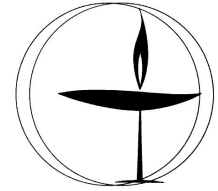


Elderberries



the newsletter of the
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

VOLUME XXVII

NUMBER 1

Winter 2011-12

Boardroom News

Your UURMaPA Board gathered Oct. 1-4 in Boston to work together, to meet with UUA staff and to explore ways in which we can better serve you, our members. Here are a few highlights:

Make conferences more inclusive by eliminating regional names and simply saying “UURMaPA at...[name of conference site]” Continue to promote the \$200 scholarships, whether for first-timers or returning conference-goers. Support one-day gatherings.

Support those about to retire by updating and reissuing our *Helpful Guide* on retirement. Add information on rituals of transition and provide more information for partners. We discussed how we retirees might support —one-on-one — those about to retire. The mentoring and coaching programs are models.

Continue to connect those in need with available financial resources.

Continue Creative Sage-ing Award and add an award to **recognize a volunteer** within UURMaPA who hasn't been honored elsewhere.

Support “right relations” efforts with the UUMA to help effect smooth transitions among settled, interim and retired ministers and their partners.

Keeping in Touch

Here is a way that we can all help our Caring Network Coordinators be more effective in pastoring to each of us. Take a few minutes now to contact the Caring Network Coordinator for your area (consult the UURMaPA Directory, either online or the hard copy you will soon be receiving) and give her/him the contact information — email and home addresses and phone numbers for your children or another responsible person. This will make it possible for our Caring Network people to keep in touch if you are suddenly hospitalized or move to a care facility and to minister to your family at such times. And, when the time comes, we will know whom to contact to help compose your final tribute. Thank you.

Paul L’Herrou
Caring Network Chair

Photo by Ellen Brandenburg



UURMaPA Board 2011-2012

L-R: Dick Gilbert, Dick Fewkes, Chris Backus,
Paul L’Herrou, Kathleen Hunter, Jan Sammons,
Jim Eller (Not pictured: Anne Orfald)

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Elderberries is published quarterly by the
Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association

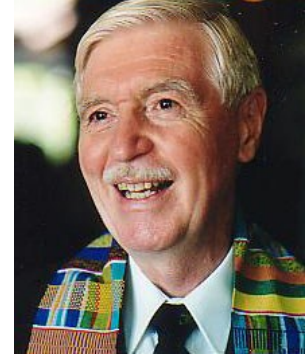


Next deadline is Jan. 15

Send your news, views and photos to
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One Thumb Drive: Is That All There Is?

James Russell Lowell visited Ralph Waldo Emerson on the latter's 70th birthday and called it an "auspicious occasion." "On the contrary," remarked Emerson, "it is a 'melancholy' one." "What do you mean?" asked Lowell. Emerson replied, "It means the end of youth."

I agree. Having just turned 75, I find myself in an ambivalent position – carefully tightrope-walking between retirement and ministry, nostalgia and commitment, reflection and action.

Which way to lean? I still want to participate fully in the "action and passion of the times." I am passionately engaged in peace and justice work; I enjoy being a grandfather; I relish being with my family more frequently; I enjoy watching a football game without guilt that I should be working on a sermon; I have books I want to write, and trips I want to take. My time is limited and there is much more I want to do – and to be.

At the same time I enjoy looking back on my life. To help celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary Joyce and I created a computer slide show from our earliest days to the present. What a hoot! Red-haired, brush cut newly-minted minister marries beautiful fellow Universalist. It was a trip down Memory Lane. A truly enjoyable experience.

And there is an ongoing project — creating a digitalized thumb drive containing virtually all my sermons, talks and writings over a half-century of UU ministry. This involves computer scanning, a little retyping and a bit of nostalgic reading of old sermons. They're not as bad as I thought they might be. My plan is to give a thumb drive to each of my two sons (placing my own copy in our safe deposit box, of course).

