

Elderberries

The Newsletter of the

Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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Pneuma
Ruach
Holy breath

Spirit under, around, behind,
above,
beneath, within, throughout, over,
amidst, all about

Deeper than word
earthier than air
surprising as sudden rain
clear as the cold of a winter's
night

Praise the music
in respiration
holy breath
in the sun singing

Pneuma
Ruach
Holy breath

By Clarke Dewey Wells (1930–
2006)
Our Poet Laureate

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contributions to Eleanor Richardson, editor, grandmoot@aol.com, or 22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841.

Please be mindful of space limitations! If you don't edit, I will have to.

President's Perspectives . . . Nancy Doughty



Belated greetings for 2007! As I wrote our annual Christmas letter and read many from you, the transitions we live as retirees were evident. The transition of moving, of sharing family visits or reunions, of bidding goodbye to a loved one or friend, of greeting a grandchild, of dealing with diminishing health for yourself or a loved one, all may be present with you. As an organization we are indebted to the Caring Network members who continue to keep in touch with our scattered membership.

As president's personal privilege I want to recognize our member, Phil Giles, who turned 90 on January 23rd. For those who may not know Phil, he served as General Superintendent of the Universalist Church of American in 1961 at the time of consolidation with the American Unitarian Association. Among our members there are countless who were encouraged, supported and guided in their ministry by him over many decades. I have fond memories of first meeting him at a summer institute on the shore of Lake Michigan when I was in junior high school and remember his hearty laugh and thoughtful words. Over a decade later he worked to see the consolidation of the UUA achieved. Congratulations, Phil, on your 90th with grateful appreciation for your past leadership.

UURMAPA activities at 07 GA are taking shape with sponsorship of a workshop during Ministry Days about good practices in a congregation between settled and retired clergy and partners. Again, there will be a Friday luncheon for all UURMAPA members, with new members invited to be our guests. Details of both events will appear in the next Elderberries.

In February I will be representing the Board at the Pan South Conference and in March will attend the West Conference, hoping to see many of you at each event. Our Board will meet in mid-March, so if you have concerns, comments or questions, please let me know. I am always available by e-mail or phone: (231) 933-4801 or nwdrev@charter.net.

Good Relationships Between Retired and Incumbent Ministers

The UUMA is in the midst of a complete review of the Code of Practices, and we on the UURMAPA Board want to be able to give constructive recommendations to the Guidelines committee. It has become clear that current UUMA Guidelines do not give enough guidance to retired clergy in relation to the local UU church and incumbent minister, whether or not it was the church one served.

We'd like to hear more from you: What's worked well? What hasn't? Do you feel "at home" in a local church you served or didn't serve? What recommendations do you have for happy, healthy relationships with the minister(s) in your local church? We'll also accept comments on difficult/unsatisfying relationships. (We'll be asking at another time about partners.)



Jean Rowe

Also, if you have a written **covenant** with the current minister(s), please send that, too, or other resources that may help us with good practices. Thanks! Please send to: Rev. Jean M. Rowe, UURMAPA Secretary, 845 N. Country Club Rd, Brevard NC 28712 or jrowe@uuma.org.

Caring Network

The wheel of life continues to turn, and I bring you news of a "retirement" from the Caring Network. Six years ago Bob and Jean Zoerheide volunteered to be Caring Persons for the Joseph Priestley District South. After Bob's death in 2003 Jean graciously, valiantly continued in her role for three additional years. Now at age 87, Jean has retired from her caring activities. We express our greatest appreciation and love to Jean for her devoted years of service.

Glen Snowden

I'm happy to report that Reverend Wm. Russell Savage is our new Caring Person for the Joseph Priestley District South. To introduce Russ, I would like to quote from the letter which he sent to his new "parishioners." Russ says: "Last year I retired as minister of the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, NY, where I served 2001-2005. Before that I served the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, MA, 1993-2001. Prior to entering the ministry I had a career in business, working for AT&T for over 24 years. In retirement, my wife Trish and I decided to return to our home town of Washington, DC."



"I just returned from Marosvasarhely, Transylvania, where I took part in the dedication of their new church building on Saturday, December 2, and preached at their Sunday morning service December 3. (I actually did a few sentences of it in Hungarian, but mostly it was translated as I spoke in English.) I've been to Transylvania a number of times and was instrumental in initiating two partnerships between Unitarian churches there and UU churches here in the U.S. Trish and I do a variety of volunteer work here - at the zoo, the library, coaching adults who want to pass the GED test, recording books for the blind, etc."

