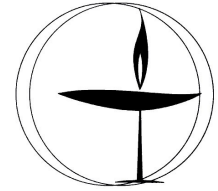


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXV

NUMBER 4

Fall 2010

Creative Sage-ing Award

Eleanor and Peter Richardson received UURMaPA's Creative Sage-ing Award for 2010. Since their retirement they have both distinguished themselves as authors. Eleanor recently published *Mechanic Street*, the historical record of the street on which they live. She has another book in print, *North Haven Summers*, which is an oral history. She is sure to inspire others fascinated by their local history.

Photo by Kathleen Hunter



Peter has written a half-dozen volumes; notably *The Boston Religion: Unitarianism in its Capital City*, which helps us understand what happened to the many Unitarian churches that once flourished in Boston. More recently he has written a book of poems called *Sunday Meditations* and a work on spirituality entitled *Archetype of the Spirit*.

Peter will be a featured speaker at the IARF Congress in India in September. Eleanor has contributed her time and energy to serving on the UURMaPA board as *Elderberries* editor. And she has developed and maintained the website.

The Richardsons are both excellent photographers. Their pictures are often featured in this newsletter. Eleanor organized the Pan-South Conference four times. She is always ready to play the organ or piano for services. Both Eleanor and Peter participate in the Northeast Conference. They are part of the caring network people for ME.

Their tireless work is an inspiration.
Congratulations Peter and Eleanor!

Keeping in Touch

Our Caring Network is comprised of more than 40 volunteers who serve our 900 members in 32 regions across this continent and overseas. You may have noticed that at the back of the UURMaPA Directory there is a listing of regions. We welcome three new Caring Network Contacts.

Jean Rowe, who just completed her term as our UURMaPA Board Secretary, is now serving the Thomas Jefferson Southeast Region. She brings a wealth of experience to the job.

Doris Hunter has volunteered to work with **Gene Navias** in our Mass Bay Coastal Region. Her energy and enthusiasm are very welcome there.

Donna DiSciullo is serving our Joseph Priestley South Region. She has been busy and we appreciate her dedication.

Thanks to **Russ Savage** for his service there in JP South.

And thanks to all our Caring Network Contacts, who are at the heart of what we do. Let them know what you're up to and where they can be of assistance.



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Presidential Reflections by Makanah Morriss

As I write this, it is a very typical summer day for our part of Virginia -- sunny, hot and quite humid. The bluebirds and butterflies seem to like this weather. As I look out the window today the surroundings feel a bit like a Disney movie. I keep expecting Snow White or Bambi to appear (actually Bambi *does* appear quite often thanks to the plethora of deer in these parts).



We have just published ***On Retirement: A Helpful Guide for UU Retired Ministers and Partners***. Thanks to all of you who responded to the survey we sent out last fall. Your thoughts, ideas and perspectives helped us shape this handbook. Your Board worked long and hard to bring this to fruition and we were pleased to have it available for General Assembly, where it was well-received. By now you should have received your own copy in the mail. It will be available online, which will enable us to update it on a regular basis.

Our newly **updated website** will be up and running by the time you are reading this issue of *Elderberries*. Special thanks to Peter Haslund and Chris Lilly Backus for their work on the website. And thanks to Susanne Nagy, the web consultant, who created the new structure. We believe this new website will be easy to use and filled with useful resources, ideas and links for you. Do check it out! We thank Eleanor Richardson who built on the work of the late Carl Thitchener to create our first website.

General Assembly in Minneapolis went well. There were about 3400 delegates. We now have 38 new UURMaPA members (28 newly retired ministers and ten partners). At our UURMaPA luncheon we were able to welcome eight of these in person. At our luncheon we also thanked Beth Miller for her service as Director of Ministries and Professional Leadership (MPL) as she leaves the UUA and welcomed Sarah Lamert as the incoming Director of the new UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff group.

Our **Collegial Conversation** on Ministry Day was well-received. The room was packed! Our panelists—**Ellen Johnson-Fay, Carol Taylor** and **Ralph Mero**—were excellent.

This year for the first time the UUA MPL Staff Group (now the Ministries and Faith Development Staff Group) invited UURMaPA to help staff the **Memorial Booth**. It was a very thoughtfully arranged space with the obituaries of ministers who have died this past year on the walls and a table with round, smooth stones and a bowl on it and an invitation for folks to place a stone in the bowl in memory of a minister they had known. Thanks to UURMaPA members **Alan Egly, Scotty and Dorothy Meek, Med Anderson, Earl Holt, Ralph Mero** and **Bob Morriss** who helped staff the booth. Our presence seemed very helpful to many folks who shared memories of colleagues. It was a very peaceful space amidst the hustle of the Exhibit Hall and many people mentioned how much they liked it.

