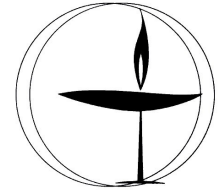


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXIV

NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER 2008

Keeping in Touch

Caring Network News

Our deep thanks to **Rev. Art Hover** who has finished his time of service as Caring Network Contact for Joseph Priestley North. We thank Art for his good work over these past years.

A warm welcome to **Rev. Carol Taylor** who is our new Caring Network Contact for Joseph Priestley North. Carol and her husband, Joel Weaver, live in Chesterbrook, PA. We are very grateful to Carol for joining our Caring Network team. Our folks in JPD North are invited to be in touch with Carol with news, concerns, and ideas for getting together.

Rev. Vern and Sue Nichols will now be including our Metro NY New Jersey members with the UURMaPA folks in the New York city area. Thanks to Sue and Vern for expanding their region in this way.

At our October Board meeting, we increased the budget line for our Caring Network so that our regional Contacts (or other colleagues they may ask) will have funds to cover mileage expenses for visits to members to offer friendship and support in times of difficult personal challenges.

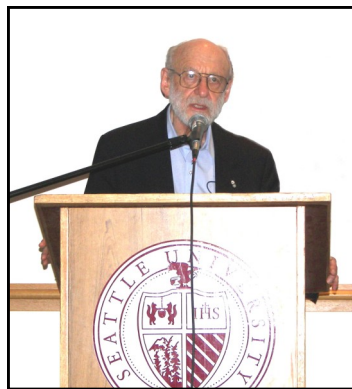
And we who are Caring Network Contacts count on *you* to be in touch and let us know if you or a colleague in your area is dealing with an illness or special stress.

Our shared work is at the heart of what UURMaPA is all about.

— Makanah Morriss

Leon Hopper Honored

September 4, 2008 was a special evening at the School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University as **Rev. C. Leon Hopper** was honored for “his commitment to justice, religious freedom and excellence in ministerial education, which has set a standard for students and for theological education as a whole.”



About 120 people enjoyed an elegant reception as they learned that an endowed scholarship had been created to honor Leon's life and work. Leon was one of the organizers for the Institute for Theological Studies at Seattle U, where

quite a few UU students are enrolled.

At this time, \$55,000 of the \$120,000 needed for a perpetual scholarship fund has been raised and the school is actively soliciting gifts and pledges. You may contribute by writing a check to “Seattle University,” with “Hopper Scholarship” on memo line and sending it to Sarah Perry, Seattle University STM, 901 12th Ave, P.O. Box 222000, Seattle, WA 98122. Sarah also will take tribute pages for a book Leon now has, if you wish to contribute your thoughts.

Editor's note: Thanks to Rev. Nan Geer for background for this report.

Photo courtesy of Seattle University

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Elderberries is published quarterly in November, February, May, and August by the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association.

Next newsletter deadline is Jan. 15. Send your news, photos and views to the editor: Chris Lilly Backus at 2746 Broadway, Bellingham, WA 98225 or at chrisbackus@msn.com

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President's Perspectives

The golden glow of maple trees surrounding our house fills our rooms with an aura of sunshine. How could one's spirits not be lifted and life's gifts not be remembered and celebrated this time of year? Any transition, whether it's the season or relationships in our lives, is a time for reflection as the years too quickly fly along.

At our October Board meeting we welcomed new members **Kathleen Hunter, Chris Lilly Backus** and **Ralph Mero**. They quickly demonstrated their unique talents in our deliberations.

We had a fruitful exchange again this year with UUA staff, **Beth Miller, Jory Agate, Joyce Stewart** and **Richard Nugent** (by speakerphone), to exchange information and ideas about matters of common concern.

This is my fourth, and final, year as your president. This Board meeting was one of the most memorable of the several high energy and important meetings over four years, because in October the Board thoughtfully and enthusiastically adopted a resolution creating an Endowment Fund for UURMaPA.

