

# Elderberries



the newsletter of the  
Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association

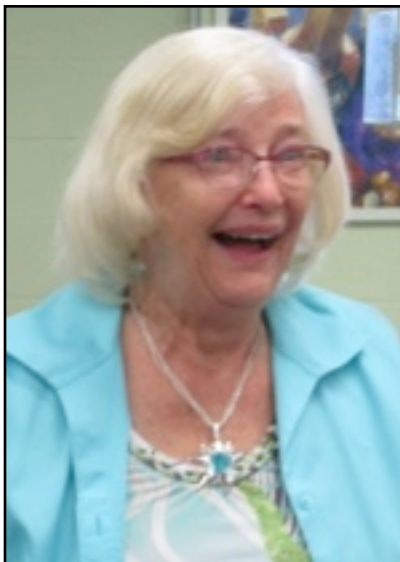
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Fall 2013

## Iska Cole Receives Unsung UU Award

The UURMaPA Board is pleased to designate Iska Cole this year's Unsung Hero. Awarded by the UURMaPA Board for the first time in 2012, the Unsung Hero Award goes to one of our UURMAPA members who has not been otherwise recognized for his or her vital contributions to our UU retired movement, and for generous service to others. It honors volunteers who have made an extraordinary contribution to our association, working behind the scenes during their retirement years.



Iska is a little surprised at the news!

After many years of activity in the ministry of her husband, David Cole, who died after a long illness in 2011, Iska dove into UURMaPA. She was the association's treasurer for seven years, a program presenter at its Attleboro conference in 1999, the

coordinator of its business meeting in

2000, and the organizer of its all-important Happy Hour in 2002 and 2003.

For many years Iska made sure that a card or a note went to UURMaPA members unable to attend the Attleboro conference. In 2012 she presented a gripping impromptu Odyssey after the scheduled presenter fell ill. And only recently was it revealed that years ago Iska crafted the handsome banner that

UURMaPans proudly display at the General Assembly parade.

At the District level, for what may be as many as thirty years, Iska coordinated the UURMaPA Caring Network in Maine. A colleague recalls: "Faithfully, every year, she sent her regional captains large packets with every detail to make the job easier, lists with addresses, and usually on a pretty decorative paper she had taken the trouble to buy with her own money. She had gatherings at her house to make us feel like a team." Another praised the administrative acumen she brought to her work: "She organized the volunteers and assigned each volunteer a number of volunteers to call. Her innovation was to send a copy of all the volunteers' lists to each volunteer. She called the volunteers 2-3 times a year to inquire about the volunteers and spouses on their list." A third sums it up: "She organized a small committee of partners. She kept us going and she kept us all alive."

For such exemplary service, the Board of the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association honors Iska Cole with its Unsung Hero Award for the year 2013, together with the accompanying cash award of \$500.

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Contact information for everyone above can be found in the on-line directory at [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) or in the printed directory.

You may view online or download the Membership Directory (updated regularly) and past newsletters at [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) under the Publications tab. The required ID is UU-SAGE and the password is WISDOM (in caps and with the hyphen.)

## From Your Editor:

What fun I'm having! Thank you all for the opportunity to edit your quarterly newsletter, *Elderberries*.

I want to express particular thanks here to the *Elderberries* Advisory Board for their good ideas and suggestions. In this issue you will see three more innovations which will be continued in subsequent editions. All of these are ideas from the Advisory Board.

First, you will see a pro/con article (page 5) expressing two sides of an issue relevant to our faith and our life in Unitarian Universalism. Two people will express two sides of an issue that is on our minds, with the invitation for you, our readers, to continue the conversation on UURMaPA SpeakUp, the list-serve for UURMaPA members. We hope that this column will engender a lively conversation among you about issues that are close to our hearts.

Second, we're going to run a column in every issue written by a member of the UUA leadership team or a member of the UUMA leadership. This issue's leadership column (page 7) is written by Harlan Limpert, Chief Operating Officer of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Third, we're going to run a regular column written by a minister's partner (see page 8). Your Board is committed to giving equal time and space to partners on a variety of topics, including positions on the Board (see article from the Nominating Committee, page 6). We believe that ministers' partners have an important perspective to share, so we are going to be soliciting their opinions on a variety of topics.

Obituaries in *Elderberries* will be noticeably shorter, with equal space given to both ministers and partners. Please note that longer and more detailed versions of the obituaries are sent out by e-mail and permanently archived on our web site.

As always, your opinions and suggestions are warmly welcomed. Please send your comments to [newsletter@uurmapa.org](mailto:newsletter@uurmapa.org) and I will give them my serious consideration.

— Judy Welles



For the past eighty years, I have started each day in the same manner. It is not a mechanical routine but something essential to my daily life. I go to the piano, and I play two preludes and fugues of Bach. I cannot think of doing otherwise. It is a sort of benediction on the house. But that is not its only meaning for me. It is a rediscovery of the world of which I have the joy of being a part. It fills me with awareness of the wonder of life, with a feeling of the incredible marvel of being a human being.

— Pablo Casals

# A Word from Your President

## Look, They Have Framed Them!



A primary source of inspiration for me is a narrative that seems to dramatize something of life's essence. Whether it be apocryphal or not, as I enter my 78th year, I find a kernel of truth in this story of impressionist painter Paul Cézanne. Here it is. For 35 years Cézanne lived in obscurity, producing masterpieces that he gave away to unsuspecting neighbors. So great was his love for his work that he never gave a thought to achieving recognition, nor did he suspect that someday he would be looked upon as the father of modern painting. Cézanne owes his first fame to a Paris art dealer who chanced upon his paintings, put some of them together, and presented the world of art with the first Cézanne exhibition. The world was astonished to discover the presence of a master. The master was just as astonished. Shortly after the exhibition opened, Cézanne, arriving at the gallery leaning on the arm of his son, could not contain his amazement when he saw his paintings on display. Turning to his son he exclaimed, "Look, they have framed them!"

Now I don't expect someone will happen upon a selection of my sermons and suddenly "frame" them for the Pulitzer Prize of Preaching. But the image of framing fascinates me.

Retirement and old age are about framing. They give us that rare opportunity to step back and see the life we have lived in a larger perspective – even a cosmic perspective. In the midst of developing a career, creating a family, leading a congregation, to say nothing of saving the world, we don't really allow ourselves the time to put a frame around what we have done and what we are doing.

I try to put myself into Cézanne's shoes. He was an old man. He had painted out of love for the truth and the beauty he saw in the world. He had given away what he created. His hands were unsteady now, his best painting days behind him. After all these years, someone had framed those paintings and put them on public display. What a thrill to see them! What a warm glow to know your work has been appreciated! What an overwhelming sense of joy that your life really has been worthwhile!

I have written meditations for decades now – in Arial Bold 16 point for easy reading – by me. Every Sunday for years they have been for me, and I hope for the congregation, a kind of pastoral prayer from a mystical religious humanist. One Christmas a member of the congregation took a few of them and put them into a lovely cursive script – and framed them! They are prized possessions.

Whether it be paintings by an artistic genius or the meditations of a journeyman preacher, the framing makes all the difference. And so it is with me as I put a frame around all those years of being and doing. "Look, they have framed them!"

— *Richard S. Gilbert*  
President of UURMaPA

**Send updates!** Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Marcia Olsen at [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org) or 744 SE Bayshore Circle, Corvallis, OR 97333. The most current Directory is online at [www.UURMAPA.org](http://www.UURMAPA.org) (ID: UU-SAGE, password WISDOM).

