



Elderberries

VOLUME 31

NUMBER 1

Winter 2016

Elders in Action - Immigration

Liz McMaster

I got to know Maria and her 3-year-old daughter, Ana, [not their real names] because I volunteer with the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice. If I wanted to be the mother of a 3-year-old girl at my age, I'd want her to be Ana. Despite the hardness of her young life, she laughs, she plays imaginary games — she's adorable.



She and her mother fled their Central American country because gangs were threatening their small business — either turn it over to the gang or be killed. Ana's father had already escaped under death threats, so Maria bundled up Ana and took the long, dangerous, arduous flight to *la*

frontera. They crossed into Texas, sought amnesty, and were put into detention in a Texas prison — the government calls it a "Residential Center." Our coalition petitioned to care for them in Albuquerque, and they arrived by bus last August.

Here are some facts few Americans know. When Maria was released into our care, she was forced to wear an ankle bracelet so the authorities could keep track of her. It was so heavy that it wore the skin off her ankle; the authorities removed it after 2 months. She was not allowed to get a job, which means that she had a choice: she could count on strangers for everything from food to diapers to a place to sleep, or watch her child starve, or break the law, or return to her native country and be killed. Meanwhile, her husband is in detention in the state of Washington. He has an aunt in New York who could vouch for him, but since his wife and daughter are in Albuquerque, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) figured him to be a flight risk and denied his release with bail.

Our job now is to figure out a way for Maria and Ana to get to New York, find housing, and continue to work toward amnesty for the entire family. The local non-profit law center for immigrant justice has too few

lawyers and assistants to help the numbers of undocumented people who need their help; Maria had one visit with a lawyer and then was told they could not help her further.

As part of my work with my client, Maria, I take her to scheduled meetings with immigration authorities concerning her plea for amnesty. As we drive to the meetings, we joke, but there's an underlying tension about what she's going to encounter.

Two months ago, I took Maria and Ana to a meeting with authorities who would decide if her case could proceed. We arrived at an austere office with unsmiling guards who motioned us to a row of seats beside a window. Ana sat down and drew with her finger a series of circles and stars. For the ninety minutes that Maria spent with the authorities, Ana kept herself (and me, and the guards) entertained with her cheerful and inventive games of make-believe. There was never a time during that hour and a half that she didn't appear happy.

NM Faith Coalition relies on small grants and donations. We show films, have receptions, and ask some of our undocumented 'clients' to speak of their experiences at local churches. We've sponsored 5K walk/runs. We've led immersion trips to Juarez to speak with local folks who are helping the refugees, and we've led local trips in Albuquerque to educate the public on the struggles that



NMFCIJ Block Party - 2014

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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

It's official now. The language of our UURMaPA Statement of Purpose has been changed to read as follows:

“Working in faithfulness to the Unitarian Universalist tradition and to the guidelines and code of conduct of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, the purpose of this organization shall be to serve the interests and enhance the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers and their life partners through informational communication, periodic membership gatherings, and other supportive programs and activities.”

Those of you with a discerning eye will notice that this language differs from the proposal made in the Fall, 2015 issue. The Board preferred the suggestion made by Jay Atkinson, which emphasizes faithfulness (good religious word) to our whole tradition, not just the Purposes and Principles of the UUA, and our close relationship with the UUMA. Many thanks to Jay.

As of the first of the year, we bade farewell to Marcia Olsen as our Membership Coordinator and welcomed Richard Speck in her place. Our President, Jim Eller, wrote this in a note to her:

Marcia, it is hard to believe that you are giving up your role as membership secretary. You have done such a thorough, capable and caring job, it is hard to imagine it being done without you. On behalf of our Board and the UURMaPA community, thank you so much for your dedication and your always conscientious and excellent job. Best wishes for your good health and continued happiness.

Respectfully,
Jim Eller, President of UURMaPA

Remember that the deadline for the Spring issue is April 15, for publication around May 1.

— Judy Welles

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

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people without proper documentation are living with every day. We have a part-time Director, whose office is provided rent-free in a Presbyterian church.

The irony of all this is that gangs in Central America — Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — were created on the streets of American cities among kids who were mistreated by classmates, by employers, by everyday people every day. They were deported to their native countries and now terrorize the population by doing what they learned in American cities. And so the people escape to travel through gang-infested Mexico and, if they're lucky and haven't died or been killed, cross into the United States — to be subject to our tangled and cross-purposed immigration laws that Congress has been unwilling to fix.