I believe this is a major step in our maturing as an organization! (See the article by Ralph Mero on page 7 and read the resolution text at: www.uurmapa.org)

At our meeting **we appointed:**

- 1) Creative Sage-ing Award Committee of **Dave Johnson**, chairperson, **Dick Fewkes** and **Helen Lane**
- 2) **Ralph Mero** as our observer at UUA Board meetings.
- 3) **Marj Lynn** to continue as representative to the Council on Church Staff Finances
- 4) **Kathleen Hunter** and **Dave Johnson** as representatives to the Professional Leadership Coordinating Council.
- 5) **Ralph Mero** to represent UURMaPA at a Conference for active ministers planning their culminating chapter in ministry.

We voted to:

- 1) Increase funding to enhance the Caring Network program.
- 2) Continue offering four \$200 scholarships to members attending their first UURMaPA Conference.
- 3) Request of the UUMA Exec that UURMaPA organize a program for "Collegial Conversations" at '09 Ministry Days on planning for and living out retirement.



4) Approve recommendations from a Task Force of **Andy Backus, Brad Greeley** and **Dillman Sorrells** for additions to the proposed UUMA Guidelines Code under study this year.

5) Adopt a more ambitious budget than ever with full confidence our members will be supportive of ever expanding advocacy and service programs than benefit members. A record of \$17,426 was contributed last year by you, our generous members.

I am so grateful to you for your confidence and commitment to UURMaPA. With the '09 Budget set for \$22,000, Board members collectively contributed \$1,400 toward that goal. When the UURMaPA appeal letter arrives at your home later this month, I trust you will be generous.

Thank you,

Nancy Doughty

Perspective on a Crash

It is sad to see people throw away their life savings through panic selling of investments accumulated over many years. Millions of people in the US and other countries are surrendering to fear, and by selling off their investments they are converting paper losses into real ones.

Opinions differ about the extent of this disruption: whether this is a stock market crash attributable to fraudulent mortgages, or a more serious collapse in international credit arrangements. We do know that the cycles of capitalist systems are largely driven by greed and fear. To the extent that we avoid these, we are more likely to avoid reckless actions.

For everyone who is selling in a down market, there is someone else who is buying. The investments being sold today are being snapped up by people who know they will profit handsomely in the future, when the market cools and people return to their senses.

We don't know when the panic will end, but we can be confident that human intelligence and wiser political leadership will inevitably restore a more viable economy than we are seeing today. Many will have to scale down their extravagant life styles — especially in wasteful energy consumption — but that can benefit both the planet and our inner selves.

In the meantime, discerning priorities will be our most important task. In our spending, we should focus on those things that matter most.

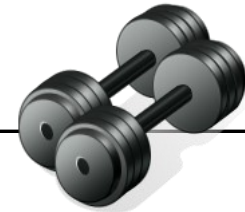
Our deepest values should be our guide. In our associations, we must nourish the relationships that enrich our spirits. If we find ourselves in desperate need, we should seek help from the UUA or others to help us make it through. If we have more than we need, we should open our pocketbooks and our hearts to any we can aid through our generosity.

— Ralph Mero

Exercise Guide for Older Adults

Editor's note: In these tough times we need to take extra good care of ourselves, so here's some sage advice...

- Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.
- With a 5-lb. potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can.
- Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.
- Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.
- After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb. potato sacks.
- After a couple of more weeks, move up to 50-lb. potato sacks.
- When you have mastered this, try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb. potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.
- After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.



Stay Warm

The UUA's Office of Church Staff Finances is pleased to be able to provide small **winter heating grants** to our retired



ministers and their survivors again this year. Contact Joyce Stewart at (617) 948-6421 or at jstewart@uua.org, or Rev. Richard Nugent at (617) 948-6456 or at rnugent@uua.org to request the grants. Joyce and Richard also welcome your calls and emails with other questions and concerns.

Let Us Hear from You!

Nominating Committee Report

In 2009 we elect a President, Vice-President, Caring Network Chair, one Member-at-Large, and the Nominating Committee Chair. The by-laws have three points that apply to elections:

- (1) No one may serve more than two *full* terms on the Board *in one position*.
- (2) No one may serve on the Board for more than *six consecutive years*.
- (3) "If only one person is nominated for each position, the persons shall be declared elected."

Applying these provisions, the Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for the following positions for two-year terms:

President: (Nancy Doughty is not eligible for another term.)

