



Elderberries

VOLUME 32

NUMBER 2

Spring, 2017

Meet Your New Board Members

As of July 1 this year, we will welcome four new members to the Board, introduced below. Judy Welles moves from *Elderberries* editor to President, Art Severance moves from Member at Large to Caring Network Coordinator; and Marni Harmony moves from Vice President to Member at Large. With gratitude and sadness, we say farewell to Jim Eller, President; Liz McMaster, Caring Network Coordinator; and John Manwell, Member at Large.

Nancee Campbell, *Elderberries* editor, is a 6th generation Unitarian and Universalist who grew up among the potato fields in northern Maine. Her father was a southerner stationed at the German prisoner of war camp in Houlton during World War II who married a local girl.



After the war, her family moved to Minnesota for his work. Nancee was 17 when he died suddenly, and the family moved back to Houlton where she attended Ricker College. But northern Maine was no place to be during the '60's, so Nancee moved to and lived in Washington, D.C. for several years. She also served as a VISTA volunteer on an Indian reservation in Wisconsin and in New Hampshire.

14 years later she accidentally graduated from Ricker and went to graduate school at Emerson College in Boston. She worked as the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for the state of Maine prior to attending Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley. Upon ordination, she served churches on Cape Cod, in Rockland, ME and Stockton, CA. Since retiring from parish ministry, she has worked as a Chaplain at Maine General Hospital in Augusta, and as a Hospice Chaplain. She is developing an educational program to identify substance use disorders among elderly citizens in Maine.

Ginger Luke, Member at Large, is currently the Minister *Emerita* of River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Bethesda, Maryland. As the Director of Religious Education or Minister of Religious Education, she served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Lincoln, Nebraska; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the River Road UU Congregation.

She obtained her Masters of Divinity degree in 2001



from Meadville Lombard Theological School, where she received the Roberta Nelson Award for Excellence in Religious Education. She was ordained the following year by River Road Unitarian Church. She

is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Panel on Theological Education, a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship Board and a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association's President's Council. She received the Unitarian Universalist Skinner Sermon Award in 2000 for the sermon best expressing Unitarian Universalism's social principles that year. In 2013 she received the Meadville Lombard Theological School Alumni/ae Service Award for her exemplary service to the school. In 2015 she received the 44th Annual Unitarian Universalist Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education. Her article "Love as the Ethical Basis" was recently published in *Humanist*

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UURMaPA BOARD

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

You may view online or download the Membership Directory (updated regularly) at www.uurmapa.org under the Publications tab. The required password is WISDOM (in caps).

From Your Editor:

This is the last issue I will edit before becoming the President of UURMaPA. It's been a challenging and rewarding experience as I have put together some 16 issues since the summer of 2013.

Among the rewards has been connecting with many leaders in our faith, particularly within UURMaPA, the UUMA, and the UUA. I have learned a lot from them and from you. And I have a renewed appreciation for the hard work the UUA staff members do on our behalf.

Another reward has been the appreciation of survivors for the thoughtfulness of the obituaries we publish both here and on our website. I often receive notes of appreciation from widows and widowers. It is an honor not unlike conducting a memorial service to remember the lives of those who have ministered and those who have supported them.

I have not done it alone — the Editorial Board, our obituary writers, everyone who has submitted written material and photos, your UURMaPA Board, and our commercial printer and mail service have been essential. Thank you!

As I turn the keyboard over to Nancee Campbell to carry on the editorial tradition, I wish her well and hope that you will respond positively to her. Please be prompt in getting materials to her and freely express your gratitude for her labors.

—Judy Welles
Elderberries Editor



Save the Date!

October 2-5, 2017

Attleboro Fall 2017 Conference

"Strengthening Our Souls in These Troubled Times"

Rev. Laurel Hallman, Spiritual Director and Parish Minister, will lead us in a spiritual retreat focusing on accessing traditional contemplative skills of stability, wisdom and vision as challenges swirl around us. She will ask us to reflect on "Who we are as elders in these times."

The registration form is printed on page 15 and available on our web site.

More information will follow about:

- The Odyssey
- Worship Services
- Small Interest Groups
- Field Trip
- Social Hours

For questions contact:

Phyllis Hubbell: phubbell@uuma.org. 571/223-6604

A Word from Your President

Being President of UURMaPA for the past two years and Vice President for the four years before has been a privilege. During my second year in office, actively participating in UURMaPA conferences, it became obvious that for many of us, we have chosen to “grow older” together. It has been, and I hope will continue to be, a wonderful resource and an experience of life continuity. When we gather, there are people who know the people we know, and for some of us this is for a lifetime. This connection helps weave the journeys of our lives into a tapestry, into a whole fabric. For the joy of our shared journeys I give thanks, and hope that it is as meaningful to many of you, our members, as it has been to me.

As I prepare to leave the office of President and to leave the UURMaPA Board, I think with hope about the institutional legacies that have emerged as our Board has worked together.

While working with the UURMaPA Board and leadership, we began to articulate a new vision of late-life ministry and meaning. We have known that our connections mattered, but what we discovered is that many of us felt and feel that we still have a lot we can give. Tom Owen-Towle calls it “re-firement” rather than retirement. In late life, he is doing so much with his talent and creativity. Marni Harmony and an imaging cohort came up with the phrase “the Fifth Season” to describe this time of late life planting and harvesting. I have called our attempt to plan and program in this area, “harvesting the power.” But, no matter what we call it, there is the recognition that some of us are still ON THE GO.