We extend a warm welcome **Jan Sammons** as our new UURMaPA Board Secretary. And we will bid a fond farewell to our Vice-President **David Johnson**, who will be resigning from the Board to serve as full-time interim minister in Provincetown, MA.

We will have our face-to-face **Board Meeting in Boston** in September to talk, reflect, vision and plan for the year ahead. If *you* have ideas, suggestions or requests at the local, regional, continental or international level, *please* do be in touch (revs2uu@aol.com or 1317 Rocky Mountain Rd, Forest, VA 24551). Your input, enthusiasm and creativity are the energy source of our UURMaPA community!

Blessings,

UUA retirement plan

Some participants in the UUA retirement plan have asked why the management of the plan is being transferred from Fidelity to TIAA-CREF. This action has been in the works for several years, primarily because Fidelity has no policy to invest or vote on shareholder resolutions in a manner aligned with socially responsible principles.

UURMAPA's part in this process was to urge that any changes be made only after careful study of alternative managers and deep consideration of the financial interests of our retirees and their families. We also recommended two UURMAPA members join the UUA committee studying the recommendation. This was accomplished, and they supported the change.

TIAA-CREF (Teachers Insurance Annuity Association and College Retirement Equities Fund) is a huge financial organization that manages retirement plans for countless colleges and universities. Participants in the UUA plan will use mutual funds sponsored by TIAA-CREF and by other firms, and the fees charged will be lower than under Fidelity. Participants will not be charged for this change.

The conversion to TIAA-CREF will occur in October. Those of us with savings in the plan don't need to take any action; during the transition, our money will automatically be transferred into funds comparable to those we are currently using, but with the recordkeeping done by TIAA-CREF. More information will be coming from the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances.

- Ralph Mero



Stay Comfortable

The UUA's Office of Church Staff Finances awards both heating and cooling grants to our retired ministers and their survivors.

For assistance contact Joyce Stewart at (617) 948-6421 or jstewart@uua.org, or the Rev. Richard Nugent at (617) 948-6456 or rnugent@uua.org.

Joyce and Richard welcome your calls and e-mails with other questions or concerns.



Keep us in the loop!

When you relocate or update please remember to tell us.

Send contact information changes and updates to:



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Thank you!

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.

What's Expected of the Minister's Husband?

I found Connie Sternberg's article in last spring's edition of *Elderberries* interesting in that her situation was similar to mine in one respect. I entered ministry late. I started ministry after a public school teaching career followed by eight years as Co-District Executive with my late husband John DeWolf-Hurt. The difference is that I entered ministry just ten years ago and there are plenty of women ministers now. However, the issue is still there – what is the role of a minister's husband? My minister friends told my husband, Bob Campbell, that he could not take part in any formal way such as committee chair or board office. The difference was that he was a charter member of the fellowship along with his late wife, and everyone knew him and his capabilities.



Looking back, now that I have retired, I can list the things that my husband did that made a tremendous difference in the life of the fellowship, a group that was only five years old with a membership of about sixty when I began ministry there. The fellowship had been meeting in rented facilities in a small shopping center since its beginning. After I became the minister, Bob ran the first, and only, capital campaign that the fellowship has done. This was for the purpose of having our own building. He did it “by the book” using UUA materials, training the canvassers and combining the capital campaign with the every member canvass. The campaign was a great success and began raising hopes that we really could do this.

Earlier, four members had pooled their money and bought land on which to build a church with the intent of selling it to the fellowship for the amount they had put into the purchase. The fellowship used money from the capital campaign to buy the property. Next came the zoning committee's refusal to rezone the property from residential so that we could build the church there. At the same time the banks refused to finance a mortgage for us.

So the fellowship determined that we must look for a commercial lot without much thought as to how to fund the purchase, except to trade the residential land and use the remainder of the capital fund. How to pay for the construction of a building was another problem.

A suitable lot was found in a much better location than the first land. However, the balance in the capital fund was nowhere near the amount required for the purchase, since commercial land is more expensive than residential land, and the seller did not want to trade it for the residential property. Bob and I decided to buy the land and sell it to the fellowship for a reasonable down payment (from the capital campaign fund) and a mortgage. Bob then researched how to form an LLC (Limited Liability company) so that members could purchase shares to raise the amount required to construct the building. He led this effort and the members offered more money than was required for construction.