I'm not sure they will spend hours reading it, but something in me needs to sum up my career tangibly. Perhaps this thumb drive is physical evidence that I have really lived.

A thumb drive. Is that all there is? Probably not, but the words of ministry reflect deeds done, experiences lived, people served. They trace a history, both of soul and society — life lived in the context of a larger picture. Preaching reveals something about the meaning of the journey — a kind of spiritual streaking over time.

How about you? I doubt I'm alone in trying to balance planning the path ahead with reflecting on where I have already walked. I'm not willing to give up either. There are dangers wallowing in the past at the expense of the present. There are dangers in being so busy we have no time to reflect on the meaning of what has been.

So there is in me a creative tension — a healthy tension, I think — between reflection on the meaning of the past and action in the present and for the future. My thumb drive is a work in progress. It both embraces my past and invites my future. I have not yet finished filling it.

Dick Gilbert

IARF Honors UU Leaders

On Oct. 22 a Japanese delegation of 22 International Association for Religious Freedom members toured UUA headquarters. President Morales greeted them along with members of the UUA Board, Eric Cherry and staff members of the International Office and members of the Boston Chapter of the IARF. **Richard Kellaway** and his Japanese counterpart arranged plans for this exchange. On Sunday, Oct. 23, Richard and **Doris Hunter** led the Japanese delegation to the gravesites of Dana Greeley in Concord, MA, and Natalie Gulbrandsen in Beverly, MA. Prayers were given by the Rev. Sakai from Rissho Kosei Kai honoring their dedication to interfaith understanding and cooperation. Flowers were placed on their graves in a beautiful tribute of the lasting friendship between the Japan Chapter of the IARF and our Unitarian Universalist Association and our continuing interfaith friendships.

— Doris Hunter

UURMaPA Mini-Reunion in Europe



Dick & Joyce Gilbert, Orloff Miller, Sue & Vern Nichols with Renate Bauer outside the Miller/Bauer residence in Ludwigshafen, Germany, July 2011.

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
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To receive *Elderberries* by email contact
your editor

Chris Lilly Backus at
chrisbackus@msn.com



Turning of Our Lives



Shirley Ranck celebrated her 80th birthday by going for a 45-minute flight in an open-air 1942 Boeing Stearman biplane (think Snoopy). She flew over California's Sonoma and Napa valleys. Her comment? "Beautiful!"

Bill and Barbara Murry traveled to Germany and Switzerland where they enjoyed a trip on the Rhine from Amsterdam to Basel. In late October the UU Society of Ridgewood, NJ celebrated Ken Patton's life and work during this, the 100th anniversary of his birth. Bill gave a lecture and preached using some of Patton's themes and poetry.

Jean Zoerheide's latest passion is the arrival of her *first* great granddaughter, who is named Liala. One of the many pleasures of growing older. Congratulations Jean.

Dillman Baker Sorrells says, "In July, we moved back to Clemson, SC where we lived 30 or so years ago. I was named minister emerita of the Rochester, MN UU Church in 2005. When we get settled I hope to get back to work on my art quilts and wearable art. I've been doing this for a number of years and enjoying it enormously. Right now I am awash in boxes with more books than there are shelves in this small retirement house. My little studio is piled high with fabric, thread, and all the other stuff that goes with fiber art. I know I'll miss Rochester, but also know that it is wonderful to be amongst the Southern flora again. There is a wooded park just next to our house. I'm looking forward to spring and the wildflowers. Both Bob and I are in good health."



Doe Lockwood spent the 4th of July at Jenks America (in Oklahoma) to watch fireworks shot off over the Arkansas River. She says it was a great show. She notes that parts of Jenks America border Oral Roberts University in South Tulsa. During Oral Roberts' expansive years, he tried to buy the whole town of Jenks. The town was suffering a bit at the time and was giving serious consideration to selling it to him *until* he told them he planned the change its name. (Doe adds that no one has ever learned what the name was to be.) In any case, the townspeople there said, "No way!" Today, Jenks is doing great. Another thing to celebrate on Independence Day.

