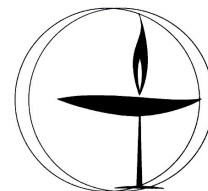


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXIII

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AUGUST 2008

Keeping in Touch

We were very saddened by the deaths of **Peter Weller** (Mountain Desert), **Keith Munson** (Northeast) and **Wally Reid** (New Jersey portion of Metro NY). These Caring Network colleagues did magnificent work over the years in helping our connections of friendship and support remain strong. Our thoughts are with their families.

Carol Brody (Ohio Meadville), **Glen Snowden** and **Lorraine Snowden** (Central MA) and **Peter Lee Scott** and **Faith Grover Scott** (St. Lawrence) have completed their long and very helpful terms as Caring Network Contacts. We thank them profoundly for all their good work.



Thanks to these UURMaPA members who have joined our Caring Network team:

Rev. Liz McMaster is our Caring Network Contact for our Mountain Desert – New Mexico region.

Rev. Ellen Johnson-Fay is our new Caring Network Contact for our Mountain Desert – Colorado, Wyoming and Montana region.



Rev. Peggy Clason is our new Caring Network Contact for Ohio Meadville.

Rev. Doak Mansfield is serving as our Caring Network Contact for our Mid-South region.



Rev. Nannene Gowdy is picking up the Caring Network portfolio for Central Massachusetts/Clara Barton.

Rev. Ken MacLean is serving as our International Caring Network Contact.

Rev. Ken Mochel and **Audrey Mochel** are beginning work as Caring Network Contacts for St. Lawrence. And **Rev. Cynthia Johnson** is serving as Caring Network Contact for our Central Midwest region.



The Caring Network boasts more than three dozen committed volunteers. I want to thank our new and continuing Caring Network Contacts across the continent. Their willingness to keep in touch with you, our UURMaPA members, helps our organization fulfill its vision and its goal. It is an honor to work with this dedicated group as their chair.

Makanah Morriss

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2008-2009

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Photographs help bring *Elderberries* to life. Yours are welcome. Thank you.

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President's Perspectives

by Nancy Doughty

At our UURMaPA luncheon at GA we welcomed nine new members as our guests, as well as Beth Miller, Joyce Stewart and Richard Nugent (newly appointed as Director of Church Staff Finances). At the same luncheon the Creative Sage-ing Committee announced that it had selected **Lex Crane** as the recipient of our first UURMaPA Creative Sage-ing Award. We also recognized **Ralph Mero** with a certificate of appreciation and bookstore gift certificate for his years of devoted service to UURMaPA and its members. (See articles on page 15 and page 5).



Planning for and Living with Retirement was the focus for conversation with **Makanah Morriss, Carolyn Owen-Towle, and Dave and Jan Sammons**, which I moderated, at Ministry Days. Many of those attending came with concerns about the timing for retirement, the financial implications, boundary issues once retired and preparing the congregation and oneself for transition. All panel members shared openly of struggles, joys and dilemmas along their journeys.

At Ministry Days the Proposed UUMA Code of Professional Practices, including the Covenant, Ethical Standards and Expectations of Conduct was also presented for study in 2008-2009. Taken together these are the bedrock for our collegial relations. Please read

them at www.uuma.org. In October our Board will devise a process for giving feedback to the UUMA Guidelines Revision Committee before UUMA action in June 2009.

Ralph Mero and I met with the UUMA Executive Committee to discuss ways to increase collaboration and support between our organizations. One of our continuing Board concerns is the financial circumstances many retirees face today. Lifting up the fact that in coming years more retirees (currently active UUMA members) may face similar financial circumstances and asking the UUMA to join our organization in framing the issue for our Association we believe are vital for healthy congregations. Sarah Lammert, UUMA Vice President and

liaison to UURMaPA, stated she hoped more retired colleagues will attend UUMA chapter meetings because current colleagues missed the wisdom their elders can pass along. This is a message I will take to heart and plan to attend my winter chapter meeting. If you are not already involved in your local chapter maybe this is the time to do so.

