



Elderberries

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UURMaPA Creates the Gene Navias Award

Not many serve in our Boston headquarters for thirty years. Eugene Bartlett (Gene) Navias was one of them, and we are deeply grateful for his service to our faith. Gene died two years ago, in August, and now we in UURMaPA have another reason to be grateful to him: at year-end, we received a bequest of \$11,250 from his estate.

Your Board has set aside Gene's gift in an endowment fund, from which it will be offering a new annual scholarship. The Gene Navias Award will be given annually in an amount up to \$500 to an applicant (or more than one) who wishes to use the award either for scholarly study on a topic related to Unitarian Universalist religious education, or for assistance in attending a conference. See below for further details about this award.

Gene Navias grew up in a devout Unitarian family in Schenectady, NY. While in college, he served as a Pelican (night watchman) at Star Island, where I first met him. After receiving his B.A. in 1949, and his M.Div. in 1951, both from St. Lawrence, he served in parish ministry, first in Cleveland, and then in Concord



NH. Following his UUA service, he returned to the parish at the Arlington Street Church in Boston.

At the UUA, as in much of his parish ministry, his focus was religious education. He was instrumental in developing the UUA's About Your Sexuality and AIDS education programs as well as its Renaissance

and accreditation programs for religious educators. During the eleven years he headed the UUA's Religious Education Department, participation in religious education grew by nearly forty percent.

Leaving the UUA in 1993, he returned to the parish at the Arlington Street Church for six years, where, after his retirement, he received *emeritus* status.

An accomplished pianist and tenor, Gene also contributed to our movement in music. Many will remember his collection of songs prepared for the celebration, in 1992, of the 200th anniversary of Universalism in America.

The UUA honored him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

His lengthy obituary can be found on the UURMaPA web site at http://uurmapa.org/obituaries_m.html.

The Navias Award Committee will consist of the UURMaPA Board President and two members of UURMaPA with religious education experience, appointed by the Board. The process of applying for this award will be described on the UURMaPA web site (www.uurmapa.org) under "Activities." Look for further information there after July 1, 2016. The deadline for applying for the first Navias Award will be January 1, 2017.

— John Manwell

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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:

This issue is the last in which we will read partner obituaries written by Chris Lilly Backus. Of course all good things must come to an end, but I am sorry to see this good thing go; Chris has been that super-reliable helper whom we all wish for — well-informed, quick to respond, thorough, and sensitive. As a former editor of *Elderberries*, she was extremely helpful to me in getting started with this assignment, and I will be eternally grateful to her.

Starting with the next issue, we'll welcome Roger Rochester (spouse of recently-retired Millie Rochester) as the person who writes partner obituaries. If you become aware of a partner's death, please reach out to Roger and give him any useful information you might have to help him with this task.

At its October, 2016 meeting, in anticipation of preparing the 2017 budget, your Board will decide whether to continue the current practice of mailing *Elderberries* to every UURMaPA household (except those who have opted out). To help us make that decision, we have created a Survey Monkey questionnaire; if we have an e-mail address for you, you will be notified around mid-May that the survey is available for your input. For those without e-mail, a printed survey can be mailed to you — please address your requests to Judy Welles, 2360 SE 58th Ave., Portland, OR. I'll send you a printed survey and ask you to return it to me.

Editing *Elderberries* continues to be a joy, and I'm loving being part of UURMaPA.

—Judy Welles

Please send your requests, comments and feedback to elderberries@uurmapa.org.

Having Come This Far

I've been through what my through was to be
I did what I could and couldn't
I was never sure how I would get there

I nourished an ardor for thresholds
for stepping stones and for ladders
I discovered detour and ditch

I swam in the high tides of greed
I built sandcastles to house my dreams
I survived the sunburns of love

No longer do I hunt for targets
I've climbed all the summits I need to
and I've eaten my share of lotus

Now I give praise and thanks
for what could not be avoided
and for every foolhardy choice

I cherish my wounds and their cures
and the sweet enervations of bliss
My book is an open life

I wave goodbye to the absolutes
and send my regards to infinity
I'd rather be blithe than correct

Until something transcendent turns up
I splash in my poetry puddle
and try to keep God amused.

~ James Broughton ~

A Word from Your President

“UURMaPA Has Decided to Stop Caring” ...and other concerns

Your UURMaPA Board has been wrestling with how to manage our Caring Network. First, UUs so often think of ourselves as “competent.” Most of us “don’t need help from anyone, thank you very much,” or so it seems to go. This attitude has at times created frustration for those trying to manage our old system. This frustration has been brought on by having high expectations and a lower than hoped-for response. Having a “Caring Network” has seemed to imply that we would provide pastoral care and other assistance to all our members across the continent and even across the world. This is not reasonable, and it seems not to be even desired.

So, your UURMaPA Board is proposing to change the name to the Connections Network, and also to change our expectations. Our primary role is to stay connected with one another — thus our name change. Area Coordinators will send out occasional emails asking: “How are your partner and your family? What you have been doing lately? What is of interest, what you have read? Where have you traveled?” With permission, they will pass that information along for inclusion in *Elderberries*.

Of course there will be regions, districts and Area Coordinators who want to do more, and they will. This is great, but mostly we want to keep the connections between our members and share the stories of our UURMaPA community. One way of maintaining “connection” is modeled after the efforts of **Doe Lockwood**, our Southwest Area Coordinator. I remember sending her my family Christmas letter. She quickly emailed me a thank you and a few months later sent out a group email to all our members in her area with bit of news from everyone, including a line or two from my Christmas letter. I appreciated hearing about others and being included.



Jim Eller, connecting

Our Connections Network is only one of the ways we will be working to help our members stay in touch with one another. Of course we will have our conferences, in Attleboro MA, Santa Barbara CA, and Orlando FL (see elsewhere in this issue for more information). We also have a Facebook page. It is being used increasingly by our members to see what we are doing. Thanks to **Teresa Novak** for helping maintain the page. If you are interested, go on Facebook, do a quick search for UURMaPA, and “like” our page. You will then get notifications of posts and be more easily able to follow the activities of your UU community of retired folks.

Speaking of “Retired,” Tom Own-Towle did a remarkable job with a sermon he offered at our Santa Barbara conference. He preferred the term “Re-Fired” as more accurately capturing what most of us are doing with our late life time and energy. I highly recommend his sermon, which you can read on our UURMaPA website at <http://uurmapa.org/documents/documents/HopersUnite--UURMaPA2.pdf>

Yours in our faith,

Jim Eller, President of UURMaPA

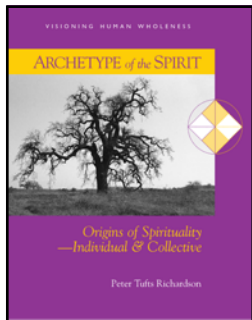
Send updates! Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Richard Speck at membership@uurmapa.org or 4721 Mermaid Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19808-1803. The most current Directory is online at www.UURMAPA.org (ID: UU-SAGE, password WISDOM).

What Brings You Joy?

