

# Elderberries

*The Newsletter of the*

*Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association*

VOLUME XXI

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NUMBER 3

## EXECUTIVE BOARD 2005-2006

### *President:*

**Nancy Doughty** - (231) 933-4801  
12055 S. Woodwinds Circle #13  
Traverse City, MI 49684-7727  
nwdrev@charter.net

### *Vice-President:*

**Carl F. Thitchener** – (585) 657-7526  
3895 Green Road  
Bloomfield, NY 14469-9725  
revcarlt@gmail.com

### *Secretary:*

**Jean Rowe** – (828) 883-9538  
845 N. Country Club Road  
Brevard NC 28712  
jrowe@uuma.org

### *Treasurer:*

**Andrew C. Backus** - (360) 715-1984  
2746 Broadway  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
andrewbackus@msn.com

### *Caring Network Chair:*

**Glen Snowden** - (508) 393-1261  
87 Indian Meadow Drive  
Northborough, MA 01532-2439  
gsnow3@juno.com

### *Newsletter Editor:*

**Eleanor Richardson** - (207) 596-5502  
22 Mechanic Street  
Rockland, ME 04841  
grandmoot@aol.com

### *At Large:*

**Barbara Prairie** - (859) 985-0301  
314 Jackson Street  
Berea, KY 40403-1720  
bprairie@adelphia.net

**Gretchen Manker** – (602) 840-8186  
4530 E. Pepper Tree Lane  
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253  
rgmanker@cox.net

### *Nominating Committee Chair:*

**Edwin A. Lane** - (781) 235-4911  
42 Wareland Rd.  
Wellesley, MA 02481-7610  
lane.ed@comcast.net

## IMPORTANT LATE-BREAKING NEWS ON UUA HEALTH INSURANCE – SEE PAGE 12!



*Iska and Dave Cole will host Maine UURMAPA and UUMA ministers for their annual picnic June 14. We thank them for keeping us all together for several years in a row. They are shown in their Edgecomb kitchen.*

*Elderberries* is published quarterly in November, February, May, and August. Next deadline July 15. Send contributions to Eleanor Richardson, editor (e-mail if possible) grandmoot@aol.com or to 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

Since the UURMAPA March Board meeting at Barbara Prairie's in Berea, KY, I have observed spring slowly creeping northward. Daffodil and forsythia blossoms greet me this Easter weekend reminding me once again of the persistence and vitality of life. The lively conversation at the Board meeting about issues facing our growing organization was Spring-like in content and action.

The Board endorsed forming an Aging and Sageing Committee with Carol Fincher as chair, agreed to expand *Elderberries*, and voted to continue to give four \$200 scholarships to new attendees at 2007 Conferences. Fred Campbell will present financial workshops at two UUMA chapters this year and Don Southworth at one and Jim Sherblom at the NE UURMAPA Conference.

Even though most of our members no longer attend General Assembly meetings, UURMAPA will be represented with sponsoring programs thanks to the work of Gretchen Manker and Barbara Prairie. For Professional Days we are sponsoring a workshop, *Fitting into Church Life after Retirement*, with Brad Greeley and Stephan Papa. Funds from our Financial Education Program allow us to offer *Are You Taking Your Financial Future on Faith?* to the UU Ministers Partners (UUMPS) and *Making it On a Minister's Salary* to colleagues. At the GA itself Dick and Joyce Gilbert will reflect on life in the active ministry and in their retirement years in an Odyssey, *Forward Through the Aging*".

Board members at GA, Barbara Prairie, Gretchen Manker and I will be representing UURMAPA at the reception for families of deceased colleagues that the UUA Ministry and Professional Leaders sponsors before the Service of the Living Tradition each year. The UURMAPA Board believes the gathering for family members is one event when we make a connection with surviving spouses, a critical piece of our Caring Network program.

As in past years UURMAPA will be sponsoring a luncheon at GA for members, inviting newly retired colleagues and partners to be our guests. The list of 21 ministers retiring is one indication of our organization's growth that will continue for the future. Thanks to Andy Backus this year we will be welcoming the newly retired with a ceremony.