Finally, I want to welcome **Kathleen Hunter, Chris Lilly Backus, and Ralph Mero** to our Board and thank outgoing members **Andy Backus, Eleanor Richardson and Barbara Prairie** for their commitment to expanding the vision of our organization during the four years each served on our Board.

In Praise of Retiring Clergy

This piece originated as part of the 1986 Service of the Living Tradition, an annual General Assembly event designed to commemorate all stages of ministerial life. Former UUA president Bill Schulz shares this story in his book Finding Time & Other Delicacies.

For almost six years, before I became UUA president, I rode public transportation from our home in Newburyport (forty minutes north of Boston) into work every day. One day a man whom I knew only slightly boarded the train in Newburyport and asked the conductor if he could get off in Ipswich, a town along our route.

“Sorry,” replied the conductor, “this train is an express train into Boston from Rowley. We don’t stop in Ipswich anymore. But I tell you what we’ll do. When we pass through the Ipswich station, the train will slow down and you can jump out. But be very careful as you jump to run in the same direction as the train is going so you don’t fall.”

Well, my acquaintance was most relieved because he had an important appointment in Ipswich and he simply couldn’t afford to ride all the way into Boston and back out again. So, as the train approached the Ipswich station, he prepared to jump. And sure enough, the train slowed to a crawl, the man jumped, and, remembering the conductor’s instructions, he ran like crazy in the direction the train was going so he wouldn’t fall.

He ran so fast, in fact, and the train slowed so much, that he suddenly began to run faster than the train — until he caught up with door of the next train car.

All of a sudden the largest fellow you’ve ever seen in your life leaned out the door, grabbed the man by the lapels, and pulled him back onto the train. “Thank God I was there to catch you,” the behemoth said, “Don’t you know this train doesn’t stop in Ipswich anymore?”



I tell this story to honor those ministers who have earned the right to get off in Ipswich. But if they aren’t careful, may very well find themselves, with their lifetimes of wisdom and experience, right back where they started: in the midst of ministry, interim or otherwise.

Now that’s not a bad place to be of course, but I want to remind our retired clergy of an old Babylonian proverb: “God does not count the time spent fishing against one’s allotted time on earth.” You have earned the respite, earned it with your fidelity and your endurance (My God! How many coffee hours you have experienced!) and no doubt your occasional prolixity. Admit it, my friends: there is not a minister alive who cannot work up some sympathy for the remark attributed to philosopher Edmund Husserl upon completion of a seminar in which he himself had just delivered an uninterrupted monologue for the entire period: “Today, for once,” he exclaimed, “we had a really exciting discussion!”

Accept, then, our sentiments in your praise and our gratitude in your honor. Abide with us: we need you still. You know secrets not a one of us can fathom. We cannot offer raiment to the weary ones without you. Hold on dear friends, and teach us love and mercy. Hold on, that we too might learn to rest complete in satisfaction and compose.

My Retirement

In moments of nostalgia I dream of returning to the active ministry with its sense of fulfillment, worth and pride. What nonsense!

At most, I am a memory and a relic. Mine was a profession built around the holy trinity of “Priest, Prophet, Pastor.” Most certainly today’s ministry continues these elements, but to this triad must be added — in capital letter — MANAGER. I am neither trained for nor interested in such a challenge. For me, those distant years are well remembered and were the best of times!

My final sermon? “Thank you!”

Jack Taylor

CUC Meeting Largest Ever

The Canadian Unitarian Council annual meeting, in Ottawa in May, had the highest attendance ever (over 600) including lots of youth and young adults. It is gratifying to see how Unitarian Universalism is growing and developing in the Canadian context. It was a wonderful conference. Several of our retired ministers contributed to the CUC annual meeting:



Peter Hughes did a presentation on “Michael Servetus, the Quran, and the Quest for a Universal Religion;” **Fred Cappuccino** co-led (with Ottawa's music director) a “Music Workshop;” he also led a worship service one morning; **Anne Orfald** co-led a workshop on “Sharing Space” (with Julie Stoneberg, incumbent minister of Peterborough Fellowship) **Charles Eddis** co-led (with Ray Drennan and Diane Rollert) a workshop on “So you are thinking of becoming a minister, eh?”