Maybe my relationship with Maria and Ana is unique, but I don't believe it! I believe that the interactions we have with the people who have come into the United States — whether because of threats on their lives or the need to make an economic life for themselves and their families — give us the opportunity to stretch out a helping hand and learn much in the exchange. I am certain that my friendship with Maria and Ana has been a blessing to my life — a connection and friendship that I carry with me gratefully.

A Word from Your President

“What We Do...”

To be of service to those who have served our movement is the mission of UURMaPA. The official language is “to serve the interests and enhance the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers and their life partners.”

There are many ways we on the UURMaPA Board attempt to fulfill this promise. We put out a fine newsletter, we offer conferences, we act as representatives of our UURMaPA community in relation to the UUA and the UUMA and more. We offer programming at the General Assembly, we host conversations for ministers and partners considering moving to retirement. We are working to create on-line workshops to help with this as well. These are things we have been doing.

Recently, we have added an additional spring conference to gather us and enrich the culture of our association. We have added two board members to spread out the work of an active and working board and to increase our outreach. We are upgrading our website.

For the future, we are working to recreate the “Minister on Loan” program, hoping to offer retired ministers the opportunity to do short term consultations or short term residencies with congregations. The duration will vary depending on the need of the congregation. Some “Minister on Loan” stays will be short, and others multiple months or a year or more. The hope is to give those with interest and talent the chance to use those skills and to serve our movement by offering new ways to serve that are fitting to a retired or semi-retired life-style. More information about this program will be forthcoming as we continue to work on this new initiative.

The Reverend Dick Gilbert often said that there are three phases of retirement, “Go-Go,” “Slow-Go,” and “No-Go.” UURMaPA, of course, is attempting to reach out in ways that meet the needs of all three varieties of energy and interest. So, if you are a “Go-Goer,” be watching for our Minister on Loan initiative.



Dear UURMaPA Friends:

Are you struggling to pay your winter heating or summer cooling bills? Could you use a bit of help? Each year, the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances provides a stipend to retirees to help pay for high fuel costs. If a stipend from the UUA would be helpful to your budget, please drop me a note with your name, address, and contact information.

Also, my office works closely with the Society for Ministerial Relief and other aid societies to provide assistance to ministers or their survivors who are really struggling with their finances. Grants are available for ongoing expenses. Our goal is to smooth out the rough edges of retirement. And my office has funds to help with the occasional extraordinary expenses that arise from time to time.

If you would like to be considered for a grant, or if you know someone else who might benefit, please let me know and provide a few details. Depending upon circumstances, we may require submission of an income and expense form.

Faithfully, Richard

Rev. Richard Nugent
Director, UUA Church Staff Finances
Rnugent@uua.org

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?

“Romancing the Farm”

Sarah York

Maybe you’ve seen those YouTube videos — you know, the ones where baby goats leap from a tree stump and take flight in a twisty motion that is something between ballet and contortion. And you giggled. Yes, you really giggled, because something in their joyful abandon stirred your inner child.



That’s what my husband Chuck and I do a lot on the farm. We giggle, we smile, we say, “Oh, look at that!” We try to capture the tykes on video gyrating with their adorable kicks and turns, and by the time we have cell phones turned on and set to shoot, the kids are pausing to nibble on a tasty weed. So mostly we just engage ourselves right there in the moment, like grandparents relishing a child’s laughter.

Goats bring me into the present, which is where they live all the time. Since we got our first goats in 2008, I live there more often, too.

We have a small herd of French Alpine dairy goats, and each year it gets a little harder to keep up with milking, stall-cleaning, or lifting bales of hay and 50-pound bags of grain. Our retired friends post pictures from their world travels on Facebook.

Having chosen the farm life, we sigh... and post pictures of baby goats climbing the llama’s back.

Sometimes on a hot summer day when I am hauling a few gallons of milk up the hill from the barn to be sold to local soap-makers or curdled into fresh chevre, I mumble to myself, “I’m too old for this!” I know the time will come when I will have to give up these creatures who somehow connect me with the pulse of creation.

But not yet, please. Physical labor centers me in my aging body. Arthritis has crippled my hands and stiffened my joints, but I am stretched by this animal adventure to compensate for debility, and I respectfully refuse to allow pain to prevail.