# What Brings You Joy?

## Cycling - John Weston



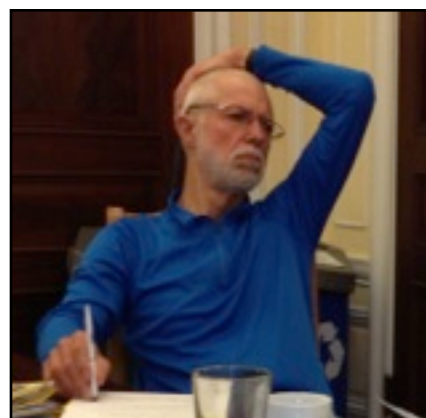
John heads out

In celebration of my my third year of retirement from ministry and the fiftieth anniversary of my graduation from high school, I rode to my high school reunion by bicycle: 17 days from Providence, Rhode Island where I reside, to Birmingham, Michigan where I grew up — 898 miles, says my little on-board trip computer. And no, this wasn't on some \$5,000 high-tech masterpiece, but a good ol' made-in-America, hybrid-tired, steel-bodied Schwinn, vintage maybe 1981. You could still deliver papers with it, as I did with its predecessor's predecessor.

I didn't just get up one morning and peddle out. Eighteen months ago at least I started talking to friends about biking to my reunion, just as, many years before, I had talked about putting away the cigarettes. The motives were not dissimilar: I want to live till I die, and I need the expectations of others to help me do what I should. But I don't just mean that I want to live a long, healthy, and shame-free life, although I do. More to the point, I want to be aware of the life I live while I'm living it, and in anticipation of living it, and in my memories of having lived it. Nothing differentiates periods of one's life like different experiences. So I began training, first coasting across the flatness that is Rhode Island and then, as my strength and wind improved, humping into the Connecticut hill country, where the uphill left me in no doubt that I had a heart. A summer of biking in the Maine mountains let me know I was ready.

Friends and family ask for my reflections. "Did I blog? Did I keep a journal?" Neither of the above. When I bike, I bike. I hum, too, a tune depending on what's up. Crossing into southeast Michigan from Ontario it was a lot of, "Doo wah doo wah doo wah ditty/Talk about the boy from Detroit city." Yes, I know it's "New York city" in the song, but I wasn't riding to New York. I also talk or sing to the sheep and cows (both fans of Ray Charles' "You Don't Know Me") and horses (whom I generally dislike, and who thus get "Sweetly sings the donkey, at the break of day"). To the very few dogs who stay in hot pursuit for any length of time I say sternly and with pointed finger, "Go home!" First Nations dogs in Ontario are the most tenacious, so much so that I made sure my pepper shot was at hand, though I never used it. When I'm not biking I eat or sleep — ten hours per day of the latter at least.

I will never forget this moment: It was my second day out. I was headed west across Connecticut. The woods on both sides of the road had been logged within the past few years, so there were nothing but scrawny saplings. Suddenly, without perceptible warning, the sky opened, and within seconds I was drenched. Drenched! Not a chance of putting on my rain jacket, and not a chance of its doing any good. I stopped, laid my bike on its side, and looked for shelter. There was none. What could I do? I just stood there laughing, secure in the knowledge that whatever would happen in the next couple of weeks was utterly beyond me to control.



*John retired in 2012, having served as UUA Transitions Director for the previous dozen years. He's on the UURMaPA board and the UUA Retirement Plan Committee, and is chair of the Council on Church Staff Finances. He and his wife Susan live in Providence, RI.*

### Lost Members

We've lost some UURMaPA members to follow-up, and we'd like to find them again. If you know the whereabouts of either of the people below, please notify our secretary and membership director, Marcia Olsen, at [Membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:Membership@uurmapa.org).

Rev. Beth Ide, last living in Verona, WI

Dolores Eaton, last living in Shaker Heights, OH



# Opposing Views Among Friends

Here we introduce a new regular feature for *Elderberries*, a pro and con discussion of an issue that matters to us and to our faith. You are invited to continue the conversation — because we know that every issue has more than two sides — by going to our on line list-serv, SpeakUp, and expressing your opinion. If you aren't already on SpeakUp, you can join by going to the UUA web page <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/speakup> and following the instructions. This chat room is managed by Andy Backus.

## What Are We Losing by Moving Away From 25 Beacon Street?

**Harry C. Green**

It seems like only yesterday when I first visited Boston as a newby UU. I remember it well even though it was 39 years ago when I parked in a local garage and began to make my way around the Beacon Hill area in search of UU sights.

I especially remember standing on the sidewalk as I identified 25 Beacon Street next door to where John Hancock once lived, across the street from the 54th Massachusetts memorial. I didn't enter "25," as I had no one in particular to see there and didn't know my way around the building.

It was a beautiful day in Boston, adding to my delight in visiting various cemeteries, book stores, churches, and the Public Garden, even getting to know the brass ducklings walking in a row.

Sunday morning I attended church at King's Chapel. It was and is a UU experience unlike any other. It was a beautiful worship service, although one that was more than a bit foreign to my experience. I met the minister, Carl Scovel, who was friendly and welcoming. I read the many plaques on the sanctuary walls, and came away with a more informed understanding of my plans to enter Wesley Seminary in the fall of 1974. While living in Boston some 20 years later, I took advantage of a more regular worship experience there.

Thus began my love affair with downtown Boston and Unitarian Universalism in particular. It never occurred to me that I might work at "25" one day.

What would I miss about Beacon Hill and "25" if I were still employed there working in a different building in a wholly different neighborhood, wherever that is?

Much of it is noted above, but I would add to that list. I think about the days I arrived on the Red Line from Dorchester, and enjoyed the opportunity to witness the Tai Chi exercises near the Park Street station, not to mention walking up Park Street to read once again that the song "America" was sung first at the Park Street Church. Going to lunch in that neighborhood, I often enjoyed the statuary on the State House grounds, and

## What Are We Gaining by Moving to 24 Farnsworth Street?

**Makanah E. Morriss**

I had the privilege and opportunity of working at UUA headquarters in Boston for 8 years. I appreciated the sense and "experience" of history that one feels by just being within the walls of 25 Beacon Street. You can almost "hear" the discussions, decisions and controversies of the past. You know that important UU foremothers and forefathers walked these same halls and worked in these same offices.

However, I am very pleased for the current UUA Boston staff and grateful to the Board and Executive leadership that made the difficult yet prophetic decision to move to 24 Farnsworth Street. The gains that will be realized are significant.

**Space:** For more than twenty-five years, the Boston-based UUA staff has been housed in several buildings (not just "25") on Beacon Hill as the size of the staff long ago outgrew the main building. The move to 24 Farnsworth will finally bring Boston based staff under one roof, with easy access to spur-of-the-moment meetings with one another. The older buildings were designed with many small offices and very few conference/meeting spaces. If one wanted to pull together a meeting of more than 5 staff, you had reserve one of the few meeting spaces, often well in advance. The new building will offer flexible and more easily changeable floor plans to accommodate shifting staff task groups. It will provide open spaces where small or larger groups can easily gather to plan, create, discuss, envision. It will embody the new understandings of individual office space and shared space for maximum effectiveness.

**Technology:** The wonderful historic buildings on Beacon Hill are a technological nightmare. The UUA IT group staff have truly been miracle workers in trying to cobble together ever-changing technological possibilities with centuries old and outdated wiring. So many technological tools considered "mainstream" today have been almost impossible to achieve because of these challenges. 24 Farnsworth will enable the UUA to finally become state of the art, and in so doing, make it possible for resources to be shared with congregations, regions,

remembered that the headquarters of the Universalist Church was located in a particular building up until the time of merger. For other lunches and evening meals I would head down Mt. Vernon Street, noting William Ellery Channing's house, on the way to Louisburg Square. Once on Charles Street, I thought often of the Universalist ministry of Ken Patton at the Charles Street Meeting House.

While there is much I might gain from the move in terms of work efficiency and the like, there is so much I would miss on a daily basis. But I suppose it would be a lot better than locating our headquarters somewhere in the midwest.

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## Help Us Keep UURMaPA Strong

### Nancy Doughty, Chair

### UURMaPA Nominating Committee

Your UURMaPA Nominating Committee, of Nancy Doughty, Chris Lilly Backus and Sheldon Bennett, is eager to have your suggestions for candidates to serve on the UURMaPA Board, with two-year terms beginning July 1, 2014.

