



Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

Elderberries

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NUMBER 2

Spring 2015

Meet Your New Board Members

As of July 1 this year, we will welcome three new members to the Board. Joining us are Marni Harmony, Vice President; Judy Gillis, Member at Large; and John Manwell, filling out John Weston's term as another Member at Large. John Weston regrets the need to resign, due to a neurological condition that makes attending to detail onerous. His resignation takes effect after the Attleboro Conference. Jim Eller moves from Vice President to President, and Liz McMaster moves from Member at Large to Caring Network Coordinator. With gratitude and sadness, we say farewell to Dick Gilbert, President; and Margi Nasemann, Caring Network Coordinator.

Marni Harmony, Vice President



Ordained in 1974, I served churches in State College, PA and Brookfield, WI before being called to Orlando, FL, where I served for 20 years. I then enjoyed two wonderful interim ministries in Marietta, GA and Tarpon Springs, FL.

UU since age 7 (when my parents were part of starting the Mt. Vernon UU Church in Alexandria, VA), I received my B.A. from Tufts University; a Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology; an M.S.W. from the University of Wisconsin and a D.Min. from

Columbia Seminary. (My dissertation was titled "The Challenge of Nontraditional Families to the Church.") I've worked as a hospital chaplain, a college chaplain, and a psychotherapist as well as being a VISTA volunteer. I've been a pretty active UU all along, and currently serve on the UUA Retirement Plan Committee, as an MSR, and as a Compensation Consultant.

I make my home in Orlando with my spouse Nancy Bauer, our feline Zeke, and dog Finn. I have a grown son Kyle. I begin my day with a cup of tea and a walk, eat lots of vegetables, love the Irish whistle, and am known to have a penchant for pie and chocolate.

I am honored and excited to be able to serve my colleagues and their partners in this interesting phase of life we call retirement.

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Judy Gillis, Member at Large



I was raised in California without a faith tradition. While at a cocktail party in 1973, I described my beliefs to a group of Catholic friends over a bottle of good Scotch and was told I sounded like a UU. I had never heard of the UU church before that, and tried the church in Wellesley, MA. My first husband, Ed Stewart, and I then raised our children as UUs. I returned to college after our 3 daughters were in school, and then completed my M.Ed. at Harvard with a focus in administration, planning and social policy. I worked as an administrator in Student Services at Harvard until I retired in 2003.

After being widowed in 1998, I met the Reverend Frederick Gillis in 2000 and we married in 2002, moving to Concord, NH in 2003 after Fred's retirement. I worked part time at the NH State House for 5 years before fully retiring in 2008. I have remained active in the UU church in Concord church since Fred's death in 2013.

I spend my time gardening, reading, volunteering at the local animal shelter, and spending time with family. I have two grandchildren in Concord, two in Massachusetts, and two living near Geneva, Switzerland, as well as Fred's five grandchildren both local and in Oregon.

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Contact information for everyone above can be found in the on-line directory at www.uurmapa.org or in the printed directory.

You may view online or download the Membership Directory (updated regularly) at 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

With this issue of *Elderberries*, we introduce a new occasional feature, titled "Elders in Action." On page 10 you will see Pat Hoertdoerfer's article about Grandparents Climate Action Day. I know from reading your news that many UURMaPAns are deeply involved in volunteer work of a wide variety. If you have a cause or an issue you're passionate about, please tell me you'd like to write about it for a future *Elderberries* article.

This issue is RICH with opportunities! Be sure to read it carefully, with your calendar at hand, and block out some time to spend with your sister and brother UURMaPAns.

You will notice in this issue several places where your generosity in supporting UURMaPA with your donations has enabled us to provide special services and accommodations for our members. We are so grateful for your support!

The deadline for the Summer issue is July 15, for publication August 1. As always, I am eager to hear your news and receive your ideas.

With my best wishes,
Judy Welles, Editor

New Board Members, cont'd from page 1

John Manwell, Member-at-Large

John is a birthright Unitarian, now part of this year's 25-year class of colleagues. He was ordained in 1990 at All Souls Church in Washington, DC, in a joint service with Donald Robinson.



John grew up as a child of the church at May Memorial, in Syracuse, NY, in the long-ago days of AUy, serving for three summers as a Star Island "Pelican."

After college at Oberlin, and graduation from Harvard Law School, he served as a JAG officer in the Air Force, then practiced law in Washington where he quickly became immersed at All Souls. Responding, in his fifties, to a long-suppressed call to ministry, he switched to seminary at Wesley, then went off to Canada for four years to serve the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel. There he married another

newly-minted colleague, Phyllis Hubbell. Together, they were called as co-ministers to the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, where they are now *Emeriti*.

Since retiring in 2008 after a heart attack, John served with Phyllis in interim ministry at Paint Branch in Adelphi, MD and then in Norfolk, VA. They are now in their fourth year of part-time developmental ministry with the UU Church of Loudoun, in Leesburg, VA, while currently also serving the UU Church of the Shenandoah Valley, near Winchester, VA, as short-term caretaker interims. (Editor's note: Judy's an old friend, but still thinks they're nuts.)

Along with their Sheltie, Laddie and their cat Bart, they live in Frederick, MD, within happy commuting distance of their three children and six grandchildren in Montgomery County, MD.

A Word from Your President

Selma and the Search for Meaning

Fifty years ago I was in Selma attending the memorial service for Jim Reeb, listening to, attending to, the eulogy of Martin Luther King, Jr. The power of that service plucked me from graduate study in social ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School and propelled me back into the parish ministry — in Ithaca, New York “where the action was,” as I said then. I was right.