“Are you still preaching?” a friend asked recently. “No,” I said. “Not much. Goats don’t take Sundays off, you know.” “What a waste,” she said. It was intended as a compliment, of course, but her remark gave me pause. I continue to offer ministry through UUA consulting, writing, and spiritual direction. Retirement, however, has



given me the opportunity to shift into a more physical dimension and deepen my bond with nature. All my life, I have been a student of liberal arts; now I am learning animal science. Instead of attending seminars on congregational conflict management, I am taking classes on the physiology of goat sex and artificial insemination. After 30 years as a spiritual midwife, I am assisting does in labor (as a “kidwife”).

Life on the farm is good. Every day I give thanks for my daily milk. And then, because I am a minister and therefore wired to be productive, I make cheese.

To learn more about Sarah and Chuck’s life on the farm, visit their farm site, <http://moorespondfarm.com>.



Partners Column

“Playing My Hand”

Nancy Bauer

After spending many years as a psychotherapist and massage therapist, I began to find myself thinking a lot about my father (who died when I was 13) and how much alike we are and how much he taught me. And I found myself being drawn toward some of those things I had learned from him. So I started learning a lot about fixing things and updating homes. I found I was quite good at it, and I really enjoyed it. (Marni appreciated this newfound ability.) There is so much more to learn, and I value the opportunities to learn something new when they arise.

And then when Marni, in semi-retirement, went off to do an interim, we discovered there was a program to become a Master Gardener. I wanted to learn more about growing vegetables, so I went. That was almost 6 years ago; this year we finally have a real crop. The class was perfect for me because I enjoy working in the yard, landscaping, creating outdoor areas, repurposing plants and rocks and doing most of the work myself. It keeps this body limber and strong. I learned about Florida Friendly Landscaping, including plants that are native to Florida and plants that grow well here. Currently I’m converting parts of our irrigation system to micro-irrigation so that water is conserved and not wasted. Our vegetable garden is in elevated beds, an old wheelbarrow and Earth boxes located on what was previously a small basketball court in the back yard. In the earthy part of the backyard we’ve planted bananas, a peach tree, fig tree, orange tree, guava and pineapple.

One of the great things about Central Florida is that we have two growing seasons — cool weather and warm weather. This makes me very happy, particularly the cool growing season, because we can grow a wide variety of our favorites from September until the spring. Right now in the garden we have collards, chard, two types of kale, and spinach, in addition to carrots, beans, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and broccoli. There is nothing like going out to cut fresh vegetables and herbs to use in a meal!



Nancy hanging out with the boys



With the free time allowed by retirement I’ve also recovered a love of painting, especially working with acrylics. I started painting with oils in the early 70’s and switched to acrylics within a few years. I painted off and on for years but lately I have a passion for it again. Currently most of my paintings are relatively small (for me), since I used to do canvases that were 4’x4.’ All my work is abstract. For me, painting is an organic process. There is no thought or planning involved. It’s as though the colors say “Pick me” and then guide my hand to where they want to go. And the painting lets me know when it’s finished. I never know what a painting will look like. Over the years I’ve also experimented with watercolors, T-shirt painting with SW designs, and colored chalk. I tend to express in bright, bold colors.

Recently I went to a class in hypertufa. Hypertufa is a medium made from Portland cement, peat, vermiculite, perlite and water. We made pots for plants in the class, and I’ve made some at home since then. They tend to be lightweight, and can be decorated with stones, glass mosaic or other designs. Recently I made some garden step stones using hypertufa and created mosaic designs for them. The mosaics included dragonflies, ladybugs, and birds. The wonderful thing about trying something new is getting to see how I might improve on it next time. This was true with the step stones.

Something I’m currently very interested in is working with the ideas and methods of the KonMari system of tidying up presented in the book, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* by Marie Kondo. I first read about it in the New York Times and thought it sounded fascinating. I had studied the Japanese methods of Morita and Naikan psychotherapies years ago, and this had the same wonderful, sensible and heartfelt feel to it. I’ve only just begun, but know I will continue. I have a lot of stuff so it will take a while.

Until we meet again.

Nancy



Nancy Bauer, former psychotherapist and body worker, lives in Orlando, Florida. Her partner is Marni Harmony.

Leadership Column

“Supporting Older Adult Faith Journeys” Gail Forsyth-Vail

In October, I attended an Adult Faith Formation Symposium, where people from many different faith traditions explored spiritual needs in all four seasons of adulthood: young adult, mid-life, mature adult, and older adult. At the symposium, we recognized the presence of



Brooksbury Village residents visit the UUA

two distinct generations who are now “older adults:” the Boomer generation and their parents, the Builder generation. The generational experiences and preferences of the two groups are very different, as

are the spiritual, emotional, and physical challenges each group faces.

