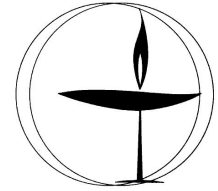


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXVI

NUMBER 4

Fall 2011

Victor Carpenter Honored

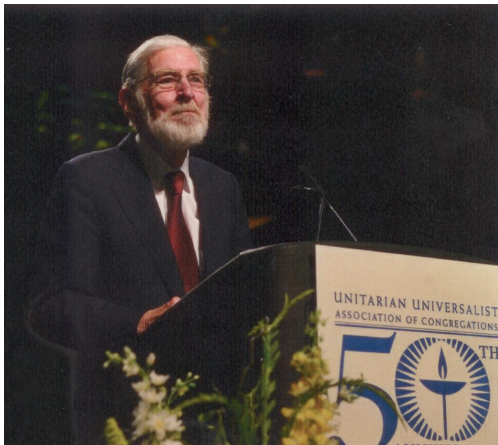


Photo Courtesy of UUA

Victor H. Carpenter was honored at GA with the UUA's *Distinguished Service Award* for 2011. Gini Courter, UUA Moderator, said, "Victor has been on the leading edge of peaceful but determined protest... He is a man who has chosen a path of religion that calls him to participate in the world seeking justice. He breathes best when he is working for justice with people for whom and with whom it makes a difference. His leadership in doing just that stands as a gift to us all.

"Key to Victor's success is his ability to recognize all he does not know and his willingness to deliver himself to listen and to learn. Primary guide and companion in that learning is his beloved mate, Cathe. To know Victor's commitment to live a faithful life and heed the call to justice is to know Cathe's heart, as well. Victor, your lived faith exemplifies who we are called to be in the world."

And we add, "Congratulations Vic!"

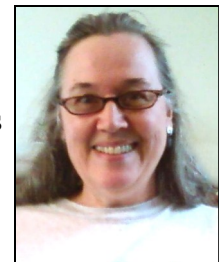
Keeping in Touch



John Biedler

John Biedler is a new member of UURMaPA who has volunteered to be come part of our Caring Network. He is serving our Central Midwest region. Thanks to **Cynthia Johnson** for her caring presence for our members there in recent years.

We welcome **Ruth Gibson** to our UURMaPA Caring Network team. She is working in our Eastern Carolinas Region, along with **Jean Rowe**, who is serving our Western Carolinas Region (both areas were formerly UURMaPA's Thomas Jefferson SE Region). The name change reflects the re-naming of the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA to become the "Southeast District."



Ruth Gibson

And we welcome **Art Hover**, who is serving our Joseph Priestley North area. Warm thanks to **Carol Taylor** for her faithful service there.

If you would like to become part of our Caring Network don't hesitate to let me know. It's rewarding work and is at the heart of what UURMaPA is all about. Thank you.

— Paul L'Herrou

Editor's note: Please see Paul's additional comments on Page 14.

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Next deadline is Oct. 15

Send your news, views and photos to
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President's Perspectives

by Dick Gilbert



I am honored to be your President, following Makaanah Morriss' splendid example in that role. There is something powerful about transitions. A cartoon depicts Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam says, "My dear, we live in an age of transition." (I note that we don't have *her* response.) From the mythical Garden of Eden to retiring from ministry, change is the name of the game. Retirement reminds us we're all temps; we're all interims.

Entering retirement is a "teachable moment." And the teachers are often the young. Ponder the wisdom of 11-year-old Sandra Cisneros, as she celebrated her eleventh birthday:

"What they don't understand about birthdays and what they never tell you is that when you're eleven, you're also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one. And when you wake up on your eleventh birthday you expect to feel eleven, but you don't. You open your eyes and everything's just like yesterday, only it's today. And you don't feel eleven at all. You feel like you're still ten. And you are - underneath the year that makes you eleven. . . . Because the way you grow old is kind of like an onion or like the rings inside a tree trunk or like my little wood dolls that fit one inside the other, each year inside the next one. That's how being eleven years old is."

We might apply this to reaching retirement – something like this: "What they don't understand about retirement and what they never tell you is that when you're 65, you're also 64, and 63, and 62, and 61 and 60 – and so on! And when you wake up on your first day of retirement, you expect to feel retired, but you don't. You open your eyes and everything's just like yesterday, only it's today. And you don't feel retired at all. You feel like you're still working. And you are - underneath the year that makes you retired. . . . Because the way you retire is kind of like starting a new career with no coffee breaks, no days off, no vacations, no sabbaticals and no salary. It is a full-time job – you give all your time and energy to it. That's how being retired is."