In March of this year I revisited Selma with the Living Legacy Project and was spiritually stirred again. We were privileged by hearing and seeing the families of Jim Reeb, Viola Liuzzo and Jimmy Jackson, and hearing from civil rights leaders of yesterday and today. However, the power of this year’s experience lay in bringing up memories of that long-ago event as I stood singing civil rights songs in Brown Chapel, the scene of that moving memorial service so many years ago.



Dick in Selma

My children and grandchildren have read and will read about Selma, and, of course, they will hear about it from their father/grandfather. They will better remember it because they know I was there. That realization gives my experience a degree of immortality.

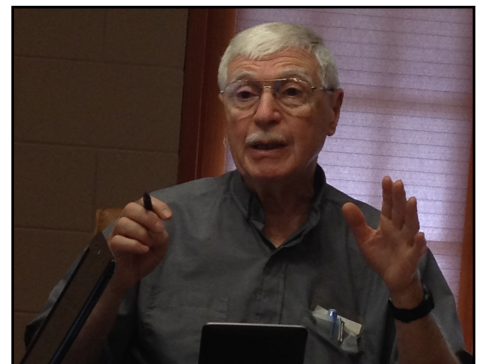
But the Selma experience, symbolic of many meaningful experiences over nearly eight decades, has another kind of immortality. As I experience elderhood and approach the next (final) stage, I increasingly reflect on the meaning of the life I have lived. On the one hand, I long for more years of living than I can expect, and on the other, I am more and more appreciative of the years I have lived.

In my wiser moments I am grateful for the mountains, valleys and plateaus representing experiences that have been mine. I would not exchange them for anything – much less the vantage point of youth who focus on the future, anticipating what is yet to come. These experiences

are not so much my possession — I do not “own” them — it is that they are simply a part of me that can never be taken away.

Here I become mystical. I have come to believe — without benefit of proof — that these experiences, like matter, can never be destroyed. They are simply abroad in the spiritual universe of my imagination. I know, I know, we are a rational faith — give me the facts, the facts and nothing but the facts. The fact is we are spiritual creatures immersed in meaning as well as physical creatures precipitated out of physical reality.

Selma, and all those other experiences I have been fortunate to have, provide a sense of meaning in this 78-year-old that is as close as I get to certainty. As I indicated in *Growing Up Absorbed*, it is our life task to be responsible choosers, people and planet lovers, justice doers and meaning makers. I cannot prove this; I can only assert it as my faith. As I conclude my stint as your UURMAPA president, that expression of faith is my parting word to you.



Dick at the February, 2015 Board meeting

Note: Dick Gilbert will end his four years as UURMAPA president June 30. Jim Eller will become the new president.

Send updates! Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Marcia Olsen at membership@uurmapa.org or 285 NW 35th Street, Apt. 52, Corvallis, OR 97330. The most current Directory is online at www.UURMAPA.org (ID: UU-SAGE, password WISDOM).

What Brings You Joy?

We Live a Poetic Life Celia Thurston and Doug Gallager

We live a poetic life. It's not at all that we are poets. But our lives together are frequently "two cats in the yard" easy, and always "til death do us part" solid. We live on two acres in an older home filled with the daily rhythms of dappled tree and leaf shadows. We have some lovely habits: coffee and clipboard plans, well-paced errands, walking, wine time, and evening talk time. We have other not-so-lovely habits too, but we discuss and curb and respect. A poetic life was never meant to be flawless.



Our home in Beverly Hills, Michigan

Like many of you, we had very busy professional lives. Doug as a long-term parish minister of a large congregation and Celia as pediatric chaplain and hospital department manager at Children's Hospital of Michigan. We encouraged. We witnessed incredible suffering. We did all we knew how to do.

In wedding ceremonies Doug included the phrase, "May your home be an island where the pressures of a cluttered world can be sorted out and brought into focus; where accumulated tensions can be released and understood; where personal needs do not tower over concern for others; where the immediate does not blur more distant goals; where the warmth of humor and love puts both crisis and dullness into perspective." That is the heart and soul of our poetic life.

We live love consciously. We give thanks for incredible beauty.

We do not turn from sorrow. We intentionally notice the unexpected. We allow for honest contrasts. We make hard decisions. We embrace "enoughness." Poetic enough for us.

We had always known that we'd retire early, though we hadn't decided exactly when. Then one day the mail brought a copy of the UUMA News and a copy of *Cook's Illustrated*. Doug sat down with *Cook's*. The time had come for us. Time for others to make their mark. Since retirement, we get great joy from the slower pace. We savor. We reflect. We appreciate. We live a poetic life.

We take a trip almost every year and do many of the things people associate with a "good retirement." But we find a deeper joy in the home we love. Not just the house, but the life we live in it. A poetic life.

That doesn't insulate us from life's trouble, pain and suffering: a cerebral hemorrhage, cancer, family disappointments, making difficult decisions. While life does not always make us happy, we are forever glad. The poetic life, to paraphrase Picasso, washes the dust off the daily life of your soul.



Celia and Doug

The Universalist Heritage Foundation: Living Universalism is offering the opportunity to travel through New England's historic Universalist sites from September 21-28, 2015.

Learn about our Universalist heritage in the New England states while marveling at the autumn foliage. For more details and registration forms, contact Elizabeth Strong at estrong110@comcast.net.

"time is a tree (this life one leaf)
but love is the sky and I am for you just
so long
and long enough."
e. e. cummings

Partners' Column

The Garden of Life Marie Brown

I have loved gardening all my life; it gives me so many good experiences, including time to think. While pulling out a bumper crop of weeds the other day, I spent some time thinking about what I should write in this article, and I realized that gardening is the key. It is a metaphor for all that has been important in my life.