## Report of the Nominating Committee - 2006

*Ed Lane, Chair; Polly Leland-Mayer; Leon Hopper*

(All are nominated for two-year terms)

Secretary: Jean Rowe

Member of Nominating Committee: Leon Hopper

Treasurer: Andrew Backus

Member of Nominating Committee: Fia Scheyer

Newsletter Editor: Eleanor Richardson

Member at Large: Barbara Prairie



*Ed Lane*

(1) No one may serve more than two full terms in one position. Therefore persons appointed to fill a vacancy may then be elected to two full terms in that position.

(2) No one may serve on the Executive Board for more than six consecutive years.



## GA events

### During Professional Days:

**Tuesday June 20 1:30-2:45** “Making It on a Minister’s Salary” by Paul Johnson.

**1:30-2:45** (UUMPS) “Are you Taking your Financial Future on Faith?” on financial planning for spouses.

**3-4:15** (UURMAPA) “Fitting into Church Life After Retirement: Bradford Greeley and Stephan Papa



When the minister retires, do s/he and family have to leave town? This workshop will focus on the changing role of retired minister in the church and their relationship with the current minister. Can the retired minister continue to contribute to the life of the congregation, and what ways are appropriate? Brad, minister emeritus of the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA, and Stephan, its current minister, will share their experiences in succession, and offer some guidelines to colleagues.

**Friday, June 23 12:30-2 p.m.** UURMAPA Luncheon. (send reservation by May 31 - \$30) FMI contact Barbara or Gretchen at addresses on page 1. Newly retired ministers and partners are our guests, including the newly bereaved whose minister partners were not yet retired.

**Friday, 2:30 p.m.** – Odyssey by Dick and Joyce Gilbert “Forward Through the Ageing”.

-- Barbara Prairie and Gretchen Manker, coordinators

## Bylaw Revisions

At the last Board Meeting, the following Bylaw revisions were voted:

**Article V, section 2:** delete “During the month of February preceding the election,” (italics below) and capitalize “the”, allowing the Nominating Committee to request nominations in November, rather than February, giving the committee more time before elections.

*During the month of February preceding the election,* the Nominating Committee shall poll the membership for suggestions of nominees.

And since we have nothing in the Bylaws about amendment procedure:

**Article VI:** These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board. The membership must be notified of the proposed amendments and an official vote taken no sooner than 30 days after notification.



*PanSouth Moments: Herb and Mary Adams present their Odyssey;*



*Sydney Wilde records ideas and memories. and Joe Sanders meets a goat at the Seed Project.*







*New attendees at Pan South included, seated, Rev. Doddie Stone, Bob Baker, Rev. Charlotte Shivvers. Standing: Rev. Sydney Wilde (presenter) and Revs. Dennis Daniel; Barbara Carlson; and Don Wheat*

## Regional Conferences

Attend any conference,  
regardless of where you live!

The Board has estended 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 – Fort Myers, FL, UU Church** – We had 28 registered, from Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Virginia, Arizona, and Florida. President Nancy Doughty and two past presidents attended: Joyce Smith and Keith Munson. Four couples used the Fort Myers B&B, contributing \$600 to the church. The only down side was the wine. We really missed Alan Deale, who says, "Life is too short to drink bad wine." Sydney Wilde's discussion of long range effects of Merger in 1961 was excellent. We toured a 30-acre farm, developing seeds for use by missionaries in 3rd World countries - we wished UU's had thought of this one. Don Boudreault, virtuoso jazz pianist and UU minister from Sarasota, performed in the evening. We poured out of our seats and danced at the front of the church for his encore. Then an absolutely gripping odyssey by Rev. Herb and Mary Adams Thursday, followed by an update from the UUA by Ralph Mero, which opened up a whole new set of issues. We needed 3 more days!