We retired ministers and partners form a singular company. UURMaPA pledges to help you create meaning in retirement by offering:

- support through our Caring Network
- regional conferences and local gatherings
- newsletter & e-mail news feeds
- retirement handbook (found on our website www.uurmapa.org)
- our chat room (speakup@lists.uua.org)

Our goal is not only to help you enjoy a graceful retirement, but also to be sure that UURMaPA plays a role in the future of our movement. It would be a shame to waste all the experience and wisdom we've gathered over so many years!

I try to keep perspective by remembering a sweatshirt given to a minister as a birthday gift. It reads: "Ministers do it with grace." Let's hope so. We're here to help.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dick Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed. Note: Dick's report on GA is on page 4.

GA Report

UURMaPA was well represented at the 2011 General Assembly in Charlotte, NC. During the Service of the Living Tradition Makaanah Morriss, outgoing president, welcomed 34 newly-retired ministers. Eleven of them attended the UURMaPA luncheon—most with partners—and all were formally inducted into membership.

Congratulations to Meredith (Med) Anderson, recipient of this year's Creative Sage-ing Award. (See Page 15.)

A representative from TIAA-CREF attended and encouraged us to contact them with questions and comments about managing retirement investments. TIAA-CREF has given a \$2,000 gift to UURMaPA.

Richard Nugent (Director, Church Staff Finances) and Joyce Stewart (Director, UUA Retirement and Group Insurance Plans) made brief reports.

Dick Gilbert, incoming president, presented Makaanah Morriss with a well-deserved plaque from the UURMaPA Board. Makaanah, Joyce Gilbert and Dick Gilbert attended a UUA-sponsored luncheon for families of recently deceased ministers, then hosted those families at the Service of the Living Tradition. Dick also attended a lunch hosted by the UUMA for leaders of professional organizations. They were busy representing all of us in UURMaPA!

During Ministry Days, prior to GA, a panel composed of Jean Rowe, Earl Holt and Kim Beach discussed "Retirement: Joys, Possibilities and Practicalities" as part of the Collegial Conversations. Plans are now underway for the 2012 GA in Phoenix, AZ. Suggestions for both Ministry Day and GA are welcome.

— Dick Gilbert

Stay Comfortable

The UUA provides heating and cooling grants to retired ministers, partners and surviving partners. For assistance contact Joyce Stewart (617) 948-6421 or jstewart@uua.org, or Richard Nugent at (617) 948-6456 or rnugent@uua.org.

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



UURMaPA Mission Statement

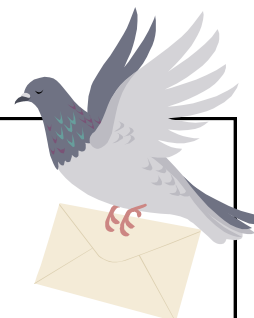
Acting in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the purposes of this organization shall be to serve the Unitarian Universalist movement, and to enhance the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, their life partners and surviving life partners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

*UURMaPA includes 900 people in
600 households*

Save paper, and get your newsletter faster and in full color!

To receive *Elderberries* by e-mail contact your editor

Chris Lilly Backus at chrisbackus@msn.com



Become a UUMA Coach

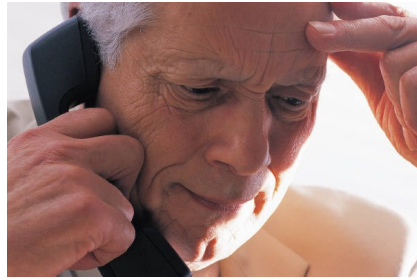
The UUMA is beginning a new Coaching Program to serve active ministers. UURMaPA members, who are in final fellowship and members in good standing with the UUMA, are invited to consider becoming trained coaches. We retirees would work alongside other coaches who are still in active ministry.

Coaching is a powerful tool for meeting professional and personal goals. It is the practice of support through the process of setting and achieving specific goals. The UUMA is ready to put these tools into service for our Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

The Coaching Program is a new way to nurture excellence in ministry through continuing education and collegial support. Active and retired ministers with expertise in specific areas will be trained in the art of coaching. Those who wish to improve their ministries will work with a coach to set goals and determine the best ways to achieve them.