Our Bylaws state that in even-numbered years the following positions are to be filled: Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Member-at-Large and two members of the Nominating Committee. All positions are for two-year terms. At the present time there are people serving in most of these positions who may continue because they have at least two years of eligibility remaining. We are actively seeking suggestions for the office of Secretary because Marcia Olsen will not be continuing in that position. We encourage partners to seriously think about serving in leadership positions, as we on the Nominating Committee attempt to have a balance of clergy and partners on the Board. Unexpected vacancies do occur from time to time mid-year, so we welcome suggestions for Board members now and in the future.

Would you be interested, or could you recommend someone for any of these positions? Members who have been part of the UURMaPA Board have found this a rewarding way to serve our colleagues and partners in our retirement years.

Currently the Board meets in person once yearly and monthly by conference call throughout the year to plan how best to meet the stated purpose of the organization, create programs and monitor continuing ones.

Please send your suggestions by Nov. 30 to Nominating Committee members, Nancy Doughty, [nwdrev@charter.net](mailto:nwdrev@charter.net) or 231-933-4801; Chris Backus, [chrisbackus@msn.com](mailto:chrisbackus@msn.com) or 360-715-1984; or Sheldon Bennett, [swbennett@earthlink.net](mailto:swbennett@earthlink.net) or 617-471-4946.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, thank you for your suggestions.

groups, committees, volunteers and staff in amazing new interactive ways.

**Eco/Econ Feasibility:** As any one of us who has ever lived in an old or historic house knows, the price of "history" is often very expensive upkeep and utility bills. The price tag on maintaining "25" is too big a price to pay when these monies could be better spent for resources and support for our regions and congregations. The goal is to create a building as "carbon neutral" as possible, a building that will be a "physical" living out of our 7<sup>th</sup> principle and a real model for our congregations.

24 Farnsworth will provide vast improvement in working/meeting space (including an engaging, interactive UU History and Vision Center on the first floor). It will enable the UUA Boston headquarters to truly enter the technology era as a fully functioning partner. It will model for us all what a green building can offer to its staff and its neighborhood. These are gains to applaud.

**What's YOUR opinion? Go to UURMaPA SpeakUp and let us know what you think.**

## Support for Partners

### Chris Lilly Backus

After discussing the UUMA Task Force Report on Retired Ministers (Right Relations) last fall at the 2012 Attleboro conference, the partners in attendance then suggested that we find a way to support ministers' partners, whether new or well-established or planning for retirement. I was happy to report back to attendees at this year's meeting that a task force has been formed which has gone through the UUMPs (UU Ministers' Partners) Online Chat archives to glean wisdom from eleven years' worth of discussions.

The members of this task force are: Linda Lee Berg, Liz Hill, Peter Hyatt, Roger Rochester, Jan Sammons and your writer. We met monthly from March through June, 2013, and resumed in September.

We hope to complete this first phase of our work in November. Our goal is to provide *Partner Resources and Reflections* through the UURMaPA website. We greatly appreciate web master Duane Fickeisen's help with our project. We have set January 1, 2014 as our "go live" date.

We are writing on topics that have appeared regularly on the UUMPs chat. Our purpose will also be to direct interested readers to that UUMPs chat, which is hosted by the UUA ([www.uumps/uua/lists](http://www.uumps/uua/lists)). We also will direct people to the updated retirement guide on the UURMaPA website ([www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org)) under "Publications."

# Leadership Column

## The Dawning Future

Harlan Limpert

The Ministerial Fellowship Committee's meeting in Boston last spring provided a chance to visit the future site of the new UUA headquarters. Rev. Wayne Arnason, Rev. Howard Dana and I were fortunate to get a cab, given the torrential rain in Boston, for the short trip from "25" to our soon-to-be new home at 24 Farnsworth Street in the innovation district of Boston. By foot it's just 1.2 miles, by car just slightly farther.



25 Beacon Street

We all reminisced about our very first visit to "25." Wayne described the walk up the hill from the Park Street station subway stop in Boston Common. Howard described the beautiful staircase visible as one enters the front door. The memory burned in my brain from thirty-some years ago was being impressed with the size and elegance of the president's office. I was visiting the Rev. Mark Harris, a colleague from my Starr King days, then on UUA staff in the Communications group.

Each of us elaborated on our crystal clear memories of the building we were about to sell.

Someone acknowledged that day, when reflecting on UUA's leadership's decision to sell the building, "I'm not mad, but I am sad." That captures the sentiment of thousands of us as we prepare for the move, our first since 1927.

As Chief Operating Officer of the UUA, I've been asked to be the "internal project manager" for the move, organizing numerous teams of people to handle different aspects of the move — working with the architects to design the new space, making certain the items of historical value and meaning are treated with the respect they deserve, developing timing and action plans for each step, and more. Appropriately, there is an "external" project manager with decades of experience moving organizations from one space to another. Together we are tasked with ensuring a smooth transition with as brief a disruption to the support of our congregations as possible. In April we will pack up our desks on a Friday and appear for work the following

Monday in the new building, professional movers handling all the physical transfer of files, furniture, and furnishings.

I must admit, I will miss many things about this space, not the least of which is Boston Common across the street and the Massachusetts State House next door. But I'm overwhelmed with excitement about the possibilities of our new home. A Heritage and Vision Center will enable us to lift up the history of not just New England Unitarianism, which is the bent today (partly because the building housed the American Unitarian Association before the consolidation in 1961), but the broad and rich heritage of Unitarian and Universalist congregations all across our nation. It will have reliable high-speed internet access and video conferencing capabilities that will connect us more easily to the congregations we serve. It will be an open work environment with work stations that encourage interaction and collaboration. It will be functional and comfortable — just the kind of environment staff need to support Unitarian Universalism and its congregations of all sizes.

A paraphrase of one of our hymns says, "We cherish the past but we trust the dawning future more." To learn more about the move go to <http://stewardship.blogs.uua.org/>.



*The Rev. Harlan Limpert has worked for the Unitarian Universalist Association for eleven years. Previously he worked in human resources at Target headquarters. He can be reached at [hlimpert@uua.org](mailto:hlimpert@uua.org) or 617-948-4304.*

The UUA Transitions Office will be featured in our next issue. One ongoing need of the Transitions Office is to find colleagues who can do short term coverage in congregations for medical leaves, sabbaticals, and following unexpected ministerial departures. Contact [transitions@uua.org](mailto:transitions@uua.org) if you are interested. More details on this and other Transitions Office news in our next issue.



## Partners' Column

*A new feature of Elderberries will be a regular column written by the partner of a retired minister. Because UURMaPA is an organization for both ministers and partners, it seems appropriate to bring the voice and experience of a partner into the conversation at every opportunity. Topics for this column can cover a wide range of experience, from memories to dreams for the future; from point/counterpoint to opinion pieces; from stories about church life to... well, you get the idea. I welcome your suggestions for authors, and for a permanent title for this page. Surely we can do better than "Partners' Column."*

### Finding and Refinding My Place in Church

Steven R. Storla

What is my role, my place, my identity within the UU congregation to which I belong? For me the answer has changed multiple times during my life. I was raised Unitarian in a small fellowship and was subsequently a member of three more UU congregations before I became the domestic partner of Rev. Bob Schaibly, senior minister of the First UU Church of Houston. I moved to Houston to live with Bob, and that city and that church were my home for 11 years. I flourished there personally, professionally, and spiritually. Bob and I attended GA almost every year. At church, during different years, I chaired the publicity committee, was a leader in our lay ministry group, taught adult RE classes with Bob, helped with the long-range planning process, and strengthened the denominational connections committee.

When Bob retired in 2002, we moved to Portland, Oregon, where we immediately joined the First Unitarian Church; indeed, this large and vibrant congregation was one factor in choosing this city as our relocation destination. I felt at ease right away; after all, I know how to case a congregation. Even so, I did have some readjustment to make. I was still a minister's partner, but my partner was not the minister of this congregation. I no longer knew everything that was going on at church, and I lacked the easy entry into parishioners' lives that I had in Houston.

***"I still had a nagging feeling that something was missing from my church life."***

Although I missed my old role, I knew that I did not want to take on a leadership position in this congregation. I care a great deal about the church, but the rhythms of committee work and

the dynamics of small-group interaction no longer appealed. Bob has done a great job of finding his own way. He was summer minister for our own congregation a few years ago, interim and consulting minister at nearby congregations, and he teaches courses in Buddhism. We have many wonderful friends, but I still had a nagging feeling that something was missing from my church life.