Turning of Our Lives



Bob Richardson

Our deepest sympathy to **Peg Richardson**, whose husband, **Bob Richardson**, 75, died October 16 at their home in Pembroke, Maine. Peg's first husband, the Rev. R. Paul Mueller, served the UU Society in East Brunswick, NJ, until his death. Bob was the longtime music director at the UU Society East in Manchester, CT. He also enjoyed model trains and traveling. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor, even as he dealt with the indignities of cancer treatment. He and Peg were married for four years. Bob is also survived by his four sons.

And we grieve with **Carol Taylor** over the unexpected death of her twin brother, Paul, this past spring. A memorial service was held June 18 at the UU Church in Reston, VA. Carol says one positive outcome from her profound loss is that she has become closer to her three nephews.



Charles and Claudine Grady, and **John Cummins** drove together down to Rochester, MN, to visit for a couple of hours with **Gordon and Phyllis McKeeman**. Charles says they found Bucky and Phyllis in good spirits and they all enjoyed catching up.

Peter and Eleanor Richardson recently spent three great weeks in France, England, and Scotland, partly looking after grandchildren, and partly wandering around the UK with a British rail pass searching out family roots.

Betty Murdock took a 10-day trip to the East Coast that included seven days on the Outer Banks off the coast of NC. Her daughter, Lisa, and her cousin, Fred, rented two large houses in Corolla and about 15 folks enjoyed a family reunion. The houses were large — each had its own swimming pool and was located an easy walk away from the beach. The weather was delightful after the awful Oklahoma heat — there was always a sea breeze. On her return to Tulsa the heat was still bad but, she says thanks to air conditioning, she coped.

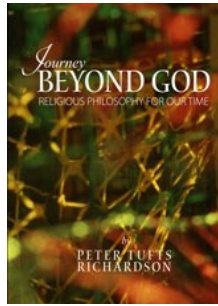
Last summer **Barbara and John Wolf's** family were on the slow track because of the heat in Tulsa. They enjoyed crosswords, visiting friends, gardening (watering), reading, and most importantly walking Speckles, their Jack Russell terrier. They did not travel except to go to Bella Vista, AR. They enjoy fairly good health and like having their children close by.

Donna DiSciullo writes that, after being away from Ferry Beach for 30 years, she participated in an "Aging with Wisdom" conference this past summer, led by **Pat Hoertdoerfer**. Donna says she is not sure how much *wiser* she is but she did come away with some significant insights. One insight is that, in some ways, Ferry Beach has changed quite a bit in three decades but it retains its quintessential nature, which has changed not a whit — thankfully. The old Universalist ethos is still present.

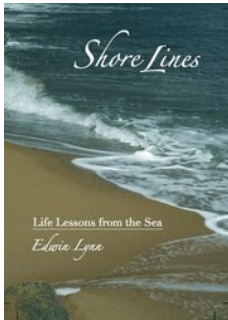


Turning of Our Lives

Peter Richardson says, “Last winter I wrote a summing up of my philosophy of ministry and religion in four chapters: Alone, Together, Between, Among. Fourteen review topics are included in the study guide. Key is the contrast of theologically based vs. humanist naturalist based religion. If you liked *Four Spiritualities*, *Archetype of the Spirit*, and *The Boston Religion* you will see their influences here.” His new book is *Journey Beyond God: Religious Philosophy For Our Time*. Quality Paperback, ISBN-13: 978-0-9741152-8-3, cost is \$24.95 + \$3.50 p & h. If you would like a copy send your snail mail address to ptemr@aol.com. Ask for an invoice or use PayPal at www.redbamrockland.com



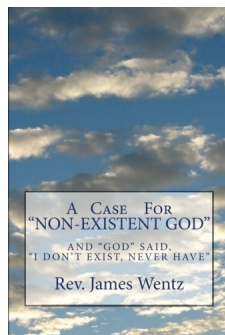
Shore Lines - Life Lessons from the Sea by **Ed Lynn** is just out and available on amazon.com, authorhouse.com or your local book store. See www.edwinlynn.com for details.