The Auburn Theological Seminary's Coaching Institute, a highly respected program, describes coaching for ministers as being:

- **Individualized.** Through a one-on-one relationship, coaching helps ministers identify the issues, obstacles, and opportunities of their particular ministry and deal with them directly.
- **Action-oriented.** Coaching uses reflection and discernment as preparation for action. It has a relentless focus on taking quantifiable steps towards one's goals.
- **Holistic.** Coaching helps ministers address the interdependence of their personal faith, sense of call, personality and relationships, capacities and resources, and their specific context.



Using feedback from UUMA members, the UUMA's Coaching Task Force has identified seven areas of concentration for the initial roll-out of the program. Beginning in the Fall of 2012 ministers in final fellowship will be able to request a coach to help them focus on one or more of these areas:

- Practices & challenges of growth
- Multicultural competencies
- Community development & social justice
- Spiritual practice and growth
- Conflict management
- Preaching & worship arts
- Supervision and staff development – both professional *and* volunteer staff

An application will be available on the UUMA website in September 2011 for potential coaches. The Coaching Task Force will review the applications, speak with references and select coaches in each of the skill areas. Coaches will receive training and will be expected to serve as a coach for at least two years. Each coach will have up to three clients per year.

Those chosen to be UUMA coaches will be trained in a well-respected professional coaching program provided by the UUMA at no cost to the coach. Coaches will receive an honorarium for each minister with whom they work. The training will occur in Spring 2012.

Do you have ideas? Feedback? Questions? Do you know of someone who you would recommend as a coach in one of the key areas? E-mail UUMA Executive Director Don Southworth at executivedirector@uuma.org or contact one of the other members of the Coaching Task Force: Jann Halloran, Kimi Riegel, Makanah Morriss at revs2uu@aol.com, or Sofia Betancourt. And check out the UUMA website for updates. The Coaching Program is listed under "Professional Development."

— Makanah Morriss

Turning of Our Lives

Dick Norsworthy says, “Rick, my firstborn, died on Good Friday (April 22, 2011). He was in touch with all of his family, verbally and with the occasional smile, throughout the day. He went to sleep just before dinner and never awakened. I know my brothers and sisters in our UU ministry have cared and do care. I thank you.”

Peter & Eleanor Richardson report, “There was a beautiful memorial service for **Herb Adams** on April 23 in Norway, ME, with snow part of the day. Back in Scarborough, ME, **Peter** and **Eleanor Richardson** had a lovely dinner and a tour of Piper Shores with **Mary Adams** in April. She is adapting to her new situation, and glad to be at Piper Shores, although she still plans summer time in Lovell, ME. **Paula Moulton** and her friend Fran Boucher managed to get some good time in Florida this past winter, as did the Richardsons. **Susan Gerhardt** has been having ongoing back trouble, but has had some improvement. **Rolfe Gerhardt** catches a lot of fish and then throws them all back.”

Bill Holden notes, “I celebrated 25 years as a heart transplant recipient on July 26. The average heart transplant recipient survives eleven years which is why I am in a ‘supersurvivor’ category among the cardiologists. I believe **Doak Mansfield** is the only other UU minister qualified to preach on resurrection, since he got his new heart in the past year. I have organized a workshop on social work with heart transplants for the state social work conference.”

Leon Hopper tells us that **Lena Breen** has been doing some consulting work with the First UU Church in Austin – about twelve days a month. She says it’s challenging and rewarding.

Farley Wheelwright says he enjoys *Elderberries*. He will be 94 this December and remains spirited, despite losing his vision to macular degeneration. He sends greetings to one and all.

Doris Hunter writes, “In March I attended the 2011 Council Meeting of the IARF. It was held at Mutsumi-kai, a Shinto Shrine in Kyoto, which is a new member of the IARF Japanese Member Group.



“I was able to present to Mr. Mutsumi the \$1000 gift from the US Chapter IARF for the purpose of relief efforts resulting from the terrible earthquake in north-east Japan. The Japanese member groups are so grateful for donations coming from the United States and other member groups outside of Japan.

“We have received positive reports from the participants who attended the 33rd Congress in Kochi, India and we are planning the next Congress to be held in 2014, location to be decided. We also received positive reports from our human rights projects and activities connected with the United Nations.

“The Rev. Eric Cherry, Director of the International Office at the UUA, joined me from the United States representing the UUA. I spent two extra days in Kyoto enjoying its unique aesthetic spirituality found in its shrine and temples. It was a great way to relax after the business of the Council Meeting.”