In your communications and General Assembly travels please warmly welcome Russ into the ranks of the Caring Network. Russ is planning to attend the '07 GA, and I believe he will also be present at the UURMAPA Luncheon. That would be a great time to meet him! -- Glen Snowden

\$\$ Ways to Save Money \$\$

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. 4% of such sales will be credited to the Living Tradition Fund.

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
quarterly tax-
gift, but must
it. Contact
Stewart.



free
request
Joyce



St. Lawrence Theological School
150th Anniversary
June 1-4, 2006
(No room in previous issues!)

St. Lawrence Photo ID's: Top row, l-r: Gene Navias; Susan and Rolfe Gerhardt; chaplain Kathleen Buckley; Max Coots; Dave Weissbard. Second row: Processional – Peter Richardson, Rolfe, Nancy Doughty; memorial window given by UU ministers; Peter Scott. Third row: Audrey and Ken Mochel; Gene; Dick Gilbert, Nancy; President Sullivan, Gene, Eleanor Richardson; Joyce Gilbert. Bottom row: Jan Bowering; Gary and Diane Doyle Parrish; Peter and Faith Scott; Jan Bowering as Olympia Brown; Rolfe Gerhardt with Phyllis St. Louis Magnus; Jan Knost in the Choir.

Let's Get Together!

Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!
If there's no conference in your area, consider starting one.

The Board has extended the \$200 grant to four **first-time** attendees at each conference. (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

Emily Palmer



Pat Hoertdoerfer

PAN SOUTH – Feb. 6-8, 2007. As we go to press, this conference is imminent! It's at the UU Church of Fort Myers. Program includes Ageing and Sageing by Pat Hoertdoerfer. 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. Cynthia Ward will present her odyssey. For last minute information, contact Peter or Eleanor Richardson, chairs, 239-263-7760.



WEST – March 5-8, 2007. At the Vallombrosa Center, Menlo Park, CA. Program includes a talk by UU historian Glenna Matthews, discussion with UU professor William Perry, who had several years of experience in the U.S. government in the 1990s; an odyssey by Peter and Jennie Weller; daily worship services; and of course social hours for reminiscing or chatting. Although registration was requested by January, it may still be possible to add a few. If interested, contact registrar Al Thelander at thelandr@nccn.net or 530-432-4705.

NORTHEAST – Oct. 2-4, 2007, at LaSalette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA. Registrar is Med Anderson, (802)948-2508.

Crayons on the Wall?

Household tip learned this week: If your grandchildren crayon on the wall, spray with WD-40. Wait one minute then scrub off with soft cloth. Repeat. Then wash the spot with a spongeful of soapy dishwashing liquid. (from the Crayola website) -- EMR

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

Notes to Andy Backus with donations: **Helen and Robert Dick** sent a lovely picture of the Doolittle Home. From **Joyce Smith:** Hi – hope things are going well. **Joan Waterhouse** Wish it could be more.

Esme Cahill: I am pleased to enclose my check.

Holiday Greetings. **Donovan and Donna White** Many thank yous to you all. We do so enjoy Elderberries. **Eva**

Morin: I am so happy to be able to give this great association a donation. **Stuart Rodes:** My father, Rev. Richard Rodes passed away in Aug. 2005 and my mother Jean B. Rodes has just passed away in Nov. 2006. Please accept this donation on their behalf. **Monica Sharp** I sent a [a check] this calendar year. Here's another.

Good Directory. **Frank Robertson:** Inclosed is a modest contribution to UURMAPA. Thank you for your leadership and please extend my best wishes to other

board members. **Phil Giles:** Andy - This will help a little with postage! Thanks for all your service.

David Pohl: I'm busy in retirement – helping to tend our family homestead (1699) and land, being a parish visitor at First Parish in Concord, MA, and serving as president of Society for Ministerial Relief.

David Parke: Greetings! **Stan Aronson:** Hope you & yours are all well. **Chuck Reinhardt** writes that global warming is beginning to look very soggy in Maine.