Vice President: (David Johnson is filling out Carl Thitchener's term and is eligible for election to a full two-year term.)

Caring Network Chair: (Makanah Morriss is completing a two-year term and is eligible for a second term.)

Member at Large: (Peter Haslund is filling out Fia Scheyer's term and is eligible for election to a full two-year term.)

Nominating Committee Chair [*not a Board member and not subject to term limitations*]:

(Ed Lane has completed two full two-year terms and wishes not to serve a third term.)

Please keep in mind that it is desirable to maintain balance on the Board in terms of (a) ministers and partners, (b) geographic representation, and (c) gender.

The present board (see the full list on page 2) is made up of (a) five ministers and three partners, (b) five easterners, one midwesterner, two westerners, and (c) five women and three men.

The report of the committee will appear in the February issue of *Elderberries*.

Thank you for your help. Please send your suggestions to any or all three members of the Nominating Committee:

Ed Lane (chair)
lane.ed@comcast.net

Leon Hopper
clhopperjr@aol.com

Ellen Johnson-Fay
ellenjf@q.com



Sleuth Needed

Do you enjoy detective work? If so, we need your help to find information on UURMaPA members with whom we've lost touch. You need a sense of curiosity and it would be helpful to have access to the internet. If you are interested please let Andy Backus, our Database Manager, know at andrewbackus@msn.com or at (360) 715-1984.

Thank you!

Directory Updates

Updates are available in hard-copy newsletter for:

Rev. Berhouhie Bergler

Rev. David & Jane Brown

Rev. Rudi Gelsey

Rev. Richard E. & Molly Hood

Betty Howard

Vera Kafka

Rev. Byron & Ethel Kelham

Rev. Barbara Kulcher

Rev. Rupert Lovely

Rev. Judith Meyer

Rev. Marjorie & Robert Montgomery

Eva Morin

Rev. Richard J. Norsworthy

Rev. Shirley Ranck

Rev. Elena & David Rigg

Rev. Charlotte J. Saleska

Rev. Jan & William Sellers

Marilyn Steeves

Rev. Connie & Hal Sternberg

Don Wade

Harriet R. Wyman

Jack Mendelsohn's passion for Beacon Press



Rev. Jack Mendelsohn's liberal ministry of sixty-two years continues to express his passion for Beacon Press Books. As author, preacher and prophet, he is esteemed by Unitarian Universalists as well

as a lively circle of action oriented citizens. Here now he celebrates Beacon Press books, (see: www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/beacon/) published by the UUA — a precious collection of books on *real* religion.

Beacon Press, on historic Beacon Hill in Boston, is an esteemed member of the Association of American University Presses.

Although he is now 90, and relearning how to walk with a new hip, **Dr. Jack Mendelsohn** recommends online an enlarged illustrated list of books published by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Beacon Press, which is a member of the Association of American University Presses.

Among Beacon's liberal religious authors are James Baldwin and Harvey Cox, William Schulz and Mary Oliver, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Starhawk. Howard Thurman and Lani Guinier, Henry David Thoreau and Victor Frankel, Forrest Church and Diana Eck, Max Weber, Cornel West, Mahatma Gandhi, and Thomas Jefferson.

We joyfully celebrate the Press!

Editor's note: Thanks to Rev. Herb Vetter for this article.



Endowment Fund

Non-profit charitable organizations need endowments for the same reason ocean liners need lifeboats. On October 7, 2008 the UURMaPA Executive Board resolved to establish an Endowment Fund to assure the stability of our Association in future years. This is a very positive action undertaken after lengthy consideration.

Money in the Endowment Fund will not be co-mingled with the operating money of the UUA or UURMaPA. This is a separate financial entity to endow fulfillment of UURMaPA's mission. The Endowment Fund assets will be held in perpetuity, with only the investment income available for urgent use. The Endowment Fund will be managed by a separate Endowment Committee consisting of persons selected for their financial expertise and operating under principles that will be posted on the UURMaPA website. The Committee will report to the Executive Board annually, and individual members can request a report on the current status of the Fund at any time.



One of our members has already contributed the first \$1,000 to begin the Endowment Fund. Contributions can be sent via check to the UURMaPA treasurer, with the words "Endowment Fund" on the memo line. (The address for our treasurer, Kathleen Hunter, is on page 2.)