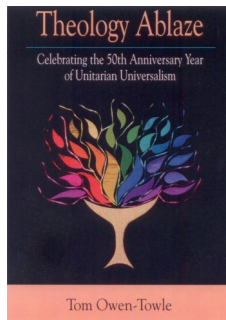
Turning of Our Lives

Polly Leland-Mayer tells us **Carolyn Marshall** retired on July 1 from working part-time for the American Mathematical Society. She is having remodeling done at home and plans to stay in her home near the beach for at least 15 years! She is working on a quilting project - a Star Island collage. Polly says **Bob Dick's** family reports that for a "90 something," he remains cheerful and fairly healthy, although he has lost much of his memory. He takes short walks around the garden at Doolittle Home in Foxboro, MA and enjoys receiving cards and letters. (He's in the directory.) For updates e-mail his son, Nate Dick, at npdick@gmail.com.

Bob Morriss carried the UURMaPA banner at GA this year. It had a great location up front throughout the conference. Thanks Bob!

John Weston reports that **Vivienne Chapman, Dick Fewkes, Ron & Judi Marcy, Gene & Helen Pickett, Maria Sylvester, and Betsy & Fred Stevens** gathered for lunch on Cape Cod on a chilly but not stormy day on February 23. John was prevented from attending by a brief illness. He says, "Dick, Gene and Helen brought it off without a hitch. The upshot, as it comes to me: 'Let's do it again!'"

Editor's apologies for late publication of this news sent in March.



Tom Owen-Towle has a new book out, *Theology Ablaze*, which explores classic themes such as God, death, silence and forgiveness, evil and justice, love and evolution. Cost is \$20 plus \$4.50 shipping. Just go to www.tomo-t.com, or call (619) 933-1121 or write Tom at 3303 Second Ave, San Diego, CA 92103.

UURMaPA History

Are you a history buff? We are looking for a volunteer historian. Two current board members, Anne Orfald and Chris Lilly Backus, would like to work with you. We have much to celebrate and preserve since we started out in 1982. To learn more email aorfald@cogeco.ca or chrisbackus@msn.com. Thank you!



What are you doing these days? We'd like photos and news of *your* activities. Go to our website (www.uurmapa.org) then click on "Activities" and then "How We Stay Active" for examples. Send your photos and brief note to our webmaster, Andy Backus, at andrewbackus@msn.com.

Thank you.

Morrie, age 82, went in one day for his annual physical. A few days later his doctor saw Morrie walking down the street with a gorgeous younger woman on his arm.

A few days later the doctor saw his patient again, without his lady. He exclaimed, "Morrie, you're doing great, aren't you?"

The older man replied, "Yep, just doing what you said, Doc, 'Get a hot momma and be cheerful!'"

Shaking his head, the doctor said, "No, Morrie, what I said was, 'You've got a *heart murmur*, so be *careful*.'"



In Memoriam

The Rev. Dr. David H. Cole, 90, died June 26, at home in hospice care, after a long illness. A native of Lynn, MA, he graduated from Tufts University and Crane School of Theology. He received an honorary doctorate from Meadville Lombard. He served congregations in MA, IL, MD, OH, CA and NY. He was named minister emeritus by the West Shore Unitarian Church of Rocky River, OH, when he retired there in 1986. A strong proponent of a world community, he was active in the UUSC and the IARF. He was an advocate for Palestinian issues and he helped found the Society for Community Ministries. He enjoyed sailing, carpentry, gardening, tennis, golf and playing bridge or cribbage. He liked meeting with the clergy study group in Sudbury, MA, the Fraters of the Wayside Inn. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Iska (Jurasek-Godsey) Cole and their seven children: Victoria, Steven, Linda, Karen, Cynthia, Kevin and Gloria.



Photo by Eleanor Richardson

The Rev. Dorothy Wilson Kimble, 69, died at home July 1 from pancreatic cancer. First trained as an RN, she said she grew up between the era of June Cleaver and the expectations and opportunities available to women today. She worked on medical and surgical hospital floors, as a visiting nurse, school teaching nurse and psych nurse. Dot went on to earn her BA from Framingham State College and her M.Div. from Andover Newton. She served churches in Northboro, MA; Marlboro, MA; Augusta, ME and Groton, MA. She is believed to be the first UU woman minister to be called to a permanent settlement in the state of Maine. She also served several parishes as an interim minister. She wrote poetry, sermons, nursing articles and had her work *Sacred Trust: Ministering to Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse* published by the Alban Institute. Dot served as a Caring Network Contact for UURMaPA in our Connecticut Valley Region. She is survived by her husband, Stanley Kimble, and their daughters, Diane Kimble Willcutts and Laurie Kimble, and three grandchildren.