The fellowship has now been in its own building for two years and makes monthly payments for the building (to us) and the land (to the LLC.) The fellowship still owns the original land and plans to sell it to pay down the land mortgage when the real estate market begins to rise again. Because of the new location and a separate building, rather than space in a shopping center, we are attracting more new members than we ever would have done in the first location.

No one else in the congregation had the initiative, the knowledge, and the willingness to do these things. In addition, Bob has a great voice. Although he never read my sermons, I often chose songs relating to the topic, which he sang on the one Sunday a month I preached. It has been a great ministry for me to have this opportunity with a supportive and capable husband.

-Mary Louise DeWolf

Turning of Our Lives

Andy Backus (Bellingham, WA) designed the set for “Guys & Dolls” at Bellingham Theatre Guild. The show got great reviews and full houses. The Guild, which starts its 82nd season this Fall is the oldest all-volunteer community theater west of the Mississippi.

Gordon Gibson reports **Carl Bretz** (Oak Ridge, TN) is weaving, but at a loom rather than on the road. **Sue Male** (Murfreesboro, TN) is coping with chronic fatigue syndrome. Richard and Susan **Ruach** (Nashville) did not get flooded in the recent deluge there.

Peggy Clason reports that **Carol and Paul Brody** (Columbus, OH) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married June 17, 1950 and say that their lives have been enriched by four children and six grandchildren. They celebrated the occasion with a wonderful garden party attended by more than 60 friends and family members.



Photo by Clee Poisson, Hartford Courant

Jean Cook Brown (Hartford, CT) is shown above, enjoying a wall of photos of family and friends in her room at Avery Heights Rehabilitation Center with her daughter, Bettina Brown, who created the wall to give her comfort as she faces the final phase of her life. Jean served the Universalist church in West Hartford and now has inoperable lung cancer. *Thanks to Dot Kimble for forwarding this.*

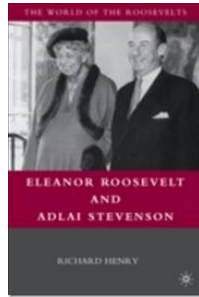
Kathleen Hunter reports that **Fred Gillis** (Concord, NH) has been diagnosed with Lewy Body Disease. **Judy Gillis** says, “Its symptoms are up and down, with good and bad days. We just live in the day and find life enjoyable and simpler”. This past year they travelled to Switzerland. Fred's daughter, Gillian, her husband, Leif, and their two girls visited from Sweden. Fred officiated at the wedding of his son, Duncan, to his long time significant other, Vanessa. Judy and Fred have both retired. Fred continues to sing in the choir at the Concord Church. Judy's daughter and her family are members there, as well, which is a special joy.



Liz McMaster sends this report from **Carole Greene** (Clovis, NM) “I am getting to know some very nice people here. It's a very conservative area, both religiously and politically, but I did get to meet our congressman and he was wonderful about arranging a visit to the White House and a private tour of the Capitol for my daughter and son-in-law, when they took a vacation to Washington, DC. My daughter and I went to the Fellowship in Portales, which is about 30 minutes away. It was a ‘small but mighty’ group, and we enjoyed meeting the members. Meanwhile, Kim & I love to go on field trips to learn more about New Mexico. I'm planning to take a course in the history of New Mexico in the fall. Last semester I took a class in drawing. I've joined the ‘Retired Educators’ group, as well. My grandchildren live in Katy, TX which means I get to see them more often than I did when I lived in Portland. So, I stay out of mischief.”

Turning of Our Lives

Dick Henry (Seattle) writes that his book, *Eleanor Roosevelt and Adlai Stevenson*, will be in stores in late September. “It grew out of an Elderhostel course my wife, Pat, and I took in 2002 at Hyde Park. Five women who knew Eleanor had forty of us truly spellbound for the better part of five days. It occurred to me to investigate at the FDR Library whether there was any relationship between Eleanor and Adlai...and lo! I discovered there was, indeed; she was his mentor and colleague at the birth of the UN and throughout his political career. Two things resulted: a true friendship and, in my opinion, the loss to the country of a man who could have been one of our finest presidents. It’s puzzling that no scholar has heretofore taken time to explore the richness of the sixteen years of their collaboration; that such is the case has given me four glorious and inspiring years! I’ll turn 90 this year.”