With this in mind we are implementing TMP. This coming year should be the rollout of the pilot version of this program, the Targeted Ministry Program. We hope these will be short term chances for some of us who are interested to use our best and strongest skill sets in new locations and to benefit our congregations and help continue to build our UU movement. We will hold the first training in the fall, right before our Attleboro conference. The deadline for application for ministers will be the end of May (see page 8). Keith Kron is working on the training and is also creating an application for congregations.

Over the last few years we have strengthened UURMaPA by updating our web page, by adding streaming content from our conferences, and we have returned to having two nationwide UURMaPA conferences a year. We continue to support our membership through the Connections Network and our wonderful *Elderberries* publications. All of this work and more takes place out of the devotion and dedication of our volunteers and key leaders giving lots and lots of their time.

I am so grateful to our UURMaPA Board. They have been a great team and are fine leaders. I am also pleased to see that, even as there will be significant Board turnover during the next months, the incoming Board is a very talented and experienced group of leaders and professionals. John Manwell will step down from the Board, but he and Phyllis Hubble are now co-chairs of the Attleboro conference, as Ginger Luke joins the Board taking the conference portfolio. Judy Welles will become the President as Nancee Campbell becomes *Elderberries* Editor. Doug Gallagher will step down and Marni Harmony will complete her term as Vice President but will pick up Doug’s role as liaison to the UUMA and the UUA. Diane Miller will be joining the Board as Vice President. Liz McMaster will be leaving the Board and her Connections work. Art Severance will take on the lead with Connections and be joined by his wife Cathie Severance as the Assistant for our Connections network. I am grateful for all that those who are leaving the Board have given, and am excited about what our new leaders will create. I hope you, our members and friends, are as well.



Jim Eller

— W. Jim Eller
UURMAPA President

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 (Password WISDOM).

What Brings You Joy?

Being a Twin

Carol Taylor, Elizabeth Strong, Makaanah Morriss

We are twins: one has a twin brother, one is a mirror image identical twin, and one is a fraternal twin, respectively. As we considered how being a twin has affected our lives, there were some commonalities among us. One was the constant presence of another, known even before we were born. Another was our choice to be adaptive leaders, choosing professions, vocations, and avocations that encouraged working in collaborative and creative ways with others (dance, teaching, religious education ministry, and parish ministry). When we were very young, each of us admits to having a language with our twin that allowed a unique and often intuitive means of communication that confused and sometimes frustrated those around us. To this day, when we are in large groups we tend to quickly seek out a friend to hang out with, or at the very least, a person with whom we can be comfortable. Here are some of our individual stories.

Carol Taylor



Paul (L) and Carol (R)

I have a twin brother, Paul. We are the 4th and 5th born into a family of six children. Each of us weighed 7-1/2 pounds at birth. He was my constant companion. During our public school years, we were not allowed to be in the same classes together or to do our homework in the same room. In high school we double dated, had many mutual friends and often had parties at our house under the watchful eye of my mother.

The story I am sharing here is one of many such stories throughout our lives. One morning, easily 28 years ago, I was in a church staff meeting. My eyes were crying. I reassured the others that I was feeling fine, that I didn't know why my eyes were shedding tears, but I guessed it had something to do with my twin brother. There was enough discomfort in the room that my colleague suggested that I leave the meeting and call my brother to find out if the tears were related to him (which I would have done after the meeting anyway).

I tried reaching him by phone with no success, so I called his girlfriend. She said, "Oh Carol, didn't he tell you? He is having eye surgery this morning to correct his crossed eye. The hospital has just called to tell me he is in the recovery room now

and I can pick him up in an hour."

I asked her to have him call me when he felt up to it and I went back to the meeting with the information. It was an "aha" moment for all of us — me because I very seldom shared those kinds of experiences between my brother and myself, and the staff group because they had never before been witness to such a "twin experience." They kept insisting that he told me and I had forgotten. I assured them he had not, and he later confirmed that he had not told me about his eye surgery.

Being a twin is unique and has definitely shaped who and what I have been and am as a person. Paul died of a heart attack complicated by diabetes when we were 74.

Elizabeth Strong

Barbara and I are still tightly connected intuitively even though it can be months between contact. As infants and children we were inseparable. No one could tell us apart (our parents included). Our world existed within a bubble of security, knowing we always had each other. Our parents tried to encourage our individuality, but when no one knew who was who, that was a task that did not happen until we chose to go to separate colleges.

In the fall of 2002, I began dreaming and thinking about dying. I was mystified because I was in good health. That spring, while at a UUMA Convocation, I was contacted by Hotel Security telling me that my brother-in-law was trying to reach me concerning a family emergency. As I fumbled trying to make a phone call to him, I was soon surrounded by my twin colleagues and friends, Carol Taylor and Makaanah Morriss. They helped me dial the number, but no one answered because they were all at the hospital.



Liz (L) and Barbara (R)

Carol and Makanah never left my side until I got through to my brother-in-law. Barbara had a massive septic blood infection that included a spot on one of her vertebrae and on the membrane around her brain, a clot on the brain, and a clot on a lung. All of a sudden I understood my dreams and thoughts of dying; they were not about me, they were about Barbara. (She survived but has many health problems as a result.)

Through the years I have done weddings and memorial services for one twin (both identical) and I had a harder time with them than with all others. I know that being an identical twin is a rare and privileged way of being in the world. I treasure it and rejoice in the joy it has brought me and the powerful friendship it has given me with Carol and Makanah.

Makanah Morriss

My fraternal twin sister and I do not look alike, although we have similar coloring and a somewhat similar build. We have always shared a love of animals, especially horses. In junior high and high school our lives revolved around horses — showing and fox hunting.