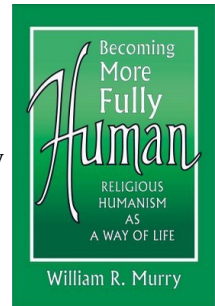
“What could be better than wisdom lyrically expressed, especially when it is derived from an appreciation of Nature’s abundance combined with the distillation of a lifetime’s savvy? That’s exactly what Ed Lynn has given us and it is a precious gift worth seeking out and savoring.”

— Bill Schulz

Jim Wentz announces the publication of his Print-on-Demand book: *A Case For “NON-EXISTENT GOD”* and “God” said, “I Don’t Exist, Never Have” available from amazon.com. For more information please go to www.non-existentgod.com.

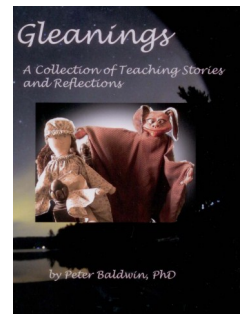


Bill Murry has just had a new book published entitled *Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life*.



It approaches Humanism primarily as a way of living, rather than as a philosophical perspective but also includes some discussion of philosophical foundations. Available for \$16 plus \$4 shipping & handling from HUUmansists, PO Box 185202, Hamden, CT 06518-0202. Make checks payable to HUUmansists.

Peter Baldwin’s book *Gleanings*, is just out. Many of the stories in this book were generated from UU settings: from the author’s years teaching at Crane and Meadville-Lombard, from the mid-sixties when he served as Executive Director of Continental LRY, from events at Ferry Beach, Star Island, and Rowe. Many derive from his practice over the course of 35 years in the practice of psychotherapy. Search Google for “*Gleanings* by Peter A. Baldwin, PhD.” Scroll down the page Google finds to *Self-Publishing Press*. Click the link to the *Gleanings* web page.



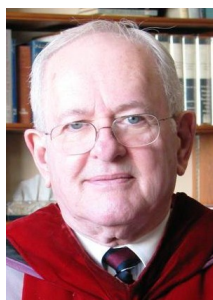
Anne Heller writes, “The coming of age/Odyssey writing curriculum for elders that I wrote, *From the High Hill*, is now online and available to all congregations. It would be a great curriculum for experienced elders to facilitate. The link to it is: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/fromthe/index.shtml> Thanks for getting the word out.”

(Turning of Our Lives continues on Page 13)

In Memoriam

James Cashel Brown, 90, widower of the Rev. Jean Cook Brown, died June 12.

A native of Staten Island, he was an active youth, running a printing business, playing football and becoming an Eagle Scout. He studied advertising at New York University, then served in the US Army, working in broadcasting. He moved to Hartford, CT to work for Frank Sweet's advertising agency. He worked on national political campaigns, and later became an independent business consultant. James joined The Universalist Church of West Hartford in 1950, beginning a 60-year affiliation. He served as a deacon, a Sunday school teacher and on the Board of Education, as well as numerous committees. In 1965, James met and married the love of his life, Jean Cook. He supported her increasing involvement with the church, which culminated in her becoming their MRE. He loved spending time with his family. He also loved traveling. He stayed active in the community through the condo association and neighborhood redevelopment meetings. He was predeceased by his wife and survived by his children, Christopher, Roger and Bettina Brown. His grandchild, Nicolas, was born six days after his passing.



