



Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

Elderberries

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Members in Financial Need?

We know that we have members of UURMaPA in financial need. When the Service Gratuity Society reduced the planned stipend that goes to retired long-serving ministers, the UURMaPA Board heard from a number of our members. We heard that, although the reduction was small, for them it meant a hardship. One said it would make it harder for him to buy his required medications. This raised the question on our Board about the extent of this need. “Are there lots of our members out there in financial difficulty?” “What constitutes a lot? Well, it’s a lot if it is *you*, right?”

We were not really able to offer good data to help our Board address this concern. We know that there are significant resources available to help retired ministers, their family and their survivors in need, but we are not sure that everyone even knows that these resources exist (See related article, this page.) For example, another minister stated that she had been eligible for the Service Gratuity for nearly a decade before she became aware of it and applied. She was not angry that she had not received it earlier; she was just relieved to have it now. We have also learned that the UUA, through the Living Tradition Fund, does dispense several hundred thousand dollars annually to help those in need.

And... we are still not sure whether we are doing our fair share to address this concern. UURMaPA helped conduct surveys of our membership in both 2009 and 2012. The sudden fall in the stock market in 2009 helped precipitate our interest. What we found was that most of our members were doing fine, but about 4% to 7% had real need, and nearly 20% were experiencing some degree of financial insecurity. One very wise member observed that we are not such a large denomination; we tend to know each other. She and her husband know of a few UURMaPA friends who struggle a bit, and she drops by to visit them, calls them, or simply keeps track of them to make sure they are doing okay. They offer assistance where they can. While this personal approach is laudable, it’s hard to institute organizationally.

UURMaPA, the UUA, the Service Pension Society and the Society for Ministerial Relief are jointly going

to survey our membership again. We hope to find out if our need trends remain the same. We hope to find a few of our members who need our help, of whom we have not been aware, and to help them. We hope to get enough data to formulate an appropriate organizational response. Look for our report on the data we gather and our following response.

— Jim Eller
President of UURMaPA

Ministerial Aid

*‘Tis the song, the sign of the weary
Hard times, hard times, come again no more
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door;
Oh! Hard times come again no more.
(lyrics: Stephen Foster)*

In each of our lives, there are times when the hard times linger around our doors. In such times, it’s good to remember that we are part of an interdependent web of friendship and support within the broader Unitarian Universalist community. The UUA, through its Church Staff Finances office (OCSF), has financial resources available to help retired ministers and their surviving partners/spouses who are financially struggling. Often it’s a large medical expense not covered by Medicare such as a dental bill or hearing aids. Other times it’s an emergency home repair. While the reasons vary, these expenses can cause great stress to individuals.

In recent years, the UUA has provided annual grants to more than 100 retired ministers and/or their surviving

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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 password is WISDOM (in caps).

From Your Editor:

Not much to say this month. Perhaps these words from Peter Raible (on joining a UU church) best express how our Unitarian Universalist values are needed in the wider world during these times:

“If you think you are coming to a church which projects only your own views, you will probably not be happy here. Sooner or later you will meet a Unitarian [Universalist] who grates against your own theological, political or social views. We hold that a [UU] church attracts variety and respects it. We believe that whatever may be the majority viewpoint at any given moment, the minority must be respected and kept engaged in dialogue. We hold, too, that the overwhelming majority must not be undercut and made ineffective by a minority. This is true tolerance: respect for difference, and yet allowing difference to provoke rather than to stifle action.”

—Judy Welles

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

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family members. Last year, these grants totaled approximately \$145,000 including the annual fuel assistance grant of \$500 provided to 34 retirees. The source of our funds is a combination of endowed monies and the Living Tradition Fund, which is raised at General Assembly and throughout the year at ordinations, installations, and retirement ceremonies. These funds do not include the \$621,343 provided to 328 individuals through the service pension gratuity program administered by the UUA, but funded by the Unitarian Universalist Service Pension Society. Service gratuities, totaling approximately \$450/quarter, are given to ministers who are 67 years of age (or more) and who have worked 21 years or more in ministry (half-time or more).

In addition to the aid funds administered by the UUA, there are additional funds available through the Society for Ministerial Relief and the Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society. Both of these independent organizations provide ongoing, need-based grants to retirees and their surviving spouses/partners.