– Eleanor Richardson

**WEST** –Participants enjoyed an excellent conference March 27-30, this year, at the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, California, highlighted by sessions with Huston Smith, the noted philosopher of religion, and Ric Masten, UU troubadour. The conference for next year is tentatively set for April 16-19, 2007 at the same location. More details will be in later issues of Elderberries. Contact Ted Webb, theodorewebb@sbcglobal.net, or Al Thelander, thelandr@nccn.net or 530-432-4705, for further information. (See pictures page 8)

– Al Thelander

**NORTHEAST –October 3-5, 2006** Join us as the leaves begin to turn for an engaging Northeast Conference, to be held again at the LaSalette Retreat Center in Attleboro, Mass. The feature program will be "Engaging Our Theological Diversity," about the Commission on Appraisal Report of the same name. Earl Holt, who chaired the Commission, will give a presentation on its work. A panel of colleagues will respond to the report from their perspectives, and we will all have a chance to

participate in discussion. Reading the report before the conference will be a help. Keith Munson will present his Odyssey, and Peter Baldwin will liven an evening with folk songs and engage us in group singing. Nancy Doughty will bring us up to date on the work of the UURMAPA Board. A mailing will be sent in late spring/early summer with details and a registration form. For more information contact registrar Med Anderson: (802)948-2508; revmua@sover.net. - Judy Mannheim, Chair

## Questionnaire for Partners and Surviving Partners A Project of the Caring Network

If you haven't received your Questionnaire or if you've misplaced it, please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Questionnaire. The Questionnaire Project, created by the UURMAPA Board, is one way to honor all of our Partners and Surviving Partners. The Project is being implemented by the Caring Network. Please return your Questionnaire to Rev. Glen Snowden, Chair of the Caring Network, 87 Indian Meadow Drive, Northborough, MA 01532.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's/Surviving Partner's Name

Minister's Name

Address

Telephone

E-mail address

Date of Birth

Education and Schools

Children and Grandchildren

Career and Employment

Activities, Special Interests, Hobbies

Your circumstances of health and living arrangements

Your current involvement with a UU Congregation, and do you wish this to be greater?

Do you participate in other UU Groups?

Do you attend UURMAPA Regional Conferences and do you read Elderberries?

How can the Caring Network be more helpful to you in your circumstances?

What other activities and programs might UURMAPA offer that would be meaningful to you?

Additional Comments

Thank you for responding to the Partners /Surviving Partners ‘ Questionnaire!!



## Some Observations on Questionnaires Returned

by Doe Lockwood

Four surviving partners have completed the questionnaire. There are actually 6 of us now, but I did not include Alice Shulman and Mary Schug because they have been too recently widowed to know how radically this new situation will change their lives.

We seem to be the most active "widows" one could possibly find - not one has succumbed to the rocking chair.

One is still working at her profession as a gynecologist - 30 years at Women's Medical Center. She also reads, attends plays, opera, and symphony, sings in the choir and plays piano. She has been attending GA regularly for 18 years.

Another one works out, walks 5 days a week, reads and belongs to a book club, volunteers at the Museum of Art, plays bridge and is active in her church, in their women's group, and sometimes works as a volunteer at church. Her work career is extremely interesting and includes formerly working with the Church of the Larger Fellowship at the UUA.

Another is an Early Childhood Educator and among other things, has founded a Nursery School. She also is a businesswoman and has owned and operated her own business. Currently, she is a 9-year volunteer with the Symphony and a 13-year volunteer with LAMP (Learning Activities for Mature People). What a woman! I love to read her "not often enough" postings on Speak-Up.

As for me, you all know, I am a church addict - having worked as an R. E. Director, as a Program Director, and as a founder of a cable television program for our church. I have served almost every position available in two local UU churches, serving as president on two different occasions. I also served on the UURMAPA board as Chair of the Caring Network and still serve as our district network person. I also co-founded our chat line, Speak-up. As you know, one can starve working for a church, so I have also owned businesses, the last being a marina.

We all live alone, seem to be quite content with family and friends nearby. We all read and enjoy Elderberries and seem reasonably happy with our relationship with our churches. We are not seeking greater involvement with our church. (I suspect this is because we have all heard it all in spades). I was thrilled to read about everybody and often wish we weren't thousands of miles apart - but that's the story of the Southwest.