The Rev. Bruce M. Clary, 72, died September 15. He earned his BA from the University of Tulsa and his Bachelor of Divinity from Meadville Lombard. He served churches in Bridgewater, MA; Oklahoma City, OK; Barre, VT; Stoughton, MA; Mentor, OH; and

First Church and Dedham, MA, which named him minister emeritus. He served on the UUSC Board, the UUMA Exec, the CLF RE Committee, the LREDA Board, the Ballou Channing District RE Committee, and the Unitarian Sunday School Society. He was listed in *Who's Who in Religion* and *Who's Who in America*. He had received Special Recognition by the UUSC and had been awarded the Oklahoma Governor's Award for Community Service. He authored a number of books, including *Views from the Iceberg*. In retirement his interests included painting, photography, writing, cooking, community theater, antiques, nautical history, and Native American art and rituals. He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Clary, in December. He is survived by his son, David Clary, his daughter-in-law, three granddaughters, and his sister, Barbara Clary Martin, and her husband, and by a niece and two nephews.



Photo by Eleanor Richardson

The Rev. Lawrence M. Hamby, 85, died August 28 in Athens, GA. He was a native of Atlanta. He held degrees from Emory University and Tufts University's Crane Theological School. Larry served the Community Church of New Orleans, which ordained him. He also served the Unitarian Congregational Society of Grafton, MA; the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, PA; and the All Souls Unitarian Church of Augusta, ME. In later years, he was a chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol of the Air Force in Brunswick, GA. He was the Membership and Growth Chair for the Unitarian Universalists of Coastal Georgia. He also served on the board of UURMaPA. Larry will be remembered as a very generous supporter of our association.

He managed our list serve SpeakUP until the time of his death.

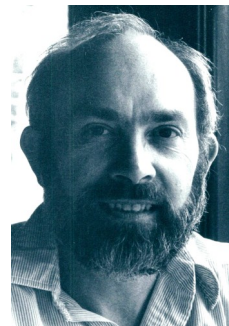
In Memoriam



The Rev. Jo-an Glasse, 87, left our Earth August 3. She graduated from Berea College and Yale Divinity School. At Yale she met and married the Rev. James D. Glasse, who predeceased her. They settled in Nashville where Jim taught at Vanderbilt University and Jo-an reared four children. Jim was appointed president of the Lancaster (PA) Theological Seminary. In addition to supporting the local community with teaching, healing and spiritual development groups, Jo-an served the national community as a chairperson for Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship. She was ordained by the Lancaster congregation at age 59. She touched many lives performing christenings, weddings and funerals. With her business partner, Sheila Audet, Jo-an produced an original musical of Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet*, which traveled all over the country. Her boundless energy and twinkling blue-green eyes belied her age. Her generous, open heart and deep compassion defined her. All who knew her, even briefly, were touched by her loving presence. She is survived by her sister Alice Wulff, her children J. Daniel, Janet, Judith and Julia, their spouses and four grandchildren.



The Rev. Dr. Roger H. Smith, 75, died August 10. He earned a BA at Washington State University, an MS and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University and an M.Div. from Starr King. He served congregations in Wayzata, MN; Pasco and Kirkland, WA. During his time in Minnesota he enjoyed canoeing. Prior to joining the ministry, he worked for NASA in Oak Ridge, TN, as a research biologist. He also worked for the International Atomic Energy Association at a laboratory in Greece and later worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in Olympia, WA. He and his wife, Jane, traveled and worked in California, New Jersey and Japan. In recent years they ran a home-based business germinating orchid seeds for hobbyists.



Into the Sunset

*Let me die, working.
Still tackling tasks unfinished, tasks undone!
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.
No laggard steps, no faltering, no shirking;
Let me die, working!*

*Let me die, thinking.
Let me fare forth still with an open mind,
Fresh secrets to unfold, new truths to find,
My soul undimmed, alert,
no question blinking;
Let me die, thinking!*

*Let me die, giving.
The substance of life for life's enriching;
Time, things, and self on heaven converging,
No selfish thought, loving, redeeming, living;
Let me die, giving.*

– S. Hall Young

In Memoriam

The Rev. John A. Taylor, 79, died at home July 29 in State College, PA. He earned his BA from Oklahoma City University and his M.Div. from Boston University School of Theology. During seminary he served as Assistant to the Dean of Marsh