A memorial service will be held Sat., Aug. 13, at 4 p.m. at West Shore Unitarian Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Ohio.



Your gift to UURMaPA makes a big difference.

I am (we are) contributing: ___\$125 ___\$60 ___\$30 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 ___

In Memoriam



The Rev. Dr. Wayne Shuttee, 93, died June 22. He graduated from the University of Missouri and Meadville Theological School with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He served the First UU Church in Cleveland, OH, where he was ordained; the West Shore

UU Church of Cleveland, OH, where he served as their first minister; and at the Unitarian Society of New Haven in Hamden, CT, where he served for thirty years. Following his retirement he served as interim minister for a dozen UU churches. He was named minister emeritus at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, in Hamden, CT, where he was also a member. He was active over the years in several community organizations in the New Haven area such as the Yale-New Haven Hospital, the New Haven Youth and Family Services Association, and New Haven Reads Community Book Bank, where he volunteered three times a week running the front desk and packing book orders. He also served on many association boards. Wayne is survived by his wife of almost 64 years, Patricia (Wuliger) Shuttee. He was predeceased by their son, Timothy.

The Rev. Robert James Wrigley, 75, died April 25 by his own act, after years of chronic pain. He acted in fear of increased pain and diminished personal autonomy. Bob described himself as a peace monger, social activist, trade unionist, and—he imagined—a stone mason. Born in Albany, NY, he gained a reputation for being very outspoken, losing his post as junior minister in Providence, RI, when he was reported to have compared Castro to Christ. He left the US and went on to serve First Unitarian in Toronto, ON and then First Unitarian in Edmonton, AB. He next worked as subsistence farmer on his quarter-section in Peers, AB. He is survived by his wife, Naomi Rankin, and their daughters Katherine Malka Wrigley and Elsa Magdalena Wrigley, and his two daughters from his first marriage, Elizabeth “Lise” Anne Wrigley and Jessica Susan Machado (Celso), two grandchildren, and his “twin” sister Susan Jane Pearson. He was predeceased by his grandchildren, Maya Tello-Wrigley and Flora Machado. He was a member of the Edmonton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. He leaves us with these remarks: “The highest form of bliss comes from living with a certain degree of folly” - Erasmus And finally, “That’s all she wrote.”

Harriet Ruth Wyman, 92, widow of the Rev. Gerald K. Wyman, died March 26, in Torrance, CA. The Wymans had served Universalist congregations in Canton, Waterville and Caribou, ME, and the UU Church of Greater Lansing, MI. Her husband died in 1970. Harriet worked for the Attorney General’s Section of the Michigan Department of Transportation for 24 years, retiring as an office manager. After retiring in 1984, she enjoyed square dancing, swimming, walking and the company of her friends. She was a very loving mother to her son and daughter. Her son died in 1985, after a 20-year battle with multiple sclerosis. In 2003, she moved to California to be near her daughter and family. Sympathy notes may be sent to the family in care of the UU Church of Greater Lansing, 855 Grove St., East Lansing, MI 48823.



The Twelve Steps of GA for a New Retiree: Warnings and Blessings

by Linnea Pearson

1. Though you've been around *forever*, be aware that not *everyone* knows how to pronounce your name, so you may be called up on stage during the Service of the Living Tradition by a name you do not recognize.
2. This might happen more than once during the programs arranged to honor you.
3. Don't wait *too long* to retire. As one of my friends reminded me, it may be that in the 70s and 80s and 90s, most everyone knew who you were. But a decade later, they're gone and you might as well be known as "Anonymous" (as many of our sisters before us).
4. Be prepared to see the youth conducting ceremonies and programs almost identical to the ones you did decades ago, as if they are inventing them for the first time.
5. Be prepared for Revisionist History. The memories of others may not be the same as your own and though you remember yourself and your friends as among the "founders" of various groups and organizations, those who have recently written the new official his/her-story may not remember you or them at all.
6. At the SLT, be prepared for the stampede of young colleagues coming into our ranks with the vitality and speed of rambunctious colts, galloping out of the audience to the raucous applause of their families, friends, and fellow seminary students. There will be scores of these bright young beings bounding up to the stage, "rank by rank," before you and your aging colleagues are called upon to saunter up to the stage like good old race horses going out to pasture while the audience's applause slowly peters out.
7. If you haven't been to GA for a while, be prepared for the shocking realization that you may no longer know your old colleagues and parishioners by their faces! You may have to look at their name tags to identify them. This is because they — unlike you — have aged!
8. The GAs of the 70s and 80s are gone. GA is no longer the time for instant romances, dances that go into the dawn, and Carlos Casteneda sorts of liaisons.
9. As you wander through the Exhibit Booths, you have a sense of *déjà vu*. They, at least, have not changed. "Been there, done that."
10. You discover a great sense of love and caring for colleagues even older than yourself who seem to be wandering around in a daze. Once the Center of Attention, they are now somewhat lost and perplexed. But you remember them in their Glory Days and tell them so. And, for a split second, their eyes light up and they stand erect again!
11. If you're lucky, you're approached by some former parishioners, from 30-40 years ago, whom you may not remember, but who tell you how great you were and how you changed their lives.
12. And, if you're really blessed, you have some colleagues who do the same, who "remember you when," and acclaim you accordingly. And you do the same for them and embrace them and bless them and say, "Good-bye," perhaps for the last time, knowing that, if there is a UU Heaven, you will meet again.