Also, we can purchase Charitable Gift Annuities through the UUA with the proceeds going to the Endowment Fund after our deaths. We will be receiving separate mailings with information about this advantageous approach in the near future.

Note: gifts to the Endowment should be in addition to contributions to this year's operating fund. UURMaPA's budget is expanding to broaden the much-needed Caring Network services, which are at the core of what we do. We must all substantially increase what we pay in dues. Contributions for annual operations and for the Endowment are both deductible on our income tax returns.

Recall the words of Emerson: "But when haven't times been tough and money hard to come by?" I am not at all reluctant to make my own contributions to the UURMaPA operating fund and to the Endowment, and I encourage all our colleagues to do likewise.

— Ralph Mero

Meet Richard Nugent

Acting Director Church Staff Finances



The Rev. Richard Nugent was ordained to the UU ministry in 1997 at All Souls Unitarian, Washington, DC, where he had discovered UUism in the mid-1970's. He received final fellowship in May 2001. As an Accredited Interim Minister, Rev. Nugent has served seven congregations during the past 11 years: the Washington Ethical Society, the UU Church of Arlington, VA, the UU Congregation of Fairfax, VA; the UU Congregation of Columbia, MD; the Fourth Universalist Society in the City of New York, NY; the Towson UU Church, Lutherville, MD; and the UU Congregation of the Kanawha Valley, Charleston, WV.

In August, 2008, he began service to the broader denomination as the Acting Director of the Office of Church Staff Finances within the Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff Team. In that capacity, Rev. Nugent has responsibility for managing the UUA's national health plan, retirement plan, and other employee benefit plans as well as program advocating for "fair compensation" of staff working in more than 1,000 congregations and administering aid funds assisting individuals in times of personal economic need.

Richard has been quite involved in denominational affairs. In June 2005, he completed eight years of service on the UUA's Commission on Social Witness (CSW) including four years as its chair. The CSW is the five-member committee charged with processing all UUA social witness statements. From three years ending in April 2008, Richard served on the three-person Interim Ministry Steering Committee.

Richard is married to Eileen Kane, a career Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. Richard and Eileen are the very proud parents of a son, Asa, who is eight years old. Asa attends the local elementary school in their Northwest Washington, DC neighborhood. Together the Nugent family has started a Camp Fire USA scouting group at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church.

He earned a B.A. in Economics from George Washington University, Washington, D.C. and a Masters of Divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. Before attending seminary, he spent 22 years working in public policy. He has worked as a staff assistant to two United States Senators (Senator Gaylord Nelson and Senator Joseph Biden) for eleven years as a political/market research consultant; as Director of Government Affairs for the Epilepsy Foundation for seven years as administrator of a health care project in Indonesia and as a lobbyist for the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Editor's note: Richard's letter of October 9, 2008 on retirement plans in this time of financial upheaval urges us to stay in touch. Email him at rnugent@uua.org or call (617) 748-6456.

Another Tool in our Tool Belt

Thank you for your thoughtful concern. A couple of months ago, being a nearly 74 year old retiree, and not wanting my equities cashed in at the low prices they were fetching, I called Fidelity and arranged for my monthly checks to be stopped for a period of time. I may extend that period.

In the meantime, I will be selling, monthly, some of a Ginnie Mae account which I have to replace my monthly Fidelity distribution. I realize this would not be possible for everyone, but my point is that it was simple and quick. No forms to fill out, and it was done. And I can resume the monthly checks whenever I wish. It's another tool in our tool belt.

— Robert Jordan Ross

Editor's note: this note was written in response to Richard Nugent's letter of Oct.9.

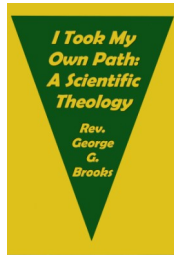
The Turning of Our Lives



Rev. George G. Brooks recently published his book *I Took My Own Path: A Scientific Theology*. A compilation of many sermons preached over the last 50 years, the author says his work is “an attempt to express a modern, rational theistic

understanding of our world and universe. Readers will discover that the twain of head and heart can meet — and must if we are to continue our progression as human beings.”