To explore receiving a financial aid grant, either in response to an emergency expenditure or for ongoing need, the best place to start is to call the UUA Church Staff Finances team. Charissa Benak, OCSF Administrator, can be reached by phone at (617) 948-6421, or by email at CBenak@uua.org. Or you can send an email to the Rev. Richard Nugent, OCSF Director, at RNugent@uua.org.

Don't hesitate to contact us. And please encourage others that you know who might benefit from financial assistance to contact us as well. Remember, our interdependent web is only as strong as our connections to each other.

— Richard Nugent, Director
Office of Church Staff Finances

A Word from Your President

Whom Do You Serve?

I was the Extension Minister of the Tahlequah, Oklahoma UU Congregation. Each quarter we offered a New Member and Visitor Orientation following the Sunday morning worship. We usually had good attendance and a lively interchange. One time a retired Methodist minister and his wife were attending the class. They were considering joining the church and came to church somewhat regularly. During the question and answer segment, the wife, Vera, asked “Whom or what do you serve?” I had never been asked that question before, and I was a bit at a loss for a good answer. I know I said something like, “We serve Truth and Love.” It was not a great response, but her question is one that I have kept asking for years. Whom or what do we serve? And it is good to be of service.

In retirement, we are free to serve not just a congregation, or an agency or a particular cause. We are free to serve or not. We are free to give a little or to give a lot. Some of us continue to work with various non-profits, to sit on boards or to do one form or another of direct personal service. Some of our retired ministers preach for a congregation or two, doing pulpit supply when needed. Serving others gives meaning and moment to our time.

We are free to serve or not. We are free to give a little or to give a lot.

Whom or what do you serve?

UURMaPA is called to serve our members. What in the world does that mean? It means we try to enrich the lives of our members. We try to help keep our members connected to one another and to our UU movement that has meant so much to so many of us. We offer our wonderful newsletter. We offer conferences. We advocate on behalf of our membership. We hope to adequately represent the interests and assets of **You**, our long time UU leaders.

Believing that having choices in how we serve might be helpful, we have begun to institute our TEMP program. TEMP stands for the Targeted Experiments in Ministry Program. We are planning to have two specialized short term and targeted ministry opportunities in each UU Region starting next fall. These will be opportunities to serve a congregation for a short time to help them achieve some small change or goal they have defined. It will be a chance for our retired ministers to serve a congregation again, but on a limited basis, to bring our best for just a bit of time for everyone’s benefit. My hope is that it will serve our membership by offering our retired clergy a chance to still serve, but in a manner suitable for a retired person.

We are grateful that the UU Funding Program on Unitarian Universalism so believes in this vision that they are offering start-up funding, with the promise of some additional support once things are up and running and on track.

If you might be interested in such a short-term targeted ministry project, please submit your name to Keith Kron, in the UUA Transitions Department.

Yours in our faith,
Jim Eller



Photo by Susan LaMar

Jim Eller has served UURMaPA since 2011, first as Vice-President and now as President. His term ends on June 30, 2017.

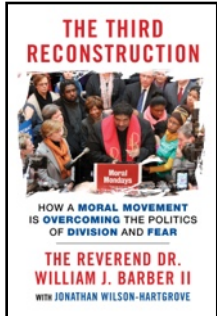
Send updates! Please send any changes to your address, phone or e-mail to: Richard Speck at membership@uurmapa.org or 4721 Mermaid Blvd. Wilmington, DE 19808-1803. The most current Directory is online at www.UURMAPA.org (Password: WISDOM).

Leadership Column

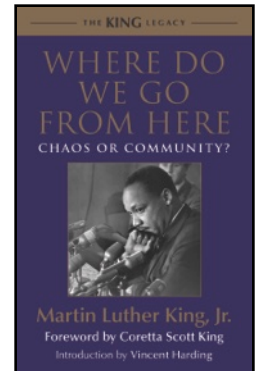
A Letter to UURMaPA Helene Atwan, Beacon Press Director

Over the 21 years I've had the honor to serve as director of Beacon Press, I've had the pleasure of getting to know some of you. I hope to have a chance to meet more of you in the coming years. In any event, I want you all to know what a privilege it's been to lead the UUA's publishing house into the 21st century... And what a challenge!