Photo by Bob Doughty

Nancy Doughty, a past president of UURMaPA, introduced **Dick Gilbert** at Ministry Day in Charlotte, NC. Dick was chosen by the 50-year class to represent them this year. His talk in on our website. See www.uurmapa.org then go to the “Activities” tab, then “How We Stay Active.” Congratulations Dick!

The registration form below is the *only* notification that will be *mailed* to members. It is also available online at our website www.uurmapa.org, under the tab marked “Activities.”



UURMaPA Northeast Conference, Attleboro, MA, Oct. 4-6, 2011
UUA 50 Years — How My Mind Has Changed

- Tues. evening “Service of Remembrance”
- Wed. morning:
 - Worship “Happy Birthday UUA” led by Liz Strong
 - Keynote Address by UUA President Peter Morales
 - Panel “How My Mind Has Changed Since Merger” with David Hubner, Doris Hunter & Alan Deale
- Wed. afternoon Odyssey by Dick & Joyce Gilbert
- Wed. evening “A Visit from Olympia Brown” presented by Jan Bowering
Worship service led by Peter & Eleanor Richardson
- Thurs. morning Business Meeting & Closing Worship

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

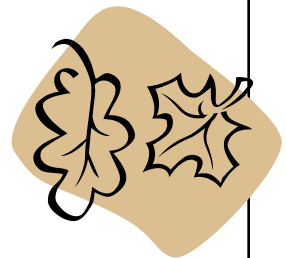
Address _____

Cost is \$175 per person, which includes program, meals, social hours and lodging (single rooms are paired to share a bathroom between them). Please make check payable to UURMaPA (US funds please) and send to:

Kathleen Hunter, 55 Crystal Ave., PMB 248, Derry, NH 03038

Questions? Contact Kathleen at (603) 526-2941 or kdhagd@mac.com

Early registrations are appreciated! Thank you.



Directory Updates

These UURMaPA members are new or have new or additional contact information. For complete details, please go to our online directory (opposite page). If you don't have access to a computer feel free call or write Andy Backus (contact info on Page 2).

Arizona/Nevada

Charles Gaines

Ballou Channing

Patricia & Lawrence Tummino

Esther Hopkins

Bay Area Coastal

Dave & Jan Sammons

Bay Area Inland

Carolyn Colbert

Dennis Daniel & Sydney Wilde

Central Mass

Alan Seaburg

Central Midwest

John & Gwen Biedler

Roger & Katherine Brewin

Colorado/Montana/Wyoming

Barbara Eaton Molfese

Gail Collins Ranadive & Milt Hetrick

Connecticut Valley

Barbara & Jeffrey Merritt

Eastern Canada

Fran Deverell

Florida

Linnea Pearson

Bill Welch

Heartland South

Barbara Child

Julie Denny-Hughes

Joseph Priestley North

John & Fran Gilmore

Joseph Priestley South

Phyllis Hubbell & John Manwell

Mass Bay Coastal

Jonas Barciauskas & Katie Lee Crane

Helen & Don Cohen

Lucinda & Robert Duncan

Dorothy May Emerson & Donna Clifford

Gary & Elizabeth Smith

Rosemarie & Tom Smurzynski

Mass Bay Inland

Ed & Helen Lane

Mid-South

Lucille & Ward Knights

Yvonne V. Miller

New Mexico

Eva Ceskava

Wade Wheelock & Anne Marsh

Northeast

Mary Adams

Marcel & Ellie Duhamel

Will Saunders

Kitsy Winthrop

Pacific Northwest

Barry & Linda Andrews

Dick & Barbara Cheatham

Duane Fickeisen & Judy Welles

Marilyn Sewell & George Crandall

Joe & Alice Blair Wesley

Gretchen Woods & Judy Finholm

St. Lawrence

Tom Chulak

Janet & John Ernisse

Southwest

David Hunter & Kerry Mueller

Davidson Loehr

Virginia

Howard & Betty Jo Middleton

Western Carolinas (formerly TJ SE)