\$18 postpaid from
book-broker@hotmail.com



Rev. Marge Corletti shares this news: “My husband and I are wonderfully ensconced in a lovely condo in Crystal City/Arlington, Virginia. Jerry volunteers at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History twice a week cleaning fossils. I volunteer at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington in the Emergency Room, at Washington National Airport as a Travelers Aid and at my senior center, knitting and crocheting for charity. We also spend lots of good times with grandchildren!”

Polly Leonard is now living in a dementia care facility in Atlanta, her husband, **Rev. Dick Leonard**, says she is enjoying being near family there. He splits his time between New York, still doing weddings and visiting Polly. He has just published an essay called “What It Feels Like to be 80.”

Rev. Kim Beach writes: “Barbara still works in Tyson's Corner and I still tend the vineyard in Madison County (VA). I serve on the local Community Services Board representing our county.”

Rev. David Johnson is serving as interim minister at First Parish in Plymouth (MA).

Revs. Harry and Judith Hoehler recently lost their daughter Carolyn, 49, to leukemia. She had Down syndrome and had been living semi-independently since the age of 23. She died peacefully, with the help of Hospice, and with all her siblings and family gathered around, only a week after she was diagnosed, so it was quite sudden. Harry and Judith said that Carolyn had had a full life. Until recently she took the train into Boston daily for her job, and was an enthusiastic participant in Special Olympics in swimming and track.

Rev. Ellen and George Brandenburg are back in the US after 18 months living in France, where George, a particle physicist was working at CERN. Ellen is now back to volunteering at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA.

Rev. Betty Jo Middleton will teach “Models and Method in Religious Education” at Meadville Lombard this coming spring (Feb-May semester).

Rev. Carol Edwards is living in Abingdon, VA in an intentional community called “Elderspirit.” She is interested in attending the Pan-South UURMaPA Conference in February but needs a ride. If you are going and your route is anywhere near Abingdon, VA, please be in touch with her, 106 Trailview Drive, Abingdon, VA 24210 (276) 628-9497.

Rev. Cynthia Johnson writes, “I always look forward to reading *Elderberries*. In some ways, full-time ministry seems long ago and far away compared to the current chapter of my life. Then I remember I'm meeting with a couple tomorrow to discuss their wedding and am working on a new sermon on humanism, trying to understand U and U antecedents better.”

Rev. Andrew C. Backus has been enjoying volunteering at the Bellingham Theater Guild, Bellingham, WA, building sets and overseeing repairs to the theater and working on the grounds.

(more news on page 15)

UUA Presidential Candidates Address UURMaPA Northeast Conference

Having watched the US Presidential Debates on Tuesday night, October 7, at the UURMaPA Northeast Conference, it was refreshing on Wednesday morning to hear from two leaders in our own faith tradition, who are campaigning to become the next UUA president. **Rev. Laurel Hallman** and **Rev. Peter Morales** spent time among us and really listened to our concerns as retired ministers and partners.



Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales at UURMaPA Northeast Conference shared visions for the UUA.

Photo by Eleanor Richardson

Peter wrote this for *Elderberries*:

I am running for UUA president because I believe that we Unitarian Universalists are called to be far more than we are today. The longing for liberal spiritual community today is huge. We are also called to heal and transform the world. We must be a strong force for compassion, justice and environmental stewardship. If we are going to transform lives and be a powerful force for good in our troubled world, we must change. We must revitalize our movement. I bring a track record of leading transformational change at the congregational level and management in large and small organizations

From Laurel's Q&A Sheet:

I am uniquely able to provide what the UUA needs in a leader going forward. I have spent a full year exploring the possibilities and needs for our Association and its implications for my life. I have concluded that my experience, temperament, and talent make me uniquely qualified to serve our Association at this time. While I don't believe in destiny, I do believe that we are called by Life to action where our gifts meet the world's needs. I believe I have been called to be President of the UUA.

PAN-SOUTH CONFERENCE, February 3-5, 2009 Ft. Myers, FL

Accommodations available through Ft. Myers Church B & B program. Contact Phyllis Brewer at pybrewer@comcast.net or (239) 489-0889. Nearest motel is Best Western on Daniels Highway 1-888-490-2600. Refer to this conference, ask for a clergy discount (\$129.99 per night, a \$30 savings over usual rate).