Ruminations of a Writer

Peter Richardson

In this season, “Joy to the World,” sung slowly, can be a real drag. The writing process is often like that. There are the little joys, a turn of phrase, a word choice. Completing a chapter is cause for celebration! Then of course there is the aftermath, correcting for spelling, renumbering footnotes, adding and subtracting commas, finding gaps where information is thin. At last you declare it, “good enough.”

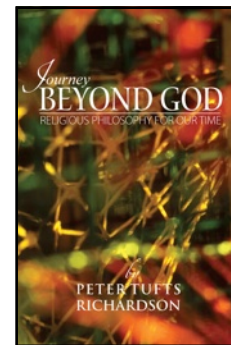


Original discoveries can bring great joy. If you can break through with one for a lifetime you are most fortunate! *Archetype of the Spirit* was mine. Eliade, Campbell, Jung himself, didn't see it. I did. I kept going back to them. Surely they found it somewhere. They had all the components but missed the whole, never put it together. It coordinates perfectly with psychological type and with spiritual practice reaching back before the invention of writing. It has long cohered spiritual orientations, deepening psychologically, philosophically, historically. I looked for documentation. What a joy to discover the archetype had been in me and seen through my camera lens in all my travels: in my back yard, or in Beijing, or Bangalore, or Budapest. The book flowed joyfully, at times, with its 108 illustrations.

Old New Englanders, occupying the same pew in their Universalist or Unitarian meeting houses, tend not to be the first images of joy that spring to mind. I am descended from countless farmers and mariners who extracted livings from rocky soils and stormy seas. Did my parents know joy? My mother had a hawk that followed her morning walks. My father had his dog. They grew giant gardens in their retirement. Rows of asparagus and strawberries were a particular joy. Now, looking back, I too experience good fortune in accomplishment, in a happy marriage, in children, grandchildren, one great-grandchild, in visits and reunions, simple joys.

Then there is that experience of opening a box from the printer, taking out the first copy of *Beyond God*, inspecting front and back covers, turning its pages. Now that is a New England joy approaching the ecstatic! There is something fine when you hold an attractive book, one that beckons you to read it. And I have been known to read what I have written anew, all over again!

When “installed” in parish life, each Saturday evening I would write my sermon. When finished, I could permit myself to write my *Sunday Meditations*. At one point Eleanor pointed out that too many poems were referencing the early morning chirping of birds. Yes, they were written when I was tired, when all self-editing inhibitions were down, when words flowed. They had to! It was Sunday morning. The best I gathered into a book (with 102 of my photographs). It is a great joy to look back at your early work, and then the most recent, to discover your writing has vastly improved. It is a way to pity your earlier congregations, but to enjoy evidence of your own improvement. Just about the time you retire, you can feel competent.



A portion of the Ahmed Ibn-Tulun Mosque in Cairo. *Sunday Meditations*, p. 146. (Photo by Peter Richardson)

After fifty years, your colleagues are all young, your congregations have moved on. You have become “history.” But there is a pleasure for a writer, bordering on joy, knowing your stuff is out there circulating, in bookshelves or attics, waiting to be discovered, for new life. And a note comes to your door. You open it and find, from a person you have never met, the words, “*Four Spiritualities* changed my life...”

Ordained to the Ministry of Religion in 1965, Peter Tufts Richardson served congregations in Kent, OH, Midland, TX, Needham & Andover, MA, and Kennebunk, ME. His books include: Four Spiritualities, The Boston Religion, Exploring Unitarian Universalist Identity, Archetype of the Spirit, Sunday Meditations, and Journey Beyond God. Currently he is writing Universalists and Unitarians of Maine. He and his wife Eleanor live in Rockland, ME, and share the website www.redbarnrockland.com. He can be reached at ptemr@aol.com.

Partners' Column

What Fun Can I Create Today!?

Mary Kay Hamilton

It came home to me clearly that Dennis and I are both fully retired when I started using sheets from our giant Post-It Easel pads, not for leading meetings or strategic planning, but as paper to draw and cut patterns for my apron creations. I call them Mary K'aprons! After decades of not owning a sewing machine, I borrowed one from my daughter-in-law and began sewing again. Now I have all the time I need for designing and creating aprons as gifts. I've given away more than a dozen to date. Immersing myself in designs, fabrics and actual sewing has become my new meditation practice.



Friends with their Mary K'aprons

It's part of creating my new identity. I admit, I loved my former identity being the minister's spouse; one that I meticulously shaped for myself in our years in active ministry in Texas. Setting boundaries from the start, I designed my role in the church: "I don't do food, I don't do music, and I don't do children." I love food, I appreciate music and I adore children, but I'm not particularly gifted at these things, though I love and applaud those who are. What I relished was the social part of being a minister's spouse.

Now, back in California, I find I have a fun, active social life that has nothing to do with church. A dinner club (Global Grub Club) we started back in the 80's is still thriving and we were invited back. I'm in a writing group, a Tai Chi group, meeting new neighbors and friends as well as reuniting with old friends and, of course, hosting family gatherings and visitors. I also hike, swim, dance, wander around

farmers' markets, and cheer on my new local team, the Golden State Warriors.

I retired from my professional life when we moved from Texas to California in 2014. I loved my last 12 years working as a women's therapist for the premier agency in Dallas that provided shelter, support and empowerment for abused women and children. I felt important and knew I was making a difference in the lives of women escaping and recovering from domestic violence. Coming up the elevator to my office, I would sing my version of the Mighty Mouse song: "Here I come to save the day! Mary Kay — is on her way!"

Now each day that I save is basically mine to decide. I have so many choices it's hard to get started some days. First choice is when to get out of bed after snuggling into the blankets with my iPad or a good book before a leisurely breakfast on our deck overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

After one "fallow" year, I agreed to a volunteer position on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Monterey County — the agency that operates the only domestic violence shelter in the county. Here is where I can still use some of my non-profit experience and clinical skills to shape programs that empower women.

Another fun choice is InterPlay! Leading and attending InterPlay sessions bring me joy. In these sessions, I guide individuals and groups in expanding possibilities of expression through playful, active, creative forms, using movement, dance, voice, storytelling and stillness. It's beyond fun to experience and share the myriad ways playing and a playful attitude help us develop wholeness and connection!

Finally, I love, love, love being back home in Pacific Grove, California where each day is a marvel of natural beauty — and being a "lady of leisure," I have all the time I need to appreciate it!

Mary Kay Hamilton is a retired therapist married to the Reverend Dennis Hamilton. They served Horizon UU Church in Texas for 27 years before retiring and moving back "home" to California to be near their kids and grandkids. Dennis retired a second time from a one-year interim at the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula.



**You are invited to the
UURMaPA Fall Conference
La Salette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA
October 3-6, 2016**

CREATIVITY is our theme. **Andy and Chris Backus**, our keynote presenters, will be leading us in “The Creative Process: Minds at Work Together?” They invite us into the creative process — not a solitary one so much as a discipline practiced with others. The work of creating their musical play, “Older But Not Wiser,” will be one venue through which they will explore the topic and invite you to participate.

Small interest groups may invite our own stories into creativity through various art forms such as poetry, painting, music, photography, and perhaps movement.