Steven with a porcine friend at Out to Pasture Animal Sanctuary in Estacada, Oregon

A year ago two young adults in the congregation approached me about their interest in starting a UU Animal Ministry group (UUAM). This was something I had wanted to do for years but had not followed through on as I did not want to be the principal leader. We met to plan, and I was impressed with their passion and positive energy. I suggested that they be co-coordinators, and I would be their mentor. We have screened a film at church — *Peaceable Kingdom*, participated in a work day at a nearby animal sanctuary, staffed an information table during the social hour, and co-sponsored a vegan picnic in the park with Adult Programs. More people are becoming involved. The experience has been wonderful for me, and I feel connected in a new way to our church. It has also brought congruence between my UU principles and my animal advocacy values. These days I feel content and fulfilled. What else will I want from my church in the future? I am not sure — a good memorial service, certainly, but not too soon!





# Turning of Our Lives

“As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”  
— Proverbs 25: 25

**Mary Adams** has been named Chair of the Library Committee at Piper Shores, an assisted living center on the Maine Coast. It's a big job!

**Suzanne Black** writes from Quartzsite, AZ. “It's a strange world here; summers are VERY hot and dry, with few people; fall, winter, and spring bring thousands of vendors, swap meets, gem shows, auto shows, RV shows, and SNOWBIRDS, including lots of old friends. I'm 71 now, and enjoying a much slower life style. I'm in love with Nature — desert flora and fauna, stars. I like to sing karaoke — I'm not great, but not bad. There is a guest room available in my RV park, and a futon in my guest bedroom if anyone would like to visit and check out this funky AZ desert town!”

**Barbara and Dick Cheatham** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. Because they met in Yosemite while college students working at Camp Curry, they celebrated by revisiting Yosemite with their son and daughter who, after listening to their parents' interminable Yosemite recollections, realized that Barbara and Dick had actually been young and full of devilment in by-gone years. Surprise!



Phil and Joyce dance the night away.

**Gail Collins-Ranadive** first came to the Las Vegas area to do an interim ministry back in 2000, then retired here “in order to go deeper into what this landscape has to teach my spirit. I am thrilled that five years of effort will become both a paperback and an e-book by next April, and an audio book after that. I've signed a contract with Homebound Publications, an independent press in CT, for my book of reflections tentatively titled, *Chewing Sand; An Eco-Spiritual Taste of the Mojave Desert*. (By the way, this publishing house is interested in memoirs, for those of you into that.)”

**Mary Louise DeWolf** writes that her book, *A Cracker Gal Finds Religion*, was published in 2011, a year after she retired from the ministry. The sub-title is “A Life Journey Through Stories, Poems and Sermons.” The first part of the book is about growing up in a religiously divided family and how she found Unitarian Universalism. If anyone wants to order it, she suggests going to AuthorHouse, the company that printed it.

**Joyce and Dick Gilbert** took UURMAPA to Cheadle, Staffordshire, UK, attending the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of **The Rev. Philip and Joyce Silk**. Phil and Dick were seminary classmates at St. Lawrence Theological School. Phil served UU congregations in MA and IA before moving with Joyce to the UK, where he taught school and preached at Unitarian congregations. Dick persuaded Phil to join the Elderberries e-mail list to keep lines between the US and the UK open.

Immediately after 25 years at the Boise (ID) UU Fellowship and 8 years as UUA Trustee from the Pacific Northwest District, **Elizabeth Greene** took the bus to St. Gertrude's Monastery, a Benedictine women's community in Cottonwood, Idaho. Thirty-two days with those fabulous women did the job of centering her and dissipating the anxiety of “what will retirement mean?” She then went in for gluteal re-attachment surgery, the only person in Boise who has had this procedure, “giving me a unique butt in my town. I'll be off crutches by early November, then traveling to Australia to do my grandson's wedding. January brings the first month of ‘regular life’ as a retired person.”

**Janet Hawkes** writes that the family is delighted that her grandson has been accepted into Chef School in Oregon. The family is getting some delicious dinners.

**Kit Ketcham** just returned from a wonderful 50th college reunion at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon (where she got her BA in 1963), after enjoying a two week Scandinavian cruise with her sister, exploring their Norwegian and Swedish roots. All the drama surrounding a recalcitrant retina (4 surgeries!) was over before the trip, thankfully. Kit is feeling great and looking forward to serving the Pacific UU Fellowship in Astoria, Oregon, in an extremely part-time way.



Kit in Norway

**Jan and Lorna Knost** are enjoying the “white noise” of living in South County, RI, where they garden and enjoy their 9 nine grandchildren’s occasional visits. Lorna’s years-ago fall challenges her to get around, but she does so with Rhode Island grit. Jan was recently the second highest vote-getter in the election to the Charlestown, RI Planning Commission. Fly fishing offers him the occasional opportunity to contribute something for dinner. Their new puppy, named “Preacher,” joins them in sending greetings.

**Tom and Mary Korson** are enjoying their brand-new house, in the same lovely neighborhood; on the main level there are no steps or stairs. And of course he continues writing political satire: [apocryphalpress.com](http://apocryphalpress.com), “your best source for the news that didn’t happen.” It’s his therapy.

*Buddha’s Map: Awakening Serenity and Insight in the Heart of Meditation* is available in paperback and e-book through [www.buddhasmap.com](http://www.buddhasmap.com). Through the earliest records of the Buddha’s talks (as compared to later commentators), we find a simple and elegant practice. When he died, his teaching became an “-ism” – Buddhism. Shortcuts, bypasses, scenic tours, and alternate destinations were added and deleted. *Buddha’s Map* offers rare and intimate insights into his original practice and meditative states monks are not allowed to discuss. The author, **Doug Kraft**, is a UU minister, psychotherapist, and long time student and teacher of meditation. Through personal stories and practical advice, he suggests everyone can experience the Buddha’s original practice.

**John C. Morgan**, who retired from the parish ministry nearly ten years ago, has been teaching philosophy and ethics at Albright College in Reading, PA ever since. He also has continued to have books published, the latest: *A Teacher, His Students and the Great Questions of Life*, now being used in philosophy classes and other small groups. It is available on Kindle and print form on Amazon. Excerpts from John’s blog, <http://drjohnmorgan.wordpress.com/>, are published regularly in “The Reading Eagle.”

**Betty Murdock** is still living at home at age 84, renting a house from All Souls UU in Tulsa, her home congregation. Although she is on dialysis twice a week, with important help and support from All Souls, she remains busy and active. About four years ago she decided to try drawing, and has now added water color to her drawings. She writes, “This is such an enjoyable pastime that I probably spend way too much time at it. Life is treating me well.”



Betty Murdock in 2010

In their 22nd year of retirement, **Helen Pickett** has been diagnosed with dementia. Her memory loss and confusion are increasing, but she is affectionate, cooperative, and pleasant to be with. “We banter a lot and she likes my cooking,” **Gene** writes. “I am full time caregiver, cook, and housekeeper. We work many jigsaw puzzles and watch the Red Sox. Sadness is a constant companion, but so is love.” Gene has just marked his 88th birthday, and last year they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a trip down the Danube river with their three daughters. Gene continues, “We are still fortunate in many ways. We live in a small Senior Residence and are part of a very supportive community. Chatham is a lovely small seaside town and the beauty of the ocean is not far away.”

Over a year ago, **Gene Reeves** retired from full-time teaching at Renmin University of China. His wife **Yayoi** and he reluctantly gave up their Beijing home and returned to homes in Tokyo and Chicago. He writes, “Despite bad air, I loved Beijing and Renmin University. Now we live mostly in Tokyo, at Risho Kosei-kai. Nothing can compare with Tokyo for music, both classical and jazz. But we love to be in Chicago, on the lake, in summer and manage to get there a couple of other times a year as well. I continue to give talks and participate in conferences here and there, in recent months in Spain, Greece, China, Japan, and Chicago. I’m also working on a couple of books. *An Introduction to the Lotus Sutra* is in final stages before publication. My big project, *A Buddhist Natural Theology*, which relates Lotus Sutra Buddhism to process philosophy, is still a mountain to climb.