The insights I gained from the symposium were important to me as a religious educator, but they were also deeply personal. I am a Boomer, and qualify as an older adult by all definitions used by experts. I also have varying responsibilities for care of three parents in their late 80s. I feel the spiritual challenges of my own stage of life, as I wrestle with professional and personal legacy and what comes next for me, while also coming to terms with physical limitations I did not have a couple of decades ago.

At the same time, I am acutely aware of the spiritual challenges that face my parents’ generation: the need for connection and community, the time required to take care of health and wellbeing, the dance of independence and safety/support, the deaths and losses that come with great regularity. And I live the truth that not just challenges and losses, but also strengths and gifts come with aging: richness in wisdom, experience, and perspective; stories of ethical, moral, and faith commitments honored over the course of a lifetime; and ability to take the long view of situations.

Following the symposium, I set to work on developing pages for *UUA.org* specifically to address the spiritual journey of older adulthood, talking with congregational



Members of the UU Church of Charlotte, NC share the gift of music.

leaders, religious educators, and community ministers about what ought to be included among our resources. We decided to share links not only to UU-authored or UUA published materials and websites, but also to helpful materials and websites from other sources.



Stretching at a Ferry Beach conference

I’m pleased to share the news that a whole new set of pages is now published. You can find them by searching for Older Adults on *UUA.org*, or by going to this link: <http://www.uua.org/re/older-adults>.

These pages offer resources and guidance for older adults and those who love them. They will also help congregations and groups find the resources they need for ministry to and with older adults. The topics addressed include caring for body, mind, and spirit; facing death, grief, and loss; recommended programs for groups; making health care decisions; support for caregivers; and leaving an ethical and tangible legacy.

These pages are working, living documents. We plan to keep them fresh with new photos and with new resources as they become available or known to us. Your comments and suggestions for additions are most welcome; send an email to adultprograms@uua.org.



Gail Forsyth-Vail is Adult Programs Director in the Faith Development Office at the UUA.

Turbo Tax Help

Several retired ministers who use TurboTax have had trouble entering their UUA retirement income as housing allowance. Here is a pathway that has worked.

1. In the TurboTax search box enter 1099-r and press Enter.
2. Click on the Jump to 1099-r link.
3. On the Your 1099-r screen check Yes and click Continue.
4. Follow the prompts to Edit (review a form you already created) or Add a 1099-r (creates a new copy of the form to enter).
5. Follow the interviews to enter or review your information, except do not enter any Box 2 information.

— Doug Gallager

“New Year’s Eve 1954” - Fred Lipp

When I was 16, a French family just outside of Paris saved my life on New Year's Eve. At the time, I was too young and foolish to write down the family's name. I was an American student at college in England, and in a catalytic moment I decided to sell for cash my camera and camel's hair coat. This bounty allowed me to travel for the first time to France. I hitchhiked by truck through Paris, until I was stuck outside the city freezing to death under a street lamp. At first I was bitten by chill, then icy cold and finally numbness. I collapsed into a profound sleep.



After midnight, a young family picked me up. I recall their fishing through my jacket for my passport as I meekly fought them off. Despite

my protest and their reassurance, I gave way as my credentials were studied in the warm car. After I quickly fell back to sleep, my guides took me home and gave me a small glass of sweet cognac. “Here,” the host explained, “put this cube of sugar in the front of your mouth and sip the cognac through it.” Soon after, the couple put me to bed after they explained they had seen me on their way into Paris for a New Year’s party, seeing me again in a destitute state on their return home. For my part, I remembered little until I awoke in a strange bed.

I recall first wondering how I was undressed, and who I would see on the other side of the door. I felt somehow like a “welcomed intruder.” On that morning of January 1, 1955, I was given coffee, bread and butter. “Here now, you butter the long bread and dip it into the cup of coffee – like this!” His wife interrupted that this was not the proper way. She explained I should break the bread into smaller pieces. There was an atlas to my right. I was invited to point to my home in America. I felt a smile blossom on my face as I pointed to home, wondering what my parents would think about my travels.

I was finally bid farewell by this dear generous family who will remain forever to me nameless. They drove me to the highway as I hitchhiked to the warmth of the Riviera. I owe my life to this young family who must be now in their eighties and nineties.