Iska Cole reports that **Ray Hopkins** (Ferry Beach, Saco, ME) is recovering after suffering a broken neck and vertebrae. He was in a full-body cast and wheelchair for months. The doctor warned he may have to be in the cast for the rest of his life. His last doctor's visit changed that and the doctor proclaimed him a “medical miracle”. His bones did heal and the cast is now gone. Ray celebrated his 91st birthday July 28th. Iska says **Maurice Cobb** (West Newfield, ME) is recuperating breaking his arm while working in his garden in May. His garden is being taken care of by friends of the Sanford Church and many good neighbors are bringing food and do his shopping. He hopes to be able to get behind the wheel of his car by August. Iska’s husband, **David Cole** (Brunswick, ME), is valiantly coping with lack of energy, many medications and too many doctor's visits, after surgery for bladder cancer, and slow deterioration of kidney functions.

Donna DiSciulo reports that **Ginny Knowles** (Mitchellville, MD) has been in the Memory Support Unit at Collington Alzheimer’s Unit for more than four years. Her friend, Marge Owens, visits weekly. Ginny enjoys cards with brief messages from old friends and colleagues. **Russ Savage** is serving his third interim ministry, this time in Fairfax, VA.

Dorris Dow Alcott (Baltimore) is recovering from a stroke last October and is in ongoing physical therapy, following surgery. She has lost the vision in one eye. She enjoys having her son live nearby. Donna says Dorris is now 90 and has an amazing spirit. **John and Beverly Gaffney** (Silver Spring, MD) have moved from a five-bedroom house to a two-bedroom apartment at Leisure World—a senior community of some 9,000 souls, including more than 20 UUs—about three miles north of Washington, DC. They say they enjoy the newsletter and wish everyone their best. **Bob and Sylvia Lewis** (Greenbelt MD) recently took a two-week driving vacation to Atlanta, St. Augustine and Key West. **Jean Zoerheide**, 91, is a member of First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, where Bob was a former minister. The church has established the Jean and Robert Zoerheide Lecture Series to address important political, social, and ethical questions of contemporary life. **Bill Murry** (Annapolis, MD) has just completed a sabbatical ministry for the Columbia UU Congregation. He delivered the inaugural lecture in the Zoerheide Lecture Series in June entitled “Standing on the Side of Love and Justice: a Humanist Perspective.” **Dan Higgins** (Claiborne, MD) says that his wife, **Jean Higgins**, is in the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease. **Katherine Wassman** and **Julia Kuroda** both live at Vantage House (Columbia, MD). Katherine reminisced about her husband, Donald, going to Selma during the Civil Rights demonstration. She said he was with the Rev. Jim Reeb shortly before he was killed.

(continued on Page 8)

Turning of Our Lives

(cont'd from Page 7)

Julia Kuroda has lost much of her eyesight but this does not keep her from her love of ceramics. She goes to classes twice a week. After lunch she insisted that Katherine and Donna each select one of her pieces to take as her gift. Julia talked about her time in Japanese Internment Camps with her husband, Andrew, and their two children. It was a very difficult time because her husband was beaten by others in the camp since he spoke out for free speech.



Doak Mansfield (Laurel, MS) was the recipient of a heart transplant on June 21 at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans. His wife **Peggy Owens-Mansfield** says Doak is recovering and plans to continue his monthly ministry with the Tupelo, MS congregation as well as providing guest services for churches in MS, AL, TN & KY.



Betty Jo Middleton (Alexandria, VA) had successful knee replacement surgery in March and is getting around better than she has for the past three years. Despite a recent hospitalization for a foot infection and an automobile accident, she is fine. Her car was rear ended and received substantial damage, but no one was hurt. Betty Jo tells us that **Annette Redman** (Alexandria, VA) is still living in her own house, doing her own cooking, and able to drive for short distances. She is able to read large print, despite her macular degeneration.

Gordon and Phyllis McKeeman have moved to Rochester, MN to be nearer their children. They say, "We have lived in Charlottesville for 22 years. We now need more assistance... our new abode has graduated care resources for our current and anticipated needs. We continue to enjoy *Elderberries* and fellowship at the area ministers' gatherings."

Orloff Miller and Renate Bauer report that their son Glenn, 19, went to Osaka, Japan to continue his language studies. He is working for the IARF, helping prepare for its 33rd Congress and related meetings (in Kochi, Kerala, India Sept. 1-7). He will enroll at the University of Heidelberg for further international studies, with diplomacy as a career goal. Renate is now in her 33rd year as Landessprecherin (leader/minister) of the Freireligiöse Landesgemeinde Pfalz (Free Religious Community of the Palatinate). She is much in demand for her skills in grief counseling, and as an area board member of ProFamilia (family planning), as a leader in national groupings of German Humanist and other Free Religious bodies, and in the International Humanist and Ethical Union. Next September the couple will toast 21 years of international marriage.