The process of making a plan, preparing the ground, planting the seeds or plants, then standing back and seeing what Mother Nature does with my efforts mirrors the way I have approached loving and caring for my human family, the students I taught as an early childhood teacher, my church community and the wider community. I got my education degree after my own children had grown, and worked most of my career as a kindergarten teacher. It is important to note the similarity in spelling kindergarten to garden.

What I am trying to achieve there is a sense of harmony. I have good soil, but water here is strictly limited and the heat in summer is brutal, so I plant only Texas natives. The plants fit in their environment. I like a progression of interest, sun and shade, the color and texture highlighted at different times of the year, and the pleasing curve of the beds. This sounds very planned, but in fact it evolves as the seasons pass and Mother Nature takes over. In the veggie garden I grow what I like to eat, with a few unknowns. This year it is sorrel. Texas has two growing periods, so I have a lot of opportunity for variety. Last winter I had tomatoes!!!

And then there was my husband of sixty years, Dwight Brown. He was rather like a much-loved and admired — but complicated — tree that needed a lot of fertilizer and trimming from time to time; however, he gave much in return. He died in October 2012 after a period of rapidly declining health. His death also was like a garden that one let go back to natural plantings, as he chose to forego food and drink, moving on to the next phase of his journey with strength and determination.

The context of my life was framed by Dwight's job as a minister. We moved often. After graduation from Starr King, we went to Trenton, NJ; Calgary, Alberta; Summit, NJ where Dwight was a District Director; Dallas, TX; on to Boston headquarters; Cleveland, OH; and lastly to Ft. Worth as District Director again. It was a lot of moves; however, I was fine with all of them. I had a new garden to create in each place, a new job, and a wealth of potential new UU friends.

It was a rich life, though not without weeds in it at times. I have suffered with a bad back for years, a lifelong struggle with my weight, and the loss of contact with a lot of good friends. I also matured in a time when women's relationship to their spouses and public expectations of how we should forge our individual lives were evolving. I seemed to ride that wave rather smoothly; however, for Dwight and many other men, it was difficult at times. There was a conflict between what the society said one ought to feel and believe, what one's early upbringing taught, and real life.

I now find myself in the autumn, or maybe even winter, of my life. I have my children and grandchildren, my UU church down the street, UU friends in abundance, memories of a fulfilling life, and my garden. It is in bloom, ready to provide me with sustenance, a connection to life, and time to think. Life is good.



Marie Brown

Are You Good With Details?

Your UURMaPA Board is looking for a person to be the backup to our Membership Coordinator (currently Marcia Olsen). Marcia suggested that we have someone in place who understands the procedures for that job and could step in if she were temporarily unable to carry it out.

This is not a Board position, and it doesn't require any meetings. It does call for someone who is familiar with using spreadsheets and who is on e-mail frequently.

If you are interested, or want more information, please contact Marcia Olsen directly at membership@uurmapa.org.

Not Just Any Tablecloth



You are looking at a piece of folk art. It is the work of many hands, created over a period of 25 years. Not important simply for its loveliness, or the significant fact that it was created by both clergy and laity, the tablecloth represents a period of stunning growth in the number of women Unitarian Universalist ministers between 1980 and 2005. The signatures represent an estimated one fourth of those women who served our Association during that era.

Partly due to the Second Wave of feminism, an increasingly educated female population in the 70's and 80's began envisioning new possibilities for their lives. Instinctively concerned with matters of the spirit and ultimate meaning, and eager to create a more inclusive place in religious life for women, many felt a call to the ministry. Thus Unitarian Universalist women began preparing for ministry in increasing numbers.

The Ministerial Sisterhood Unitarian Universalist, or MsUU, was founded in 1974. At the time, it was the only clergywomen's organization, meeting each year at General Assembly for the purpose of support, concern and encouragement of their ministerial sisterhood.

I was elected in 1979 as the third President of MsUU. It was during my tenure that the tablecloth project was born literally out of whole cloth. Stitching together two pieces of fabric, I formed a tablecloth to cover the MsUU table, which formerly had looked rather forlorn, at General Assembly.

The fame of Judy Chicago's magnificent art installation, "The Dinner Party," was reverberating throughout the country at the time. With its bold ceramic dinner plates glorifying 39 mythical and historical famous women, set on magnificent hand-embroidered place settings, the work included over 1,000 names of women scattered on porcelain floor tiles in the center of the three-sided work. Part of its magic was the venerating of women's craft and domestic art as opposed to the more culturally valued, male-dominated fine arts.

I hoped less ambitiously to set marking pens out on the bare cloth and invite ordained women to sign it, using "Rev." before their name.

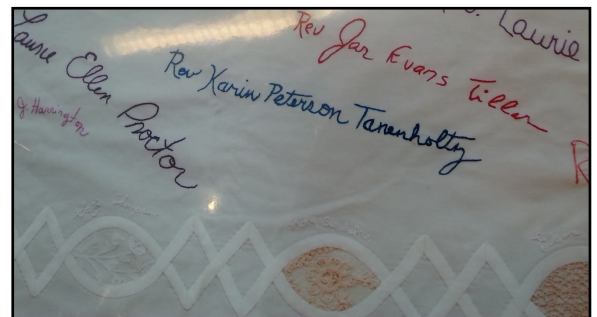
The first 15 or so names did not turn out as we had anticipated, looking rough and ragged on the textured fabric. I evaluated it as having been a good experiment, and might have tucked it away in a drawer to be forgotten, had Marjorie Leaming not said, "No, keep it and embroider the names."