CUC was followed the UUMOC (UU ministers of Canada) annual meeting and retreat of. About 35 colleagues were there, including many of our retired ministers. We were delighted to have Beth Miller with us at UUMOC, not only because of her role at the UUA, but also because she spent several years (before her ministry in California) serving the UU church in Halifax, NS. Gretchen Thomas (formerly living in Toronto for several years and one of the ministers who started a new congregation there) was also with us, all the way from Australia where she now lives.

Several of us who are retired and don't get to UUMOC every year were there, incidentally including five of us who are currently are members of the congregations we once served (our successors were also there).

I coordinated a worship service one day, where we (**Fred Cappuccino, Liz Benjamin, Phillip Hewett, Charles Eddis and Anne Orfald**) honoured the incumbent ministers now serving the congregations we once did, and paid tribute to the present and future ministries of our UU movement. I heard from some of the newer ministers how much they learned about some of our history, and how they appreciated hearing about some of the challenges and struggles of ministers, as they negotiate that difficult transition to retirement.

Anne Orfald



*At GA the **Rev. Ralph Mero** was honored with these words by UURMaPA President **Nancy Doughty**: “The Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association recognizes the Rev. Ralph Mero for his devoted interest, understanding, vision and advocacy of issues faced by our membership and for his compassionate care in relating to our members’ individual needs.”*

UURMaPA also presented Ralph with a gift certificate to a local bookstore.

Downsizing as Rightsizing

There has been a current running through recent conversations among UURMaPA members about downsizing or “rightsizing.” What do we do with lots of stuff we have collected and generated over decades of dedicated living?

Susan Felt, writing for The Arizona Republic, reviews a book by Ciji Ware called *Rightsizing Your Life*. The author talks about getting clutter out of the way so that your environment is as comfortable as possible. Her work might help us to:

1. Stay put by simplifying how we live
2. Make the transition to a smaller apartment
3. Move into assisted living

The author urges us not compare ourselves to other people. Each of our decisions is personal and unique to our circumstances. Retirement, facing living alone, and/or health changes may be the common catalysts for making changes but each of us will resolve it in our own way. Ms. Ware notes that we can consciously decide to hold on to only the people, possessions and activities we really enjoy and to let go of those we don’t.

Do you have “friends” who are negative and drain you? Let go of them and keep the ones who feed your mind and spirit. Do you have files that are overflowing? Thin them out by recycling duplicates and outdated papers. Are you attending meetings that you no longer enjoy? Be more selective about how you will spend your time.

By eliminating clutter we make space for things we really want to do. In her book Ward invites us to “toss, keep or recycle” what we have now. Recycling can be very high level. For example, perhaps you have thought about listing valuable possessions in your will. One small step might be to give those things away now and enjoy seeing that

a family heirloom or favorite memento go to that special person now. This can be an easy and meaningful way to celebrate a birthday or holiday.

In the first scenario consider changing where you live now to meet your needs and plan for the possibility of decreasing physical abilities. A good resource is the National Aging in Place Council (www.naipc.org). They offer practical ideas, such as remodeling to have wider doorways, walk-in showers, grab-bars (now in more stylish designs) for showers and toilets, and easier to use doorknobs.

In the second scenario you might consider two stages of getting rid of things. Do an initial triage to winnow down what you have.

By eliminating clutter we
make space for things we
really want to do.

Move and then reassess what you will keep and what you will eliminate. This can help you know what you really need to keep and what you want to leave behind.

In the third scenario you might use the model of thinking if you could only take a few things to a desert island, what would they be? Choose carefully so that the things you have mean “home” to you. A favorite painting, piece of furniture or set of books can provide focus for your new place which helps ease the transition.

As we go forward, the author suggests making a conscious commitment to the principle of simplicity.

CLB

Three UURMaPA members share their reflections on downsizing on pages 7 and 8.

Adhering to My Pledge

My late wife, Mary, and I moved to Seattle in 1967 and bought a very large house in which we lived for 26 years. She had the accumulation of three generations: herself, her mother, and her paternal grandparents. I had many of the accumulations of ministry.