In August, they celebrate Orloff's 79th birthday aboard Switzerland's famous "Glacier Express"—probably the world's *slowest* express train—to see the Matterhorn and its adjacent alpine panorama and sources of the Rhine and Rhone rivers from many vantage points.

Leon Hopper notes that **Doug and Darlene Reisner** have moved from Charlotte, NC to Yakima, WA to be near their daughter so that they can become practicing grandparents for their new grandchild, something they have missed while moving about since 1980

Turning of Our Lives

Eleanor Richardson (Rockland, ME) reported in July that most people there have been busy with seasonal guests. **Peter and Eleanor Richardson** had 17 overnight in their house June 26-27. **Rolfe and Susan Gerhardt** (S. Thomaston, ME) were looking forward to having two teenaged grandchildren visiting. Susan is taking a leadership role in Maine quilting, exhibiting her work in two shows. The economy is forcing Rolfe to take a break from mandolin building and do more fishing! **Herb and Mary Adams** (Center Lovell, ME) have been accepted into Piper Shores retirement community in Falmouth, ME. They've moved their furniture up from Florida, but will spend the summer at Heald Pond in Lovell, visiting Piper Shores from time to time, then moving there in late Fall. **Richard and Molly Hood** (New Harbor, ME) report all is well with them.

Liz McMaster notes that **Judith and David Walker-Riggs** (Las Cruces, NM) have both had lots of medical issues and treatments, David for his heart and other ailments. He is in good spirits and believes the docs are on the right path. He's feeling better than he has for a long time. Judith has been a good caretaker and is tired, but she, too, is optimistic over their health issues. **Dale Arnink** (Los Alamos) reports that **Eva Montoya's** Parkinson's disease remains grave. Her state of health goes from not good to worse. Dale keeps his spirits up through exercise and knowing that lots of friends in are there for them both. **Anne Heller** (El Prado, NM) is preaching once each month at the small UU fellowship in Taos. The fellowship is growing. Liz says she herself stays active with playing with two grandsons (8 and 4) and weaving. She teaches knitting to woman with mental challenges and has a couple of weaving commissions.

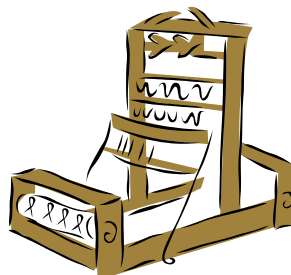


Ken MacLean delivered the 50-year class address at the UUMA worship service at the Minneapolis GA. Colleagues enjoyed the wit and wisdom in his remarks. Ken was very involved in creating the UU Council on Church Staff Finances, which helped move the UUA into sponsoring a reasonable retirement plan for congregations.

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Chris Lilly Backus
chrisbackus@msn.com



In Memoriam

Edith Macgregor Christensen, 92, widow of the Rev. John Paul Christensen, died June 6, 2010. She earned a BS in biology at Jackson College at Tufts University. She worked as a lab technician in Boston hospitals and in the sanitary engineering department at Harvard. She was a stay-at-home mother to their three children and a minister's wife for 40 years. She and her husband were part of the organizing meeting for UURMaPA at Petersham, MA in 1985. Her husband died the following year. At his memorial service she took up a collection for UURMaPA and made a generous gift to our association. She was also a member of the UU Community Church of Glen Allen (VA), Eastern Star, World Wildlife Federation and Sierra Club, She was an outspoken environmentalist. She also enjoyed going to concerts and playing Mah Jongg. She was predeceased by her daughter Jeanne Christensen Kelly. She is survived by her children, John P. Christensen, Jr. and Diane Christensen and by her son-in-law and daughter-in-law. Condolences may be sent to Edith's family in care of www.jtmorriss.com.



The Rev. F. David Fisher, 81, died June 26, 2010. After earning his AB in philosophy at Oberlin he served in the US Army. He received his MD from University of Rochester (NY). He practiced internal medicine and then earned masters in public health and divinity. He completed a psychiatry residency at Wright State School of Medicine (Dayton, OH). He taught at University of Utah and Yale University School of Medicine. He was ward psychiatrist at Northern NH Mental Health Services. He later served as part-time minister with the UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes (Conway, NH). A lifelong UU, he was active in many congregations as fellowship co-founder, layman, minister and choir director. He was Florida District's volunteer coordinator for GA in 2008 in Ft. Lauderdale. He volunteered to promote equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. He enjoyed community theater as an actor, singer and dancer. He is survived by his life partner, Paul Alpert, his daughter, Dana Ashrawi and his son-in-law; his son, Kent Fisher, five grandchildren and two sisters. Sympathy notes may be sent to: Paul Alpert, 1708 NE 24th St., Wilton Manors, FL 33305.