Our personalities have always been very different. I am the extrovert; Sally is more of an introvert. In elementary and junior high school we were not allowed to be in the same classes. It was not until AP classes in high school that we had several classes together. This gave us time and space as individuals. As adults, Sally pursued a career as a Near Eastern archeologist, while I pursued ministry. Throughout my life, I have always admired my twin for her creative and adventuresome spirit.

Growing up a twin, I always wanted to find a win-win solution (albeit often with compromise) when conflicts arose. My parents agreed to get us a pony only if we NEVER fought over it (and we never did). This was a great impetus for developing collaborative skills at the age of 12! From growing up with a friend/sister almost always around, I gained a preference for collaboration and partnership — working with another to pool our ideas and talents. It has always seemed like THE more natural way to be for me. I realize that throughout my life, both personal and professional, I seek out people with whom I can collaborate. Being a twin has deeply shaped my life, personally and as a minister.



Sally (L) and Makanah (R)



GA UURMaPA LUNCHEON FRIDAY JUNE 23 11:30-1:30 Hampton Inn & Suites — Dauphine 1&2

Our annual luncheon at GA will be held Friday June 23 from 11:30 to 1:30 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 will be buffet style this year. We have made every effort to be dietary conscious to meet everyone's needs. Unfortunately the cost of the lunch in New Orleans is higher than it has been in years past. Cost will be \$39 per person. Please note that registrations and payment are due by May 29. (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 GA, so why not just send in your registration for the luncheon right now! Please include your name(s). Checks should be made out to UURMaPA, noting "GA Luncheon" on the check. **Please send checks by May 29 to:**

Joel Weaver, UURMaPA Treasurer
535 Gradyville Rd. Unit V-212
Newtown Square, PA 19073

New Orleans Farmers Market

Tomato Bisque
Bread and Butter
Baby Greens with Cucumber, Feta and Red Onion
tossed in a Citrus Vinaigrette
Quinoa with Fresh Herbs and Vegetables
Miso Glazed Salmon
Grilled Chicken with Homemade Pesto Sauce
Fruit Skewers with Dark Chocolate and Yogurt
Dipping Sauce
Water and Assorted Soft Drinks

UUA Presidential Election

Beloved Colleagues, we are doing all we can to encourage eligible voters to participate fully in the upcoming UUA election. Ministers *Emeritus(a)* designated as such by congregational vote have already been sent their credentials. If you have not received yours, please contact me directly (robei@unityunitarian.org) and I will look into the situation. There is a UUA Election Voters Information Page at <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/elections>. This election marks the first widespread use of electronic voting. Paper ballots are also available by request. We hope that those who plan to attend GA will wait until after the Presidential Forum to cast their votes, though the “polls” will be open for electronic voting beginning on June 1st, 2017.

As always,
Rob Eller-Isaacs, UUA Secretary

Candidates' Statements

Susan Frederick-Gray

This is a defining moment. How are we going to unlock the power and impact of our moral voice, the spiritual vitality of our communities, and the justice-centered vision at the heart of our faith for this time? This is why I am running for UUA President.

To the Presidency, I bring leadership forged in the fires of defining times. Nine years ago, when I accepted the call to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, I knew immigration would be our justice work. What I didn't know was that Phoenix was to become the epicenter of a national crisis and a movement. In 2010, Arizona passed SB 1070, the most punitive anti-immigrant law the U.S. had seen in a generation. Through copycat legislation, it became national. As outrage erupted, I called on Unitarian Universalists to come to Phoenix to fortify the movement led by young, undocumented leaders of color. And we did — we showed up like no other faith community did!



Susan Frederick-Gray

However, SB 1070 also created conflict within the UUA over whether to boycott Phoenix for General Assembly. The conflict was amplified by the deeper conflict between the UUA Board and President. I understood that coming to Phoenix could show us a new way of living our faith, beyond business as usual, to faithful, spiritual, leadership grounded in partnership and organized for impact. As I worked for the UUA on Justice GA, there were times when political infighting threatened to negotiate the mission right out of the room. To this, I brought strong relational and strategic skills necessary to keep focus on the mission and people at the table. In times like the ones we face today, we need clear strategic and relational leadership. When leadership is unprepared, it can buckle. The good news is we have been readying for this moment. We know what it takes

to be a bold and vital voice for love and justice. Now more than ever, this is who we need to be.

The vision I bring to the Presidency has three parts. First, equip congregations for spiritually vital multigenerational, multicultural ministry for the 21st century. Two, move past individualism to ground our work in stronger relationships across and beyond the Association. Three, more than anything, the UUA needs a clear, compelling vision and the willingness to move past business as usual to organize our Association for impact. Spiritual vitality, partnership, and mission impact — this is what we need now.

I also bring experience. I have 18 years experience serving in ministry capacities and am the only candidate with congregational experience in all five regions of the country. I bring national relationships with the Rev. John Dorhauer, President of the United Church of Christ; Opal Tometi, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, and I helped build the UUA's relationships with national immigrant rights leaders including B. Loewe and Marisa Franco.

As President, I would bring the institutional and relational skills and the spiritual vision and leadership needed for this time. I am grateful for this journey and I ask for your vote. Find out more: susanfrederickgray.com Facebook: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Alison Miller

When I look at the UURMaPA ranks, I see countless retired ministers and partners who have given and continue to give richly to our faith. Many of you have impacted my life and ministry from birth to this day. Walter Donald Kring, one of the four founders of this group, was the minister who welcomed my parents into our tradition by saying “Yes!” to officiating at the wedding of a Jewish-Christian couple at a time when interfaith marriages were turned away in many places. Clark Olsen is one of the ministers who preceded me in Morristown and is a close mentor. He is a talented organizational consultant who said “Yes!” years



ago when I reached out for guidance about strategic planning processes that generate practical and positive change. Today, I serve with Ginger Luke on the CLF Board as we say “Yes!” to expanding the local and global UU reach — on paper, online, in congregations, in prisons, in the military, and other emerging spaces. As a lifelong UU married to a 3rd generation UU, we share with you a commitment to tending, growing and adapting Unitarian Universalism with a keen sense of building a faith for the generations.