Chapel at BU, Dr. Howard Thurman, who greatly influenced his ministry. Jack was first ordained as a Methodist minister but after four years transferred to the UUA. He served churches and student associations in Madison, WI; Amherst, MA; Urbana, IL; San Francisco; and Ithaca, NY. When he retired from Ithaca, after 25 years there, he was named minister emeritus and chaplain emeritus at Cornell University. From 1972-1996 Jack was heard each Sunday morning on radio station WHCU in Ithaca. His book *The Unhurried Journey* was published in 1991. He served on numerous boards ranging from Planned Parenthood to resettlement of Vietnamese refugees to marketing Foxdale Village, where he was living. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara R. Taylor, their children, Scot R. Taylor and Lyn S. Kalnitz, and their spouses and two grandchildren.



David W. Walker-Riggs, 80, husband of the Rev. Judith Walker-Riggs, died Aug. 2, after a gentle week in hospice in Las Cruces, NM. A graduate of the University of Vermont, he was a career diplomat in the Foreign Service.

Having been a preacher's kid, a diplomat and a minister's spouse he found a role as the "loyal, ever-present right-hand man." Thus there was no conflict or confusion about his and Judith's roles. In retirement he enjoyed cooking and "life, love and laughter with Judith." He described Las Cruces as the "Land of Enchantment." The Walker-Riggs served congregations in Manhasset, NY; Cedar Rapids, IA; London, UK; Devon, PA; West Hartford, CT; Grand Rapids, MI; and El Paso, TX. Following retirement from the diplomatic service, David fulfilled his curiosity about other ways of life, working as a hardware store clerk, temporary worker for a law firm, and as a delivery driver for an international courier firm. He enjoyed being the other side of the desk for a change. He is survived by his wife and three children: Steven Riggs and James and Iain Urquhart.

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) 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 _____

Let Us Hear from *You!*

Your UURMaPA Nominating Committee is beginning the process of selecting a number of interested people to serve on the UURMaPA Board and the Nominating Committee, with terms starting July 1, 2012. Those who are on the Board now (or who have served) will tell you that this is a wonderful way to serve one another and our greater liberal religious movement in our retirement years.

Our Bylaws state that in even years we shall fill the following positions:

Secretary
Treasurer
Newsletter Editor
Member-at-Large
Two Members of the Nominating Committee

How about it? Would you be interested, or could you recommend someone for these positions? At the present time there are people who are serving in these roles who may continue because they have at least two years of remaining eligibility. Still, we are looking for suggestions – names of retired ministers and ministers' partners – for leadership positions both now and in the future. The consensus is that this is fun, meaningful and creative work.

Board terms are for two years. One may serve up to *six consecutive years* on the board but no one may serve for more than two terms (four years) *in the same position* during that timeframe.

The Board meets in person in Boston each Fall. Otherwise, meetings are by conference call.

Please send your suggestions to any or all three members of the Nominating Committee:

Ellen Johnson-Fay
ellenjf@q.com
(719) 473-7059

Nancy Doughty
nwdrev@charter.net
(231) 933-4801

Ellen Brandenburg
ellen.brandenburg@gmail.com
(978) 993-4104



On behalf of UURMaPA, thank you for helping with this interesting and important work!

— Ellen Brandenburg, Chair

Directory Updates

The following members have new or changed information. See online directory for details.

Arizona/Nevada

Gretchen & Ray Manker

Ballou Channing

Dick Fewkes & Connie Johnson

Bay Area Inland

Stanley Aronson

Bob & Cynthia Latham

Central Mass

Tracey Robinson-Harris

Florida

George & Priscilla Brooks

Linnea Pearson

Heartland South

Gretchen Woods & Judy Finholm

Joseph Priestley North

Dave Hunter & Kerry Mueller

Joseph Priestley South

Daniel & Jean Higgins

Bill & Barbara Murry

Mass Bay Coastal

Victor & Cathe Carpenter

Katie Lee Crane

Northeast

Dick Norsworthy & Janice Kaszlauskas

Pacific Northwest & Western Canada

Duane Fickeisen & Judith Wells

Judith & Harry Hoehler

Barbara & Patricia Morgan

Jane A. Smith

Western Carolinas (formerly TJ SE)

Jacqueline Collins

Robert & Dillman Baker Sorrells

Directory Online!