Dick Fewkes has agreed to offer his Odyssey for us. Our worship services will inspire your heart and your mind. It will be a time for greeting old friends and meeting new ones. The listening and sharing times are those which affirm all our lives.

Weather permitting, and for a minimum extra cost, we will have the option of a Providence River Boat Trip and lunch at The Hot Club, as well as other field trips which are currently being planned.

The **registration fee** for these four days is **\$250 per person** (includes 3 nights lodging, all meals, and social hour refreshment).

Register **now**. *You can pay the registration fee on line (www.uurmapa.org) by going to the Attleboro Information page from the home page and scrolling down.* However, you still need to print and mail in the form itself (page 19 or on the web site). For more information, contact Ginger Luke (gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com, 301/502-0753).

Swap Farley Stories

If you can be in Boson on Sunday, May 22nd at 3 p.m., visit the Arlington Street Church chapel to remember the Reverend Farley Wilder Wheelwright. We will celebrate a ninety-nine-year, illustrious life of wisdom, wit, social action, compassion, and more.

All with stories and memories of Farley are welcome. Those who cannot attend but want to add their thoughts can send them to michael@michaelball.com. RSVP for the gathering to the same address to help with a count.

To attend, go to the 351 Boylston Street entry.

Many thanks,
Mike Ball

P.S. FYI, George Whitehouse is involved and could also answer any questions that arise.

Leadership Column

One of the most common questions I get from colleagues these days is: what are we going to do for our seminarians in a post Regional Subcommittee era? For many years we have worked with the UUA and the half dozen “in care” systems that have been supporting aspirants and candidates around the US. Last fall the UUA convened a meeting with about 25 people from around the continent. The group thought the UUMA should oversee and lead the effort in partnership with the UUA. A design team comprised of David Pettee and Megan Foley from the UUA, Sofia Betancourt and Darrick Jackson from Starr King and Meadville Lombard, and Claire Feingold Thoryn from our UUMA Collegial Development team have been working on creating a program/process that is open to **every** aspirant and candidate who makes the decision to devote their life in ministry to our faith, no matter where they live.

We have been working for the last few months on designing what we are now calling the Ministerial Formation Network. We will be finalizing our plans in the next month, and will be hosting a collegial conversation to review the new system at Ministry Days. The UUMA will be overseeing and leading this effort in partnership with the UUA. The network will provide every aspirant and candidate who wishes to participate coordinated collegial and congregational discernment support, additional training and education, and opportunities to connect more deeply and widely throughout the faith. We plan on piloting the new program in FY17 and hope to roll it out across the continent in FY18. We are hoping that chapters will be able and willing to take part in this exciting new chapter of UUMA support and leadership for those entering our ministry. We at the UUMA have a vision of supporting our members “from cradle and to grave” and this is a new way for us to realize this vision. For those who are UUMA members: keep an eye on our monthly e-update to get more information.

— Don Southworth,
Executive Director, UUMA

The UUMA is accepting applications until May 31 for people who'd like to act as a coach. The coaching program is one of our most popular programs, providing an opportunity to work with one to three colleagues (separately) over the course of one year. New coaches will be required to attend a training program on the east coast in late August. To get more information or to apply, go to <http://www.uuma.org/page/coaching> on the UUMA website.

Elders in Action

“Reclaiming Our Democracy”

Craig Roshaven

In my career in parish ministry I have been very involved in advocating for social justice. My involvement began in 1992 when I participated in an Industrial Areas Foundations (IAF) ten-day national training. It was a life-changing event. IAF is one of several national networks of congregationally based community organizing (CBCO).

I became very involved in the Fort Worth IAF chapter. The highlight of our advocacy was persuading the county public hospital’s health network to significantly expand the number of families eligible for subsidized health care. Because of our efforts, tens of thousands of additional families became eligible for medical care at the rate of \$5 per visit.

In 2011, in large part due to the strength of my involvement in CBCO, I became the Witness Ministries Director of the UUA. However, the UUA and other mainline denominations’ focus on social justice is very different from that of CBCOs. A good example is our witness at the 2012 GA in Phoenix against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s tent city. It was a successful witness. It brought comfort to the families of the victims of Arpaio’s inhumane policies. But nothing changed. Arpaio’s tent city still exists and he is still in office.

About a year ago, I happened across a New York Times *Fixes* column, “Lobbying for the Greater Good.” I was excited to learn there about RESULTS, an organization that over the last 35 years has been very effective in helping the hundreds of millions affected by extreme poverty around the world. I was especially attracted to the way RESULTS pursues social justice. The advocacy methods of RESULTS are similar to those of CBCOs, only RESULTS’ focus is on changing policy at the national level. They achieve this by letters to the editor, meeting with the editorial boards of newspapers, publishing op-eds, and, most importantly, by meeting with their members of Congress.

RESULTS provides its volunteers with the training and support they need to become skilled advocates. I think Unitarian Universalism could do something similar by providing similar levels of training and support to ministers and lay leaders. Only 15% of our congregations are involved in CBCOs. I believe many more could become involved in effective advocacy if we adopted the methods of CBCOs and organizations like RESULTS. I’m tired of being merely indignant. I want to be effective.

I’m tired of being merely indignant. I want to be effective.



RESULTS has been instrumental in saving the lives of millions of children by influencing members of Congress and multiple administrations to significantly increase U.S. foreign aid with emphases on nutrition and maternal and child health.

When I read the *Fixes* article, I was looking for the next step of my ministry, albeit in retirement. I decided to start a RESULTS group in Fort Worth. It was a good choice. One of our achievements was persuading a notably conservative Congressman to co-sponsor the Reach Every Mother and Child Act. Another has been to establish a working

relationship with Congresswoman Kay Granger, chair of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, the key committee for foreign aid appropriations.

Apollo astronaut Rusty Schweickart wrote:

We aren’t passengers on Spaceship Earth, we’re the crew. We aren’t residents on this planet, we’re citizens. The difference in both cases is responsibility.

If we are going to reduce the number of children who die from hunger and preventable illnesses, we have to be willing to speak up and step out. Since 1990, preventable deaths of children under the age of five have been cut in half. We have reason to believe that we can bring that number close to zero by 2035. Wouldn’t you like to be part of that?

If we’re going to make a difference, we have to not just say we’re citizens, we have to act like we’re citizens. RESULTS enables ordinary people to join with others in common cause to make voices heard. I encourage you to add your voice. Together we can realize the incredible power we possess to use our voices to change the world.

To learn more about RESULTS go to www.results.org.

Craig Roshaven lives in Fort Worth, TX. He is putting his extra time into reading (Robert D. Kaplan is a particular favorite), riding his bicycle 70 miles or more/week with the Rusty Chain Gang, playing with his 5 year old grandson, and leading the Fort Worth RESULTS group.



Improved RMD process at TIAA/UU Retirement Plan

Linda Rose, Retirement Plan Director

I am pleased to announce that effective immediately, UU Retirement Plan participants can establish *Recurring* Required Minimum Distributions (RRMD) from their UU Retirement Plan accounts, eliminating the need to complete withdrawal forms every year to meet the IRS minimum distribution requirement:

Federal law mandates that participants must begin to receive a Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) no later than the April 1 following the calendar year after becoming 70 ½ or retiring, whichever is later.