What an idea! I returned to San Diego, where a core of women embroiderers was born. The tales we told regarding nostalgically remembered sewing circles, and the delight we shared regaling one another with family stories, made that tablecloth an ongoing project of work and love.

Each year as ministers signed the tablecloth at GA, I brought it back to San Diego, where women would gather and embroider the ministers' names. If an embroiderer pricked her finger, she devised a flower to cover the reddened spot.

After several years, we decided that some kind of border design would enhance the aesthetic dimension of the cloth. I invited my sister clergy to send me bits of lace from their grandmothers' and mothers' lace boxes. A Celtic border was designed, and damask was sewn in strips and appliquéd in place, incorporating the lace.

The cloth was taking on a life and "herstory" of its own. It concerned me that while we were making visible and relatively immortal the names of female clergy, the women whose blood and time were being given to the project remained anonymous. In 1987, we found a way to add the embroiderers' names to the tablecloth. We decided that their autographs would be stitched in a floss color close to that of the cloth along the Celtic border. Across one end we embroidered, "*Wrought with love by the women of First Unitarian Church from 1980 forward.*"



At a 1988 MsUU conference, when 20% of UU ministers were women, we created worship incorporating the tablecloth, which now included 136 names. We sat around the cloth spread on a carpet in a lovely chapel, and made sacred its meaning in our lives.

When First UU Church of San Diego ordained its women interns, a signing of the tablecloth was made part of the ordination. In 2000, the tablecloth hung for several months in an exhibition of UU women's history at the UUA headquarters in Boston, where more signatures were added. Final signatures were penned in 2005, at a Pacific Southwest District meeting.

Perhaps the most powerful lesson of this tablecloth is the recognition of the love and respect that laywomen have shown their sisters in ministry. The tablecloth sends a message from sister to sister that we appreciate one another and that our leaders in faith are worthy of recognition. It is notable that this is not stone, but cloth — a woman's creative tablet. A feminine art, as ancient as time, was employed to create a supple monument. The traditional time-consuming act of embroidery contrasts with our ever more technology-driven lives, and its vivid hues remind us that we need not be pretentious; we are precious in our most homespun ways.

Ministering to ministry is represented here. As female clergy care for their parishioners, their partners and children, one can imagine them asking, from time to time, "Who ministers to ministers?" The cloth symbolizes the interdependence of ministry, and reminds us that to receive is as blessed as to give. Today, there are a total of 259 clergy and 29 laywomen's names on the tablecloth.

It is appropriate that the tablecloth now resides at Meadville Lombard, where many women have prepared for ministry.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my colleague and dear friend, Bets Wienecke, with whom the project of seeing the tablecloth find its rightful place has been accomplished.

Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle
Minister Emerita
First Unitarian Universalist Church
San Diego, CA



From the Office of Church Staff Finances

Perhaps during your retirement you will be moving residence or moving/changing your banking accounts (or both).

While you are planning such a transition, if you rely upon a systematic withdrawal you've established with TIAA-CREF, be sure to contact the UU customer service number (800/842-2829) at TIAA-CREF at least several weeks before the planned change.

1. If your bank accounts are changing, request a payment destination change form*.
2. If you are moving to another state, ask whether you should expect your state tax withholding (if any) to change.
3. Update your mailing and residential addresses in TIAA-CREF's records.

*Rather than the payment destination change form, you could send in a letter of instruction, if you prefer. Ensure that your letter includes:

First and last legal name

TIAA-CREF Contract number

Instructions to update all payments to the new bank account information

An original voided check from your new bank account. Starter checks are not acceptable.

The payment destination change form and/or letter of instruction with the original voided check must be mailed to:

TIAA-CREF

8500 Andrew Carnegie Blvd

Charlotte NC 28262

Linda Rose
Director, UU Organizations Retirement Plan
Office of Church Staff Finances

The Living Legacy of Selma Fifty Years Later

How do I begin to describe a trip I've wanted to take for 50 years? That's the dilemma of writing about Selma, 2015. The Living Legacy Project, begun in 2008 as an expansion of Civil Rights tours led by the Rev. Gordon and Judy Gibson since 2004, has been taking UU's and others to Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, AL to learn more and to relive the experience of this historic time in US history. Every year I think I'll go, but never have — until this year, the 50th anniversary of the march for voting rights led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Three UURMaPA Board members attended the conference and march: Dick Gilbert, Judy Gibson, and Liz McMaster.

Driving into Selma three days before the 50th anniversary march, I noticed a lot of boarded up homes, the sign of enduring poverty and folks moving away for better opportunity. The few people on the streets waved, or just smiled as our bus drove by. We were thrilled when the Pastor of Brown Chapel AME Church, the setting for much of Selma, 1965, found out we were UU's and invited us into his Chapel. I teared up thinking about the stories these walls could tell from that time. That evening we were treated to a 3-hour mass meeting at the Tabernacle Baptist Church where Dr. Bernice King, daughter of MLK, Jr.; the Rev. Jeremiah Wright; and the Rev. Dr. William Barber, interspersed with joyous singing from the church choir, brought us to our feet with cheers and "amens." Driving back to Birmingham, our bus was a-chatter with non-sleepy passengers for the entire trip.



Orloff Miller (R) and his son Rick Orloff. Orloff was with James Reeb when they were attacked in Selma.

We returned to Selma on Sunday, March 8, by way of Montgomery, where we stopped at St. Jude's Catholic Church and School, the final stop on the 1965 March to Montgomery. Five hundred of us crowded into a giant

gymnasium and were fed a hearty soul food meal. We sang songs of the Movement, and were refreshed for the next leg of the trip to Selma.