Lois Armington Thornton Tegarden, 85, widow of the Rev. William (Holly) Hollis Tegarden, died April 18, 2010. She earned a bachelor of science degree at Brown University, where she met her husband. While he was studying at Harvard Divinity School, she worked as a laboratory technician in the Public Health Department of Cambridge, MA. Lois also played second violin in the MIT symphony orchestra. They served churches in MA, ME and NJ. When her husband left the ministry to pursue a career in market research, Lois launched her own successful career in residential real estate. She was an accomplished and spirited sportswoman, who enjoyed playing tennis and was an avid sailor. Lois championed the cause of the mentally ill, taking courage from her personal experience with family illness. She was a sustaining member of the Junior League of NJ, a member of the Princeton Parents Association, and for 30 years an enthusiastic member of the Trinity Church Choir. She is survived by her three children: Deborah Armington Tegarden Bass, William Hollis Tegarden, Jr., and Pamela Adams Tegarden Allen and by three grandchildren. Notes of remembrance may be sent to Debbie Tegarden, 306 Trinity Ct., #7, Princeton, NJ 08540.



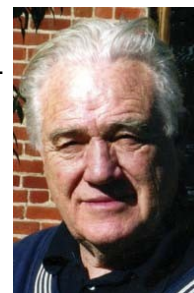
In Memoriam

Rev. Walter Royal Jones, Jr., 90, died April 30, 2010. He earned degrees from Brooklyn College and Union Theological Seminary. As a conscientious objector, he served a year in prison rather than go to war. His ministry included churches in MA, NY, VA and CO.



Among his many accomplishments he chaired the UUA Commission on Religion and Race and participated in the civil rights March on Washington and in Birmingham and Selma, AL, and McComb, MS. Roy chaired the UUA's Committee on Purposes & Principles. He was given the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of UUism. His volunteer work included ACLU, Planned Parenthood. He loved music, and trains. He was predeceased by his first wife, Mary Elizabeth Lyons, and his second wife, Eliza Craddock East, and two children, Catherine Ellen and Thomas Philip. He is survived by four children: Walter Royal Jones III, Christine Elizabeth Jones, Carol Ann Jones Conley, and Linda Susan Jones Bothe, their spouses, three stepsons, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Friends may send condolences to the family at bohlender-funeralchapel.com.

The Rev. Paul W. Sawyer, 75, died June 23, 2010 from pancreatic cancer. He had just finished his memoir, *Untold Story: A Short Narrative History of Our Time*. A graduate of Harvard College and Starr King, he served churches in CA, NJ, PA, WA, OR and Russia. The *Pasadena Weekly* called Paul “a tireless advocate for the dispossessed who often risked arrest in his opposition to war, capital punishment and nuclear energy.” The *LA Times* described him as “a scholar of American Transcendentalism and ancient Chinese texts, a founder of the Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace... [who] served on the boards of the UN Assn. and the Jackie Robinson Center in Pasadena.” He enjoyed jazz, politics and history. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and their son, Alexander, and by his first wife, Carolyn Colbert, and their daughters Sharlyn, Shanda and Katherine Sawyer, and his son Adam Sawyer, and Adam’s mother, Carole Selter Norris. Sympathy notes may be sent to Susan Sawyer, 1500 N. Chester Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104.



A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Sept. 25 at Sepulveda UU Society, 9550 Haskell Ave., North Hills, CA.



Judith Patterson Gilbert, 64, the wife of the Rev. John Gilbert, died April 2, 2010 in hospice care in Huntersville, NC after an eight-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She earned a degree in computer sciences from University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She was an MCSP (Microsoft Certified Support Professional). She was also an ardent Democrat. She was committed to CASA. She will be remembered as a founder and principal of High Tech Computing, Inc. The company, which was one of her passions, provides support for Microsoft Office products and exchange servers. Judith is survived by her husband and three sons:

Houston, Toby, and Christopher Patterson, two daughters-in-law and two granddaughters. Notes of remembrance may be sent to: John Gilbert, 453 Arch St., Meadville, PA 16335.