Thank you so much for helping with this questionnaire,  
Doe Lockwood

## Position Open

I am working with the congregation in Rancho Mirage, CA (Palm Springs area) -- they're looking for a minister willing to live in the area for 9-10 months per year and work full-time during those months -- do you know of anyone interested in such a ministry -- preaching, pastoral care and some committee work --

As you may recall Ken MacLean has been their minister but is leaving this June and says he is really going to retire – Ken Brown, District Executive, Pacific Southwest District (kbrown@uua.org)

## A Strange Mixture

Thanks and apology. Thanks to all who have given money this year to support our organization. We are blessed by the broad support we have: about half of our 550 households have given so far this year an average of about \$50. Thank you!!

And an apology to those who have not yet given -- for we make another appeal yet: we need your generosity, too. Whatever you can give -- be it \$10 or \$200 -- we will all be immensely grateful. For the very heart and soul of our UURMaPA depend on the wide participation of our membership. We simply refuse to follow the "80-20 rule" of the churches. We've left that behind.



Board of Trustees

Make out your check to "UURMaPA" and mail it to our treasurer: Andy Backus, 2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225. (Email [andrewbackus@msn.com](mailto:andrewbackus@msn.com) to remind yourself whether you have already given.)

We need you. Thanks.  
Your UURMaPA

*Friends gather at the WEST conference, Ted Webb, Dan Lion, Sue Ayer, Rosemary Matson, Mary and Al Thelander. Photos by Helen Gordon*





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

### Little Notes

“Very glad to help! Enjoy Elderberries!” – **Viola Lindblade-Moore**, retired 2002 (Chicago)  
Hi Fellow Retirees. I appreciate so much your monetary assistance. (name withheld for privacy)



Dear Eleanor, Just to say I really enjoy the "Elderberries". It is my main contact now with my Unitarian heritage. The nearest UU group is more than 100 miles away--too far for an easy commute! I really enjoyed the photos of the Caring Network contact persons. I have talked on the phone with Peter and Jennie Weller. Now I can visualize them, too! Keep up the good work!  
– **Rachel Hoagland** in the foothills by Trinidad, CO.

*Wallace Reid is our Caring Network Rep for Metro New York*

I read with interest in Elderberries (an excellent issue by the way) that Dick Allen says he will save several thousands of dollars a year with the new Medicare D plan. We also investigated and found we would save two to three thousand dollars with the Blue Cross/Shield Medex – Dick and Ellie Fewkes

Skinner House Books has recently republished **Jack Mendelsohn's** *Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age: Why I am a Unitarian Universalist*, second edition. The book was first published in 1964 and seems to have timeless appeal. For a copy, call Ari McCarthy, 617/948-4601, or amccarthy@uua.org.

We enjoyed an Elderhostel, in Gallup, New Mexico, visiting Zuni, Chaco Canyon and Canyon de Chelly. As we left Tuba City, a huge sand storm was covering seemingly hundreds of miles until just before Flagstaff. As we descended the 5000 feet into Phoenix, the yellow palo verde trees and desert marigold in Phoenix were very beautiful. Although low desert, we have a wonderful spring. – **Gretchen Manker**

**Rev. Robert Schaibly** was seriously injured in a car accident April 17, en route from Portland, OR to the Installation of Rev. Alex Holt (Woodinville, WA), and a UUMA retreat in Federal Way, WA. He was transported to Seattle, where his partner, Steven Storta, joined him. As of April 18, Bob was awake and alert, and communicating with warm eye contact and hand squeezes. His condition seems guarded but improving. Bob sustained a spinal fracture, rib and internal injuries, and a broken wrist.

We were at an Elderhostel at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL, looking at the mini nature preserve. One of us spotted a large gray heron in the rushes. Ann stepped back to signal some fellow hostlers, and fell over a concrete barrier, pulling me down. I popped up. She could not. What was broken was the ball joint at the top of the femur, but not the socket. She received a Partial Hip Replacement. She is moving ahead steadily in ambulation and pitches in so much around the house that she makes both of us nervous sometimes. We have been given support in many ways, by church and community, cards, calls, and casseroles! Moral?: "Be more careful when bird watching!" –**Bob and Ann MacPherson**

## In Memoriam

**Reverend Charles Otis Barber**, 87, died March 5 in Deland, FL. He was ordained on May 10, 1964 by the Universalist Church of Foxboro, MA and served the First Universalist Church in Dolgeville, NY; First Universalist Society of Salem, Walpole NH Unitarian Church, the First Universalist Church of West Chesterfield and the Unitarian Universalist Church of West Volusia, Deland, FL. He was named Emeritus Minister at both the Walpole and West Volusia. Surviving are his wife Madelyn C. Barber and two children Susan E. Murphy of Florida and John R. Barber of North Attleboro, MA. Messages of remembrance may be sent to: Ms. Madelyn C. Barber, 605 Heron Point Way, Deland, FL 32724. Memorial services were scheduled for March 26 in Deland, and April 28th at the Walpole, NH Unitarian Church.