The registration fee of \$75 includes both dinners, both lunches and two social hours. Mail a check for \$75.00 (payable to UURMaPA) to Herb Adams, 252 Brentwood Drive N., Lake Placid, FL 33852
Phone: (863) 465-1587, email: herbadams32@hotmail.com

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Special needs:

In Memoriam

Rev. David M. Blanchard, 75, died August 18, 2008. He was honored this year by the UUMA on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. He served UU congregations in Swampscott and Palmer, MA. In 1965, he became the minister of the North Parish UU Church of North Andover, MA, where he served until his retirement in 1997, when he was named minister emeritus. He was an advocate for civil rights and social justice in his community. He is survived by his wife, Joan DesJardins Blanchard, with whom he would have celebrated 51 years of marriage in September. He is also survived by two sons, two grandchildren, a sister, and several nieces and nephews.

Bette J. Dom, 76, widow of Rev. Jesse Dom, died unexpectedly August 10, 2008. She has been living for ten years in Freedom Village in Homewood, IL. She and her husband served churches in Monroe, WI; Fall River, MA; and Brooklyn, NY. She is survived by her brother, Elmer LaChapelle, a niece and a nephew, five great nieces and nephews, and five great-great nieces and nephews.



Rev. Richard F. Drinon, 76, died October 12, 2008. He had served the Hopedale Unitarian Parish in MA since 1998. A graduate of Tufts University, St. Lawrence University and Syracuse University, he also served UU churches in Palmer, MA; Saco, ME; Wausau, WI; Woodstock, VT; and Carlisle, MA. And he served as executive director for Ferry Beach. He spent several years traveling the world assisting in humanitarian and social action programs. He is survived by his daughter Susan Drinon of Somerville, MA.



Rev. Donald Manning Hinckley, 88, died October 13, 2008 in Augusta Maine. He served parishes in Waterville, Pittsfield, West Paris, Auburn, Houlton and Worcester, MA, and most recently All Souls UU Church, Oakland, ME. He played tennis into his 84th year and was a student of opera and classical music. His wife, Rosalyn (Ingalls) Hinckley survives, as does a daughter, son, grandson and four granddaughters.

Regina Cary Lapoint, 95, died October 12, 2008, in Spokane, WA. She was the widow of Rev. George M. Lapoint, who died in 1969. She was a librarian and an active church member well into her 80's. In 1953 her advent meditation "Waters of Life" was published by the Universalist press. She spoke at the 1995 GA in Spokane and was interviewed at that time by the Rev. Janet Bowering. Her parents, Henry and Maude Cary, were both Universalist ministers and missionaries, whose work took them to Japan. She is survived by her sons Justin and Elwyn.



Rev. Donald W. Male, 86, died August 14, 2008, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. After a distinguished career in aerospace and defense, which included meeting Orville Wright and John F. Kennedy, he went on to serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tullahoma, TN for 25 years and was honored as minister emeritus upon retirement. He was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in 1977 and served in this position for ten years, the last two years as Secretary of the Board. His hobbies included canoeing and astronomy. Survivors include his wife, Sue Anderson Male, three daughters, two step-children, his sister and brother. He also leaves three grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

Rev. Roy A. Ockert, 87, died July 16, 2008. He was ordained in 1967 by the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, CA. He joined in one of the most heated 20th century controversies within our religious movement - the Black Empowerment movement in the late sixties. He was one of three white members of the Black Affairs Council in the first year of its existence. Rev. Ockert also served the Unitarian Society of Orange County in Anaheim, CA and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fullerton, CA. His wife of 39 years, Virginia Mikulik died in 1989. In 1999 he married Delta Duke McClung, who survives him. Other survivors include two sons, three daughters, three step-children, 21 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.