The Presidential Search Committee nominated me as a candidate for UUA President because of the breadth and depth of my experience and my vision gleaned from twenty-seven years of leadership in Unitarian Universalism. I was a youth leader when I was first asked to join the All Souls staff (NYC). Since then, I have served multiple congregations in the areas of RE, Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministry, Administration, Fundraising, and Parish Ministry, as well as at the UUA in Stewardship and Development. In addition to serving as the Senior Minister of Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (since 2005), I am Chair of the CLF Board, on the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ Board, on the Morris Clergy Racial Justice Taskforce, and am a founding board member of United Way of Northern NJ (a \$16 million nonprofit).

My vision is connected to these experiences and to the numerous times I have witnessed the life-saving power of our faith when we say “Yes!” to the risks that love demands. Together, we can ignite faith, empower change, and advance justice. This is about answering the call to “Lead with Love.”

Plans for this vision include a Unitarian Universalist Association that:

- Reconnects with congregations and covenanted communities as the engines that drive our faith forward
- Engages us in igniting faith and develops worship training and resources for multicultural, multigenerational, multiracial, and religiously plural communities
- Empowers change by inviting people on the margins into central decision making positions about our future directions
- Actively cultivates generosity and sources of revenue in our congregations and across the association itself to create stability and fund new possibilities
- Equips UUs to be a resilient, holistic, and courageous force for anti-oppression and justice regionally, nationally, and globally

Please visit www.AlisonForUUA.org for more details and to join the efforts of our campaign.

Jeanne Pupke

I welcome the opportunity to let you know my thoughts about my service to you as the next President of the UUA.

How do I see the state of retired ministers and partners?

There is no lack of need for services from retired UU ministers and their partners. I’m delighted to see that you have initiated the TMP Program, with the strong support and cooperation of the Settlement Office and the Office of Congregational Life. Hundreds of congregations have elemental needs for guidance and not much of a plan. Thank you, UURMaPA, for stepping in and helping to meet those needs. This is just the kind of cooperation that I would strongly support as UUA President.

Pension funds or lack of them?

There appears to me to be a very narrow path by which ministers and family might arrive at adequate financial stability in retirement, and that path is too little known and not always able to be illuminated by the UUA.

However, we have proven with UUA health insurance and fair compensation standards that we can make some difference in opportunity and practice. I think we can partner to make still more change and decrease the likelihood of future economic adversity for ministers and their partners.

What responsibility does the UUA have toward retired ministers and surviving partners of retired ministers in financial need?

The funds the UUA manages to support those in the most need are meager, and too little additional funding is arriving. The result is ministers and surviving partners of low means. The Office of Church Staff Finances has asked for assistance in identifying who these folks are and how they might be helped.

The bottom line of my commitment must be that no minister or family member of a long-serving minister should be in poverty without support — financial, social and emotional. If we cannot do this, how ever shall we enter the public square to stand against injustice?

What role do or should retired ministers have in congregations they once served?”

I believe there can be healthy relationships between an *Emeritus/a* and a currently serving minister in a congregation. I enjoy a healthy, covenanted relationship with Rev. David Hicks MacPherson, who preaches and participates, and (I say most gratefully) supports the mission and the minister. But quite honestly, some cannot seem to manage it. Hence, opportunities are sometimes set at the least common standards.



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Securing Financial Advice

Many UUA Retirement Plan participants, including retired ministers and their spouses, are growing into their own sense of confidence around financial preparedness and wellness. Some come to this confidence through their own research, while an increasing number seek the advice of a financial advisor. In retaining a financial advisor, understand their credentials, fees, and commitment to you.

Are they a certified financial planner, a registered financial advisor, or something else? The fees of financial advisors vary widely. Some charge a flat fee. Some charge by the hour, while the fees of others are a percentage of your investment portfolio. Still others are paid a commission from the investments they advised you to purchase. The latter will sometimes make recommendations that benefit them more than you, so you need to be an informed client. Ask your financial advisor whether they are acting as your fiduciary. And if not, why not?

Finding a good financial advisor can be challenging. If you are a participant in the UUA Retirement Plan, you have access to a cadre of TIAA Financial Advisors who will provide financial advice to you at no cost. They are salaried TIAA employees. You are entitled to an annual consultation if your TIAA balance (across all accounts) is less than \$250,000. If it is more, you are entitled to an ongoing relationship with a TIAA Individual Advisory Service consultant. TIAA has identified five advisors with special knowledge of clergy tax issues, but you can work with anyone at one of the 60-plus TIAA offices around the country. If you haven't taken advantage of this free service, do so. Soon!

You might ask, "What issues and topics might I mention during the meeting with my financial advisor?" First, you'll be well served to review the allocation of your investments between equities (stocks), bonds, and fixed assets. There is no "right" answer. The right balance depends on your unique situation including factors such as age, your family situation including children/grandchildren, other assets, your income needs, and your tolerance for risk. Rebalancing or reallocation should be done from time to time in order to help protect against various kinds of risks. You might ask your advisor, "How does my portfolio take into account risks related to longevity, inflation, morbidity, and fluctuating interest rates?"