**Rosella (Macomber) Bemis**, 85, of Athol, MA, died Feb. 2. Her husband, Eldred Bemis, died in 1994. She was previously married to Rev. Wilton Cross and Norman Guertin. She was a member of the Margery Morton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Petersham Orthodox Congregational Church. Survivors include her children, James Guertin of Jupiter, FL; Mitchell Guertin of Lake Wales, FL; Norma Guertin of Stuart, FL; Joyce Nelson of Athol; and Peter Guertin of Orange; 10 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren; a brother and a sister. The family will have a graveside service in Petersham in the spring.

**Reverend Elizabeth S. Jones**, 79, died April 14 of hepatoma. She received a Master of Divinity at Starr King and a Doctorate of Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary. She was ordained in 1980 by the Unitarian Church, Santa Barbara CA, and served the UU Church in Idaho Falls, ID. She was named Emeritus Minister at UU Church of Livermore, CA. Surviving are her husband Jeffrey P. Lambkin, and four children Stephen, Nancy, David and Susan all of California. Messages of remembrance may be sent to Jeffrey P. Lambkin, 1811 Ralston Avenue, Richmond, CA 94805. A memorial service was scheduled for April 25 in the Atrium of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkley, Kensington, CA.

**Rev. Donald W. Rowley**, 83, died March 27 at his home in the Hunt Community of Nashua, NH. He served at the First Parish Church, United, in Westford, MA, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH, from 1958 until his retirement in 1987. In recognition of his 29 years, he was named Emeritus of the Nashua church in 1994. He was a tireless advocate for social justice in greater Nashua, especially in hospice and mental health care. He was predeceased by his wife, Norma, and is survived by two sons, Dana and Philip. He requested a private interment. A memorial service may be held in the future, depending upon the wishes of the family.

**Claire Warren** of Barnstable, MA, wife of Rev. Kenneth Warren, died March 9, after a long illness. She graduated from the Vesper George School of Art in Boston, and worked as an artist with the Rust Craft Greeting Card Co. in Boston. After their marriage, the Warrens moved to Cape Cod, where he served the Unitarian Church of Barnstable and the Universalist Church of Yarmouth, and the merged churches for 38 years. Mrs. Warren was active in the Flower Guild Alliance, the Lothrop Guild, and the Kit'n'Kaboodle consignment shop, Boutique group and other fund-raising ventures. She worked in adult religious education and helped organize the Unitarian Fellowship of Falmouth. After Ken became an interim, she accompanied him to Canton, Sharon, Dorchester, Assinippi and Vineyard Haven, MA. She was a member of the Village Crafters, and sold her stained glass work at craft fairs. She participated causes of peace and justice. Besides her husband, survivors include a daughter, Mary-Elizabeth Brague of Mansfield, and two granddaughters. A memorial service was held in Barnstable.

## Directory additions and Corrections

Web Address: [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org)

Address changes should be sent to Carl F. Thitchener – 3895 Green Road, Bloomfield, NY 14469-9725 Tel(585) 657-7526. Email: [revcarlt@gmail.com](mailto:revcarlt@gmail.com) Thanks, Carl!