**Dave Rickard** died unexpectedly on May 14th at his Little Rock home, at age 74. He graduated from DePauw University. While working for the FAA, he earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the Kennedy School, Harvard University in 1972. When his first wife, Jean, joined the UU ministry, Dave became active in UUMPs. He edited the UUMPs newsletter from 1983-1990. He served as a consultant to UUA congregations interested in growth and fundraising. Dave was passionate about civil rights and social justice, serving as a



Dave Rickard

policy advisor and advocate for free speech, maternal and child health, and the separation of church and state. He served as President of the Central Arkansas Library System, Secretary of the state ACLU, and President of the UU Church of Little Rock. In 2002, he was named Civil Libertarian of the year by the ACLU of Arkansas. He was a staunch supporter of the Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and served as its President. Dave is survived by his sons, Kenneth and Michael; his grandchildren, and his second wife, Judy. His first wife, Jean M. Rowe, has served on the UURMaPA board and is a Caring Coordinator for our Western Carolinas region.

**Jerry Schatz** is an Affiliated Scholar of the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center. He was a Law Library of Congress Human Rights Day panelist, speaking on Privacy Rights and Ethical Tensions in Medicine and Research; see Federal Bar Association D.C. Chapter Forum, [http://www.dcchapterfba.org/Schatz\\_FBA\\_DC\\_2013Apr.pdf](http://www.dcchapterfba.org/Schatz_FBA_DC_2013Apr.pdf).

**Marilyn Sewall** writes: “*Raw Faith*, a documentary film about my transition out of ministry, is now going to Australia, the first stop since our recent signing of an international contract. The film can be seen on Netflix.”

**Tricia Tummino** was named Minister Emerita of the First UU Society of Middleboro, MA on September 15, 2013.

*Did you know that the UURMaPA web site has a section called “How We Stay Active”? Take a look at <http://www.uurmapa.org/stayactive.html> for inspiration, then send your links and photos to our web master at [webmaster@uurmapa.com](mailto:webmaster@uurmapa.com).*

## From the Treasurer

Paul L’Herrou

You will soon be receiving our autumn letter from President Dick Gilbert asking for your financial support of UURMaPA. Our modest non-profit organization depends almost entirely upon your voluntary donations. We know that some of you are able to be quite generous, while others may not be in a position to donate at all, but no one is ever left out of the fold. Regardless of our ability to contribute financially or otherwise (to paraphrase the words of a well known Freedom song), *all UURMaPans gonna sit at the welcome table*.

On a related subject... Some years ago, a small group of visionaries saw the wisdom of establishing an UURMaPA Endowment Fund. The intent was, and continues to be, to eventually provide a source of funds to keep UURMaPA financially stable through the ups and downs of our members' ability to support a vibrant organization. Since that time, our fledgling endowment has been held in a certificate of deposit, as a safe way to weather the recent recession years. The Board has now decided that it is time to move our funds into the UUA’s Common Endowment Fund, which practices socially responsible investing and has a history of conservative financial management for modest healthy growth.

Developing an endowment depends on the support of many of us, and there are several ways that you

might be able to help. If you the ability to make an ample current gift, you might want have to take advantage of the UUA’s Umbrella Giving Program. One gift to the UUA can be split between the UUA and other UU organizations, such as a UU church and/or the UURMaPA Endowment. Another option would be to simply make a direct tax-deductible gift to the UURMaPA Endowment.

If, like many of us, you are unable to be a current philanthropist, you might think about establishing a charitable gift annuity with the UUA. The annuity will provide a guaranteed income throughout your life; a current tax deduction if you need it; and when you are gone the remainder can go to one or several UU related organizations, including the UUA, a UU church, and UURMaPA.

If you would like more information about any of these options, you can contact [giftplans@uua.org](mailto:giftplans@uua.org) or visit [www.uua.org/giftplanning](http://www.uua.org/giftplanning) or contact me at [paulherrou@gmail.com](mailto:paulherrou@gmail.com).

If I had my life to live over again, I would have made a rule to read some poetry and listen to some music at least once a week; for perhaps the parts of my brain now atrophied would thus have been kept active through use. The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably the moral character, by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature.

— Charles Darwin



## UURMaPA Board Reviews and Renews

The newly enlarged UURMAPA Board (from 7-9 members) met September 29-October 2, our last meeting at Pickett-Eliot House in Boston. This is the only face-to-face meeting of the year; otherwise we meet monthly by conference call. **Margi Nasemann** and new Board member **Liz McMaster** reported on the Caring Network, UURMaPA's support system for members. Caring Network Coordinators provide pastoral care and some referrals (especially for financial needs), and



Liz McMaster and Jim Eller

urge members to plan local gatherings and to share activities in *Elderberries*. Secretary **Marcia Olsen** presented a map of members showing great concentration in New England, Florida and the Pacific Northwest.

Treasurer **Paul L'Herrou** recommended placing our Endowment Fund in the UUA Common Endowment. That motion was passed unanimously. **John Weston**, who carries the Conferences portfolio, reported on record registration for the Attleboro conference (October 1-3) to hear Kay Montgomery report on her 30 years at "25." A May 2014 conference at Seabeck, WA, is planned. The Board decided to grant free registration, room and board



Paul L'Herrou and Doug Gallager

to conference coordinators. There is also financial assistance available for those who need it to attend conferences and other UURMAPA gatherings. John also represents UURMAPA on the Council on Church Staff Finances, which he chairs.

**Judy Welles**, editor of *Elderberries*, led a discussion on our quarterly newsletter and how it can be used to further the mission of UURMaPA. UUA staff members will be submitting articles. Shorter obituaries will be printed with longer articles posted on our website by webmaster **Duane Fickeisen**, who also represented the UUMA at the meeting. The Board will establish a Facebook page. The Board will encourage currently-serving UUMA members to access UURMAPA resources on our website.

President **Dick Gilbert** led discussions with UUA staff from the ministries section. There was continued discus-



Keith Kron, Transitions Director; Sarah Lammert, Director of Ministries and Faith Development; and Dick Gilbert, UURMaPA President

sion of the relationship between retired ministers and partners and interim and settled ministers. **Doug Gallager** is the Board representative who will coordinate with UUMA Good Offices. Vice-President **Jim Eller** reported on UURMaPA's presence at GA in a range of



Linda Rose, Group Insurance Manager; and Richard Nugent, Church Staff Finances Director

workshops and special luncheons.

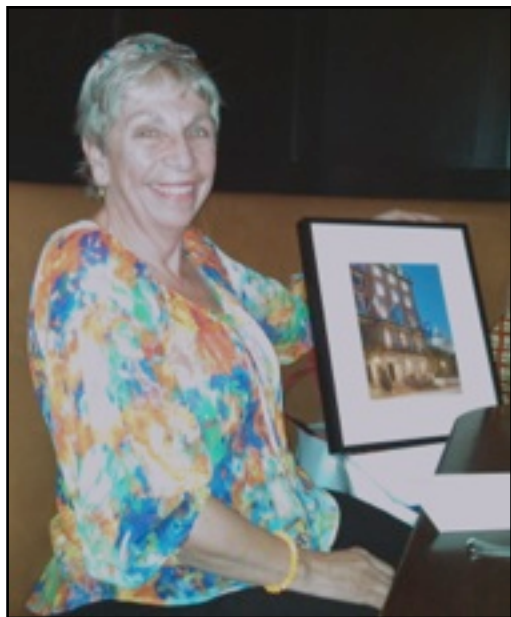
Perhaps the most important program innovation to come from the meeting was for the Board to have a second yearly in-person meeting, a "moveable feast" in various parts of the country where there is a concentration of members. The Board would provide the program – an emerging seminar on retirement – while local members would simply have to make logistical arrangements. Tentative plans are for February 2015 in Florida.