Participants who wish to commence RRMDs can complete their transaction by phone: **call TIAA at 800/842-2829**. After you have given your information to the TIAA representative, s/he will notify me and I will be able to authorize your transaction quickly and without either of us touching paperwork, thus saving trees, time, and effort.

For those who prefer to complete a paper form: call TIAA Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., or Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (ET) to request the RRMD paperwork. Once you've completed the form, mail it to me for authorization.

If you don't initiate this action on your own, TIAA will send a reminder to you *via direct mail* near the time when you first reach age 70 ½. After establishing your RRMD, you will also receive an annual notice from TIAA specifying your RRMD amount.

Please note that your RMD from the denominational plan *cannot* be aggregated with RMDs from other retirement plans or IRAs.

Additional Important Details:

The start date of your RRMD distribution cannot be more than 180 days later than the date your request is taken, either by phone or when your completed paper forms are received in good order at TIAA.

You have the following options regarding your required minimum distributions:

Delivery options:

- Check mailed to home address
- EFT to bank account on file
- Payment sent directly to an established after tax account as a contribution

Frequency options*:

- Annually
- Semi-annually
- Quarterly
- Monthly

*You may also select the effective date between the 1st and the 28th of a given month.

If you are already receiving distributions from the denominational Plan for your own reasons, and the amount distributed is equal to or greater than the minimum required amount each year, you'll be able to substantiate that you took at least the minimum required amount. Since the RMD amount is calculated each year based on your denominational account balance as of the prior December 31 balance, you are well served to verify annually that you've satisfied the mandate.

Direct any questions to: Linda Rose, Retirement Plan Director, lrose@uua.org

Once in Eugene, Oregon, after a lecture in which I had dealt with the age stages as described by Dante, this young woman comes up to me and says, "Well, Dr. Campbell, you don't understand. Today we go directly from infancy to wisdom." I said "That's marvelous. All you've missed is life."

— Joseph Campbell

Santa Barbara Conference: A Huge Success!

The UURMaPA Winter Conference was held at La Casa de Maria Retreat Conference Center near Santa Barbara, CA at the end of February, with 68 of us attending. We enjoyed each other's company at the beautiful grounds and surroundings of the retreat center, ate delicious meals, worshipped together, and were invited into the conference theme, "Life Transitions" in a keynote talk by Arvid Straube and in several workshops that afternoon. We were entertained (in the best sense of that word, as he explained) by Thomas Anastasi's Odyssey.



The beauty of La Casa de Maria

To open the retreat, the planning committee welcomed us with a vespers service and memorial to members who have died in the past year. Tom and Carolyn Owen-Towle offered the next morning's worship, with a sermon by Tom titled "Hopers Unite!"

Our featured presenter, the Reverend Dr. Arvid Straube, spoke from his experience as a long time UU parish minister (retired in 2014), Buddhist practitioner, and Spiritual Director. Links to these presentations are available on our web site, as well as a slide show of the event, here: <http://uurmapa.org/documents/ActivitiesSantaBarbara.html>.

Special guests Don Southworth (UUMA Executive Director) and Scott Tayler (Director of Congregational Life at the UUA) joined us for the conference. Don talked with us about current happenings in the UUMA of particular interest to retired ministers (who make up a whopping 1/3 of UUMA membership) and their partners. Scott engaged us in a conversation about a new initiative under development which would employ the wisdom of sages who have retired from ministry to assist in special projects with congregations, about which more will unfold as the project is refined.

By the end of the conference, the UURMaPA Board announced that they have reserved the same site for the 2017 Winter conference. If you're likely to need a getaway next winter, save the dates of Monday, February 27 through Wednesday, March 1, 2017, and plan to join us in Santa Barbara.

Morning Worship (Retired Minister's Conference)

Why would we come? Why would we rise and gather at this hour,

To hear a senior colleague stand and preach?

The garden's done, no buds remain to nurture into flower,

No unexplored conclusions left to reach.

And life's replete with "swan songs" that are painful to observe.

Most comeback tries end badly, or fall flat.

But this is no race driver who might wipe out on a curve,

Or some outfielder's sad last turn at bat.

No, this is more like music, with a maestro in command —

An intimate recital for his friends.

The tune may be familiar, but the presentation's grand,

A wisdom fills the spirit which ascends.

He calls us to be hopeful, in spite of dismal facts,

To look beneath the surface and rejoice.

The culture of injustice can respond to human acts.

We only need to see and make that choice.

And then commit to working, each as our hearts demand,

Don't wait for approbation or applause.

Accept the truth that nothing will unfold as we had planned,

But persevere in service of a cause.

The makeshift congregation rises grateful from its seats,

Enriched by his perspective on this stage.

The vision of a place where human need and calling meets,

A ministry that ripens as we age.

— Roger Rochester
(inspired by Tom Owen-Towle's sermon in Santa Barbara)



Roger and Millie Rochester
in Santa Barbra

G.A. UURMaPA LUNCHEON

Friday, June 24 11:30-1:30

Hilton Hotel — Robert King Room

Our annual luncheon at G.A. will be held Friday, June 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The luncheon is a great time to connect with retired colleagues and partners, hear what's going on with UURMaPA, celebrate this year's recipient of the Creative Sageing Award, and welcome our newest retirees (who attend the lunch as our guests).

The lunch itself will be served at your table. There will be salad and dessert plus your choice between two entrees (see below). We have made every effort to be diet-conscious to meet everyone's needs. The cost will be \$30 per person. Please note that registrations and payment are due by May 22 (earlier is great!). There will be no registration or payment at the door this year. So don't delay... you already know if you're going to G.A., so why not just send in your registration for the luncheon right now! Please include your name and entrée choice; the same information for your partner if attending.

Entrée choices:

Wild Rice Stuffed Zucchini with Basil Oil and Crispy Leeks (vegan) OR...

Balsamic Grilled Chicken Breast with Shiitake Mushroom Cream, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes and Haricot Verts (gluten free)

Checks should be made out to UURMaPA, noting "GA Luncheon" on the check. Please send entrée choice(s) and checks by May 22 to:

Marni Harmony, UURMaPA VP
3809 Wren Lane
Orlando, FL 32806

Other Events at General Assembly

Collegial Conversation: Transitioning to Retirement

UURMaPA Board members Marni Harmony and Doug Gallager will facilitate a discussion about the process of moving from active ministry to "your next chapter." We'll offer some questions for consideration — offering our perspectives and seeking your responses. How do you know when it's the best time? What are some of the most important things you need to consider? Are you spiritually, emotionally, psychologically and financially ready? We'll also share a bit about what UURMaPA is doing these days.

UURMaPA members are most welcome to attend and share their perspectives!

25-50 Year Worship Service

Joel Miller will be the 25-year speaker, and Joe Bassett will speak on behalf of the 50-year class.