Sarah Moores York & Chuck Campbell

The Power of Prayer

Several years ago in Mt. Vernon, TX, Drummond's Bar began construction to expand their building to increase business. In response, the local Baptist Church started a campaign with petitions and prayers to block the bar from expanding. Work progressed right up until the week before the grand reopening when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground!

Well now the church folks were rather smug, bragging about the power of prayer. They changed their attitude, however, when the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church "was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means."

The church vehemently denied all responsibility for or any connection to the building's demise.

The judge read through the plaintiff's complaint and the defendant's reply, and at the opening hearing commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but it appears that we now have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer and an entire congregation that does *not*."

Editor's Note: Thanks to Bill and Barbara DeWolfe for sharing this story.



Directory Online!

Our 2011 *UURMaPA Directory*
is now on our website

www.uurmapa.org

*Password available in
print copies of newsletter or
through webmaster.*

Send changes and updates to:

Andy Backus
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225
andrewbackus@msn.com

Thank you!

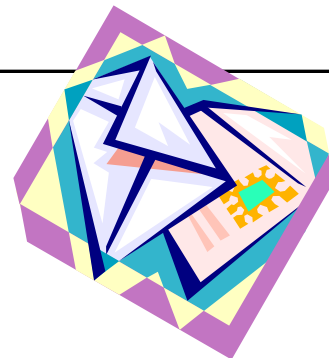
*We will print our hard-copy
UURMaPA Directory for 2012*

later this fall.

*Please check your listing in our
online directory.*

Your careful review means a lot.

Thank you.



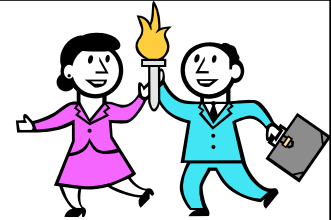
Rites of Retirement

It is traditional for us to create rituals for ordination, and/or installation. Was the conclusion of your ministry also honored with a ritual of saying good-bye? If so, the UURMaPA Board invites you to share the ceremonies that created a meaningful parting, for you and the congregation you served.

You will notice in our booklet *On Retirement: A Helpful Guide for UU Retired Ministers & Partners* we included one example. (You can find it on our website www.uurmapa.org, under the “Publications” tab.) We would like to collect more examples, in anticipation of printing a second edition of the guide. Please send your submissions by email (with attachment in RTF or Word format) or send hard copy by postal service, to either:

Anne Orfald, aorfald@cogeco.ca
#9-660 Whitaker St.
Peterborough, ON K9H 7L5, Canada

Chris Lilly Backus, chrisbackus@msn.com
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225-2503, USA



Caring Network Notes

UURMaPA is knit together largely by our Caring Network. See the back pages of the UURMaPA Directory, either online or the printed copy mailed to you, to see how the network is organized. Your Caring Coordinator tries to be in contact a couple of times a year, by email, snail mail, or phone. Some organize or promote local gatherings of our folks.

Take a look at the online Caring Network Handbook (go to www.uurmapa.org to the “Resources” section) to learn more. This is a great opportunity to stay in contact with colleagues, as well as to keep our members from becoming isolated; to continue to do a bit of pastoral work; and to help those in financial need to connect with available assistance.

We are always looking for new volunteers to either take over a Caring Area or to share some of the work in their geographic area. If you are interested, lets talk!

Paul L’Herrou, Caring Network Chair
pauillerrou@gmail.com
(978) 290-7285



Archive Your Papers

Recently my grandson and I crawled into the space under the third floor eaves. We dragged and carried out a number of heavy storage boxes containing many years’ worth of Sylvia’s and my handwritten and printed sermons, spanning our years in ministry.

Now we are organizing these as we search out other folders of news articles, publicity, published articles, and a variety of other documents that define our individual and joint ministries. We will drive these to Harvard Divinity School to get them off of our hands and into their archives. If you are like us, with boxes of material that define your ministry, but are now just taking up space, consider donating it to HDS for their historical archives.