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Joyce

Joyce Stewart has long been one of the most helpful people on the UUA staff. Rock solid, knowledgeable and gracious, with a warm sense of humor, Joyce has led many of us through the murky intricacies of insurance and retirement plans as well as other benefits and sources of aid. She made sure that the transition to the new retirement plan went as smoothly as possible and that the particular needs of ministers were met. When problems arose, she went to bat for those of us with individual issues, as well as by insisting that there be retirement plan staff who were properly trained and qualified to serve us.

This fall, Joyce has had to take early retirement due to short-term memory problems. Recently, on behalf of UURMaPA, Susan and John Weston and Sylvia Howe and Paul L'Herrou took Joyce and her husband, Bob, out for an elegant lunch at The Sole Proprietor in Worcester, Mass. Joyce was presented with a beautiful, framed photograph of 25 Beacon St., signed by the photographer, John Benton (husband of the Rev. Kendra Ford). They also presented Joyce a check for \$400, the total of contributions made by participants at the Fall Conference, as mad money for their future adventures.

What might those adventures be? Time with children and grandchildren topped the list. And then, there was a well-stocked pop-up trailer, waiting in the driveway to be hitched up at any time to provide comfortable camping for a local jaunt or an extended trip. In Joyce's husband Bob's words, "So we don't have to try to get up from the ground in the morning."



Joyce and her gift, a photo of 25 Beacon Street

## Request for Book Proposal - About Aging and Living as a Senior

Skinner House Books announces a search for an author or authors to write a book that addresses the experience of people who identify as seniors or as elderly. Ideally, this book would address the spiritual and perhaps theological aspects aging. It would help readers to reflect on their lives, particularly regarding issues frequently associated with aging. These may include, but are not limited to: a decline in physical ability, the spiritual gifts of aging, a new appreciation of time, the loss of loved ones, the approaching end of life, adjusting to retirement, loneliness, reminiscing/life review, and passing along wisdom.

We are intentionally leaving the specifics about the form of the book open-ended. Proposals should include the following, all in one document:

- your name/s, addresses, and contact information
- your qualifications to write this book
- a summary of the book (2–10 pages) which describes what it is and how it would be structured, including a table of contents
- a draft of the Introduction
- a sample chapter (not necessarily the first chapter) or a representative sampling of the shorter pieces of writing that would make up the book

Submissions should be sent by December 1, 2013 to: Betsy Martin ([bmartin@uua.org](mailto:bmartin@uua.org)), Skinner House Books, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Benard, Editorial Director of Skinner House Books, at [mbenard@uua.org](mailto:mbenard@uua.org)

## Welcome, New Members!

The following people have joined UURMaPA since our last newsletter went out August 1. The best contact information will always be found in the on-line Directory, which is updated approximately monthly. From our web site, [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org), go to the Publications page, scroll down, and click on the image of the Directory. The ID is UU-SAGE and the Password is WISDOM.

James and Delfina Anderson  
Daniel and Katherine Brosier  
Bruce and Mary Davis  
Brendan Hadash  
Dennis and Mary Kay Hamilton  
Marni Harmony and Nancy Bauer  
Janet Johnson  
Drew Kennedy and Lois Wesener  
Douglas and Erika Kraft  
Virginia (Ginger) Luke and Donald Chery  
Paul and Julia Sprecher  
Angeline (Angie) Thiesen



## UURMAPA NE a Sunny Success

Eleanor Richardson

The UURMAPA Northeast Conference Oct. 1-3 was the largest in recent memory, with 56 attending. The sunny, 80° weather made it seem more like California than Attleboro, MA, with many small groups meeting outside in a wonderland of luminous maples. We threw open the windows, letting in the summery sunny breezes.

Excellent advance organization by Chairs Carol Taylor and Joel Weaver made different elements of the conference flow seamlessly together, as we addressed the



Carol Taylor and Joel Weaver

issues that preoccupy all of us who seek a healthy retirement, emotional, spiritual, and physical. In sharing circles, among our “congregation of clergy and spouses,” we were able to open up to each other, and offer support. After all, that is what UURMAPA is really about.

La Salette’s new chef offered a variety of delicious foods, while Sylvia Howe, Paul L’Herrou and John and Susan Weston put on two receptions, the second in honor of guest speaker Kay Montgomery, retiring Executive Vice President of the UUA. Kay told us how she survived knowing too much at 25 Beacon for more than 30 years, during 5 presidencies.



Kay’s rapt audience included Marcia Olsen, Liz Strong, Susan and John Weston, and Polly Leland Mayer

Our Wednesday evening musicale was relaxing and evocative. Tenor Dan and pianist Jan Karney from the Philadelphia area have been making music together since they were teenagers. Both the quality of performance and choice of repertoire were outstanding.

Of course, we share boundless resources for worship. Elizabeth Strong evoked *Charlotte’s Web*, as we remembered departed colleagues. Peter and Eleanor Richardson shared different takes on what makes a healthy retirement. Following a lively business meeting, where Iska Cole was astonished at being named UURMAPA’s Unsung Hero, Dennis Daniel, Sidney Wilde, and Andy Backus shared a wealth of poetry by our late UU troubador Ric Masten in the closing worship.



Preach it, Dennis!

We missed those who couldn’t make it this year, but rejoiced in a good batch of newbies, and look forward to next year. (Save the dates: September 29-October 2, 2014.)



Intrepid photographer and journalist Eleanor Richardson

To view a slide show with more of Eleanor’s photos from Attleboro, go to <http://youtu.be/3IleUA3t9DQ>

Regarding this conference, **Peter Baldwin** writes: Carolyn and I viewed this gathering from the perspective of having attended fourteen times over the past fifteen years. My goodness!



Years ago, on the day following hip surgery, an occupational therapist was instructing me how to climb stairs using crutches. The therapist told me to mount the first step with my good leg, then to lift my bad leg up to join my good leg. I turned to the therapist and said “I don't have a bad leg. I do have a recovering leg that is being assisted by a helping leg. Do you tell a child, who is limping with difficulty through school, that she or he has a bad mind, a bad brain?”

I read a physician's case book intended for the general public as well as fellow physicians. I was disturbed by his characterizing all infirmities as betrayals perpetrated by our bodies. The author wrote of infirmities as failures. I traced him via his web page, and got him via e-mail. He phoned me. I think you can imagine my line with him. I talked with him of challenges versus insults suffered. and of fading versus failing.

Carolyn and I were delighted during our UURMaPA visits with the many joys in life we all shared. Of course we are challenged in many ways, and we are each fading. We were moved not only by nurturing worship services. We were touched by the nourishing provided in every program and activity. Not only were we nourished by the new chef and his team; we were nourished by the excellent food-for-thought.

## Looking for Retired Good Officers Doug Gallagher

The UUMA is expanding the Good Offices program to implement one of the recommendations of the Task Force on Retired Ministry. The UURMaPA Board is looking for nominations for UURMaPA Good Officers from all five regions in the US and from Canada. These people would receive the same training as other UUMA Good Officers, and additional training to enable settled, interim and retired ministers to develop covenants which will guide and inform their ongoing professional relationships. If you know of a retired minister who would be good in this important work, please let me know. The UURMaPA board will decide on our candidates during the December board conference call. ([DWGallager@UUMA.org](mailto:DWGallager@UUMA.org))

## To Be Remembered Well

*“You'd better do this soon, because if you don't, someone else will. And they'll tell the truth.”*

— Anonymous

Did you know that the archived obituaries on the UURMaPA web site are, in many cases, the only written records of lives and deaths kept by the UUA? We take our obituaries seriously, not only for this reason, but because those among us who die each year are beloved by many others, whose hearts long for them to be remembered well.

And don't we all deserve to be remembered well?

For this reason, we encourage you to spend some time writing your own obituary — telling your story, as it were — so that when your time comes, you will be remembered in the way you deserve.

We are grateful to the people in the Office of Ministries and Faith Development for their groundwork in providing death notices to us and to many other UU organizations. And we're also deeply grateful to Jay Atkinson and Chris Lilly Backus, who elaborate on the material provided by the UUA to write both the long versions (sent by e-mail and archived on the web site) and the short versions (published here) of ministers and their partners, respectively.