A New Small Congregation

I am a Mainer. As Unitarian Universalist parish ministry capped off a variety of professional careers, I came home, just as I always knew I would. Yet undeniably, the decades I spent at Starr King, in our parishes, and in collegial associations have produced some of the richest relationships I've ever had. I missed colleagues terribly, and started attending a monthly ministers' cluster that always graciously welcomed retired ministers. (I'm delighted to say that Northern Maine churches are in very capable hands).

I even attended one of their retreats until I realized I no longer spoke the language of parish ministry. I discovered I was lonely for like-minded souls, but wasn't quite sure what that meant, or where that vague aloneness was coming from.

I had joined UURMaPA when I retired 3 years ago, and was surprised when an invitation came asking if I wanted to join a Peer Group of other retired ministers from around the country. Without giving it a second thought, I jumped at the chance! At our first meeting I realized I knew only one of the eight others; I felt shy but excited. It wasn't until we made the list of topics we wanted to discuss that I realized this group of people was filling that need in my retirement I hadn't been able to identify, acknowledge or articulate.

I might have been the only stranger in this group, but it didn't take more than that first call for us to feel like comrades. Retirement is a distinct time in one's life, and retirement from UU ministry is a precious entity all its own. Throughout the past year and a half this group has shared poems and heartaches, funny stories and deep concerns. We talk about our families, our churches and our denomination from the particular vantage point of retirement, which is where we are now. At our monthly gatherings we are no longer strangers, but a close band of trustworthy travelers, supported and understood as we shed the mantle of ministry we have all worn for so long. Few understand what that detaching feels like, and this treasured circle of friends has become a small congregation. One of the side benefits? No one has to write a sermon...

If you want to join one of the UURMaPA Peer Groups, I urge you to give it a try. Like my group, they just might become the treasured gift of your retirement that you didn't even know you needed.

Peer groups use video conferencing, meeting monthly for a year. If you'd like to join one, please contact Marni Harmony at revharmony@gmail.com. A new group will form as soon as 7 or 8 people express interest.



— Nancee Campbell
Augusta, Maine

2015 UURMaPA Financials

4/28/16

	2015 Actual	2015 Budget	Variance from Budget	VB%	2016 Budget	Variance from 2015	V%
Ongoing Operations							
Income							
Member Donations	31,841	36,000	(4,159)	-12%	33,000	1,159	4%
Other Income	1,298	1,300	(2)	0%	1,300	2	0%
Total Income	33,139	37,300	(4,161)	-11%	34,300	1,161	4%
Expense							
Fundraising and Administration							
Board Meetings	16,608	13,062	3,546	27%	8,982	(7,626)	-46%
Fundraising	1,638	1,650	(12)	-1%	3,500	1,862	114%
Other Expenses	1,769	2,200	(431)	-20%	3,550	1,781	101%
Total	20,015	16,912	3,103	18%	16,032	(3,983)	-20%
Program Expense							
Conference Subsidies	7,281	3,995	3,286	82%	6,300	(981)	-13%
General Assembly	5,067	4,087	980	24%	3,795	(1,272)	-25%
Communications (Elderberries, Directory, Video Calls)	4,413	4,929	(516)	-10%	5,600	1,187	27%
Connections Network	905	0	905		2,500	1,595	176%
Special Recognition Awards (Saging, Unsung Hero)	1,000	1,000	0	0%	1,000	0	0%
Total	18,666	14,011	4,655	33%	19,195	529	3%
Total Expense	38,681	30,923	7,758	25%	35,227	(3,454)	-9%
Net Surplus/(deficit) From Ongoing Operations	(5,542)	6,377	(11,919)	-187%	(927)	4,615	-83%
Navius Donation (Added to the Endowment)					11,250	11,250	N/A
Financial Position 12/31							
Assets							
Endowment	20,575	20,575	0	0%	31,825	11,250	55%
Cash	45,262	57,181	(11,919)	-21%	44,335	(927)	-2%
Total	65,837	77,756	(11,919)	-15%	76,160	10,323	16%
Liabilities	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Net Assets	65,837	77,756	(11,919)	-15%	76,160	10,323	16%

Treasurer’s Comments on 2015 Operations and 2016 Budget

UURMaPA experienced a large deficit from budget in 2015 (\$11,919) due to lower than expected contributions and expenses that exceeded budget. The expense overages were driven by increased subsidies for conferences and higher costs of Board meetings. The subsidy for the Fall Attleboro conference was increased to add a field trip to the new UUA headquarters (\$2,367) at no additional cost to attendees. Scholarship requests were also higher than expected. The requirement adopted in 2015 for Board members to attend conferences led to payment of their conference fees.

The 2016 UURMaPA budget includes several differences from 2015. We expect contributions to be roughly comparable to last year. This year we have budgeted to reduce Board face-to-face meetings from two to one. There will be no large unplanned costs added to the subsidies for conferences. (We do, however, plan to upgrade our UURMaPA website to current technical standards.) The 2016 budgeted result is a stronger UURMaPA financial position.

Please note that UURMaPA’s fiscal year is the calendar year.

— Joel Weaver

Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

Jacqueline Collins’ book about Allied officer POWs in Germany during World War II was published by the McFarland Press just before Christmas. *Five Years Behind Hitler’s Barbed Wire* is the never-before-told story of “oflags” (camps for officers), revealed in a diary translated by Jacqueline, to which she added extensive editorial commentaries. Not required to work, these men re-created in the camp a small town in order to give meaning to their lives and maintain their dignity despite the miserable living conditions.

In other news, the Unitarian Church in Charleston (SC) honored her as their first female minister with a plaque in December, 2014.

Lew Dunlap went to a Rockies Fantasy Baseball Camp in January, 2015 with his age as his uniform number, “88.” They made him the camp MVP, and he also received the Players Trophy. His



team, the Scorpions, won the team championship. His action on the field went viral in the sports world; search Google for “88 year old player challenges pitcher” to see Lew in action. The hashtag #YoureMyBoyLew went viral on Twitter. Lew describes the camp as “exceptionally rewarding... probably one of the best experiences of my life.” In subsequent interviews on several media outlets, Lew said “I’m enjoying my fame all I can, because it’s very temporary. When something surprising or unexpected happens to you, don’t dodge it. Have fun, but be cautious about how it affects you personally. I think I’m still the same person I was before this went viral.”

Word Cairns by **Jan Vickery Knost** is a collection of his writings; it contains poetry, short stories, sermons, memoirs, and pictures.

Dennis McCarty is working on a book of religious reflections, to be titled *Monuments: An Atheist’s Journey Through Reverence*. After retirement, he travelled cross-country on a “rolling retreat,” in order to go deeper than easy words. He writes, “To be reverent is to engage the

mind-boggling fact of our human existence: out to far cosmic reaches, down below the earth’s crust, back into the depths of personal and collective human time.” The book is “a journey of observations, reflections, stories evoked, and insights gleaned. The world offered itself to my imagination.” More news will follow when the book is published.

Linnea Pearson writes, “I’ve been out of touch due to recent eye surgeries and a surge of crippling sciatica, but am better now. I’m renewing work on my book about President Obama’s faith, based on that of his amazing mother, who truly was a UU. I’d appreciate hearing from any of you who have ideas about this!”

