementary school. Ronald is survived by his wife Sharon and his three children Kevin, Kristen and Jeffery. Messages of remembrance may be sent to: Sharon Jackson, 502 Locust Street, Danvers, MA 01932.

*Kenneth English*, 81, died Sept. 13 in Stoneham, MA. He was a decorated veteran of World War II. For the past 3 decades of his professional life, he worked as a professor at Boston University, Radcliffe College, and Harvard's Business School. He is survived by an older brother and sister in New Jersey, and was pre-deceased by his life partner, Robert Wheatley, who died in 2002.

**Reverend Dr. Diether Gehrmann**, 77, died August 23. He served at Frei-religiose Gemeinde, Jugend, Germany and First Unitarian Society of Rockland County, NY. Dick Boeke writes: "Diether was a

German born UU Minister. In 1969, he became the first full time General Secretary of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF). As major new religious groups such as the Rissho Kosei Kai in Japan joined, Diether established a new IARF office in Frankfurt, Germany. Lucy Meier of Holland worked with him to create an effective IARF Social Service network. The IARF Commissions brought a world dialogue to IARF Congresses. Diether's dedication helped make the IARF a leading International Interfaith Organization" Diether is survived by his wife Dorothee Gehrmann, and his four children The Reverend Ronald, Rainer, Derek and The Reverend Axel Gehrmann. Messages: Dorothee Gehrmann , Balduinstrasse 74, D-60599 Frankfurt Germany.

*Joan Goodwin*, 79, religious educator and historian, died October 13. While not a UURMAPA member, she was known by many of us. She was author of *The Remarkable Mrs. Ripley: The Life of* 

Sarah Alden Bradford Ripley, and Giving Birth to Ourselves, A History of the Liberal Religious Educators Association, as well as curricula "Human Heritage;" "Our Chosen Faith: A Study Guide," and "We Believe: Learning and Living Our UU Principles." After work in RE at First Unitarian Church of Milwaukee, and First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, she worked 14 years at the UUA with Sharing in Growth, as Director of Volunteers, Extension Field Consultant, Director of Extension, and Vice President for Extension and District Services. After retiring, she was DRE for the Church of the Larger Fellowship and was President of LREDA. A service will be held at Arlington Street Church, Boston, December 3 at 2:00 PM.



Joan at Star Island 1989

*Margaret Hewett*, for 55 years the wife of the Rev. Phillip Hewett, minister emeritus in Vancouver, BC, died March 26. Margaret was a birthright Unitarian in England, where she was national president of the Unitarian youth organization. A teacher and pre-school educator, she was active in peace, disarmament and international understanding, and received an outstanding service award from IARF. She was secretary to the board of the Vancouver Chamber Choir. She was a strong contralto, and also a vigorous hiker. For the past 25 years she struggled courageously with the increasing ravages of rheumatoid arthritis. Margaret is survived by her husband, two children and four grandchildren.

*Charles Kahn-Schneider*, 86, husband of Rev. Joan Kahn-Schneider died in early August. Joan is in the process of beginning a new ministry in Savannah, GA. Charlie was a chemist, and worked for Mead Paper Co. before changing careers to a college science teacher. He followed Joan in ministries, finding jobs where she went: Farmington, MI; UUA Director of Ministerial Education in Boston; Mentor, OH, Albany NY, and interims in NH, CT, TN, and SC. He leaves his wife and six children, Sandy Uhrig of CA; Carol Peindl of NC; Dave Friedman of CA; Jim Friedman of OH; Robin Guethlein of KY; and Jerri Menaul of FL. Joan's address is 95 Timberline Drive, Savannah, GA 31404.

**Dorothy Simonetti,** 95, died July 7. She was the widow of Rev. Leon Strock Simonetti, who died in 1968. He served Churches in Athol, MA; and Utica, Barneveld and Little Falls, NY. She was a member of the Unitarian Church in Fort Wayne, IN. She is survived by a daughter: Donna Russell, 3960 County Road #14 Waterloo, IN 46793.

*Margret Taylor*, 93, died Jan. 11. She was the wife for 57 years of the Rev. Floyd James Taylor who died in 1993. A graduate of Simmons College, she worked for the Denison Company before marriage. Her life with Floyd included pastorates in Chelmsford, Plymouth, and Lexington, MA. They retired to Ormond Beach, FL, in 1968. During retirement, she learned Braille, transcribing books at home for the Blind. She was predeceased by a son, James Floyd Taylor, in 2005, and is survived by a daughter, Marilyn Hannah; a brother; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Letters may be sent to Marilyn Hannah, 11 Shagbark Place, Wilton, CT 06897.