How about making this task easier for them by writing some information about yourself and keeping it on file with the UURMaPA Secretary? Of course you should include schooling, professional service, and the names of close family members. But in addition, think of the ways that your life and your values could be described. What were some essential lines of poetry for you, or songs that perfectly described your feelings? Who were your mentors, and why? What are some of your proudest accomplishments? In what ways were you lucky? What were some of your particular challenges? Did you ever write anything that described your understanding of ministry or of your life's task? If so, please include it.

When you're satisfied with it, please send it to our secretary, using the address [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org), which will be consistent no matter who the secretary is. And while you're at it, give a copy to your minister. Wouldn't you have appreciated such a gesture for the memorial services you've conducted?



**UURMaPA Board 2013-14**

Front row: Jim Eller, Margi Naseman, Marcia Olsen  
Center row: Paul L'Herrou, Judy Welles, Dick Gilbert  
Back Row: Doug Gallagher, Liz McMaster, John Weston

## *In Memoriam*

*Longer and more detailed versions of all obituaries can be found on the UURMaPA web site at <http://www.uurmapa.org/obituaries.html>. No password is necessary to access that page.*



**George W. Brandenburg, Ph.D.**, 69, husband of the Rev. Ellen L. Brandenburg, died unexpectedly on Sept. 14 at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington, MA. His wife, their children, a cousin, and his minister were with him.

He earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from Harvard and held appointments researching and teaching particle physics at the Max Planck Institute in Munich, Germany; Stanford Linear Accelerator Center; and MIT. He directed the High-Energy Physics Laboratory at Harvard until his retirement in 2008. Just prior to his retirement he worked on the Atlas Experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland.

George was an avid sailor, pilot, musician, skier and maritime historian. He was a devoted member of First Church in Salem, Unitarian.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years; by their daughter, Anna Brandenburg, of Concord, NH; their son, Peter Brandenburg, and their daughter-in-law, Krisztina Holly, of Los Angeles; and his brother, John Brandenburg, of Maple Grove, MN.

Donations in his name may be made to the Star Island Family Retreat and Conference Center, 30 Middle St., Portsmouth, NH 03801.

Condolences may go to Ellen Brandenburg, 91 Essex St., Salem, MA 01970.

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**The Rev. R. Lanier Clance**, who grew from an early Baptist background to pursue an idiosyncratic “existential ministry,” died at his home in the Druid Hills area of Atlanta, Georgia, on April 15, 2013, at the age of 74.

A feminist, humanist, and all-around political activist, his beliefs led him to work with the National Organization of Women, the American Civil Liberties Union, and various other community organizations. He was also a practitioner of Gestalt and existentialist therapies.

As one of the founders of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, Rev. Clance helped form a congregation which was intentionally diverse, bringing together people from many different communities and helping them view life through a more expansive and generous lens.

Robert Lanier Clance was born in Jacksonville, Florida, on December 18, 1938. Earning a B.A. from Lynchburg College and a B.D. from Lexington Theological Seminary (both Disciples of Christ schools), Mr. Clance eventually embraced the UU tradition and in 1965 accepted a call to the First Universalist (now UU) Church of North Olmstead, Ohio. He was ordained there on February 20, 1966, and stayed until 1974.

He then went on to found the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta, GA in 1976. He served there (and at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Riverdale in Atlanta, GA from 1996-1998) until his retirement in 2001, and was named Minister Emeritus of the First Existentialist Congregation of Atlanta in 2001.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Pauline Rose Clance and Nancy Zumoff at 1293 Fairview Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30306.



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**Susan Elizabeth Cooper**, 90, widow of the Rev. Henry Cooper, died Oct. 17, 2012, in Burlington, VT. She was born Aug. 13, 1922, in Indianapolis, IN. The family lived in Alabama and Washington before settling in Michigan. Susan graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1940 and earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Michigan in 1944.

*In Memoriam, cont'd*

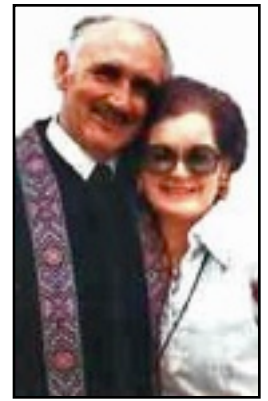
In 1944, Susan married Henry Cooper, following his return as an ambulance driver for the American Field Service in the Middle East. After the war, Henry attended Meadville Lombard. The Coopers served congregations in WI, NH, MA, and VT. Susan participated fully in church activities.

Susan taught school briefly and took graduate courses at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. Committed to social justice, she worked for civil rights and for the peace movement. After Henry's death in 1984, she moved to Burlington where she was active in the UU Society there and in the AAUW. She volunteered at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont and met with friends monthly to read plays aloud. During the last three years of her life she participated in a clinical research trial of a drug designed to alter the course of Alzheimer's disease.

Susan is remembered for her feisty personality, her quirky wit, her remarkable vocabulary, her knowledge of current and historical events, and her concern for the needs of other residents of her retirement community.

She is survived by her daughter, Marga Sproul and her son-in-law, Glenn, of South Burlington; her son, Paul Cooper and her daughter-in-law, Rebecca Eaton, of Kennebunkport, ME; her daughter, Christine Cooper of Seattle; her son, Hal Cooper of Moscow, ID; and five grandchildren.

Notes of remembrance may go to Dr. Marga S. Sproul, G-8 Stonehedge Dr., S. Burlington, VT 05403.



Susan and Henry Cooper

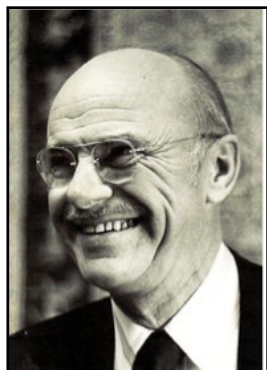
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**The Rev. Carol Edwards** died on August 22, 2013 in an Abingdon, Virginia hospice. Carol was born in Pacific Palisades, CA, three days before Christmas, 1924. Her love of children drew her to teach, then direct an early education children's program in Santa Monica. She received her formal training in human development and education at the Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena.

An active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica before being hired as their Director of Religious Education, they later ordained her as Minister of Religious Education. In 1988 she was called as Minister of Religious Education to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA.

In 1991, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Starr King School for the Ministry for her outstanding work as a pioneering Minister of Religious Education. She served as President of the Unitarian Universalist Liberal Religious Educators Association from 1985-87.

After retiring from professional ministry in 1994, Carol moved to Abingdon, VA in 2003, where she helped develop an intentional co-housing community and became one of its first residents. Over the years Carol's declining energy created a growing desire for simplicity in her life, and "Keep it Simple" became her motto. This extended to her spiritual life and during her last few years she became a Quaker.



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**The Rev. Dr. Philip R. Giles**, whose career spanned 54 years of distinguished service in parish ministry, denominational leadership, and armed forces chaplaincy, died on July 2, 2013, aged 96.

Mr. Giles was the last General Superintendent of the Universalist Church of America (UCA) prior to its consolidation with the American Unitarian Association (AUA) in 1961.

Philip Randall Giles was born in Haverhill, MA on January 23, 1917. He earned a B.A. from Tufts College and an S.T.B. from Crane Theological School, both in 1942, and later received honorary doctorates from Tufts and St. Lawrence University.

In 1939, Mr. Giles began parish ministry at the Universalist Church in Southbridge, MA, where he was ordained by the Massachusetts Universalist Convention in 1942.

After WWII, the Rev. Mr. Giles was settled at the White Memorial Universalist Church in Concord, NH from 1946 until 1949, when he joined the Universalist headquarters staff, where he was elected General Superintendent in 1957. In 1961, he joined the staff of the UUA, where he served in various positions until 1974.



*In Memoriam, cont'd*

Dr. Giles subsequently held settlements in Muncie, IN; Denver, CO (where he was named Minister Emeritus in 1988); and Corpus Christi, TX. In his later career in interim ministry, he served churches RI; Croydon, England; MA; and TX.