I heard that 30,000 people marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge that Sunday. I looked up Broad St. one way and then the other and could see people marching as far as the horizon. A large video was hung a block or so from the bridge, which showed pictures from the 1965 event. The bridge is bigger than I'd imagined and the crowds made marching slow; at times we came to a halt. I believe we marched for the better part of 4 hours. Footsore and weary, but high on the experience, we headed back to Birmingham along the same route Jim Reeb was carried to the hospital in Birmingham where he died, and turned the tide of American history.



Dick and Joyce Gilbert with Carl Ulrich and Dick Leonard (seated), who walked the full distance in 1965.

In between the two Selma visits we learned and again were inspired by wonderful workshops. Some of them were "Black Lives Matter," "Voter Rights," "Immigrant Justice," and "The Sankofa Movement." The leaders were impressive; the workshops filled with eager students.

What a full and wonderful four days in Alabama! If you have yet to go on one of these journeys, I urge you to Google "Living Legacy Project." You will be glad you did!

Liz McMaster

New Members Since January, 2015

Remember that all contact information for UURMaPA members can be found in the Membership Directory at <http://uurmapa.org/publications.html>. See page 2 for the password.

Jane Bechle
Mark Belletini
Albert Boyce
David Farrington
Mark Hoelter
Theresa Kime
Bruce Marshall
Dennis McCarty and Kate Ellis
Peg Morgan and Wayne Fulkerson

Thea Nietfeld and Steven Shelton
Paul Rasor
Priscilla Richter
Millie and Roger Rochester
Bruce and Cecilia (Cece) Russell-Jayne
Margie King Saphier and Jon Saphier
Arthur and Cathie Severance

Florida Conference - Terrific!

So many highlights, so little time! About fifty UURMaPAns gathered at the San Pedro Retreat Center in Orlando, FL in February for a hugely successful Board-sponsored conference focused on the Civil Rights movement of 50 years ago and its significance today.

Not only did Mark Morrison-Reed offer a touching program based on his recent book, *The Selma Awakening*; he also led a worship service showing how UU hymnals over the decades reflected our gradual (still incomplete)



“We Shall Overcome”

awareness of racial justice in our hymnody. Gordon Gibson presented a broader picture of UU racial justice activism in the South based on his just-released book, *Southern Witness*.

Another highlight was the Odyssey evening, this time featuring a panel of those who had gone to Selma in 1965 and those who had stayed home worrying about them, who often were told “You can’t go. You have children!” as though the men didn’t... How times have changed!



Those who went: Jim Hobart, Rudi Gelsey, Dick Gilbert, Bill Weir, Gordon Gibson



...and those who didn’t: Margi Nasemann, Judy Gibson, Joyce Gilbert, Marie Brown

The San Pedro Center proved to be a very comfortable site, with good food, a beautiful chapel, and lots of open spaces for walking (a rarity in the land of sidewalks and neon signs.) As usual with our conferences, people especially appreciated the fellowship of old and new friends.

Events at General Assembly, 2015

Once again, UURMaPA will be quite a visible presence at G.A. If you plan to attend, please take note of the following scheduled events (locations to be announced on site).

Collegial Conversation

During Ministry Days, Dick Gilbert and Jim Eller will host a Collegial Conversation regarding retirement, intended for both those colleagues considering retirement and those already retired. The discussion will include not only the financial aspects, but also the emotional, interpersonal, and spiritual aspects of this important life passage.

Annual Luncheon and Meeting

Thursday, June 25 from 11:30 to 1:30, Idaho Room, Doubletree Hotel.

Each year we offer a ritual of welcome, and invite key UUA staff to address us at a fun gathering of UURMaPA members. All UU retired ministers and their partners are welcome. New members of UURMaPA will be our guests; others are asked to preregister and pay \$25. The luncheon will include vegetarian options.

If you want to attend, please contact Jim Eller at wjimeller@gmail.com or send your check, made out to UURMaPA, to Jim at 412 Finch St., Norman, OK 73071.

The program for this event includes a brief speech by Rev. Richard Gilbert, the outgoing President of UURMaPA; welcome of new members; greetings from UU staff; and presentation of the Creative Sageing Award.

Workshop at General Assembly

“New Horizons, Including the Life of Retirement”
Thursday June 25, 4:45 PM - 6:00. Our panel of speakers (subject to change) includes Dick Gilbert, Barbara Hamilton-Holway, Judy Welles and Jim Eller. Retirement from ministry invites us to tell new stories. We’ll share from the perspectives of ministers and their partners long retired, newly retired, and soon to retire. The electronic age creates a new generation every five years. What are the cutting edges for us, and how shall we stay connected?



Elders in Action

Calling Unitarian Universalist Elders... Your voice is needed!

Come and rally with more than one thousand elders on the steps of the Capitol Building and meet with our country's government leaders to strongly advocate for a comprehensive national energy policy to combat climate change.

GRANDPARENTS CLIMATE ACTION DAY
A project of the Conscious Elders Network*
September 9 & 10, 2015
Washington, DC



Manfred Hoertdoerfer, far left; Pat Hoertdoerfer, far right, at the People's Climate March in NYC, October, 2014

Today the voice of elders is desperately needed. Traditionally, elders have been leaders throughout human history in focusing attention on the needs of future generations. Many UURMaPA members took action during the social revolutions of recent decades — Civil Rights, Feminism, GLBT Rights — and now we have the opportunity to raise our voices and advocate for the health of our precious planet Earth. Voices of our growing elder population are essential.