Chuck Howe appreciates the UU symbol on our return envelope and would like to abandon the new one “imposed on all of us.” **Betty Graham** Thank you for remembering me all these years. (Betty is the widow of Rev. John Cyrus. She is now remarried). I enjoy the newsletter and love the new logo. I am still, at the age of 78 living quietly in the old farmhouse in Wisconsin with my husband, Jim Graham & selling & showing occasional paintings (*see right*). Last Sunday we were in Milwaukee and attended church where they recognized long time



members. It was good to see old Friends. **Betty B. Graham** of Tennessee, (whom I called in confusion) "*Bannerman Junction North*" by *Betty Graham* is the widow of Rev. Arthur Graham. She recently had a fall, and a hospital stay where she suffered both heart and kidney failure, but is fine now and happy to be home.

From **Jean Zoerheide** (Thanks Jean!!): **John and Beverly Gaffney** are newly retired and will continue living in Bowie, MD. **Dan Higgins** ran for the School Board, but unfortunately was not elected. **Robert and Sylvia Lewis** together performed an exotic wedding that included an African libation ceremony for an African American bride. A drummer in African dress provided music. **Yvonne Seon** is professor of African American studies at Prince Georges Community College. 35 years ago she started a Black Cultural Center at Wright State University in Dayton, OH. In 2005 she was invited to return for the year as Distinguished Visiting Director of the Center. A side benefit was that she spent time with her family there, including 8 grandchildren. **Mary Rose Curtis** attended General Assembly where she collected signatures for her petition calling for justice for "the people of the fields." Her petition was not chosen, but was incorporated into another resolution for Immediate Witness. And from **Russ Savage**: **Margaret Odell** had a fall in September and broke her leg in four places. She has been in rehab and is making progress and hopes to move into assisted living soon. Correspondence may be sent to her volunteer helper Steve Greif at his address, 11385 Heathertoe Lane, Columbia, MD 21044. Steve can also receive e-mails for Margaret at sgreif@comcast.net.

Ed Peara, veteran for peace, took part in a Eugene, OR, demonstration at the federal plaza on Jan. 11 as a protest against the surge of Bush. It was in the midst of a heavy snow storm, but 140 persons showed up for it. **Ken MacLean**: I have become involved again, after a hiatus of many years, in the UU Service Committee. I think Charlie Clements is an exciting leader. **Jean Rowe** will be the Consulting Minister for the Thermal Belt UU Fellowship in Tryon, NC beginning in January. They are small but determined. **Lackey Rowe** had successful knee replacement surgery on both knees the day after Christmas, spent the rest of the week in rehab but is now home and even went to church. Jean says, "We sat in the front row with arm chairs, and his feet up on another chair, but all were amazed to see him. It was a real boost to his courage and morale."

Leslie Heyboer writes: "I've moved on from being a retired UU minister. So it's time for my name to be removed from your mailing list. Thanks." **Joan Kahn-Schneider**, who had decided to retire from the ministry, will be installed Feb. 10 as minister of the UU Church of Savannah, GA. [Better luck next time!] The congregation will re-dedicate its pre-Civil War building the next day. **Robert Jordan Ross** and his wife **Catharine** continue to enjoy life in Newport Beach, Calif. In 2005 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a month in Europe and a party in California where the minister who had wed them in Arizona in 1955 performed a recomittal ceremony for them. They both do volunteer work with the UU Christian Fellowship, locally and nationally. Robert is Emeritus at Tapestry in Mission Viejo and stays busy with pastoral work in Orange County. They keep in condition with the help of their 24 hour Sport Fitness Center.

Herb Vetter: Recently, I have found new amazing Poets of Cambridge USA, sharing them through our website: www.harvardsquarelibrary.org, not only Longfellow and Emerson but Elizabeth Bishop, May

Sarton, John Updike, as well as the Rev. Urian Oakes (1631-1681), minister of First Parish who was also the President of Harvard College. See also harvardsquarelibrary.org, for publications from Harvard University Press, including many liberal religious classics.

A Survey Just For You!

The Council on Church Staff finances looks out for the fiscal health of past and present ministers and church staff. To help in this work, please be on the lookout for a survey for retired ministers, partners and survivors that will be mailed to you in the Spring. The Council wants your help in finding out what needs exist for our group. -- Ralph Mero, Director of the Office of Church Staff Finances and Joyce Stewart, Assistant to the Director.