On the Eve of 2016, I am 77 and grateful for a happy family life with my wife after serving in the ministry, working to educate girls in Cambodia, and as a children's author.

Thank you whoever you were that night in the record bitter cold.

Love from an American friend who owes you his life.

Fred

Fred Lipp is the winner of UURMaPA's 2015 Creative Sageing Award. See the Summer, 2015 issue of Elderberries, page 9, for details.

Seeking Interviewees for a Book on Aging

For a book with a working title of *Meaning and Spirit in Aging*, I am seeking those who would be available to be interviewed. By “meaning” I refer to the sense of what matters to us in our lives. How does that change as we age, and how does it remain the same? By “spirit” I am concerned with “what gives us life,” that is, what enlivens us, draws us toward engagement, gets us up in the morning.

My focus in this book is not on early retirees who are able to fully participate in life. Rather, I am concerned with the time that comes to just about everyone — should we live so long — when we experience diminishment: when we can't participate in life as we once could. Then, how do we find meaning and purpose? And how are our spiritual lives affected? What gives us life, hope, a sense of possibility?

I can do in-person interviews in the Washington, DC area, phone or Skype interviews anywhere else. As ministers, our life's work is concerned with meaning and spirit. I am interested in our insights as we confront the challenges — and opportunities — of the later years.

Thanks,

Bruce Marshall, bmarshall@roadmuseum.org

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee seeks to keep a balance of ministers and partners on our Board. We also try to keep a balance of male and female members and to maintain geographic diversity.

The following people have been nominated for the Board. All nominations are for two-year terms. The slate of nominees will also be posted on UURMaPA-Announce, our e-mail list for official business. If no other nominations are submitted to the Nominating Committee (Chris Backus at 360/715-1984 or chrisbackus@msn.com) by April 1, the slate is considered elected and begins serving on July 1, 2016.

Secretary: Judy Gibson (incumbent)

Treasurer: Joel Weaver (incumbent)

Newsletter Editor: Judy Welles (incumbent)

Member-at-Large, conferences: John Manwell (filling out term)

On behalf of UURMaPA, we thank John Weston for his service from July 1, 2013 to Oct. 31, 2015 as Member-at-Large for Conferences. He worked closely with John Manwell for a smooth transition.

Chris Lilly Backus, Nominating Committee Chair

Doris Hunter

Bob Morriss

New Members Since Oct. 15, 2015

Jay Abernathy and Eileen Schlemmer (ret. 8/14)

Nancee Campbell

Burton Carley and Betsy Mandel-Carley

Peter Newport and Tricia Hart

John and Nancy Nichols

Claudine Oliva and Karen Genter

Stephan Papa and Patricia Prevost

Rosalie Rimrodt

Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

Mike Adamek, who is retired from the Springfield, MO church, is hardly retired at all. For 15 years he has been teaching Religion & Philosophy at the Ozark Technical Community College in Springfield and preaching once a month at the Jefferson City, MO Fellowship. He also informs us that one is able to tell if an e-mail came from an old person because only old people are still using yahoo.com. Mike uses yahoo.com.

Dick and Jopie Boeke were in Amsterdam recently with **Doris Hunter**, where they met with IARF President Rev. Wytse Dijkstra. Dick then flew on to Rome for a four day Religions for Peace Conference at Castel Gondolfo, attended by 300 participants from two dozen countries and at least eight religions.

The greater Detroit UURMAPA gathered for the first time at a luncheon hosted by **Doug Gallagher** and **Celia Thurston** at their home on Nov. 20th. Nancy Doughty, caring coordinator, arranged the gathering. In the photo are Celia Thurston, Doug Gallagher and **Fred Campbell** in the front row. In the back, Tom Schade, Fran Dew, Nancy Doughty, Ken Phifer and John Corrado.



Dave Hunter reports that nine UURMaPAns met for lunch December 10 at the home of **Mary Higgins** in Oxford, PA. Mary, **Kerry Mueller** and Dave, **Richard Speck & Janet Tillman**, **Carol Taylor & Joel Weaver**, **Garry LeFevre**, and **Peggy Doss**. (**Bob Doss** is no longer able to travel.)

On September 23, 2015, **Chester McCall** retired from One East Palo Alto (OEPA) Neighborhood Improvement Initiative, where he worked as a Consumer/Family Member Program Facilitator at The Barbara A. Mouton Multicultural Wellness Center (The Mouton Center).