The house was built on five levels and there were 21 steps from the street to the front door. Early in 1993 we decided to sell the house and move to a two-bedroom, two-bathroom rental apartment in the Belltown area of downtown Seattle. Our son, David, took many of our things, much was donated to charity and we rented a 10' x 10' x 10' storage locker.

We stayed in the same apartment for eight years. Mary's health began to fail significantly so we moved to an almost identical handicapped accessible unit in the same building. Many of our things were in the storage locker but many ministerial things were in the second bedroom of the apartment, which was essentially my office. Mary's health continued to fail so we engaged a professional Elder Care Consultant to evaluate our situation.

She recommended an Assisted Living Facility for Mary so we decided to move to one together. Most existing AL facilities are not designed for two persons per unit so the two of us were in 300 square feet. At that point, all of the ministerial things except a sizeable number of books went in the dumpster. The books and other worship materials were distributed to colleagues and ministerial students. When I gave a sermon at University Unitarian Church of Seattle on May 28, 2000, I pledged to myself that it was the last one.

Thus far I have adhered to that pledge. I don't have any sermons or worship material of any kind.

Mary passed away on September 30, 2004. I did not need Assisted Living so I moved to a two bedroom two bathroom rental apartment one block east of The Wyatt House Retirement Center, where we had been living.

I furnished the apartment from scratch. I have virtually nothing that I do not use regularly, by which I mean roughly once a year. I still buy books and when I buy one I give one away. I have perhaps twenty-five books in the apartment.

Choices are very personal and individual

While I truly believe that these choices are very personal and very individual, my own experience was very liberating and very energizing. I had an extended period when I couldn't walk and couldn't dress myself. I engaged a personal caregiver to come every morning. I was able to stay here because everything was simple and orderly and convenient and easy to find and use. I have a housekeeper who comes every other Friday and does the things I either cannot do or more importantly, do not want to do.

I subsequently disposed of the contents of the storage locker and terminated the lease. I am 82 years old and when I pass away my son and daughter-in-law can clear the place out and terminate the lease in short order. There won't be any question about, "Why in the world did Dad save that?"

For me the most important consideration that been that I am able to truly live in what I call "The Transforming Present" with new friends, new interests and activities, new zest for living and even a new significant primary relationship.

Most fortunately there is an active UU congregation here on Bainbridge Island (WA) and I am an active member.

Marvin Evans

City Living a Convenience

Five years ago, Dorothy and I decided that it was time that we move from our large home in Bellevue to a retirement community in the center of Seattle. We reduced our footprint from more than 2,200 square feet — plus a double garage — to an apartment of 850 square feet. Five years later we are still in the process of discarding things, though we have eliminated quite a bit.

We find it very convenient to be living in the center of the city so close to events, stores, banks as well as convenient public transportation. The latter is now more important than ever since we decided to give up our car and discontinue driving. This is probably one of the big changes in our lives.

Leon Hopper



Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman asked:
“What do you think is the best thing about being 104?”

“That’s simple,” she replied,
“No peer pressure.”

I felt like my body had gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors.



I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour.

But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

Is Hindsight 20-20?

I thought the information about downsizing and rightsizing was interesting. We can't do it at either of our places; we aren't messy, we just have many, many books which Alan is loathe to part with. But our philosophy is that since our children will inherit, they can do a bit of work for it. Alan inherited an 1825 Colonial from his mother, fully and completely furnished down to the tea sets and the towels. We took it apart, had sales, gave things to the grandchildren and all in all didn't find it all that hard to do.

Conversely, at 93, my mother lives in assisted living. She has kept only two of each of all her “good” things. It will be the work of an hour to dismantle her place, but in her case she likes the stripped down life she has. She plays bridge and is out and about often, even coming down to the lake or going to Vancouver. So I guess it's all personal and only in hindsight will one be found to have done “the right thing.”

Kathleen Hunter

The Turning of Our Lives

Peg Mueller married Bob Richardson on October 20, 2007. Peg is the widow of the



Rev. J. Paul Mueller, who died in 2004. Bob is a retired UU music director. The couple lives in Pembroke, Maine.