In Memoriam

Reverend Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, 57, died Dec. 10, 2006, of gallbladder cancer. Although she was not a UURMAPA member, Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley's imprint on Unitarian Universalism is significant and has helped shape contemporary Unitarian Universalist Association programs and practices in major ways. Please see the fuller and more detailed story on the UUA website. Marjorie served as Director of Public Affairs for the UUSC; Program Officer for the Veatch Program; Affiliate, then Associate, Minister at the Community Church of New York and District Extension Minister for the Metro New York District and Field Consultant for the UUA Department of Faith in Action. In 1999, she became as Co-Interim Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Austin, TX, along with her husband, Rev. Clyde Grubbs. In 2000, Marjorie became UUA Adult Programs Director for Religious Education. From 2003-2006, she served the UU Church of Tampa, FL. She had accepted a call to serve in San Diego, California, but withdrew because of illness. She is survived by her daughter, Tonya/Talibah Edmonds, and her husband, Rev. Clyde Grubbs, %Throop Memorial Church, 300 Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101-2821; her mother and nine siblings.

Lucille Bursh's daughter writes: "My mother passed away in November so please remove her from your mailing list. Dayton Yoder was her partner for the past 19 years and he was a Unitarian minister...who died in August 2006. We appreciate all that the Hospice Unitarian minister did locally to help us as Dayton entered his declining years." Thank you, Joanne Cenis

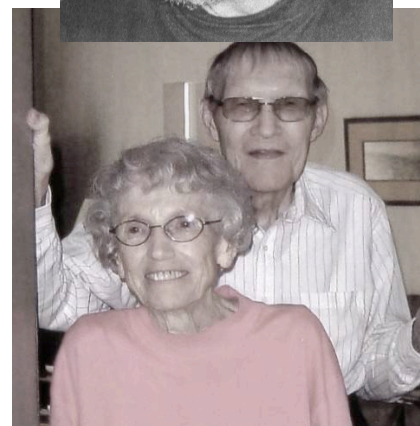
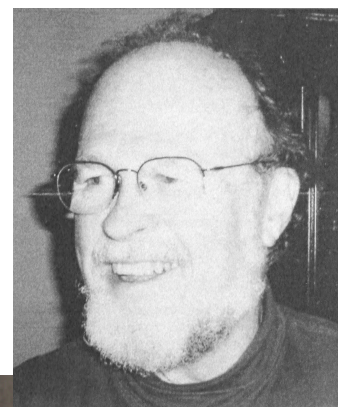
Reverend Carl Larsen Esenwein, 72, died Nov. 4, 2006 in Normal, IL, of cancer. He served congregations in Benton Harbor, MI, and Norfolk, VA; and the UU Congregation in Bloomington, IL,

until 1982. He then started his own company which he ran until 2001. Known for his opposition to the Vietnam War, Carl was instrumental in helping numerous conscientious objectors find sanctuary in Canada. He was also active in the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and organizations for prison reform. During retirement, he restored his historic home and rekindled his love of magic. Those who knew him were impressed by the courage and dignity with which he faced the end of his life. A service was scheduled for Nov. 15 in Normal. Mr. Esenwein is survived by his wife, Willemina, of Normal; four children, Marc of Louisville, CO; Steve, of Dacono, CO; Lori (Vaughn) Hoffman of Bloomington, IL; and Willem (Anna) Knibbe of Alameda, CA; his mother, Eleanor, of Bloomington IL; and three grandchildren. Messages may be sent to Willemina at 301 West Virginia Avenue, Normal, IL, 61761.

Reverend William Richard Jacobsen, 74, died Nov. 2, 2006. He was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada to immigrants Jacob Jacobsen (Denmark) and Alfhild Larson Jacobsen (Norway). As a teenager, Bill began studying to become a Lutheran Minister, and graduated from Concordia College. By then he had found the Unitarian tradition and attended Meadville/Lombard. He was ordained in 1959. He served in Brooklyn, NY, Pittsburgh, PA, Canton, MA, and Bloomington, IL. He served the Palo Alto, CA, UU Church for 16 years. After retirement in 1990, he served as Executive Director of the Humanist Community in Palo Alto. Bill had a keen sense of humor, a true joy for life, and an ongoing enthusiasm for knowledge. He was an avid reader and enjoyed sharing his extensive knowledge. He was a truly gifted speaker. Bill believed in social change as a way to benefit all of humanity. He loved nature and hiked all over the Bay Area. He was particularly fond of Mount Montara in Pacifica. He is survived by his daughter, Juli Jacobsen (Joe Corollo) of San Lorenzo; his son, Eric Jacobsen of Pacifica; and former wife and dear friend, Dianne Jacobsen, of Palo Alto. A memorial service was planned for Nov. 19, 2006, at the UU Church, in Palo Alto.