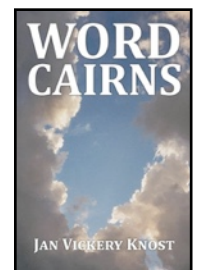
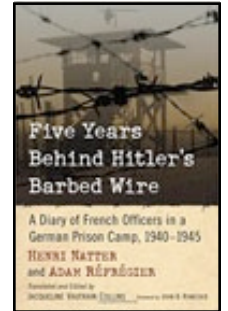
On March 30, thirteen UURMaPAns enjoyed a lunch hosted by **Richard Speck** and **Janet Tillman** at their home in Wilmington, DE. Present were **Ellen Dionna** and **Arthur Hover**, **Peggy Doss**, **Mary Higgins**, **Dave Hunter** and **Kerry Mueller**, **Garry LeFevre**, **Carol Taylor** and **Joel Weaver**, and special guests from Princeton, NJ, **Carol** and **Carl Haag**. Carol, Stewardship Committee Chair for the Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center, brought us up to date on improvements at Murray Grove. Two others present, Carol Taylor and Janet Tillman, are members of the Murray Grove Board of Trustees; Carl Haag and Joel Weaver are past members of the Board.

Judy Welles celebrated the opening of Portland, Oregon’s newest Little Free Library on the parking strip on front of the house she shares with spouse **Duane Fickeisen**, who

built the library as a Christmas gift for her. Living near an elementary school, their hope is to encourage a love of reading in the many children who walk past their house twice a day. A light rain didn’t deter them (and two of their grandchildren) from the Grand Opening ceremony featuring bubbles, balloons, a red ribbon, and refreshments.



Allen Wells did a “hardship ministry” for six weeks in the US Virgin Islands. Poor Allen. You have our sympathies.



The Bucket List Dream

Tim Ashton

Right away, when I began my first job as a minister in 1970, I dutifully signed up for the denominational pension plan. The tiny 6% of my salary was built into my contract and sent quarterly to the UUA pension fund. The annual payment seemed so minuscule even then, maybe a few hundred dollars. What could those small contributions amount to? But this was many years ago, and I just did what was recommended. It didn't seem to present any financial strain, and they told me that someday this would add up to something. I'd be surprised.

What seemed so wonderful and unbelievable about retirement was the idea of living without working. Could this happen to me? Wasn't living without working the ideal of the British aristocracy and upper classes? Just imagine getting up late, having leisure time for coffee and the paper before breakfast. Then a nice breakfast. Who would care if it was nearly lunch time when one was ready for one's day? Perhaps we'd have lunch on the terrace or under a tree. How exotic!

I contemplated having a cute antique house in the middle of a downtown in an historic city with a small but well gardened yard. Living in this quaint section, I would have the time to chat with neighbors walking by, enjoy exercising my poodle on tree-lined streets with a variety of Victorian houses, and newer ones, too. There'd be a touch of the Bohemian and an artistic flare. I'd have time to get involved in neighborhood issues and enjoy Sundays at the nearby Unitarian Church.



Life without working, no schedule, just what I wanted to do. Could I have a house in the country, too?

Really, that has always been my bucket list. I never needed to go around the world, much less save it or reform it. I just hoped to live happily in it, enjoying what was nearby. The only thing I felt deprived of because I was so busy working was the leisure to enjoy the impromptu events of everyday life without worrying if they were cutting into my sermon preparation time or whatever else required my attention.

And much to my enormous surprise, it all came true when I retired. Every day, I'm doing everything on my bucket list just as I hoped it would be.

New Members of UURMaPA Since January 1, 2016

Kathleen Allan
Pam and Di Allen-Thompson
Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz
Gary and Pat Bennett
Ken Brown and Tommie O'Sullivan
Rose Edington and Mel Hoover
Kathryn Ellis and Rick Heckman
Gail Geisenhainer and Celeste DeRoche
Robin Gray and Linda Wright
Nina Grey
Heather Lynn Hanson
Susan Lamar and John Hayes
Robert MacDicken and Eileen Ross
Nayer Taheri
Janet Newman
Roy Reynolds and Jean Lamer
Carol Rosine
Jane and Chuck Rzepka
Ann Schranz
Diane Teichert and Don Milton
Lisa Wiggins and Chip Wright
Ann Wilever and Jake Jacobson
Sheryl Wur
Michael and Nancy Young

Please note that the UURMaPA Directory is updated monthly. It appears on line at <http://uurmapa.org/publications.html> (scroll down part way) and can be accessed with the user name UU-SAGE and the password WISDOM. The on line Directory is the best place to find current contact information for all UURMaPA members.

Benediction - Mary J. Harrington

Every day, look at the world with your wide and grateful eyes.

Every day, let something kill you with delight.
Let go of all that is harsh and harmful every day.

Remember each day as a god.

Each day arrives wrapped in its particular mystery and intent.

Be still and know the gods of your days.

Every day, chain yourself to the tree of life.

Every day, however desperate, love one thing hard.

Say to all with ears to hear, *Thy life is a miracle* every day.

Never forget: the world needs your precise gifts.

Each day offer and bless, stand and love, surrender and praise.

Live with all your might, love with all your heart, and may you go in peace.

Amen.

This is the benediction offered by Mary at her last service, when she retired for health reasons. She died of ALS at age 58, far too young.

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

Cornelis Johannes Bakker (1917 - 2014)

The Rev. Neil Bakker, world traveler, lover of sports cars and opera, and a talented photographer and stained glass artist, died on August 10, 2014 at the age of 97.

Cornelis Johannes Bakker was born in Amsterdam on May 29, 1917 to Hendrik Bakker and Dina Bakker; he emigrated to the U.S. at age eight with his parents. He served in the US Army and continued with the Army Reserves after W II. He went on to earn a B.A. from George Washington University in 1949 and a M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1960.

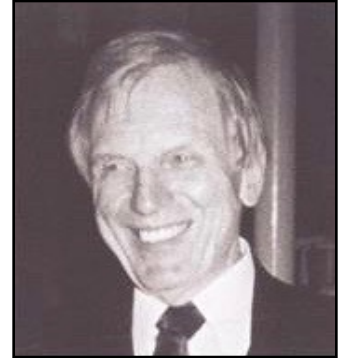
He was ordained in 1963 by the First Unitarian Society of Gardner, MA, serving as minister there from 1963 to 1979. He then served as minister to the First Universalist Church of Providence, RI from 1979 to his retirement in 1990. He was named Minister *Emeritus* of the First Unitarian Society of Gardner in 1984, and Minister *Emeritus* of the First Unitarian Church of Providence in 1990.

Neil Bakker was committed to both the larger UU movement and the local communities in which he ministered, serving on many UUA and District committees and boards. He co-founded the Gardner-Athol Area Mental Health Association, and actively served the American Red Cross, United Way of America, the Doolittle Home, the Human Rights Committee, the CG Jung Center, the Netopian Club, and the Krishnamurti Society.