As you discuss investment products with your advisor, consider these questions: What is my risk tolerance? What is the anticipated risk associated with this type of investment? What is the likely return? How liquid is the investment? What are the fees? Is this investment part of the denominational plan, and thus eligible for suppression of federal tax withholding at time of

distribution? Every year, several plan participants call us seeking to roll their funds out of the UUA Plan. They've been told by a financial advisor that they can earn much more. What they haven't been told is that they will lose the clergy housing allowance by doing so. When the numbers are run, our plan participant almost always stays in the UUA Plan. If an investment sounds too good to be true, it's often too good to be true.

You can call (800) 732-8353 to schedule a financial advice session. Let the customer service person know that you are with the UUA Plan and are interested in scheduling your annual no-cost individual consultation. For those of you who qualify for Individual Advisory Services (assets exceeding \$250,000), please be in touch with Linda Rose for the contact information of the advisor(s) serving your area of the country. You can send an email to retirement@uua.org or call (617) 948-4265.

Be well, and many happy returns!

Linda Rose, UUA Retirement Plan Director
Rev. Richard Nugent, Director, Church Staff Finances

A Silent Retreat for Seekers



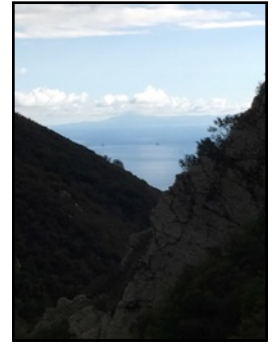
The fountain at La Casa de Maria

SpiritRest Silent Retreat is a facilitated five-day retreat for Unitarian Universalists and other spiritual seekers, offered July 16-21, 2017. Organized and led by Unitarian Universalist ministers Arvid Straube and Sharon Wylie, the retreat is designed to invite and encourage deep spiritual engagement and practice. Retreatants will meet daily with a spiritual director for up to one-half hour. Spiritual directors offer guidance in meditation, prayer, Qi gong, walking the labyrinth, art journaling, shamanic practices for spiritual liberation, and dream work. An evening vespers service closes each day. All meals and accommodations are included. The gathering is held at La Casa de Maria retreat center in Santa Barbara, CA. For more information go to www.spiritrestretreat.com

Winter Conference - 2017 Friendship, Indeed

The heavy rains and strong winds were gone by the time 61 attendees arrived in Santa Barbara, CA for our UURMaPA conference at the end of February. We were once again meeting at the La Casa de Maria Retreat Center — a lovely place with views of mountains, blooming flowers, and a creek with water once again flowing easily.

Retired ministers and partners met old friends, and made new ones at the Monday opening night with small group check-in and a social time with snacks and beverages. We had a busy day Tuesday as a well-received keynote address on *Spiritual Friendship* was presented by Rev. John Buehrens. Later that day attendees chose from four workshops. They could learn about the current state of our country and how we can be social activists; participate in an hour of movement and fun; view climate action through various lenses; or hear what's happening at the UUA and how UURMaPA members can be involved. The morning worship services and the Odyssey were among the highlights of the conference, based on the evaluations received. We honored those UURMaPA members and partners who passed away this past year at the closing worship service on Wednesday morning.



Patt Herdklotz, Marni Harmony, and Carol Hepokoski

Gratitude is extended to the worship leaders: the Reverends Dennis Hamilton, Drew Kennedy and Sarah Lammert. Workshops were led by Mary Kay Hamilton and the Reverends Anne Hines, Betty Stapleford, John Buehrens, Judy Welles, Marilyn Sewell and Sarah Lammert. The Reverends Tom and Carolyn Owen-Towle presented a heartfelt,



Carolyn and Tom Owen-Towle

and inspiring Odyssey for us on Tuesday evening.

Spending time with colleagues, connecting with the newly retired and getting to know ministers and partners from all over the country proved to be just a few of the reasons why these conferences are so well received. Our conference next winter will be held once again in a warm and sunny place — Tampa, FL. Mark your calendar now for January 29 – 31, and maybe plan to extend your visit at a great place to visit in the middle of winter!



Dennis and Mary Kay Hamilton



Workshop leaders Betty Stapleford and Anne Hines



John Buehrens



Peg Morgan and Alison Stephens

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Can we instead plan at the level of higher function? Can we imagine some ministerial role that honors contributions made? In health, I believe it is possible.

These are issues on which I have labored as a Board member, the Finance Chair of the UUA, and on the Church Staff Finances Committee. They are sacred matters to me. I undertake them as my duty and with joy.

I am eager to hear more of your thoughts on the matters discussed above. You may contact me at any time at jeanne@jeannepupke.com.



You Would LOVE Being a Connector!

Have you ever wondered what interesting things your UU colleagues might be doing after retirement? Wonder where they live? Perhaps one or two of them might live near you or fairly close by and you could catch up! A primary goal of UURMaPA is to keep in contact with our membership — the colleagues who have served along with us over the years, and their partners who have stood beside them and been their support. Look over the names of colleagues and partners who are listed in the Directory on the UURMaPA website and find an old friend or two!

Right now UURMaPA needs Area Coordinators in several places around the country. (They're listed below). If you live in one of those areas and think you might like to serve your retired colleagues by being one of those Area Connectors, I hope you'll contact either me or Art Severance.

We've got a great group of Area Coordinators who serve our colleagues and partners by being interested in what they're doing; in finding out if they would like to get together with other colleagues; in assisting them to find help for a need they might have. They do a great job and energetically go about staying in touch with our colleagues and partners. So I hope you'll join them by calling either Art or me. We'll help you get started and be there for any questions you have at any time.