Reverend Walter Andrew Moulton, 70, died Nov. 5, 2006, in Kennebunk, ME. He served in the Navy, then taught at Kennebunk High School for 22 years. He then completed his M.Div, and was ordained in 1987. He served in Beaumont Texas, where his congregation established an AIDS Care Team. He then served interims in Fredericton, N. B.; Houlton, ME; Groton MA; Philadelphia, PA; and Kirkland, OH. In 1998 he was called to All Souls UU in Watertown, NY, retiring in 2003, and returning to Kennebunk. Walter read and wrote poetry, published several poems in the York County Coast Star in Kennebunk, and collected old-time gospel tapes. He is survived by his his wife of 47 years, Paula Thayer-Moulton; and two daughters, Valerie Berg of Vienna, VA, and Barbara Moulton of San Francisco, and five grandchildren. Messages may be sent to: Paula at 3 Hidden Lane, Kennebunk, ME 04043

Millicent Vanstrom, 87, died Oct. 18, 2006, in Bedford, TX. Her partner, Rev. Dr. Vester L. Vanstrom, and their sons Keith and David, are survivors. Van and Millie were married Oct. 29, 1938.



They were pioneers in the Interim Ministries in 1975 when they served congregations in Bellevue, WA; Golden, CO; Denver; and Media, PA; and in 1979 in the Southwest Extension Ministry, Tulsa, OK; Houston and Corpus Christi, TX. Millicent's warm, comforting and contagious smile was enjoyed by all who met her. She was an active member in Planned Parenthood and awarded the National Margaret Sanger certificate of Recognition. She was a hands-on volunteer at hospitals wherever she lived. Millicent was born with scoliosis from which she suffered, especially the last five years of her life. This October she was hospitalized with excruciating pain. Sedatives gave her some relief, but pneumonia brought her final passing. Amen. [Obituary by her husband, 2221 Murphy Dr. #2115, Bedford, TX 76021.]

Jean Rodes died peacefully at home in Columbia, MD, November 12, 2006. She was married for 63 years to **The Rev. Richard Rodes**, who died in August, 2005. Jean played the piano and taught music for 30 years. Together, they founded the United Church of Christ in Columbia. They later established a Unitarian church and he was minister at large in the DC area. They also made nearly a dozen Peace Odyssey tours to the Soviet Union. Jean dedicated her life to the things in which she believed: music, faith and social justice. They were both well into their 80s, had celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in 2005, and still enjoyed making music together and reminiscing about their travels. They had lived in Columbia, MD, since 1970 and leave behind three adult children.



Rev. Dr. Clarke Dewey Wells, 76, of Bloomington, IN, and Sarasota, FL died Nov. 8, 2006. His father was editor and publisher of *The Enterprise* newspaper in Plainwell, MI. His mother was city librarian. Clarke served churches in Oklahoma City; Cincinnati, OH; Portland, OR; and Newton, MA. As interim, he served in Bloomington and Muncie IN; Houston, TX; Santa Barbara, Santa Paula and San Luis Obispo, CA; Youngstown, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; and Asheville, NC. He also served in Lakeland, FL, where he was named Minister Emeritus. Author of four books of poetry and well-known essays, Dr. Wells' reputation as a dynamic preacher and an excellent teacher led to many requests for these services following his retirement in 1995. He served on the Board of Trustees for Meadville Lombard and as adjunct faculty and chaplain. He was a Special Lecturer at Starr King School

(Berkeley). In 1977 gave the sermon at the Service of the Living Tradition at GA in Boston. He also served on the Commissions on Appraisal, the Free Church and Common Worship. He was Vice President of the UUMA (following merger in 1961). An avid athlete, he played football in high school and college; he was an enthusiastic snorkeler, handball, and tennis player. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965, and was with his colleague, James Reeb, and his wife, Marie, at a hospital in Birmingham, AL, when Rev. Reeb died. Clarke is survived by his sons, Jared St. John Wells of Tucson, AZ and Garde MacKenzie Wells of Eugene, OR; as well as his wife and companion, Barbara Carlson. Letters may be sent to Barbara at 1213 Hearthstone Ct., Bloomington, IN 47401.