Richard Speck's brother Mike died recently while Richard was with him. He writes, “I feel a mixture of grief, and sadness..., but also a feeling of thanksgiving that I was here with him to express my love for him to his face. While he and I were polar opposites in politics and race relations, he was still my brother and I mourn his death.”

In another year, **Farley Wheelwright** will be 100 years old. When he was told told we could then put his picture on Smuckers jelly jars, he said, “NO WAY!!!” Farley is still living in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and is being cared for by his long-time secretary/care giver.

Linda Wiltz transplanted herself about four months ago to Oregon, from Binghamton, NY and Youngstown, OH, towns where her late husband, David Leonard, was minister with the UU congregations. Learning more about loneliness than she likes, she has been feeling like a stranger in a very strange land — Corvallis, OR is very different from upstate NY.

Creative Sageing Award

UURMaPA's annual Creative Sageing Award recognizes members for outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement. Such ventures are limited only by the imagination, and could include such things as publication and other creative work, community service, teaching or mentoring. (I can't resist mentioning here how many times I typically have to correct my computer's automatic correction of me when I type sageing — it keeps wanting to change it to Creative Sagging! Well, no amount of creativity should be overlooked I suppose...)

I am grateful to Makaanah Morriss and Ellen Brandenburg, who will join me in choosing this year's recipient. The winner(s) will be announced at General Assembly in Columbus and awarded a cash prize of \$500.

Please send your nomination, together with your rationale for making it, to Marni Harmony (mharmony@uuma.org)

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.

Stanley Aronson (1933-2015)

The Reverend Stan Aronson, who was active in a broad array of service to the UUA, UUMA, and local community organizations, died on January 12, 2015, aged 81.

Stanley Aronson was born on June 5, 1933 to Abraham and Tillie Aronson. He attended Temple University, earning a Doctor of Podiatry in 1958, then worked as a podiatrist and a disc jockey before heeding a call to ministry. He took mid-year graduation from Starr King (M.Div., January 1982); in November, 1982, he was ordained by the First Unitarian (now UU) Church of Berkeley.

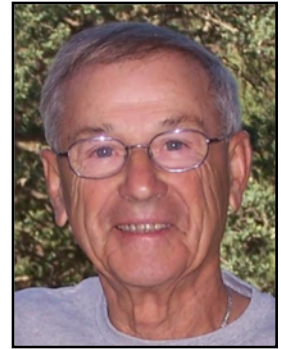
After a series of time-limited parish appointments in Texas; Detroit MI; Albany, NY; and State College, PA, he was called to settled ministry in 1990 to the UU Society of Stamford, CT, where he served until retirement in 1999, when he was named *Minister Emeritus*.

Mr. Aronson co-chaired the UUA's Urban Church Coalition and the board of the UUA's Michigan District. He also served in a variety of volunteer positions for the District and the Michigan UUMA chapter, and for such community organizations as the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, the Interfaith Conference on Liberal Religion, the Interfaith AIDS Advisory Committee, the Pacific House Shelter for the Homeless, the Council on Churches/Synagogues, and the Interfaith Dialogue Task Force.

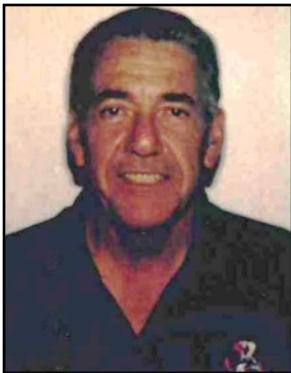
He had a wide range of interests, including writing, music, exercising, film, and Harley Davidsons. He was also very social, and according to his son Brad, "died having had more friends than most could only dream of having."

Stanley Aronson is survived by three sons, Brad, Greg and Kevin; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Brad Aronson, 1262 Truchard Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.



Robert Louis Campbell (1930-2015)



Robert Louis Campbell, 85, Marine Corps officer and athlete, and husband of the Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf, died December 19, 2015 at home in Crystal River, FL.

He was born in Port Jervis, NY, the only child of Louis and Elizabeth Strauser Campbell, graduating high school in Poughkeepsie, NY, where he ran track and played football. At Boston University he was House Manager of the Alpha Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha, ran track, was a sprinter, and graduated with a BA in Latin American Regional Studies.

He then enlisted in the Marine Corps Officers Candidate School and graduated as a second lieutenant. He was stationed for four years at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, HI, where he served as the base provost marshal and was responsible for monitoring civilian activities on the base.