The areas that need Coordinators are: Arizona/Nevada, Bay Area Coastal, Bay Area Inland, Colorado/Montana/Wyoming, Connecticut Valley, Florida, Heartland North, Mass Bay Coastal, and New Mexico.

Go to the UURMaPA Connections Directory (password WISDOM) on our website and look over the list of folks in your area. Then give us a call! Thanks!

Liz McMaster, Connections Coordinator:

revliz29@gmail.com, 505/255-5965

Art Severance, Assistant Connections Coordinator:

aseverance@uuma.org, 210/823-2513

Targeted Ministry Program (TMP)

Ministerial Application

Some of our members are undoubtedly eager to share their well-honed skills with a congregation that needs them — but only for a short time. See the Fall, 2016 *Elderberries* for a fuller description of the TMP program which will allow you to do just that. Below is the application required by the Transitions Office at the UUA. If you wish to apply, please respond to these questions in a separate document and send it electronically to the address below. Note that applications *must be submitted by May 31*.

Name:

Congregational/Community Ministries Served:

Contact Information:

1. Why are you interested in serving in the TMP program doing ministry?
2. What are your particular areas of interest and gifts that you could bring to a congregation for a short-term engagement?
3. Are there geographical/time of year/financial concerns that would affect your ability to participate?
4. What constraints and accommodations would need to be known or made in order for you to participate?
5. What living arrangements would be unacceptable to you, if this is outside of commuting range?
6. If you are accepted this year but no ministry presents itself, are you willing to continue in the program?
7. If you are not accepted due to space, would you be willing to be considered for future years?
8. What else would you like to tell us?

Please return the application to transitions@uua.org. The application will be shared with regional staff.

Please return by 5/31/17. Notifications will be made by 6/30/17 on the application.

All of us failed to match our dreams of perfection. So I rate us on the basis of our splendid failure to do the impossible.

— William Faulkner

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Voices in Unitarian Universalism and the “UU World,” Spring, 2017. Her passions for children, youth and families, spiritual growth, pastoral care and social justice have been at the heart of her ministry.

Retirement Seminar

Supported by a grant written by UURMaPA (major credit to Doug Gallager), the first UUA/UURMaPA Retirement Seminar was held March 27-31 in New Braunfels, Texas. The program was ably and joyously facilitated by Larry Peers, and included participants planning for retirement within the next five or so years. (One participant was a bit more precise in naming the timing as “8 more sermons.”)

Initial response to the announcement of this seminar was enthusiastic and over subscribed — 50 were initially accepted, with 20 people on the waiting list. Given the way pastoral and other situations of life can intervene, 45 ministers and two non-ministerial spouses were able to attend, with a median age of 65.

The theme of the seminar was “Finishing Strong, Ending Well, Crafting the Culminating Chapter of Your Ministry.” Over the course of the week, participants focused on re-viewing what is; recomposing what’s next; and revising what could be. They reflected on questions like: What are my strengths, values, passion and purpose? What are my dreams? What do I want to take with me into the next stage of life and what do I want to leave behind? What do aging and retirement mean to me? How will I handle the transition effectively? And, especially, what have I been putting off “until I retire?” The word is, “Don’t wait... start adding those things to life right now!”

In addition to Larry Peers, Richard Nugent and Linda Rose facilitated sessions on the financial implications of retirement, including information about the UUA’s retirement plan, TIAA nuts and bolts, health and dental insurance, and social security.

Attendees reported getting a clearer sense of mission and purpose for the journey toward retirement. For me personally, it was a privilege to be able to spend a longer period of time with so many dear colleagues. I hope I was able to offer some anticipatory excitement about “The Fifth Season.” I’ll add to all of this that it was, of course, a challenging week in Unitarian Universalism. I was deeply moved by being with colleagues during the week and inspired by the pastoral concern and kindnesses shown to one another and to the UUA staff who were present.

UURMaPA can look forward to some wonderful new members in the years ahead!

— Marni Harmony,
Vice-President of UURMaPA

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Diane Miller, Vice President, grew up in Rochester, MN where her large family attended the Methodist church. She writes, “When my parents migrated to the First Universalist Church, I became an active member of LRY.

“I was at Macalester College when I experienced a call, and went on to Harvard Divinity School. Starr King awarded me the honorary degree of *Sacrae Theologiae Doctor*.

“Beginning in 1975, I served congregations in Lexington, MA, San Francisco, and Belmont, MA before being called to the First Religious Society in Carlisle, MA. Next I was appointed Director of Ministry at the UUA, where I served for eight years, 1993-2001. Following an unsuccessful candidacy for the presidency of the UUA, I spent seven years doing interim ministries before being called again to Carlisle, MA.

“UUA service has included the Affirmative Action for Women in Ministry Committee and the Purposes and Principles Committee, and I’ve recently completed my term as a Director of the Unitarian Service Pension Society (USPS). I served on the Board of the UUSC, the HDS Alumni/Alumnae Council, and as a Good Officer with the UUMA, and participated in many local projects, including Belmont Against Racism and Carlisle Affordable Housing.

“Retired in 2016 after four decades in ministry, I have settled in Salina, KS. The lure was two young grandchildren! Now single, I was married for 28 years to Mike Durall, and have two grown sons.”

Cathie Severance, Member at Large, will be introduced in our Summer issue.



When I was very young, I thought about what old age would be like. It didn’t seem very real. I assumed I would be exactly the same as I was then, except that I might have a long white beard like Father Christmas and never have to shave. I planned to eat whatever I wanted — mozzarella, pasta, rich desserts — and I would travel and see all the museums I never had time to see before.