Rev. Viola L. Moore reports that the Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (St. Joseph, Michigan) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding with parties, banquets and concerts. At age 89, this minister emerita says, "I still marry the lovers and bury the dead." She has served the fellowship for 15 years.



Eleanor Richardson's new book, *Mechanic Street: Uncovering the History of a Maine Neighborhood*, will be available in August. Join the author as she digs

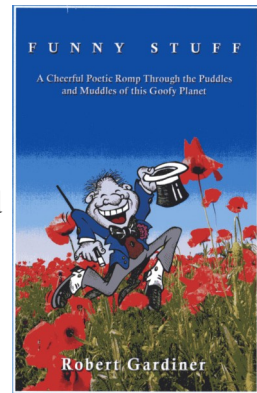


beneath the surface of a quiet waterfront street in Rockland, Maine. Poring through the Registry of Deeds, old tax records in City Hall, Vital Records and the Rockland Historical Society, she brings to life her neighbors of long ago. Profusely illustrated. Available from the author: (207) 596-5502 or grandmoot@aol.com. Hardcover \$29.95, paperback \$18.95.

Rev. Phil Smith writes that he and his wife, Sharon, have been working as hospice volunteers for two years. He also has taken a pottery class and now has a kiln. He is 77 now and notes that he was in Scottie Meek's class at Tufts.

Rev. Shirley Ranck will be serving as interim minister in Sunnyvale, CA this year. She is completing a revision of "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven."

Rev. Bob Gardiner writes, "In 2002 I retired from active ministry and moved to Cape Cod with my wife Lorraine. In retirement I have found a 'second career' writing comic verse, which keeps me off the streets and more or less well-behaved. Have just published my first book of poetry, *Funny Stuff: A Cheerful Romp through the Puddles and Muddles of this Goofy Planet*. Available now from www.authorhouse.com (888-280-7715), your local bookseller, or preferred online retailer 978-1-4343-4612-4." Here's a sample of Bob's work:



THE UNSAT- ISFIED CAT

Nightly by the door he sits
And yowls and yowls and never quits
Till we get up and let him out
Where he can sniff and nose about.

But scarcely have we shut the door
Than he begins to yowl some more
And makes a horrifying din
Till we get up and let him in.

:

Rev. David Van Strien in the hospital with a return bout with cancer but is now in rehabilitation. He fights on and on, with a passion for causes that is so energizing.

Rev. Charles (Cory) Richardson is in a retirement home.

Rev. Andrew Rosenberger had moved to Concord, NH. He and his wife, **Billie Rosenberger**, are in a retirement residence near their son. She has dementia; he is 90, frail, but otherwise fine.

Rev. Fred Gillis is retired in Concord NH, His wife, **Judith Gillis**, is on the planning committee for the fall UURMPA conference.

Rev. Harry Hoehler recently had heart valve replacement. He said he did it because the alternative was looking at the grass from the other side. He is recovering well.

Rev. Alan Deal and **Kathleen Hunter** are fine; they will be at the lake most of the summer. Alan has two friends here; both retired clergy, one an Anglican canon and one United Church of Canada; they meet for lunches to discuss the meaning of life and their past lives which they all enjoy very much. They are helping to plan the fall UURMaPA Northeast Conference in Attleboro and the February UURMaPA Pan South conference in Florida.

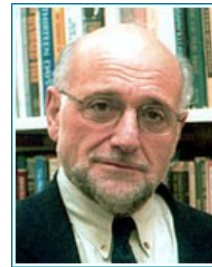
Barbara Prairie is recovering well from a lumpectomy for breast cancer.

Rev. David Scheyer writes, "Fia's recovery from her surgery back in Dec is VERY slow. She is still unable to take any solid foods. Kind of discouraging, but we're hangin' in there."

Mary Schug Belk, writes: "I am dropping you a note to let you know **Mary Schug** has moved to a nursing home. We have sold her house. I want to thank all the people and the Association for the assistance they have been over the last several years."