Philip Giles was preceded in death by his wife, Aurelie, and a brother, Paul, of Concord, NH. Notes of condolence may be sent to his daughters, Lee Giles Hirstein at 2442 Charleston Drive, #6, Schaumburg, Illinois 60193; or Susan Giles Godsey at P.O. Box 128, Nehalem, Oregon 97131.



**The Rev. Fred Gillis** died at age 72 on July 14, 2013 after a long battle with Lewy body disease.

Frederick Ellsworth Gillis was born in Cambridge, MA, on December 12, 1940 to Raymond and Amy Mann Gillis. He was graduated with a B.S. from Tufts University in 1962 and an S.T.B from Harvard Divinity School in 1965.

Mr. Gillis was ordained at the Channing Unitarian Church in Rockland, MA, in 1966, serving there from 1965 to 1969. Subsequent parish settlements were in Halifax, Nova Scotia and East Greenwich, RI, where he was named Minister Emeritus in 2003. He then moved on to interim ministries at UU churches in Rutland, VT and Peterborough, NH before final retirement.

During more than four decades in parish ministry, the Rev. Mr. Gillis was steadily active in many local community groups and the larger UU movement, including the Fair Housing and Human Rights Association in Rockland, MA; the Metro Area Family Planning Association in Halifax, Nova Scotia; the Canadian Unitarian Council; and the Memorial Society of Rhode Island. He served in leadership of the Ballou Channing Chapter of the UUMA and on the Executive Board of the UUMA at large from 1989 to 1991.

Fred is survived by his wife, Judy Stewart Gillis of Concord, New Hampshire, and his former wife, Kate Gillis of West Warwick, Rhode Island. Notes of condolence may be sent to Judy Gillis at 6 Wildemere Terrace, Concord, NH 03301.

**Arlene Shaw Kaufmann**, 86, widow of the Rev. Robert F. Kaufmann, died Sept. 1 in Bellevue, WA. Her health had started to decline last December. The Kaufmanns served churches in California, Florida, Minnesota and New York. Bob was a parish minister and also served several interim ministries. Arlene is survived by her children, Susan S. Kaufmann and Richard Kaufmann, by her two grandchildren and her daughter-in-law, Pam Kaufmann.

Her daughter described Arlene as “a perpetual student.” She studied nutrition and nursing. She also enjoyed playing bridge and participating in her book club. She was a serious walker, who clocked four miles a day. The Kaufmanns became interested in patent medicines. They donated their extensive collection of elixirs and “fake cures” to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Arlene was also an avid postcard collector.

She and Bob were active in UURMaPA and enjoyed the occasional get-together. Arlene was a very social person. One friend says, “Arlene was a bright, charming, and gracious woman who collected many things including friends and bracelets of all sizes and descriptions. I will miss her.”

Notes of remembrance may be sent to Arlene’s daughter, Susan Kaufmann, 13825 SE 60<sup>th</sup> St., Bellevue, WA 98006.



Arlene and Bob Kaufmann in New Zealand



**Janette Browning Foster Storm**, 99, widow of the Rev.

Carl A. Storm, died peacefully in her sleep on September 14 in Lynchburg, VA, just 11 days before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

She was born in Hartford, CT on September 25, 1913 to William and Charlotte Foster. Her mother died when she was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, so she became the female head of the house at an early age. She graduated from Stafford Springs High School and attended Pine Manor Junior College, LaSalle College, and Wellesley College.

In 1939, at age 26, she married Carl A. Storm, beginning her lifelong role as a homemaker, who actively supported Carl’s professional life as a UU minister and as a professor of sociology. They

*In Memoriam, cont'd*

served congregations in Exeter, NH; Lincoln, NE; Minneapolis, MN; Schenectady, NY; and Lynchburg, VA. When they took a year's sabbatical in Edinburgh, Scotland, Janette saw to myriad details. She was married to Carl for 57 years, until his death in 1996.

She loved music and was a "phenomenal" cook. She will also be remembered for her wit and her fiercely independent spirit. She was an active member and avid supporter of the League of Women Voters.

She was preceded in death by her son, Jon, and her grandson, Derek. She is survived by her son, Mark, her daughter-in-law, Donna, two grandchildren, and one great grandson, all of the greater Lynchburg area.

Notes of remembrance may be sent to Mark Storm, 211 Ivy West Ct., Forest, VA 24551.

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**Carolyn Ford Taylor**, 74, wife of the Rev. Todd J. Taylor, died August 27, 2013 in hospice care in Taos, NM, after a lengthy illness.

She was woman with many interests and gifts. She operated an art gallery in Knoxville, TN for several years. After her children were grown, she had time to develop her own talents in fiber arts, jewelry making, weaving, music, creative writing and designing children's "wearable art" clothing.

Carolyn earned an advanced degree in early childhood education and taught pre-school in private schools in Atlanta, GA. She also studied with Diane Stein, author of books on women's rituals and healing. Carolyn became a Reiki Master, teaching students at home and abroad.

Over the years she led travel groups for church women, which inspired her to start her own travel company, "Women with Wings." Collaborating with a larger tour company in California, she led groups of women on tours overseas to destinations including Spain, France, Thailand and India. She retired from the travel business in the spring of 2001 and moved to Taos, NM.

Carolyn is survived by her husband of forty years, three daughters from an earlier marriage: Jenifer Valingo, Georgia Atkinson and Michele Marcon; two stepsons, Wannie Taylor, Todd Eliot Taylor and a stepdaughter, Jenai Taylor; eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren; by her brother, Gerald J. Ford, and four nieces and two nephews.

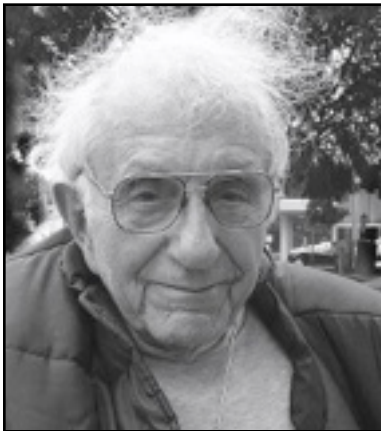
Notes of remembrance may go to Todd Taylor, P.O. Box 658, Arroyo Seco, NM 87514.

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When her spouse of 43 years, **Richard F. Vincent**, died three years ago, Audrey neglected to inform *Elderberries*. As time passed she came to realize more deeply how we revisit our own lives as we appreciate the richness of the human

experience through reading of others' lives. Perhaps there are those who can relate to Dick's life as a 1942 graduate of Tufts (College of Engineering) where chapel experiences provided by Crane Seminary faculty inspired him to become a Universalist. A survivor of WWII, Dick mustered out as Lt. Commander USN, yet became a life-long peace activist, which he attributed to the transformative experience of having been among the first to arrive in Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped.



A Renaissance man, Dick enjoyed a 38 year career in the oil fields of California, Iran, and Scotland while making time for wilderness and artistic pursuits. He and Audrey met on a Sierra Club outing in 1966 and were married by Berkeley Blake on a mountain top in Ojai, CA.

Ministry for Audrey was a second career. Dick, newly retired, was reluctant to become "the vicar's wife." He became an increasingly supportive and loyal member of UURMaPA as they managed their bi-coastal relationship for almost 14 years while Audrey served the UU Church of Savannah, GA. Audrey returned to their home in Santa Paula upon her retirement in 2004. Dick died July 29, 2010, age 89, after suffering from complications of diabetes and other illnesses.

## Relax with UURMaPA in the Pacific Northwest

Join us this spring at Seabeck Conference Center on the beautiful Hood Canal, in southern Puget Sound. Save the dates (May 13-15, 2014) for our third conference here. There are beautiful grounds, excellent food (including vegetarian and vegan menus,) and simple but comfortable accommodations. Come find out why this location has been popular for decades with UUs in Washington State, Oregon and British Columbia. Details will be forthcoming in the newsletter and on the website.



— Marcia Olsen and  
Chris Backus  
Conference Planners

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