Neil is survived by his wife of 57 years, Melba Ann Bakker, and one daughter.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, September 14th, 2014 at the First Unitarian Church of Providence, RI.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Melba Ann Bakker, 95 Slater Ave., Providence, RI 02906.



Paul B. Brody (1925 - 2016)

Paul B. Brody, 90, husband of the Rev. Carol Yagello Brody, died January 19, 2016. They had been married for 65 years.



Paul was born August 1, 1925. He attended Denison University, then served in the [U.S. Marine Corps](#) from 1943-1946. On his return from service, he graduated from Western Reserve University in Cleveland. A high point in recent years was participating in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in 2010.

He was Sales Manager for A.P. Green Refractories for 35 years and was a long-time member of the American Foundrymen's Society. He served as Chairman of its Central Ohio Chapter from 1970-72. He was a member of the American Ceramic Society, where he held numerous positions throughout the years.

After retirement, Paul spent many happy hours 'schmoozing' with all his friends and visiting past customers. He was a fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes, the Cleveland Indians and UA Golden Bear Baseball. Paul was a proud and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a great fellow with a sharp wit, grand sense of humor, friend to many and a man who never, ever, forgot a name or a face. He will be missed.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; four adult children; seven grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

A memorial service was held on March 26, 2016 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, OH.

Condolences may be sent to Carol Brody, 5155 N High St., Apt 62C, Columbus, OH 43214-7521.

Orlanda R. Brugnola (1946 - 2016)

The Reverend Dr. Orlanda R. Brugnola, whose gentle spirit touched many hundreds through pastoral presence, religious scholarship, committed teaching, work against racism, and dedication to interfaith dialogue, died unexpectedly on February 24, 2016, at age 69.



Orlanda Rice Brugnola was born on April 1, 1946 to Anthony Brugnola and Kathrine Schwellenbach. She earned a B.A. in psychology at UC Berkeley in 1966, and a M.Div. from Starr King in 1979, and was registered as an art therapist in 1989. In 1998, she received a Master of Fine Art in Painting from the City University of New York, and in 2014, a Doctorate in Ministry from New York Theological Seminary.

Ms. Brugnola was ordained to the ministry in 1979 by the First Unitarian (now UU) Church of Berkeley, CA, where she served as a ministerial intern. She held a variety of ministerial positions at the First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn, New York, and was named Chaplain *Emerita* in 2009. She then served interim ministries at three congregations in NY state, and was appointed an affiliate minister to the Community Church of New York and then church administrator in 2014, holding both positions until her death.

The Reverend Ms. Brugnola served over thirty years in various community ministries. She worked determinedly to dismantle racism and oppression around the world, receiving numerous honors for these diverse contributions to ministry, education, social justice, and the arts.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, April 17, 2016 at The Community Church (UU) of New York.

Notes of condolence can be sent in care of the Rev. Bruce Southworth, The Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016.

Virginia Lee Crane (1923 - 2016)

Virginia (Ginny) Lee Crane, widow of the Reverend John Alexie (Lex) Crane, died on January 23, 2016, just shy of her 93rd birthday, following a long life devoted to family, friends, service and travel.

Virginia Lee Garber was born in Elgin, IL on February 7, 1923 to Isaac Newton Garber and Judith Beery Garber. She attended Manchester College, IN and Barnard College, NY. She was married first to Stephen Blickenstaff; they had four children. In 1962, the family moved to India for several years, returning to live in Santa Barbara in 1968. Their marriage ended in divorce, and in 1976 Ginny married Lex Crane. In their 39 years together, Ginny was employed in UU-related administrative positions wherever Lex's ministerial career took them.

She was an avid volunteer and organizer in many liberal social causes, especially ending war, promoting peace and justice, and the rights of minorities, women and children. After retirement, she and Lex were active in UURMaPA.

Ginny had a passion for travel. She traveled throughout India as well as Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Cuba. She loved this life, making friends with people throughout the world and adapting easily to life in many different communities and cultures. Her open-mindedness, organizing skills, good humor, quick wit, gentleness, and warmth endeared her to all who knew her.

She is survived by three children and two step-children; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. In early August, 2015, Ginny lost Lex, the love of her life.

Her memorial service was held March 20, 2016, at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, CA.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Ginny's daughter, Claire Beery, 4440 Hillview Way, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.



Phyllis W. Dunlap (1930 - 2016)

Phyllis W. Dunlap, 85, wife of the Reverend Lewis Dunlap, died December 12, 2015 in Denver, CO. She was diagnosed with ALS in March, 2015 and then had a stroke at the end of November.

Phyllis May Wheeler was born in Palo Alto, CA on September 17, 1930 to Oliver and Ethel (Raymond) Wheeler. She graduated from Palo Alto High School in 1948, marrying William Dolan in 1952. They had four children, divorcing in 1980. After the divorce, she earned an AA degree in medical technology and became an x-ray technician.

She met Lew at First Universalist Church, Denver, CO, and they married in 1989. She liked to travel, and once joined Lew when his choir toured Russia and the Scandinavian countries. Back in the States they enjoyed camping, first in tents and then in a fifth-wheel rig.

She enjoyed English mysteries and loved to read them at home and at her family cabin on Silver Lake in Northern Colorado. The family was there this past August for what they thought might be her last visit there. They now treasure that visit.

A memorial service was held Monday, February 8, 2016 at First Universalist Church of Denver.

She is survived by her husband, her sister Jean Whitley, four children, one grandson and a host of friends.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Rocky Mtn Chapter, ALS Association, 10855 Dover St, Suite 500, Westminster, CO 80021-5554.

Condolences may be sent to Lew Dunlap, 2021 S. Dayton Ct., Denver, CO 80247.



Stewart E. Hild (1924-2014)

The Reverend Stewart Hild, who devoted a life of service to parishes, local communities, and the wider UU movement, died on July 12, 2014 at the age of 90.



Stewart E. Hild was born in Wilmington, DE, on March 3, 1924 to Edward and Grace Hild. He earned a B.S. degree at the University of Delaware in 1948 and an M.Div. degree at Drew University in 1951. He served in the Army Specialized Training Program during World War II.

Mr. Hild was ordained to the Methodist ministry in 1952, shifting to Unitarian ministerial fellowship in 1956. There he filled two pastorates, at the now UU Congregation of Franklin, NH and later at All Souls UU Church in Watertown, NY, where he was named Minister *Emeritus* in 1989.

He served the larger UU movement in several capacities: on the board of the UUA's New Hampshire/Vermont District, as chairman of that district's Extension Department, and as Selma Presence Representative for the UUA.

During his parish ministries, Mr. Hild was actively devoted to the work of many local and regional agencies in the areas of drug abuse, mental health, family issues, and community action. Stewart enjoyed travel, reading, and sports. While living in New Hampshire, he taught several classes in the History of Religion at Proctor Academy.

He is survived by his wife, Alma H. Hild, sons Edward and Thomas, and three grandchildren.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Alma H. Hild, 274 Schley Drive, Watertown, NY 13601.