Ministers Celebrating 50th Anniversaries of Ordination

Rev. Khoren Arisian was chosen by the 50-year class to address them at GA this year.



His 50-year colleagues are:

Carl Bierman
David Blanchard
Dwight Brown
Victor Carpenter
C. Arthur Hover
William Jones
Miles McKey
William Murry
Glyn Pruce
Glen Snowden
Charles Stephen
John Taylor
Clyde Watson



In Memoriam

The Rev. Paul H. Bicknell, 84, died May 31, 2008 in Medina, OH, from complications of a heart attack. He served the UU Church of Elgin, IL from 1957 until 1972. Church members there were active leaders of social change. Rev. Bicknell also held several community ministry positions, working with older adults and he served a number of congregations as interim minister in Hobart, IN, White Plains, NY, Kansas City, MO, New Haven, CT, Rocky River, OH, Golden, CO, West Hartford, CT, and London, Ontario. Rev. Bicknell is survived by his sons, Richard and Brian, by his daughter, Deborah Leader, and by seven devoted nieces and nephews. Send messages of condolence to his long-time friend Mary Anne Kehoe Ford, 170 Prospect St. Manchester, IA 52057.

The Rev. Penelope (Penny) Anderson Binger, 82, died June 1, 2008 at in Hiawatha, IA. She served the First Unitarian Church of Sioux City, Iowa from 1986 until 1996. Upon her retirement, the congregation honored her as minister emerita. In addition to her large and loving family, the main passions in her life were the fight for civil liberties, to increase diversity and inclusivity in society, and to improve the status of women. She is survived by her six children: Penny Brisson of Santa Clara CA; Ginna Himschoot of Cedar Rapids; James Binger of Oakland CA; Elizabeth Binger of Niantic CT; Paula Binger of Waterloo IA; and Julia Daugherty of Cedar Rapids; her brother; a niece, a nephew, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Messages of remembrance may be sent to The Binger Family, 3227 Riverpointe Circle NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52411.

Ruth Melchior Fleck, 89, of South Orleans, MA, died peacefully at Cape Cod Hospital, on May 1, 2008, surrounded by her three daughters. She grew up in the Netherlands and immigrated to the United States with her beloved husband, G. Peter Fleck, in 1941. He predeceased her. Her kindness and generosity touched many lives. In retirement she became an accomplished photographer. She had a talent for recognizing and appreciating what was special in each individual. Throughout her life, she maintained a wide correspondence, sending note cards made with her own photographs to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, or just the warmth of her good wishes. Condolences may be sent to The Fleck Family, P.O. Box 66, Orleans, MA 02662.



The Rev. Hvezdon (Don) Kafka, 86, died at his home in Marlborough, MA March 16, 2008. As a child, he attended Reverend Norbert Capek's church in Prague where Reverend Capek celebrated the first flower communion, a ritual now practiced widely throughout our denomination. He was a scholar and a gifted pastor whose extraordinary life experience helped him to assist others through difficult times. Tom Rosiello, who serves the Stow and Acton church, described him as a real inspiration, saying, "In spite of the many physical challenges Reverend Kafka faced over the last several years, he remained positive in spirit and strong in his faith and always offered words of support and encouragement to me for my ministry at the church. It was an honor for me to learn from him and get to know him." Messages of remembrance may be sent to his wife, Vera Kafka, 400 Hemenway St. Apt 212, Marlborough, MA 01752.





The Rev. Ric Masten, 78, died May 9, 2008 at his mountain home near Carmel, California. Dubbed a "troubadour minister," he has been perhaps the only fellow-shipped UU minister never to have graduated from seminary or college. He may be best known for his hymn "Let It Be A Dance." With his wife, Billie Barbara Masten, he toured the country giving concerts and he earned the distinction of preaching in more Unitarian Universalist churches - over five hundred in 49 states - than any other minister in history. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1999 and chronicled his battle with the disease in a series of poems, books and blog entries, which expanded his ministry to a new community, cancer survivor groups. Send messages of remembrance to his wife, Billie Barbara Masten, 37931 Palo Colorado Rd, Carmel, CA 93923.