UURMaPA-NJ/NY News

Eight members of UURMaPA-NJ/NY enjoyed a successful morning at Old Bethpage Village Restoration in May. Despite warnings of thunderstorms, the weather was beautiful. Lunch at a nearby pub was most enjoyable.

Don and Julie McKinney drove west on the Long Island Expressway for an hour-and-a-half to meet NY City members **Bob Hemstreet, Wendy Moscow, Dick Leonard** and **Sue and Vernon Nichols** who rode east on the Long Island Rail-

road for an hour — pretty much meeting in the middle at Bethpage, NY. Our thanks to **Jim Wentz** who managed to squeeze five passengers into his car to take us from the train

station to Old Bethpage Village. Unfortunately out-of-area travel and family health problems (not lack of interest) prevented New Jersey members from joining us.

More than 30 buildings, including homes, shops, a farm, a church and a school, have been moved from different places on Long Island to a 209-acre site adjacent to the Long Island Fairgrounds where visitors can glimpse mid-19th century life in rural Long Island. Many buildings were open and staffed by excellent docents who made our visit very interesting.

Photo by Jim Wentz



LEFT TO RIGHT: Vernon & Sue Nichols, Dick Leonard, Jim Wentz, Don & Julie McKinney, Wendy Moscow, Bob Hemstreet

The resident blacksmith skillfully created an attractive spice hook in about 15 minutes, demonstrating the use of bellows, the coal fire and various tools.

While at the Hat Shop we learned how felt is made from animal fur and formed into different styles and sizes of hats for men. Mercury, used to create felt, took a severe toll on hatters, poisoning skin, teeth and mental functions — hence the “Mad Hatter.” Much of what the Old Bethpage Hatter told us came as a surprise — we really learned something at this stop. He told

us that women's hats were made at a different shop — a milliner's. Sharing our visit with several school groups livened up

the day.

We have been

invited by Dick Leonard to a musical evening or afternoon on September 24 at his apartment. His building is located near Lincoln Center and is inhabited by many musicians. Dick is removing walls in his apartment in order to join a bedroom with the living room to create a music room large enough to hold chamber music performances.

We also discussed plans to attend the NE Regional UURMaPA Conference in October.

- Sue Nichols

Old age is when it takes longer to rest than to get tired.



Finding Community in Retirement

When I came back to Iowa City a friend suggested I join the “Voices of Experience” choir at the Senior Center. With rehearsals twice a week I met lots of new people and found community in making music.

Since I moved into an active retirement community I chair the Gardening Committee and facilitate a weekly book group. At the moment we are reading *The Hemingses of Monticello*, a hundred pages at time.

We will probably follow it up with a trip to The African American Museum in Cedar Rapids and a public library PBS documentary on Thomas Jefferson.

I find community with the local UU congregation's weekly Buddhist Sangha Meditation Group that sits, reads and explores.

- Charity Rowley



Chime in please!

For our next issue we want your news, your views and your photographs.



We welcome *your* ideas and inspirations.

Thank you.

Chris Lilly Backus, Editor
chrisbackus@msn.com

Who Will Be Your Friend Now?

The ministry set me back twenty-five years when it comes to making friends. In real life it's a lot harder than I ever imagined, especially at this age. I thought I was a nice guy that everyone liked. Well, not quite.

When people used to ask what I did I sometimes would say jokingly that I was a professional nice guy. Retiring from that, to the extent that there's truth in jest, has meant a bit of rebellion, I suppose. At just the time when I need to be reaching out to others to enlist their company and loyalty, I am moved to speak my mind a little too frankly on occasion. Don't I ever just get to be me, warts and all?

And so, belatedly, I learn the facts of life. Be nice so they will be nice to you. Simple enough. I used to do it all the time.

But there is some advantage to being of independently modest means and having a lot of free time. I can pick and choose more easily where to place myself in this world. And I have come to follow a very simple rule: go where people want me, and possibly will like me. If I place myself in a situation where it seems I face more rejection than I ought, I leave. I don't have enough time left in my life to waste it where I am not appreciated. There is the danger, of course, of being fickle. So far, though, loyal person that I am, I have erred on the side of sticking around too long. It's not good for my health.

So I go now where I am wanted and show appreciation for that simple fact. I guess most people learn that lesson at a much earlier age than I have.