One day I looked into the mirror and thought, “Where did that old man come from?” Then I realized he was me, and all I wanted to do was work.

— Director Federico Fellini

Turning of Our Lives

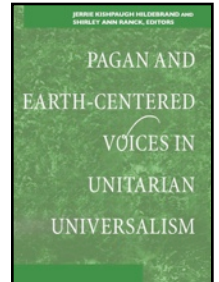
“As cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

— Proverbs 25: 25

Alan Deale and **Kathleen Hunter** have spent the winter in New Hampshire, taking courses at a nearby college. As residents of Canada, they are “not as anguished as many,” though they are fully aware of the bad effects that events in the U.S. can have in Canada.

Kathy Sage continues with her fabric dying and creation. She traveled by rail to her January UUMA chapter meeting, adding on a visit to the Art Gallery of Ontario for the special exhibit on Mystical Landscapes. She writes, “Well worth the trip to be with colleagues and see that excellent collection of art.”

Skinner House Books has just announced the publication of *Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, which will be available May 22nd. Co-edited by **Shirley Ranck**, the book is “a collection of essays by some of the most prominent leaders in UU Paganism, bringing pagan and earth-centered theo/ology to life for a new generation.” **Paul L'Herrou** wrote one of the chapters.



Friends, if you don't share your news with the *Elderberries* editor, she can't share it with the rest of our members. Send any news you want the rest of us to know to elderberries@uurmapa.org at any time.



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 Roger Rochester and Jay Atkinson for their careful and sensitive work writing the partners' and ministers' obituaries, respectively.

Some *Elderberries* readers have commented on, and others have no doubt wondered, how it is that we are running obituaries for people who died two years ago or longer. The answer is that crafting obituaries that honor our departed members with appropriate completeness, dignity, sensitivity, and grace of expression is a time-intensive process while also, or maybe because of, being a labor of love. Thus we have quite a backlog. We have frequently asked for volunteers to help, but have not had much success. Nonetheless, hope springs eternal, and if you are so inclined, you are once again invited to assist us with this work.

Jay Atkinson, obituary editor
jayatk40@gmail.com

JOHN W BERQUIST (1946 - 2016)



John Berquist, the spouse of the Reverend Dr. Carol Hepokoski, died May 12, 2016, surrounded by his family, at home in Eveleth, MN. John was widely known as a folklorist, musician, and storyteller.

John had studied cultural geography; wherever he lived, he connected with the local immigrant communities, learning their stories and songs, and incorporating those into presentations. His passion was the Iron Range of northern Minnesota, where he was born, and to which he often returned. John was a field worker for the Smithsonian, and the host of a traveling live radio program nominated for an award by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

He and Carol were married in 1983. They lived for two years in St. Paul, where John served as the Folk Arts Coordinator for the Minnesota State Arts Board, then they returned to the Range when children became part of their lives. Later, Carol's work moved them to Chicago, and John worked as a story teller and musician in after school programs and in senior centers throughout Chicago.

John had a lifelong interest in music, and was involved with bands wherever he was. He also participated as an active layperson in Unitarian Universalist congregations, bringing music and stories to worship services, leading and participating in choirs, and joining in district activities.

He is survived by his wife, the Reverend Dr. Carol Hepokoski; his sons, Andy Rosequist, and Jonah Berquist, San Francisco; and a widespread extended family.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Faithful Fools Street Ministry, 234 Hyde St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

PHYLLIS HELLIGAS (1924 - 2016)

Phyllis Helligas, widow of the Reverend Byrd Helligas, died August 14, 2016 in Arcata, CA at the age of 92. She was born of parents Hazel and Irvin Carlson in Isle, Minnesota in 1924. Phyllis married Daniel Brant in 1946; in 1952 they moved to Arcata, CA, where he taught at Humboldt State College. They divorced in 1968.

Phyllis had graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1945, with a B.S. degree in Home Economics Education. She later went back to college and received a B.S. degree in political science from Humboldt State and an M.S. degree in Public Administration from the University of California at Berkeley, then began a long career in Personnel Administration for the City of Sunnyvale.

She married Byrd Helligas in 1971. They converted a potato chip factory into a Bed and Breakfast, later starting a business filling in for other Bed and Breakfast proprietors.

She returned to Arcata in 1989 after her retirement. She was a charter member of the Humboldt County League of Women Voters and of the Humboldt UU Fellowship. Phyllis was an outspoken atheist who was proud of her life membership in the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

Phyllis enjoyed designing and remodeling homes and cabins with Byrd in later years. She enjoyed time with family and friends and alone at her cabin at Big Lagoon, Humboldt County, where she served on the Board of Directors for the Big Lagoon Park Company.

She is survived by her two sons, Peter and Bruce Brant; her daughter, Susan Brant Ruderian; stepsons Byrd and Aron Helligas; and many grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Box 506, Bayside, CA 95524.



WILLIAM L. HOLDEN (1931-2014)



The Reverend Bill Holden, parish minister, social worker, civil rights activist, youth advisor, and consultant to countless Unitarian Universalist congregations, died on August, 22, 2014, aged 83.

William L. Holden was born to William L. and Gladys Holden in Boston on June 2, 1931. Generous and outgoing even as a child, his teachers commented on his unselfish outlook. He was graduated from Boston English High School in 1949 and *summa cum laude* from Springfield College in 1954 with a B.S. in Youth Group and Recreational Leadership.