Harvard is interested in material from all UU ministers, not just Harvard alums. To see what they are interested in, check <http://www.hds.harvard.edu/library/bms/>. For more information and to make arrangements, contact Frances O’Donnell, Manuscripts & Archives, Andover-Harvard Theological Library, Harvard Divinity School, 45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, (617) 496-5153 or frances_odonnell@harvard.edu.

— Paul L’Herrou

Calling all UU Veterans of the Civil Rights Movement

Did you march in Selma in 1965? Did you serve a southern congregation in the 1950s or 1960s and work on breaking local color lines? Did you spend days, weeks, or months volunteering with SNCC, CORE, SCLC, Delta Ministry, SSOC or other civil rights organizations?

We are in the early stages of planning a gathering of UUs who participated in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. It is likely that this gathering will be in the Spring, 2012 in the southeastern US to include both clergy and lay people.

This “veterans gathering” is being organized by the Living Legacy Project, whose prior efforts have been pilgrimages by bus to visit civil rights movement sites and veterans. (Another such pilgrimage is being planned for October 6-13 of 2012.) Jim Hobart and Clark Olsen have joined Gordon Gibson, one of the founders of the Living Legacy Project, to plan the veterans gathering.

If you are a “civil rights veteran,” please send your name and contact information to Gordon Gibson (ggibson@uuma.org or 523 N. Bertrand Street, Unit 201, Knoxville, TN 37917). If you know of someone else who is a Unitarian Universalist civil rights veteran, lay or ordained, please send information on them to Gordon. It would be helpful



to the planners for you to supply information on what each person’s connection to the civil rights movement was, but that is not essential.

— Gordon Gibson

Med Anderson wins Creative Sage-ing Award

Meredith (“Med”) Anderson, of Orwell, VT,



Photo by Eleanor Richardson

was chosen to receive this year’s Creative Sage-ing Award. The selection committee noted that she was being recognized for her steadfast work as the registrar for UUR-MaPA’s Northeast Conference in Attleboro, MA over a number of

years. She went above and beyond the call of duty to get people to and from the conference center, make them as comfortable as possible and to keep costs down. She established an excellent rapport with the retreat center, which meant that our conferences always have gone smoothly.

Med has also been the long-time Caring Network Contact for our Vermont Region. She remained active in retirement, serving as a hospital chaplain, being a part-time preacher to a struggling congregation, and being a “rock” for those around her who need support.

Congratulations Med!

This award is given annually to an UURMaPA member (or couple) “for outstanding service and creativity in recent years.” It comes with a \$500 honorarium. Who do you think should receive this honor next year? You may nominate yourself or another member. Please let Dick Fewkes know at dick_ellie@comcast.net. Thank you.

Let's Get Together!

STAR ISLAND GATHERING — We don't have plans for an UURMaPA gathering this year but watch here and on our website for plans for September 2012. Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale organized our first two gatherings in 2009 and 2010, which were a lot of fun. Stay tuned.

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE — Attleboro, MA, LaSalette Retreat Center, October 4-6.

UUA 50 Years — How My Mind Has Changed. Catch up with old friends and meet new ones. UUA President Peter Morales will be with us Wed. morning. Panelists Dave Hubner, Doris Hunter and Alan Deale will reflect on "How My Mind Has Changed Since Merger," Odyssey by Dick and Joyce Gilbert. Jan Bowering will bring Olympia Brown to life. Worship led by Liz Strong, Peter & Eleanor Richardson. Kathleen Hunter is registrar. Register today! (See Page 11.)

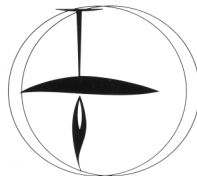
PAN-SOUTH CONFERENCE — Asheville, NC, UU Church of Asheville, March 28-30, 2012. Watch the website and newsletter for more information.



ONE-DAY REGIONAL GATHERINGS are also gaining popularity with our members. If you would like to be involved with hosting or helping let your Caring Network Contact know (see the website or the back of the *2011 UURMaPA Directory* for details).

There are now more \$200 grants for each regional conference. Contact registrar about eligibility. Continuing education grants to attend conferences are also available from the Rev. Jory Agate (jagate@uua.org), 25 Beacon St, Boston MA 02108 or call her at (617) 948-6453.

Address Service Requested



Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association
2746 Broadway
Bellingham, WA 98225-2503