Our *UURMaPA Directory*
is updated regularly on our website

www.uurmapa.org

*To access password-protected
information or to submit updates
please contact*

Andy Backus

2746 Broadway

Bellingham, WA 98225

andrewbackus@msn.com

Thank you!

Join the Conversation!

UURMaPA members
discuss everything from
Amnesty to Zoroastrianism



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Turning of Our Lives

(Continued from Page 7)

Karin and David Van Strien are doing well, after having moved three years ago from their home in Peterborough, NH, to a nearby retirement community. They are pictured here at a Swedish Mid-Summer Celebration in June 2011.



Gretchen and Ray Manker have just moved to a retirement community in Phoenix. They were sad to leave their home of more than 40 years but look forward to having more support. Ray is coping with Alzheimer's Disease and Gretchen, who had a rough spring and summer, is now on dialysis. They remain in good spirits, despite all they are going through.

Dan and Jean Higgins continue to struggle with health issues. Jean has Alzheimer's and Dan is having problems with his balance. He has had surgery in an attempt to deal with the condition. As Jean needs 24-hour care, their daughter came up from Atlanta to stay with her while Dan was hospitalized.

UURMaPA Has Historian

Photo by Elenaor Richardson



We are very pleased to announce that **Liz Strong** has agreed to become our Historian. Liz is a third generation Universalist with a keen interest in both the past and present. Thanks to Andy Backus and Dick Gilbert for promoting this idea

with Liz and thanks to Liz for her enthusiastic "Yes!" Now that UURMaPA is 27 years old, we're happy to have Liz stepping up to help us sort it all out.

Marge Corletti is serving as interim Minister of Religious Education at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY.

Betty Jo Middleton is teaching UU History and Polity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, with Linda Olson Peebles.

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. First they discussed the commandment "Honor thy Father and thy Mother." Then the teacher asked, "Which commandment teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one child replied, "Thou shalt not kill."



Giving Thanks

In early fall of 2000, as we had just begun an interim ministry in Norwell, MA, our phone rang at about 1 a.m. One of our son's friends in Houston called to say that our son, Keith, had been in a terrible accident in Alabama, on his way to his new employment.

Lifelight had taken him to a huge trauma center in Chattanooga, TN. We were on a 6 a.m. flight from Boston to Atlanta then to Chattanooga. Keith was alive – but just. His right lung was collapsed, his eye had been out but was replaced, and shards of backbone had entered his spinal cord. Barring stem cell miracles he'd be paralyzed from the chest down for life. We lived there three weeks with fantastic support from our new congregation.

Keith made it. He was alive. Now the problem was to get him up east to be near family. Fortunately, his doctors called for him to be taken to the Kessler Institute in Orange, NJ. He was there for a year. Then, luckily enough, there was an assisted living facility, Manorcare, about half a mile from Keith's sister, Kristan, in Mountainside, NJ. Keith requires 24/7 care from aides. This arrangement has worked out well and that is where he has lived these past years.

Keith was a true mover and shaker in the old LRY and the new YRUU. His friends are legion across the country, including his fellow "Pelicans" from Star Island. They still keep in touch with him via email and have been a wonderful support.

We have managed to support him with some assistance over this period and continue to be thankful that God saw fit to bless us with his presence for the foreseeable future, but not without many physical challenges. We are grateful that our son lives, writes and tends his gardens with a verve only he could bring to simple tasks.

There is so much in this life for which to be grateful.

Jan & Lorna Knost
Charlestown, RI



Gathering of UU Civil Rights Vets

A gathering of Unitarian Universalist Civil Rights Veterans will take place in Asheville, NC Mar. 30 -Apr. 1, following the UURMAPA conference there.