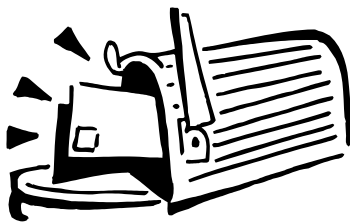
I miss having religious community. No UU church can ever be that for me, I am certain, and I don't think I would ever feel at home in any other religious tradition. I am a third generation Unitarian. So that is hard. But UURMaPA has helped. And the fellowship we share has been far more significant to me than anyone would ever guess, I think. Thank you, one and all.

- Andrew C. Backus

Directory Updates

Updated information for the following members appears in the print version of the newsletter

Jane C. Alen	<i>Mass Bay Coastal</i>	James & Jean Shumacker	<i>Thos Jefferson SE</i>
Sarah Barber-Braun	<i>Prairie Star</i>	Erleen J. Sparbel	<i>Central Midwest</i>
Suzanne Trappe Black & Gary Black	<i>AZ-NV</i>	Robin Spry-Campbell	<i>St. Lawrence</i>
Jeremy Brigham	<i>Prairie Star</i>	Janette Storm	<i>Thomas Jefferson VA</i>
Carol & Paul Brody	<i>Ohio Meadville</i>	Cynthia J. Ward	<i>Thomas Jefferson SE</i>
John & Beverly Gaffney	<i>Joseph Priestley S</i>	John L. Young	<i>Bay Area</i>
David Gilmartin	<i>Pacific Northwest</i>		
Patricia Harmon	<i>Prairie Star</i>		
Robert & Judy Hughes	<i>Joseph Priestley S</i>		
Betty Husted	<i>CO-MT-WY</i>		
Ronald & Anne Knapp	<i>Prairie Star</i>		
Gordon & Phyllis McKeeman	<i>Prairie Star</i>		
Donald & Julie McKinney	<i>Metro NY</i>		
Cathy Miller	<i>Joseph Priestley S</i>		
Sonya Montana	<i>Heartland North</i>		
Shirley Ranck	<i>Beyond the Bay</i>		
Douglas & Darlene Reisner	<i>Pacific Northwest</i>		
Cory Richardson	<i>New Hampshire</i>		
Alice Schulman	<i>Southwest</i>		
Gerald Schatz	<i>Thos Jefferson SE</i>		
Barbara Conley			



New retirees welcomed at UURMaPA GA Luncheon

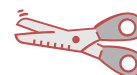
Photo by Jeremy Brigham



*FRONT ROW, left to right: Caring Network Chair Ralph Mero, John Young, Kathleen Moran, Michelle Tonozzi, Roberta Haskin, Jeremy Brigham, Nancy Anderson, President Makaanah Morriss
BACK ROW, left to right: John Weston, Jim Macomber, Charles Scholz*

To support UURMaPA, I am (we are) contributing:

___\$25 ___\$50 ___\$100 other _____



Please make check payable to UURMaPA (US funds please) and send to:
Kathleen Hunter, 55 Crystal Ave., PMB 248, Derry, NH 03038, USA *Thank you!*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

In honor of _____ In memory of _____

Please contact me about:

UURMaPA's Endowment Fund ___ Charitable Gift Annuity ___ Deferred Giving ___

Let's Get Together!



STAR ISLAND — Last Fall's informal UURMaPA gathering was a great success so there will be an encore this year Sept. 8-10. Sign up as a "personal retreatant" at www.starisland.org. Contact Kathleen Hunter for more info at kdhagd@mac.com

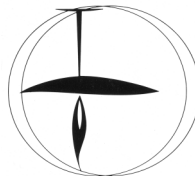
Grants for room and board at Star Island are available for up to \$1,000 for surviving spouses and immediate family of deceased UU ministers. Contact Rosemarie Smurzynski for information at: email.smurzynski@verizon.net or (781) 647-7976.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — North Attleboro, MA, October 5-7 at LaSalette Retreat Center. Theme is "One Lifetime is too Short" with panelists: Sue Nichols, George Brandenburg, Pat Hoertdoerfer and Brad Greeley. Enjoy hearing from Mark Twain, as Dick Gilbert brings him to life. Odyssey by Gene & Helen Pickett. Joyce & Dick Gilbert, program co-chairs; Dick Fewkes, worship coordinator; Kathleen Hunter & Alan Deale, hospitality chairs, and Med Anderson, registrar (revmua@sover.net). More details at www.uurmapa.org. (Cost is \$175 per person, which includes program, room and meals.)



There are \$200 grants to first-time attendees for each regional conference. Contact registrar about eligibility. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are also available from the Rev. Richard Nugent (rmugent@uua.org), 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or call him at (617) 948-6456.

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