**Additions** – Grace Lindquist, 230 Foster St., Littleton, MA 01460 Tel. 508-486-3988

### Addresses

Jane Alen, The Willows at Westborough, 1 Lyman St., Westboro, MA 01581- 508-366-3840

Rev. Dale Arnink & Eva Montoya, 2317 Cabezon Dr NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144  
505-662-4161

Rev. George & Elise Briggs, 105 Echo Glen Drive Apt. D-2, Winston-Salem, NC 27106  
336-723-4571 [gbriggs5@juno.com](mailto:gbriggs5@juno.com)

Rev. Polly Leland-Mayer, 240 Harbor Dr S Apt 1, Venice, FL 34285 , 941-483-4791  
Elizabeth Phillips, 10609 Shady Cir, Silver Spring, MD 20903

Rev. Jean M. and Lackey Rowe, 845 N Country Club Rd., Brevard, NC 28712  
[jrowe@uuma.org](mailto:jrowe@uuma.org) - [lackeyrowe@citcom.net](mailto:lackeyrowe@citcom.net)

Gerald Schatz & Barbara Conley, 627 Orchard Street, East Lansing, MI 48823-3549  
Rev. Jan & William Sellers, 16967 SE 84th Colerain Cir, The Villages, FL 32162  
941-575-2325

Rev. Joyce Smith, 217 NW Shamrock Lane, Lees Summit, MO 64081 , 816-246-5388  
[joysmi@juno.com](mailto:joysmi@juno.com)

Revs. Dwight Smith & Carol Hilton, 3091 Buena Hills Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056  
760-439-5731, [ccaahs@pacbell.net](mailto:ccaahs@pacbell.net)

Kenneth Warren, 139 Marble Road, Barnstable, MA 02630-1608 (same house, new address)

Katherine B. Wassman, 5400 Vantage Point Rd. Apt 307, Columbia, MD 21044

Miriam Webster, 57 Brackett Pl, Marblehead, MA 01947, (978) 744-0899

Rev. Frances West, 3100 Club Dr. Apt A3, Lawrenceville, GA 30044 , (404) 634-5771

Eleanor Williams, 1 Avery St. #25A, Boston, MA 02111 – (617 742-3867

### New Telephone Number only

Charles and Claudine Grady (828) 697-7325

Rev. Donald J. Jacobsen, Sr. - 919-923-3928

Catherine Cohen – (504) 366-0459

Marilyn Gentile – (510) 649-9088

Rev. Judith Mannheim – (508) 478-2027

### New Email Addresses only

Carl Thitchener [revcarlt@gmail.com](mailto:revcarlt@gmail.com) - Maureen Thitchener [revmaurent@gmail.com](mailto:revmaurent@gmail.com)

Herb Adams: [herbadams32@hotmail.com](mailto:herbadams32@hotmail.com)

Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf and Robert Campbell - [mdewolf@uuma.org](mailto:mdewolf@uuma.org)

Rev. James and Jane Hunt; Rev. William D. Main – delete emails

Rev. J. David and Fia Scheyer - [scheyer@peoplepc.com](mailto:scheyer@peoplepc.com)

Alice Schulman – [alice@schulmans.com](mailto:alice@schulmans.com)

### Other Corrections

Johanna Boeke and Madelyn Barber – add Rev.

The correct spelling is Dorle Gehrman; Catherine Sterling is spelt with a C

Cora Ison is listed in the directory as Elien Ison ; Rev. David Johnson – add Julie Coulter



## UUA Health Insurance – A Breakthrough

A new health insurance plan was approved by the UUA Trustees on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with an open enrollment period authorized from May 1 to October 15. After 500 church staff are enrolled, the Trustees will vote to take the final legal and administrative actions to implement the plan on January 1, 2007.

*Ralph Mero*

Enrollment is open to staff of UU organizations who work at least 1,000 hours per year, plus self-employed community ministers and recent retirees who have Medicare and need this plan as a Medicare Supplement Plan F to augment their Medicare Part A and B coverage.

Nearly 400 ministers, educators, administrators, musicians, and other staff have been working for UU congregations with no health insurance at all. Interim ministers often find it difficult to obtain insurance when they move to a new congregation.

This new UUA plan is very different from a previous plan that was cancelled by Massachusetts BCBS eight years ago. This is a UUA-owned and operated plan designed to serve our congregations rather than an insurance carrier.

Visit the UUA website, [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), for plan details and rate information, and the Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield website [www.highmarkbcbs.com](http://www.highmarkbcbs.com), where you can confirm your doctor's participation in the plan and tour the "Member Site Demo" to explore the features.

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

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