The goal of Grandparent Climate Action Day is to bring elders from across the United States to Washington, DC on 9-10 September (when Congress will be in session, close to the official Grandparents Day) to deliver a message: a call from elders to our nation's political leaders to put aside partisanship and enact sweeping new energy policies that will slash greenhouse emissions and reverse the process of climate change while there is still time to preserve a livable planet for future generations.

*...Why not you? Why not me?
Be the change our planet needs.
The interconnectedness of our world rests in each of our hands.
Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti*

Among our partner organizations are 350.org, Citizens Climate Lobby, Interfaith Power and Light, Pachamama Alliance, Mom's Clean Air Force, UUs for Social Justice (DC chapter), and more. We are supported and nourished by UUA/ UUSC's interfaith, environmental justice www.Commit2respond.org collaborative connections and resources.

For the sake of future generations and a livable planet, I hope to see you — UU elders — in Washington DC in September!

Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer
Celebrating my 25 years of UU ministry in 2015

Visit www.eldersclimateaction.org for more information.

*Conscious Elders Network is a movement of vital elders, dedicated to growing in consciousness while actively addressing the demanding challenges facing our country.

News from Your Board

UURMaPA Board members gathered two days before the conference began in Orlando to do some serious face-to-face planning together.

Well... actually we did spend a bit of chaotic and hilarious time scattered around the campus trying out ZOOM with our laptops, iPads and cell phones. As we get better at using it, we hope that ZOOM technology will allow us to see each other and communicate more effectively during our monthly virtual meetings from all over the country.

Defining and Preparing for Retirement

Our president, Dick Gilbert, has taken the lead in creating some excellent resource materials about all aspects of retirement from ministry. Over several years, he has produced workshops and written resources that are invaluable for planning ahead, approaching retirement, and making the most of our years as retirees. He has recently been collaborating with UUMA and the UUA, offering these programs via video conferences, webinars and a possible comprehensive multi-day seminar. A future project for UURMaPA may be getting Dick's developing curriculum into more short videos or webinars designed for individual access..

Retirement education is emerging as a major need that UURMaPA may have unique resources to fill. The Board spelled out several questions that call for our focused consideration as UUA's "retirement specialists." They include: What does retirement from ministry really mean? What does *Emerita/us* status mean? How can we reach ministers earlier in their career to share information and make the process more clear?

Getting UURMaPans Connected

We are currently offering two Board-sponsored conferences a year in different parts of the country, to bring retired colleagues and partners together in a pleasant retreat space to catch up and share interesting discussion on timely topics. The next two UURMaPA conferences are on schedule, thanks to John Weston's work with local planning teams. (See page 12.)

Vice President Jim Eller noted that with 80% of our population using smart phones and the internet, technology is becoming a primary way to do ministry — and this includes retirees. UURMaPA members are 1/3 of all UU ministers. Though many of us still like the feel of the paper *Elderberries* in our hands, more and more of us are moving (or getting pushed) into using electronic media. UURMaPA is hosting more peer discussion groups that meet regularly via ZOOM to discuss topics of interest, and we have a SpeakUp chat line for sharing ideas on provocative topics. These online UURMaPA connections may become more important as more members become increasingly comfortable with technology and/or as we find traveling to conferences more difficult as we age.

So your Board is asking: what are the best ways to serve our members now, and how will that change in the future? Be ready to have us ask you for your ideas.

Keeping UURMaPA Running

The Board addressed several nuts-and-bolts topics and did some long-range planning for UURMaPA in our meeting time together. We find that we are financially stable, thanks to your generous response to our twice-a-year appeal for donations. Our budget allows us to subsidize conference attendance and send paper copies of *Elderberries* to everyone. We brainstormed some additional ways we can assure financial support is available from various sources for our members in need. We are a hard-working Board, and are now seeking to bring in more members to help with off-Board functions like planning conferences, tracking membership records, writing obituaries, keeping in touch with members, and identifying and celebrating Creative Sages and Unsung UURMaPans in our midst. When you get a call asking if you can help, we hope you'll think about what skills you might offer to keep UURMaPA going.

Judy Gibson, Secretary



Seated, L to R: John Weston, Joel Weaver, Liz McMaster, Dick Gilbert.

Standing, L to R: Judy Welles, Jim Eller, Judy Gibson, Doug Gallager, Margi Nasemann

UURMaPans Speak Up

Did you know that UURMaPA has a list serve? We can have electronic discussions among ourselves on diverse topics of interest. It is as easy sending and receiving e-mail. To get on the Speak Up list, send a request to Andy Backus, andrewbackus@msn.com.

This is a powerful tool and we can make better use of it. (See the next issue for a story about how UURMaPA did or didn't influence the UUA Board's decision about the Commission on Appraisal, thanks to Speak Up.) Don't miss the conversation about the latest topics of interest!

Jim Eller, UURMaPA VP

UURMaPA FALL CONFERENCE October 5 to 8, 2015, ATTLEBORO, MA

We are delighted to announce exciting plans for our UURMaPA fall conference in Attleboro, Massachusetts, October 5-8, 2015. You asked for an additional day and we listened! We will have a full program with fun and laughter along the way. Join us for these amazing 4 days of shared friendships, solid programming, and plenty of social time to be together.

We will gather on **MONDAY** for dinner, check-in, and the service of remembrance of members who have died in the past year.

On **TUESDAY** we will hear from **Dan McKanan**, Emerson UUA Senior Lecturer in Divinity at Harvard, and author of *Prophetic Encounters: Religion and the American Radical Tradition*, winner of the Frederic G. Melcher Book Award. Dan will speak on "UU Prophetic Scholarship in the 21st Century." The afternoon will offer two sessions of small interest groups. (Drumming will be back, as will the bereavement group.) The evening will include **a dramatic presentation of Emily Dickinson portrayed by Candice Riddington** followed with a discussion of how Dickinson's poems were published.