*The Reverend Dayton Theodore Yoder*, 100, died August 9. He served at Montpelier, VT, until 1938. then the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, WA. He worked for the UUA from 1961-1970. Dayton is survived by his partner Lucille Bursch, his daughter Nancy Yoder of Ashland, OR and his son Richard Yoder of Boston, MA. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Lucille Bursch, 1616 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue #112, Spokane, WA 99203.

### Invocation

by Rev. Robert T. Weston at the Annual Banquet, UUA General Assembly, 1966 in Hollywood, FL Gathered together for our final shared meal of the week, We may look back with mingled joy and sorrow. We have an uneasy feeling that we may have dotted some "t's" and crossed some "i's". Some of us may still feel that we have pearls of wisdom to cast for which the opportunity did not present itself, And some perhaps have sober second thoughts About what we ought not to have said, But now it is all past. The love affair of man and microphone has flared to incandescence, and died down. And we have made the final motion to adjourn, or lay it on the table, where now we shall hope to eat it with appropriate sauces.

It is all past, until another year when we shall gather again with new issues burning with a fierce light and the old ones forgotten, So that we can vote to resolve them all over again. Now it is over. Now, in one final common meal, we would that all frustrations be forgotten; Failures and successes alike to be set aside and we ourselves united in one true communion, Of rejoicing and mutual affection, A shared brotherhood not demanding perfection of our leaders, Nor docile obedience of each other. In this brief moment, May we truly know a spirit of prayer, The prayer that a common love may override Whatever things there be that seem to divide us That a sense of mission may grow in all our hearts Sending us back into our various communities To carry deeds more than words into our common needs And yet never to forget that it is the word which kindles the fire of deed. May the joy of mutual acceptance as well as that of good food unite us, as those who love each other regardless of all differences. Amen (First time in Assembly history that an invocation was applauded.) (submitted by Dick Woodman)

## \$\$ Four Ways to Save You Money \$\$

Retired ministers and Partners may find it worth comparing costs of the UUA Health Plan's Medicare Supplement Plan with their present plans. A summary of Medicare Retiree benefits is available from Ralph Mero, UUA Office of Church Staff Finances, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. 617/948-6404 rmero@uua.org, and at the website: www.uua.org/leaders/insurance. The UUA Health Plan has met its enrollment target of 500 members! (Continued on next page....)

The Office of Church Staff Finances is once again able to offer small stipends to retired ministers and families for help with winter heating bills. Contact Joyce Stewart (617) 948-6421 or jstewart@uua.org.

Beacon Press will give UURMAPA members a 10 percent discount, plus free shipping, on all Beacon books ordered online (notice, ordered online, not over the phone). Say you are a UURMAPA member.

And for new retirees: you may not know that ministers who are 66 and have served more than 20 years, are entitled to the Service Gratuity, a quaterly tax-free gift, but must request it. Contact Ralph or Joyce.

# **Directory additions and Corrections**

Web Address: www.uurmapa.org

Address changes should be sent to Carl F. Thitchener – (see masthead)

### **NEW DIRECTORIES ARE COMING OUT THIS MONTH!**

Thus, we are not listing all address, phone and email changes here.

#### New Listings:

**Peg Mueller** (widow of Paul), 59 Manor Court, Bldg. 7, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; 732-937-5484 PegMueller@aol.com

Richard R. Neff, 15 Hamiltons Bay Court, #937, Lake Wylie, SC 29710

803-631-3783; rrenon@comporium.net

Rev. John and Beverly Gaffney, 2804 Spangler Lane, Bowie, MD 20715; 301-352-4175

Email: Herb Vetter: hfvetter@post.harvard.edu

### New Addresses:

**Doris Kellison**, The Captain Lewis residence, 270 MaineAve., Farmingdale, ME 04344; 207-582-0200 **Robert and Cindy Latham**, one year: First Unitarian Church, 730 Halstead Rd, Wilmington DE 19803

Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers and Partners Association
c/o Carl F. Thitchener
3895 Green Road
Bloomfield, NY 14469-9725

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