Upon returning home, Bob worked in the insurance business in New England until 1991, then moved to Florida and continued working for a few more years. He and his late wife,

Nancy Eaton Vent, were charter members of Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists in Lecanto, founded in 1998.

He met and married Mary Louise in 2000; she was studying for the UU ministry then, and shared a book on grieving with Bob when his wife died.

Bob is survived by his second wife, Mary Louise DeWolf; his son Bob; a grandson and granddaughter and two great grandchildren.

His memorial service was held at Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists, Citrus Springs FL on January 6, 2016. Notes of remembrance may go to Mary Louise DeWolf, 936 Pompano Ave., Crystal River, FL 34429.

William A. DeWolfe (1927- 2014)



The Reverend Bill DeWolfe, long-time parish minister, UUA regional leader, steadfast activist for civil rights and justice, and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, died at age 87 on 29 October 2014, after suffering a heart attack.

Bill was widely known, admired, and loved by colleagues. He was “a minister to ministers, always with a keen eye to what was needed to bring insight and healing,” said the Rev. Bill Hamilton-Holway.

William Arthur DeWolfe was born in Boston on 21 August 1927 to John Campbell Gordon DeWolfe and Miriam Elbridge Ford DeWolfe. After graduation from Medford high school, he enrolled at Tufts but deferred his study there for service in the U.S. Army (1945-1947). Subsequently, Bill met Barbara Louise Mosher, also a Tufts student, at Ferry Beach, where generations of his family had participated. They were married in 1949, and he was graduated from Tufts with an AB in 1950. He went on for ministerial study at Harvard, served a student

ministry at the Assinippi Universalist church, was ordained to Universalist ministry in 1952, and completed his STB from Harvard in 1953.

Between 1953 and 1973, the Rev. Mr. DeWolfe served congregations in MA, TX, and MO. After these parish ministries, he turned to administrative work as UUA Interdistrict Representative to the Eastern Great Lakes Area (1973-1985) and as District Executive for Central Massachusetts and the Connecticut Valley (1986-1992).

Deeply devoted to the larger UU movement at many levels over the years, Bill DeWolfe attended many UU summer camps and institutes. He belonged to the Fraters of the Wayside Inn and the Cedar Hill Study Group, founded the Eastern Great Lakes Leadership School, served on the boards of the Connecticut Valley and Northern New England Districts, the UUMA, and as president of the Universalist Historical Society and UURMaPA.

Mr. DeWolfe advocated for civil action and justice, serving organizations such Planned Parenthood, Rotary Club, and the Texas and national ACLU. After retirement to Maine, Bill and Barbara were active members of the Rockland UU church, and later the Augusta UU church and the Augusta Senior College.

Barbara wrote. “One of the things I appreciated about Bill was that even in the days before women’s lib, he was always urging me to follow my career as much as I wanted to. He would readily take care of the kids while I went off to work.”

Bill DeWolfe is survived by his wife Barbara; two sons, Richard and Paul; four grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. Another son, the Rev. Mark Mosher DeWolfe, died in 1988.

His memorial service was held on 21 November 2014. at the UU Community Church of Augusta, Maine. Notes of condolence may be sent to Barbara DeWolfe, 60 Balsam Drive, Apt. 207, Hallowell, ME 04347-3011.

Marilyn Blitzstein Hromatko (1946-2015)

Marilyn Blitzstein Hromatko, Biblical linguist, amateur radio operator, religious educator and traveler, died of cancer at age 68 on Oct. 31, 2015 at Morningside Heights Care Center in Marshall, MN. She was the wife of the Rev. Dr. Wesley V. Hromatko.

Marilyn was born to Leland and Ellinore Blitzstein in Chicago on Dec. 17, 1946. She graduated from South Shore High in 1965, having received a citizenship award from the city of Chicago. She studied at Roosevelt University, then at Northern Illinois University, where she earned her bachelor's degree. Two years later she received a master's degree in English, then was a resident assistant at Kent State during the campus disturbance there, helping to restore calm.

She was a Girl Scout executive in the Chicago area and later a YWCA program director. Marilyn then studied at Meadville Lombard Theological School and the University of Chicago. She met the Rev. Dr. Wesley Hromatko while he was serving First Unitarian Church of Hobart, IN. They were married September 17, 1978.

Religion interested her but preaching didn't. She taught church school, was involved with the Central Midwest District religious education library, and organized the Tri-State UU Gathering. Toward the end of her life she returned to studying Biblical language. She helped edit a physics book, *Conceptual Physics* by Paul Hewitt, was an amateur radio operator, and had a great interest in the natural sciences.