On **WEDNESDAY** we will travel by bus to Boston for a catered lunch at the UUA's new headquarters at 24 Farnsworth Street, where **Helene Atwan**, Director since 1995 of Beacon Press, will speak to us on "The Future of Prophetic Publishing." We will be greeted by **Mary Katherine Morn**, Director of Stewardship & Development and Special Advisor to the UUA President. We will also receive a comprehensive update on the UUA Retirement Plan from its Director, **Linda Rose**. That evening, back in Attleboro, we will hear **an Odyssey by Andy & Chris Backus**. **THURSDAY** we will engage in **collegial conversation** before our concluding worship service and lunch.

The **registration fee** for these four days is **\$250 per person** (includes 3 nights lodging, all meals, social hour refreshments, and bus fare to Boston and back). How can we do so much for so little? Thank the generosity of colleagues, enabling us both to offer the low registration fee and to subsidize the expenses of UURMaPA members and their partners with very limited incomes. Registrants who can afford to make an extra contribution will be offered the opportunity to do so. **Please get your registrations in early.*** We were sold out last year. You will receive a confirmation and a schedule shortly after we receive your registration(s).

We look forward to welcoming you at LaSalette Conference Center Monday, October 5th!

Ginger Luke, 301-502-0753; gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com
Carol Taylor, 610-558-2323; catuuminr@gmail.com
John Weston, UURMaPA Board Conference Liaison

*The registration form is on page 15 of this issue.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Santa Barbara 2016

UURMaPA Spring Conference

February 29 - March 2, 2016

La Casa de Maria Retreat Conference Center

Santa Barbara, CA

The theme: "Life Transitions"

There will be more about the programming in future emails and *Elderberries*.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Bets Wienecke, betswienecke@cox.net

Ken Collier, uurevken@gmail.com

Anne Hines, irrevanne@gmail.com

Carolyn Price, uurevclprice@gmail.com

Audrey Vincent, revavincent@earthlink.net

Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

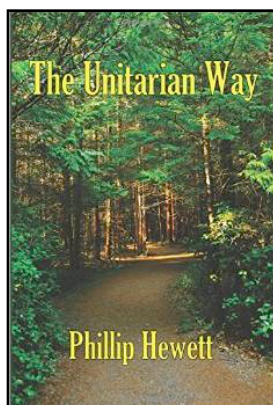
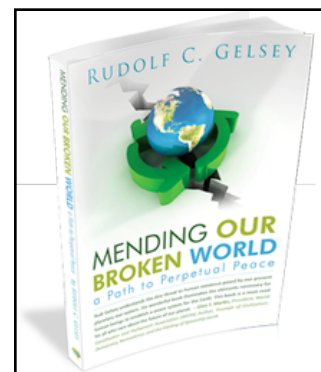
After serving our church in Bloomington, Indiana, for 21 years (as minister and minister *Emerita*) **Barbara Carlson** moved to Baton Rouge, LA. She writes, “Downsizing has practical benefits and is a good spiritual exercise as well! It’s good to be near my family and to re-connect with old friends and former students at Louisiana State U. The thriving UU community, led by our colleague, the Rev. Dr. Steve J. Crump, is another wonderful asset.”

Bennett Curtis, the son of **Mary Rose Curtis** and the late **Rev. James Curtis**, died on December 28, 2014, after a long illness. Cards may be sent to Mary Rose at 128 Harris Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Rudi Gelsey, Founder/Chair of Perpetual Peace Initiative (PPI), successfully started a letter writing campaign to world leaders. He and PPI seek additional volunteers to move this campaign forward. For more information about the issues, contact Rudi at rudigelsey@gmail.com (www.mendingourbrokenworld.com).

Charles Grady, 89, is able to drive to White Bear UU Church in Mahtomedi, MN. He enjoys reading Victorian novels, finding them much more interesting now than when he was young. He gets out occasionally for concerts or to restaurants with his daughter and son-in-law. Charles has five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, most in the Twin Cities area. He is glad to see them occasionally as they grow up.

Sharon Harris, the widow of Richard Lee Harris, retired from being a therapist in a state prison and ended her private practice two years ago. She managed Great Decisions and Dine Out in her local Unitarian Church in Edmonds, WA, and is on the Board of League of Women Voters in Snohomish County. Her partner, Rick, is fighting multiple myeloma, a blood cancer.



Philip Hewitt marked his 90th birthday in February, 2015, by revising and republishing his book *The Unitarian Way*, with his own copy arriving on his actual birthday morning. It can be ordered in either print or Kindle format from Amazon.com.

Leonora Montgomery says her New York City grandson just got himself engaged – that leaves 11 more grands to go! She already has 6 great-grandchildren, with surprises arriving steadily. Leonora says there’s romance in her family.

Jeanette and John Morgan are grieving the unexpected death of their 61-year old daughter, Ann Louise Morgan, while she was in Hawaii on vacation last December. Notes of condolence may be sent to them at 1039 Water St., #224, Peterborough, ON, K9H 3P5 Canada.

Charles Stephen, Jr., minister *Emeritus* of the Lincoln, NB UU Church, has been volunteering to do weekly book reviews in a program called “All About Books” for Nebraska Public Radio for 24 years. He loves doing the program, as publishers send him books that he requests (and many that he doesn’t request), which also means that his house is full of books.

Kate Tucker, *Emerita* associate minister at First Universalist Church in Minneapolis, has been dividing her worship time between Twin Cities Friends Meeting (Quaker) and Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul during her three-year required absence from First Universalist.