We continue to solicit the names of UUs who took some active role in the civil rights movement. If you were one such, and especially if you can identify lay people who were such, please supply their names —and ideally contact information — so that our invitation list can be as complete as possible.

E-mail ggibson@uuma.org or a send a note to Gordon Gibson at 523 N. Bertrand Street, Unit 201, Knoxville, TN 37917. Your help is most appreciated. Plans call for panel discussions and individual oral history interviews to be recorded for archival purposes.

Gordon Gibson



UURMaPA at Attleboro, MA

Last year was the first year that I (John) attended the UURMaPA Conference at Attleboro. Newly retired, I came solo. My wife, Susan Weston, was still hard at it in Brown University's development office. This year Susan, newly retired, and I attended together. We both came away from the conference moved and enthusiastic — sufficiently committed to the UURMaPA conference experience to readily agree to organize the 2012 Attleboro gathering October 2-4, 2012. Please make a note of those dates.

In 2012 we hope to continue all that we found valuable in 2011: worship that is pastoral and challenging, programming that is stimulating, thought-provoking, and provocative of both grief and joy, and collegiality fit to sustain us all during the coming year. The quality of the reflection and conversation was particularly rich, and the dialogue with Peter Morales inspiring and memorable.

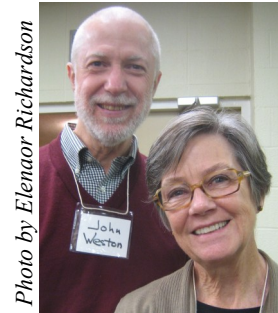
How can Susan and I, as organizers, even think of equaling the quality of 2011? Only by relying on our members. We're particularly interested in involving same-gender couples, and partners who participated vigorously in church life, and partners who simply backed away from the ministerial experience.

What we most want is to hear from you. Do you hope to attend, and if you do, what do you hope for in worship, programming, and mutual engagement? Whom do you hope to hear from? Please send us your ideas, hopes, concerns, and suggestions.

Thank you!

John & Susan Weston

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Electronic Links We stay in touch with . . .

- UURMaPA Announce, our electronic bulletin board which goes to everyone, *whose email address we have*.*.
- SpeakUP, our online chat where you can give your opinion. (See Page 12.)
- Caring Network List Serve, a forum for caring network coordinators.
- Facebook, *coming soon*, to bring current members together and invite new ones to join us to share ideas and pictures.



To learn more contact Andy Backus, our Webmaster and Database Manager, at andrewbackus@msn.com

**If you aren't getting UURMaPA Announce please send your email address to Andy.*

Let's Get Together!

UURMaPA at ASHEVILLE, NC — Conference Mar. 28-30, 2012. Join us as spring arrives in the mountains of North Carolina. We promise an engaging program, delicious food, enjoyable company (your UURMaPA colleagues) and fun sightseeing in the area. We'll meet at the Asheville Church and stay at a local, affordable hotel. We anticipate that a good time will be had by all! Registrar is Makanah Morriss, who can be reached at revs2uu@aol.com, (434) 384-7821 or 1317 Rocky Mountain Rd., Forest, VA 24551.

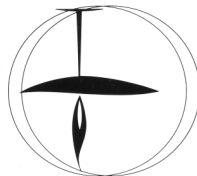
UURMaPA at SEABECK, WA — Conference Apr. 24-26, 2012. This beautiful site on Hood Canal has been enjoyed by UUs in the Pacific Northwest for many years. Come see why. Watch for details in the Spring newsletter and on our website.

UURMaPA at STAR ISLAND, Isles of Shoals, Rye, NH — Informal Gathering during Labor Day Week. Watch for details here or online, organized by Kathleen Hunter and Alan Deale.

UURMaPA at ATTLEBORO, MA — Conference at LaSalette Retreat Center, Oct. 2-4, 2012. Watch for details here and on the web (see article on Page 15).

There are now more \$200 grants for each conference. Contact registrars about eligibility.

Address Service Requested



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