In Memoriam

Susan Fromm Marshall, 86, died on June 28, 2008. She will be remembered for her remarkable intellect, wit and insight into the world around her. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1944, where she met her husband, Harold Fromm, whom she married in 1946. She later married the late Robert Marshall, longtime minister of Birmingham Unitarian Church. For many years, Sue managed the Bloomfield Hills branch of Recording for the Blind. Her lifelong passion for knowledge continued at the University of Michigan Dearborn where she attended classes as part of the Senior Scholars program. She is survived by two daughters and a son, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Barbara Ellen Pontier, 91, widow of Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, died October 19, 2007 in Raritan Township, NJ. A graduate of the New Jersey College for Women-Rutgers University, she retired in 1985 from Clifton, NJ High School, where she taught math. Barbara was a member of the NEA, NJEA and the NAACP. Her husband, Raymond Pontier, who predeceased her in 2004, was a minister, and together they served Reformed Church of America and Unitarian Universalist Association congregations in Berne, NY; Kingston, NY; Port Jervis, NY; Clifton, NJ; Wayne, NJ; Narrowsburg, NY and Lakeland, FL. She moved to Lambertville, NJ in 2004. She is survived by her three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Rev. John R. B. Szala, 72, died January 1, 2008 in Plymouth, NH. He was a contemplative monk in a Carmelite Monastery for ten years. After leaving the monastery, he taught school, and then administered a cancer research project at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1972, he first became acquainted with UUism at the First Unitarian Church in Pittsburgh, under the mentorship of Rev. David A. Johnson. Ordained and installed at that church in 1973, he served as their interim minister and as campus chaplain at the University of Pittsburgh and went on to serve churches in Rochester, NY; Salem, MA and Caribou, ME. He was an active member of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), an organization devoted to the scientific study of flag history and symbolism. Survivors include his mother, Julia Szala, his brother, and two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.



Lorraine Stehman Snowden, 76, made her transition from earth life to spirit life on July 21, 2008 after a personal struggle with the challenges of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Dr. Glen Wenger Snowden, to whom she was married for 55 years. Before living in Northborough, MA, they lived in Newton for many years.

She is also survived by Julie Marie Martin, her daughter, and two grandchildren and three sisters. She enjoyed a lifelong career as a church musician. A graduate of Elizabethtown College, the Yale School of Music, and the New England Conservatory of Music, she was a longtime member of the American Guild of Organists. She was also a piano teacher. Lorraine was highly dedicated to spiritual practices and the study of religious philosophy.



In Memoriam



Rev. Dr. Joseph C. Williamson, 75, died of heart failure on June 7, 2008, after a prolonged battle against Alzheimer's disease. He served as Princeton University's dean of religious life and dean of the chapel from 1989 to 2001. He earned his bachelor's degree from Eastern Nazarene College, his bachelor of divinity degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary, his master's degree from Andover Newton Theological School, and his Ph.D. from Harvard. He served as pastor and co-pastor of the federated Presbyterian and Congregationalist Church of the Covenant in Boston. He also was a member of the faculty at Boston University from 1973 to 1983. He was active in the Seattle community — particularly on issues of the day including AIDS and anti-Contra support — and served as senior minister of the Plymouth Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Rev. Donna DiSciullo, two sons and two daughters and by two grandchildren, a brother and a sister. His middle son, Clayton, preceded him in death.



Creative Sage-ing Award

The UURMaPA Creative Sage-ing Award committee seeks to recognize a UURMaPA member (minister, partner or surviving partner) or couple for outstanding service and creativity in recent years. This could include such things as new ventures after retirement, community service, mentoring and initiation or participation in service projects. The winner will receive \$500. The deadline for nominations (of yourself or others) is **February 15**, and should be sent to Rev. David Johnson at djohnson@uuma.org or c/o First Parish in Plymouth, 19 Town Square, Plymouth MA 02360. For details visit <http://uurmapa.org> or contact David.

UURMaPA Mission Statement

Acting in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the purposes of this organization shall be to serve Unitarian Universalist congregations and their Association, and to enhance the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, their life partners and surviving life partners and to provide such programs and activities as may be feasible for their benefit.

UURMaPA includes 850 people in 580 households

WEST CONFERENCE, Menlo Park, CA March 15-18, 2009

Cost for three-night stay and meals: single person in private room \$375, double room \$330 per person. Send form with your deposit of at least \$100 per person, balance must be paid by March 10. Register early since space is limited. Registration deadline January 15.