Carl Ulrich, 79, has been caring for his wife, Paula, who had a stroke about 13 years ago. Having home health care 31 hours a week has allowed him to be quite active, biking in the summer and skiing in the winter. He is active in the Westwood Unitarian Church in Edmonton, Alberta, where he gets much support.

Sarah Voss is doing pastoral care work at Methodist Hospital in Omaha and is a mediator at the Concord Mediation Center, also in Omaha. Sarah had surgery for lung cancer five years ago and is about to have her last check-up. She is active in UsAgainstAlzheimer’s and is putting the final touches on a book of stories dealing with troublesome issues involving people with Alzheimer’s and their families and caregivers.



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. Many thanks to Chris Lilly Backus and Jay Atkinson for their careful and sensitive work writing the partners' and ministers' obituaries, respectively.

The Reverend Ted Webb, parish minister and lifelong activist, died on October 6, 2014, aged 96.



Mr. Webb actively promoted and worked for peace, justice, and public education his entire life, giving sanctuary to anti-nuclear demonstrators, protesting the Korean War, and counseling draft-resisters during the Vietnam War. In 1965 he traveled to Selma, Alabama, writing that he returned north from this experience a more “confirmed progressive and committed Democratic Socialist.” He was still protesting at age 85 when the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003.

Theodore Albert Webb was born in Bangor, Maine, on 23 August 1918 to Harold and Annie Cushman Webb. In the fall of 1938, he enrolled for concurrent college and ministerial studies in a program offered jointly by Bangor Theological Seminary and the University of Maine. Mr. Webb moved to a pastorate at the First Universalist Church of Stafford, CT (1944-47) and was ordained there on 22 January 1946. He continued in parish ministry in ME, NY, and MA, then served for eight years as the first Executive Director of the

Massachusetts Bay District of the UUA (1962-70). He resumed parish ministry in 1971 at the UU Society of Sacramento, CA, where he remained until 1983 and was named Minister *Emeritus* in 1985. Beginning in 1984, Mr. Webb took up a series of interim ministries in IA, MD, MN, and GA before his final retirement in 1990.

Ted Webb was committed to the wider UU movement and its public presence in a number of national and district roles. His research about the (mostly Universalist) Washburn family in the 19th century resulted in three books and an invitation to speak at the 1984 UUA General Assembly.

Ted was a world traveler, and shared this interest with his daughter, Christine. He was also an avid reader and a great communicator. Of her father, Christine Webb-Curtis remembers: “He walked the talk. But he rarely expressed his own personal humanist convictions from the pulpit. He never wanted to impose himself on others in terms of their spiritual beliefs.”

Marguerite, Ted’s wife of sixty-two years, died in 2005. He is survived by daughters Bobbie Webb and Christine Webb-Curtis, sons Theodore Ford Webb and Noel Webb, eleven grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild, born on Ted’s 96th birthday.

A memorial service was held 13 December 2014 by the UU Society of Sacramento. Notes of condolence may be sent to: The Family of Ted Webb, 1137 Amberwood Road, Sacramento, CA 95864.



A Request for Assistance

Although there was some response to Jay Atkinson’s request for some helpers to assist him in writing obituaries, he could use more. Please consider whether this is just the right job for you.

Jay writes, “I and the UURMaPA Board are looking for a couple of additional colleagues who would be interested in sharing the editorial task of writing obituaries. I’ve developed some organizational and stylistic guidelines that I would be happy to send to anyone who might consider joining me in this work.

“I warn you that my standards are rather curmudgeonly when it comes to the formality of English usage. But if you share that kind of care for our language and would like to give this work a try — or are just curious and would like to explore tentatively what is involved — please contact me (jayatk40@gmail.com), and I’ll be in touch with more details and discussion. I welcome your inquiries.”

UURMaPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION Form
October 5 - 8, 2015, La Salette Center, Attleboro, MA



Please register me/us for the UURMaPA Fall Conference in Attleboro, MA. Enclosed is **\$250.00/person**. This fee covers the program, a single room (bath shared with another single room) for 3 nights, 9 meals, social hour refreshments, and general expenses. The fee for conference attendees NOT staying at the La Salette Center overnight is **\$125.00 per person**.

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Please indicate any special needs, dietary or otherwise (see note below about shower grab bars):

Full registration fee: \$250/person	\$ _____
Commuter registration fee: \$125/person	\$ _____
Additional Contribution to help others attend	\$ _____
This form & check payable to "UURMaPA" enclosed in the amount of	\$ _____

REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK must be received by **September 7th**.
 Mail this form and your check to: **Carol Taylor, 535 Gradyville Rd Unit V-212, Newtown Square, PA 19073**.
 You will receive a confirmation and directions.

Questions/concerns? Contact Carol; 610/558-2323 Email: catuuminr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Determine the amount of assistance that you want to attend the conference. Be sure to include costs for travel, caregiver for a dependent partner, etc. in addition to the registration fee in your request. Contact Joel Weaver, treasurer. E-mail: weaver_je@hotmail.com or 610-558-2323.

Note: La Salette Center's toilets and showers in the sleeping quarters are not wheelchair accessible; however, it is only a few steps from the sleeping room to the toilet. There are wheelchair accessible toilets on the first floor and there is an elevator for access to the sleeping floors and chapel.

Thanks to YOUR generosity, UURMaPA has donated five grab bars (10 people's worth!) for the showers at La Salette. Please indicate (above) if you need one of those showers.

**Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association
c/o Marcia Olsen
285 NW 35th Street, #52
Corvallis, OR 97330**