The Rev. Roy D. Phillips, 66, died of a heart attack April 24, 2008, while visiting family in Morocco. He had survived pancreatic cancer for nearly five years. Roy was ordained in 1967 at the UU Church of Kenosha in Racine, Wisconsin where he served until 1971, when his service began at the Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, Minnesota. The congregation named him minister emeritus 27 years later. He then served as interim minister in Ohio and Florida, before being called to the UU Church of Tucson, AZ from which he retired in 2004. Messages of remembrance may be sent to his life partner, Patricia Harmon, 333 S Via de los Campos, Tucson, AZ 85711.

Jean Devine McGehee, 80, passed away on May 31, 2008 in Bluefield, WV. Born in Birmingham, AL, she was the daughter of George Joseph Devine and Pearl Casey. A graduate of Wilson College with a master's degree from Jacksonville University, she was a lifelong teacher and college professor of English and an avid student of language. She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, the Rev. Charles White McGehee. Survivors include two sons, McGregor Scott McGehee of Boston, MA, and Charles Stuart McGehee in Bluefield, WV, and three grandchildren. Dudley Memorial Mortuary of Bluefield, was in charge of arrangements. To leave personal condolences online, visit www.legacy.com

In Memoriam

The Rev. Laurel S. Sheridan, 67, died May 15, 2008 in Tucson, AZ. Prior to joining the UU ministry Laurel worked as an RN in child-birth education. She decided she wanted to "care for souls, not just bodies" and so entered divinity school. A graduate of Andover Newton Theological School, she was ordained in 1982. She served congregations in Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts before retiring to Tucson in 2001, due to ill health. She continued to preach part-time, as she was able. At the time of her death, she was working on a book, inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, on "ministry, love and caring." She is survived by two daughters and five grandchildren and her husband. Condolences may be sent to her husband: Terry Sheridan, 6250 S. Commerce Ct., #1110, Tucson, AZ 85746.



New Addresses

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Phyllis LeShane

Rev. Viola L. Moore
5759@att.net

Gladys Parkhurst

Rev. Andrew & Billie Rosenberger

Rev. Shirley Ranck

Ann Rutledge

Mary M. Schug

Janette Storm
Rev. Maureen Q. Thitchener

Rev. J. Richard & Mary Weston-Jones
dwj@wuurld.org

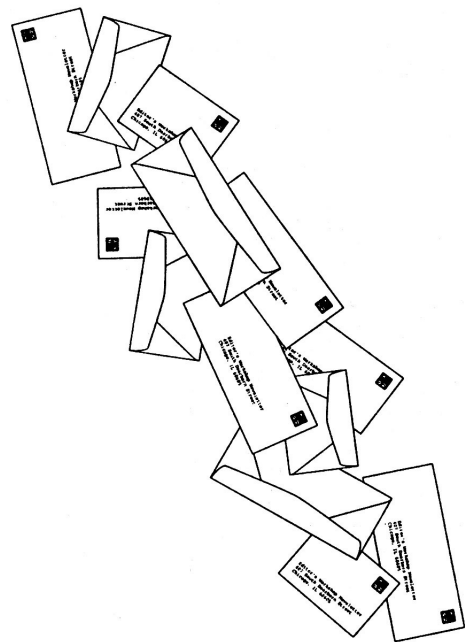
Note: new addresses appear in the hard copy of the newsletter.

New E-mail Addresses

Rudi Gelsey:
rudigelsey@msn.com

David & Fia Scheyer:
scheyer08@verizon.net

Jack Taylor:
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New Among Us

Rev. Jane Boyajian
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Rev. Glenda Gray
grgray2@earthlink.net

Rev. Richard E. Hood

Rev. Frances H. Manly
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Rev. Judith Meyer &
David Denton
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Rev. Jeanne M. Mills

Peg & Bob Richardson
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Rev. Robert P. Tucker
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Rev. Sarah Voss
sarahvoss@cox.net

*Note: new addresses appear in the hard copy
of the newsletter.*



*New UURMaPA members gather at GA '08: (left to right)
Wes & Barbara Stevens, Deborah & Ralph Mero,
Sylvia & Paul L'Herrou, Dave & Jane Sammons,
Mary Samuels.*

UURMaPA Mission Statement

Acting in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, it is our mission to enhance the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, ministers of religious education, their life partners and surviving partners and to provide such programs and activities as may be feasible for their benefit.