Send to: Barbara Cheatham, 1337 Singingwood Ct., Apt.#4, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclose check payable to UURMAPA for \$ _____ as deposit (at least \$100 per person)

For single room _____ double room _____ Final payment of \$ _____ to be sent by March 5.

I want to share a room with _____

Special needs:

Need more info? Contact Barbara Cheatham, Registrar, at bcheatham12@att.net or (925) 274-1586 or Sue Ayer, Coordinator, sayer3333@aol.com or (503) 760-5610

A Prayer Of Thanksgiving



Let us give thanks . . .

For generous friends . . .

*with hearts as big as
hubbards and smiles as
bright as their blossoms;*

For feisty friends as tart as apples;

*For continuous friends, who, like scallions and
cucumbers, keep reminding us we had them;*

*For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and
as indestructible;*

*For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as
eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn —
and the others — as plain as potatoes, and so
good for you.*

*For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels
sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem
artichokes, and serious friends as complex as
cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;*

*For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as
subtle as summer squash, as persistent as
parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as
zucchini, and who — like parsnips — can be
counted on to see you through the long winter;*

*For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the
evening-time, and young friends coming on as
fast as radishes;*

*For loving friends, who wind around us like
tendrils, and hold us despite our blights, wilts,
and witherings;*

*And finally, for those friends now gone, like
gardens past, that have been harvested — but
who fed us in their times that we might have life
thereafter;*

For all these we give thanks.

— Max Coots

Turning of Our Lives

(cont. from page 9)

Rev. Ted Webb celebrated his ninetieth birthday in August. His daughters, Chris and Bobbie, threw a party for him at Chris's home in Sacramento. Mary and Al Thelander were there representing UURMAPA. Many people from the Sacramento church and other friends joined the festivities. One humorous gift was a gold-colored crown, which Ted wore with some delight.



Ted Webb's 90th birthday

Revs. Makanah and Bob Morriss spent eight days volunteering their time in Knoxville, TN, in August three weeks following the shootings there. Makanah worked with the children and families of the congregation with a particular focus on helping the children become comfortable with returning to the building again. Bob helped out with pastoral care for youth and adults.

Rev. Herbert F. Vetter is serving as president and **Rev. Alan L. Seaburg** is curator of manuscripts for Harvard Square Library Board at First Parish in Cambridge MA. The organization distributes free online literature and information to people in more than 100 countries.

Eleanor Richardsons's wonderful photos of the UURMaPA Northeast Conference (in October) are now on the website: www.uurmapa.org
Check them out!

Let's Get Together!

PAN SOUTH – Feb. 3-5, 2009, UU Church, Ft. Myers Florida. Keynote speakers Eleanor Richardson will talk will describe how she created her book: *Mechanic Street, Uncovering the History of a Maine Neighborhood*, and Peter Richardson will review his new book *Archetype of the Spirit*. This new work includes work on Four Spiritualities. This year the entertainment will be Kate & Hollis, an Ottawa-based duo who combine their love of Appalachian ballads with their own compositions to produce a modern sound with clear traditional roots. Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale kdhagd@mac.com are chairs. Contact Herb Adams, registrar, at herbadams32@hotmail.com. Enjoy a winter getaway in sunny Florida. *Registration information can be found at www.uurmpa.org and on page 10.*

WEST – March 15-18, 2009, Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, CA. Keynote speaker is David Sammons on “Seminaries and the 21st Century.” Shirley Ranck, will share highlights of the first International Convocation of UU Women. Shirley will also tell us about updates in her book and curriculum, “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.” We have also scheduled time for discussion of the impact of current events—economic, social and political—on our congregations and our ministries. Ralph Mero will be the moderator for this session. Coordinator, Sue Ayer, 503-760-5610, sayer3333@aol.com, Registrar, Barbara Cheatham, 925-274-1586 bcheatham12@att.net. Enjoy a peaceful retreat setting with your colleagues. *Registration information can be found at www.uurmapa.org and on page 14.*

Remember that there is a \$200 grant to four first-time attendees at each conference. You must contact the registrar to see if you are among the first four. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are available from Rev. Jory Agate at jagate@uua.org, 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or at (617) 742-2100. Attend any conference, regardless of where you live!