She is survived by her husband; two sisters and a brother; and various other family members. Services were held Nov. 4 at Chandler Funeral Home, Chandler, MN.

Notes of remembrance may be sent to Wesley Hromatko at 752 121st St., Lake Wilson, MN 56151.



Paul E. O'Connell (1924-2015)

Paul E. O'Connell, 90, World War II POW, publisher, world traveler, and husband of the Rev. Phyllis B. O'Connell, died peacefully on Nov. 14, 2015.

Born Dec. 15, 1924, Paul was the last of nine children born to Catherine and William O'Connell. He grew up in Cambridge, MA and at age 18 joined the US Army Air Corps. He was a navigator on a B-17 bomber when his plane was shot down, and the entire crew was captured and sent to a POW camp in Germany.

Returning home, he attended Harvard University on the GI Bill, marrying his first wife, Eleanor, while in school. They had six children.

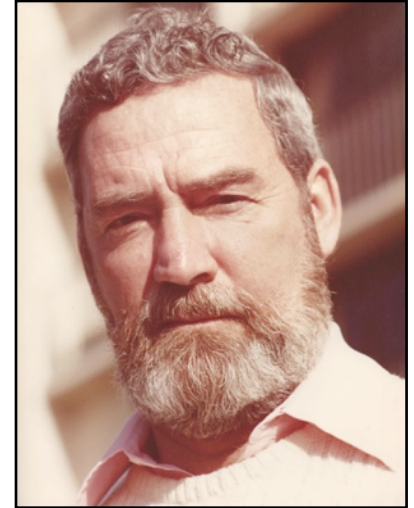
Paul spent his career in the college textbook publishing business, where he met his second wife, Phyllis. They were married for 45 years and had two children. Even in retirement, he continued to work as a consultant for several presses. He took his last business trip to an academic convention in Dallas at age 85.

Paul loved to travel, especially to France and Italy. His hobbies included singing in a variety of groups, playing tennis, and following every Boston sports team.

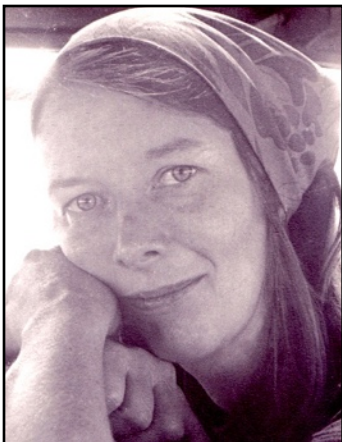
He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, his eight children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 22, 2015 at First Parish, Unitarian Universalist, Wayland, MA.

Notes of remembrance may be sent to Phyllis O'Connell, 164 Galen St., Apt. 86, Watertown, MA 02472.



Ann Warren Wheat (1935-2015)



Ann Warren Wheat, musician and community volunteer, died at the age of 80 on Sept. 14, 2015 in South Haven, MI. She was the wife of the Rev. Donald H. Wheat.

Born on Jan. 31, 1935 in Leipsic, OH, Ann was the daughter of Ferdinand and Theo Warren. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1957, the same year she married Don Wheat. They lived in Rensselaer, IN, and then for more than 50 years in the communities of Austin and Oak Park, IL.

Ann studied at the American Conservatory of Music and taught piano to Oak Parkers for 40 years. She was also a longtime community volunteer with the League of Women Voters, the Chicago Area Music Teachers Association, and Chicago's Third Unitarian Church.

She loved swimming, birds, the outdoors, and sharing her love of nature with her many friends, her children, and her grandsons. "Ann was a role model for love of family, friends, children, adults, and humanity in general, and also for grace in aging and dying," said fellow piano teacher Betsy Davis.

Ann Wheat is survived by her husband, Don; her children, Mark, Andrew, and Sarah; and five grandsons.

A memorial service was held at Third Unitarian Church in Chicago on Sept. 19, with long-time family friends, the Rev. Fred Muir of Annapolis and the Rev. Kent Matthies of Philadelphia officiating.

Condolences may be sent to Don Wheat, 77338 Pinewood Ln., South Haven, MI 29090.

"No, no, my good man. This is no time to be making enemies."

Voltaire on his deathbed in response to a priest asking him to renounce Satan.

**Unitarian Universalist Retired
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c/o Richard Speck
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