Ingeborg Jack (1927 - 2016)

Ingeborg Jack, 88, widow of the Reverend Homer Jack, passed away peacefully in her sleep at Kendal at Longwood, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, on January 17, 2016.

Inge, as she liked to be called, was born in Stuttgart, Germany, but spent her adult years living in the USA, Belgium, Switzerland, and Thailand. Her early memories were of hikes in the Black Forest, and singing folk songs with her family. Inge had a beautiful voice and was often asked to sing by school and town officials.

Before retiring, Inge worked for UNICEF in New York City. She helped establish two chapters of Amnesty International, and worked tirelessly supporting the work of her late husband, peace and human rights activist, Homer Jack, who died in 1993.

Her friend Sue Nichols said, “While we were at the UU-UNO we were often in touch with Homer and Inge in connection with UN work. Vern and I often were reminded that it took both of us to do Homer’s NGO work at the UN.

“After Homer’s death, Inge remained in New York and New Jersey, continuing her work with UNICEF. After she moved to Pennsylvania we remained in touch. Sometimes, even after her move, we would see her at IARF and UN occasions.

“Upon Homer’s passing, Inge spent her time lobbying for children living in war ravaged areas, and trying to eradicate the use of land mines; she was also concerned about global warming.”

Inge was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Homer Jack. She leaves behind three daughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one sister.

A Celebration of Life was held January 24, 2016 at Kendal at Longwood, Kennett Square, PA.

Sympathy notes may be sent to Inge’s daughter, Renate Elatab, at 88 Mountain Ave., Haledon, NJ 07508.



Ann Marie Haggerty MacPherson (1926 - 2015)

Ann Marie MacPherson, 89, wife of the Reverend Dr. Robert H. MacPherson, died at Trinity View Retirement Center, Arden, North Carolina on December 29, 2015.



Ann Marie Haggerty was born June 12, 1926 to Alice Lang and George Dewey Haggerty, in Cleveland, OH. Educated in the Cleveland schools, she enrolled in the College of Wooster, Wooster, OH and was graduated in 1947. She won an MA in literature and composition from Western Reserve University, Cleveland, in 1948, then taught for four years at Rocky River High School, Cleveland, OH.

Ann was married in July, 1949 to the Reverend Dr. Robert H. MacPherson. They had two children, Robert Owen MacPherson, who died in 2005, and Ralph Lang MacPherson, Fairview, NC.

Mrs. MacPherson earned teaching certificates in Ohio, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Florida and North Carolina. She taught in all these states. She was on the faculty of AC Reynolds Middle School in Asheville, NC for seventeen years. She was a member of the NC Retired Teachers and of the National Education Association.

Her interest in art led her to be a docent at the Asheville Art Museum. With her husband, she joined the Unitarian Universalist Church, Asheville, now Unitarian Universalist Congregation, in 1971. She served on various committees and was Co-Chair of the Building Dedication in October 1972.

A memorial service was held January 10, 2016 at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville.

She is survived by her husband, one son, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

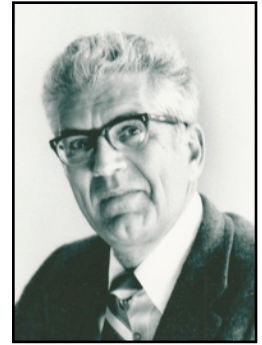
Notes of remembrance may go to Bob MacPherson, 2533 Henderson Rd., #309, Arden, NC 28704.

David D. Van Strien (1924 - 2014)

The Reverend David Van Strien, tireless worker for equal rights and opportunities for all people, died on June 29, 2014 at RiverMead Lifecare Community, Peterborough, NH. He was 89 years old.

David’s work for justice was primarily focused on the rights of the Palestinian people, but he was also instrumental in promoting Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union in southern New Hampshire.

Born on December 23, 1924 to John and Cornelia (Bouma) Van Strien, David Douglas Van Strien graduated high school in Bayonne, New Jersey, then attained a B.A. degree from Ursinus College in 1946 and a B.D. degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1954. He was married to Karin Fortun in May, 1959.



Although he grew up in the Dutch Reformed Church, Mr. Van Strien was ordained to the ministry in the United Church of Christ on June 6, 1954. He served two Congregational churches before being fellowshipped as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1967. He served as minister to the Peterborough NH UU Church from 1969 to 1990 and was voted Minister *Emeritus* in 1990.

During his twenty years of service in Peterborough, Mr. Van Strien dedicated much of his time to Unitarian Universalism, serving the UUA, the UUMN, and the UUMA. He also founded UU's for Justice in The Middle East in the early 1970's, chairing the organization from 1977 to 2003, and founded the Palestine Education Network.

A memorial service conducted by The Rev. Dr. David Robins was held on July 14, 2014 at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church, Peterborough, NH.

He is survived by his wife, Karin Van Strien; four nephews and a niece; and many great nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. Notes of condolence may be sent to Karin Van Strien at 205 Rivermead Road, Peterborough NH 03458.

James R. Wentz (1934- 2014)

The Reverend Jim Wentz died in Freeport, Long Island, on August 5, 2014, aged 79.



Jim was a philosopher, thought-leader, and writer. His strong qualities of patience, kindness, and understanding were seen when teaching the basics of power tools, beginner's chess, and life lessons such as, "Do the best you can."

James R. Wentz was born on August 17, 1934 to Orville and Louise Wentz. He earned a B.A. from Indiana Central University in 1961 and a B.D. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1966.

Mr. Wentz was ordained to the ministry in 1966 by the All Souls Unitarian Church of Indianapolis, IN. He then served the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, NY (1966-1976), and the South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Freeport, NY (1976-1980).

Jim earned a M.S. at the University of Bridgeport in 1981 and launched a specialized career in conducting weddings. He became popularly known as "Rev. I Do," performing weddings for over three decades.

The Reverend Mr. Wentz was active within the denomination and with the UUMA in many roles. Even after his retirement from parish ministry, he was an active member of the New York Metro District of the UUMA. He is remembered as never being without a new joke at ministers' gatherings.

Jim Wentz is survived by his daughter Lisa Medley, son Nicholas Wentz, and three grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on November 1, 2014 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY 11030.

Messages of condolence may be sent to Lisa Medley at lisa@soulisticarts.com.

It is one of the mysteries of our nature that a person, all unprepared, can take a thunderbolt like that and live. There is but one reasonable explanation of it. The intellect is stunned by the shock and but gropingly gathers the meaning of the words. The power to realize their full import is mercifully lacking. It will take mind and memory months and possibly years to gather together the details and thus learn and know the whole extent of the loss.

Mark Twain, writing about
the death of his daughter due to meningitis

UURMaPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION Form
October 3 - 6, 2016, 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 9th**.

Mail this form and your check to: **Ginger Luke, 5202 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20814**. Confirmation of your reservation and directions to the La Salette Center will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form and check.

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.

Questions? Concerns? Special Requests? Feel free to contact Ginger Luke.
 Email: gingerluke.lovely@gmail.com Cell Phone **301-502-0753**

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 Richard Speck
4721 Mermaid Blvd.,
Wilmington, DE 19808-1803**