Lex Crane Receives First Creative Sage-ing Award



During the UURMaPA Luncheon at the Ft. Lauderdale GA, President **Nancy Doughty** announced that the **Rev. John Alexie (Lex) Crane**, who retired from Parish Ministry in 1987, is the Recipient of UURMaPA's first Creative Sage-ing Award. The Award recognizes the significant accomplishments of a UURMaPA member who, since retirement, has made an outstanding contribution to our UU Community and wider society.

Since retirement Lex has written *Love, Sex and the Human Condition*, published by Trafford Press, and he is currently preparing another book – *A Fresh Look at the Philosophy of UU Religion* – for publication in 2008. He has also published several articles: Myth and the Meaning of Life, Underlying Unity: Hidden Secret of UU Religion, and Beyond the Seven principles: the Core of Our Faith, in UU publications and in the publication of the Institute of Practical Philosophy in Canada.

Lex has also offered papers on religious and philosophical topics for the Collegium Study Group as well as for the Refugio Group, a continuing education vehicle for UU Ministers that Lex had organized earlier. He has conducted Workshops dealing with Marriage Encounters for UUs, Life Planning for UU Ministers, and with the topic of spiritual values: mysticism, private religious practice, worship, the depth dimension of our religion, and love in literature.

For three years Lex was a member of the Program Committee of the UURMaPA West Coast Conference. He has also been a presenter at several of these Conferences and has attended the Conference most years while in retirement. He also has co-founded UU Mystics in Community and has staffed their booth at GA for the past three years.

Lex designed a mentoring program which was adopted by the UUMA, and he later served as a mentor for a new minister in her first settlement. He has also preached at several ordinations and installation services and has served as an interim minister and as a consulting minister in our churches in California, Arizona, and Washington.

As the 2008 Recipient of the Creative Sage-ing Award, Lex received a Certificate of Award and an honorarium of \$500. The Creative Sage-ing Award Selection Committee of Glen Snowden, Chair, Barbara Prairie and Richard Fewkes reviewed material from seven individuals before making their decision.

Glen Snowden

Beacon Press offers 10% discount and free shipping to UURMaPA members

Visit website at www.beacon.org, select books you'd like to purchase. Enter UURMAPA as discount code. Questions about your order? Contact Nellie Bellows at nbellows@beacon.org or at (617) 948-4399

UUA Directory



The *2009 UUA Directory* will be ready in the fall. If you are a surviving spouse or surviving partner of a UU minister, you are entitled to receive a complimentary copy of the directory.

To do so, please send your full name and address to Margaret Montore, Ministerial Development Assistant, 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108, or to mmontore@uua.org. You may also call Margaret at (617) 948-6437. Deadline to order a directory is Friday, November 21, 2008.

Let's Get Together!

NORTHEAST – Oct. 7-9, 2008, LaSalette, Attleboro, MA. Chairs are Pat Hoertdoerfer, phoertdoerfer@metrocast.net, and Kathleen Hunter kdhagd@mac.com. The two candidates for the UUA Presidency, Rev. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales will share their visions. Gene Navias and David Johnson will entertain us with an evolved “Singing our History.” Odyssey by Kathe and Victor Carpenter. There will be an afternoon program for partners. Contact Med Anderson, registrar, at revmua@sover.net.

PAN SOUTH – Feb. 3-5, 2009, UU Church, Ft. Myers Florida. Keynote speaker Peter Richardson will present his work on Four Spiritualities – A Psychology of Contemporary Spiritual Choice. Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale kdhagd@mac.com are chairs for 2009. Contact Herb Adams, registrar, at herbadams32@hotmail.com. Enjoy a winter getaway in sunny Florida.

WEST – March 15-18, 2009, Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, CA. Watch for further details in future issues of *Elderberries*.

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!