Directory additions and Corrections

Web Address: www.uurmapa.org. We are looking for a new webmaster – do YOU have this skill? Please let Carl know!

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



New Listings:

Rev. William A. Grace, 2511 Wood Run, San Antonio, TX 78251; (210) 509-0769
wgrace@satx.rr.com (Newly Retired)

Rev. Donald Northcutt, 2343 Vuelta Grande Ave, Long Beach, CA 90815
(423) 629-9909; northdb@aol.com

New Email address:

Rev. Marguerite and Donald Clason: reverendpeggy@oh.rr.com

Rev. Dave and Iska Cole: iskadave@peoplepc.com

Rev. Lex and Virginia Crane: lexcrane@cox.net; GinnyCrane@cox.net

Rev. Carol Fincher: carol.fincher@sbcglobal.net

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Farley and Virginia Wheelwright: farley@cybermatsa.com.mx; vbwheelwright@gmail.com

New Snail Mail Address:

Muriel Davies, 19310 Clubhouse Rd. #416 (new apt. #) , Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Bill and Barbara DeWolfe, up the street to 243 Biscay Rd., Damariscotta, ME 04543. They will be moving to Augusta, ME, in May.

Rev. Annie Foerster, 1511 Lakeland Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45237; (513) 679-2003; annieone@fuse.net

Marilyn Gentile, 2235 Sacramento St. Apt 41, Berkeley, CA 94702-1970; (510) 649-9088

Barbara Gudmundson, The Pines, Apt 323, 400 W. 67th St., Richfield, MN 55423; (612) 259-2876

Rev. Robert Hadley, 1930 NE Second Ave, L-206, Wilton Manors, FL 33305; (954) 565-6280

Doris Kellison, PO Box 49, Windsor, ME 04363; (319) 365-5394

Rev. Dale Arnink and Eva Montoya, 1724 18th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544
(505) 662-4161; dalearnink@aol.com

Clark Olsen, 4 Mountain Meadow Circle, Weaverville, NC 28787-9378; (828) 484-9239.

Rev. Charles Richardson, Summer Hill Res Assisted Living, Rm 312, Old Dublin Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.
(603) 924-9555

Charity Rowley, 1 Oaknoll Court, Iowa City, IA 52246-5168; Crowley@oaknoll.com

Janette Storm, 105 Millspring Drive, Forest, VA 24551

Jack and Marie Zoerheide to 59 Weston Heights N., Windsor, VT 05089; 802/674-5457

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Terry Hudson: (305) 453-0555

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Rev. George Tolleson: (828) 281-1166

Rev. Glenda C. Walker: (715) 843-5696

Other Corrections

Betty Graham (Wisconsin) was incorrectly listed under "Groham". Her late husband was Rev. John Cyrus. She is remarried to Jim Graham.

Yvonne Giles, who died Jan. 11, 2006, should have been removed from the list under **Philip Giles**.

Purposes and Principles are up for Review!

Article II of the UUA's bylaws contains the most basic documents of the Association: The well-known Principles (incorporating the less well-known Sources), the statement of Purposes of the Association, the Non-Discrimination clause, and the Freedom of Belief clause (which fundamentally bans creedal tests for membership). UUA Bylaws require that Article II be reviewed every 15 years at most, and is behind schedule. The UUA's Commission on Appraisal, which is the organization's elected think-tank/internal-review body, has undertaken such a review with the blessing of the Board of Trustees. The review was formally announced at last summer's General Assembly, though it really started earlier than that with a hearing held in Columbus, OH last April. Further hearings have been held in St. Louis (GA) and San Diego, and another will be held in Denver on April 21st and at GA in Portland. The Commission also just sent materials to every UU congregation, asking them to hold a workshop examining and discussing these basic UUA texts within the context of their congregation and to provide feedback to the Commission.

Retired ministers are of course invited to participate in the hearings, and in the workshops to be held in the congregations in which they may be involved, but see the next issue of this newsletter for a special invitation for written input to the Commission especially for retired ministers.

-- Dr. Jim Casebolt, Chair, UUA Commission on Appraisal

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

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