After U.S. Army service (1954-57), he earned an M.S.W. from the University of Connecticut (1959). Before completing his B.D. at Crane Theological School in 1967, Mr. Holden served youth ministries in the Massachusetts UU congregations of Stoneham and Medford. His work with youth extended more widely to professional social work and administration in several public youth agencies in California, Delaware, and Minnesota. He was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka, MN in 1980.

After a near-death experience while waiting for a heart transplant in 1985, Bill co-founded the Second Chance for Life Foundation, mentored many transplantees, and often drew upon these personal stories in his preaching.

Bill's life was celebrated in a memorial service on October 4, 2014, at the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis. He is survived by his wife, Sondra Smalley; a sister, Nancy Gear; children William Lynn, Barbara Lynn, Michele Wallace, Sarah Merwin, and Doug Smalley; and five grandchildren.

Memorial donations are encouraged to the UU Service Committee (<http://www.uusc.org>) or to the Second Chance for Life Foundation (<http://www.secondchanceforlife.org>). Notes of condolence may be sent to his widow Sondra Smalley, 5225 Grandview Square, #112, Edina, Minnesota 55436.

C. LEON HOPPER JR. (1927–2016)

The Rev. Dr. Leon Hopper, whose 39 year career embraced parish ministry, leadership in national UU youth organizations, international interfaith work, and ministerial education, died on June 19, 2016, aged 89, after many years of living with Parkinson's disease.

Charles Leon Hopper, Jr. was born on February 21, 1927 to Charles Leon and Ethol [sic] Peterson Hopper. His undergraduate study was at the University of Washington. While there, he attended Seattle's University Unitarian Church, where he met his future wife, Dorothy, and first heard a call to the ministry. In 1951, he and Dorothy were married, he received his B.A., and they headed off for Harvard Divinity School, where he completed work for his S.T.B. in 1954.

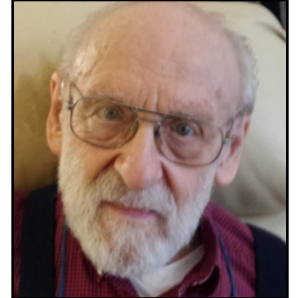
Mr. Hopper's parish service began in 1953, while still a seminarian, at the First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, of Petersham, Mass., where he was ordained the next year. He moved to Boston in 1957 to take a position as Executive Director for LRY. In 1963 he accepted a call to the Jefferson Unitarian Church of Golden, Colorado, serving there until 1976, when he returned to Boston as the UUA's first Ministerial Education Director. In 1981, he was called to East Shore Unitarian Church of Bellevue, Washington, and spent eleven years there before retiring from parish ministry in 1992 and being honored as East Shore's Minister *Emeritus*.

Leon was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2002, but he remained as active as his illness would allow. He was held in high esteem by his colleagues worldwide for his sincere collegiality, gentle honesty, and infectious optimism. In hearing letters of his profoundly positive impact, he would shake his head in humbled amazement, saying, "I never imagined."

Leon is survived by his wife Dorothy; daughters, Sheridan Botts and Rachel Tucker; son, Chuck Hopper; and five grandchildren.

His life was honored and memorialized on July 26, 2016, at the East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, WA, in a service co-led by his colleagues, the Rev. Barbara ten Hove and the Rev. Elaine Presluha.

Contributions in Leon's memory are encouraged to the Leon Hopper Scholarship Fund — <https://connect.seattleu.edu/Netcommunity/giving/make-a-gift> — at the Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. Notes of condolences may be sent to Dorothy Hopper, 900 University Street, Horizon House, 4C, Seattle, Washington 98101, or to clhopperjr@aol.com.



JUDITH MARGARET (MANWELL) MOORE (1934-2016)



Judy Moore, 82, widow of the Reverend Christopher Moore, died in Northampton, MA on December 16, 2016.

Graduating from Oberlin College in 1956, she taught English for three years in Taiwan, then took her MSW at the University of Chicago. She made a career as a social worker with children and families at the Salvation Army.

A birthright Unitarian, she joined First Unitarian, in Chicago, where she met and married the Rev. Christopher Moore, founder of the famed Chicago Children's Choir. After his death in 1987, she volunteered for a time at Meadville Lombard, where she discovered a year-long program which took her around the world in 1994-95 with a group of much younger students, studying environmental issues.

Judy's heart was always in New England, where her family had roots. Inspired by a quest to reduce her environmental footprint, she teamed with her son Jonathan, a skilled carpenter, to build an energy efficient earth-berm house set into the hills of Cummington, in her beloved Berkshires, where she retired.

Judy could be cantankerous, yet she was always a people person, keeping in close touch with friends across the country as well as family and neighbors. She is survived by Jonathan, his wife Julie, foster son Paul Robertson, and two grandsons. Condolences may be sent to Jonathan Weismore at 50 South Maple Street, Bellingham, MA 02019.

A memorial service was held at the Village Church in Cummington on January 28, 2017. Another will be held at First Unitarian in Chicago on May 27, 2017, in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the Choir.

UURMaPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION Form
October 2 - 5, 2017, 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 8th.

Mail this form and your check to: **John Manwell, 407 Russell Ave., Apt. 806, Gaithersburg, MD 20877**. 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 need in order 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 **John Manwell**.

E-mail: jmanwell@uuma.org. Cell Phone 571/223-6604

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.

In case of cancellation, UURMaPA will do our best to refund as much of the fee as possible. Some costs may be nonrefundable. If your place is filled from a waiting list, a full refund may be made.

**Unitarian Universalist Retired
Ministers & Partners Association
c/o Richard Speck
4721 Mermaid Blvd
Wilmington, DE 19808-1803**