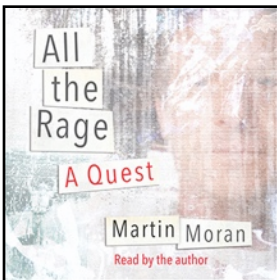
I am troubled, as I know many of you are, about what the immediate future holds, but then we're here to provide resources, inspiration, and community for all who will be fighting to maintain human rights and progressive thought in our democracy. Our "tagline" in the last few years has been: Igniting Hearts and Minds. Today we tend to say [Now More than Ever](#)... We do have invaluable resources to offer everyone who is concerned about [Climate Change](#); [Racial Justice](#); [Women's Rights](#); [LGBTQ Rights](#); [Economic Justice](#); [Labor](#); [Immigrant Communities](#); [Indigenous Peoples](#); and [Public Education](#). And, of course, increasingly, we've become aware of the important intersection of all of these issues, and learned from leaders like the Reverend [William Barber](#) and [Eboo Patel](#) about the importance of Fusion Politics and Interfaith work. Both of these leaders are providing blueprints for working to bring positive change through alliance.



Some of you will say, but does anyone read books any more? The answer is a resounding yes. Book sales have not dropped in the last decade; in fact they've increased. And despite all the predictions of the death of print books, they actually continue to sell well, while eBooks have leveled off, even dropped off a little (though they still represent a healthy 15-20% of our overall sales). The most exciting new trend in reading, in my



mind, is audio books, and last fall we launched Beacon Audiobooks. I wrote a [column](#) for the trade magazine, Publishers Weekly, about my own addiction to audio books and why I think they represent a really positive development for the reading public. If any of you have never tried listening to an audio book, I urge you to try one! You can borrow them from the library, either on CD or by streaming to your smart phone (which is far better!). And of course you can buy them from [iTunes](#), [Downpour](#), or [Audible](#).



We have challenges ahead, no doubt, but we also have energy and commitment on the Beacon team. And part of that commitment is to keep our work alive into the future. To that end, with the approval of the UUA administration, we've put one million dollars of our reserves, saved up from surpluses over the past 12 years, into a newly founded endowment to ensure the future of Beacon Press. I'd welcome

a chance to tell any one of you more about that, or you can speak to anyone in the UUA Stewardship and Development department about it.

I know most of you make books and reading an important part of your lives. I hope you will continue to keep abreast of our work through any of the links below.

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Website](#), [Blog](#)

And for those of you who are reading this in print, here are some of the resources linked in the text:

www.facebook.com/beaconpress, www.twitter.com/beaconpressbks, www.instagram.com/beaconpress, www.beacon.org, www.beaconbroadside.com, www.beacon.org/assets/pdfs/queervoicescatalog.pdf, www.beacon.org/assets/pdfs/booksonimmigration.pdf, www.beacon.org/assets/pdfs/climatejusticecatalog.pdf



Helene speaking at a UUSC event

Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light.

—Vera Nazarian



What Brings You Joy?

An Exciting Adventure Jacqueline Collins

I thoroughly enjoy my house, which is medium-small and very comfortable for one person. At the end of a cul de sac, it has a back porch facing a small pond with fish, turtles, a variety of ducks, and anhingas (a bird found in southern wetlands), opening their wings to dry. Great white egrets and great blue herons land from time to time on my lawn and nearby bushes. It is hot and humid here in South Carolina during the summer, but my home is still a great place for writing. Working on my book in the first ten years of retirement became an exciting adventure.

As soon as I retired, I picked up a book, the five-year diary of two French officer POWs in Oflag XVIIA in Germany, left untouched on my shelves for sixty years. My original intention was to translate it for the pleasure of working with two languages.

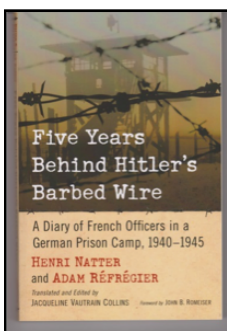
A little girl at the beginning of WWII, I lived with my mother in Paris during the war. My father, an officer in the reserve, left for the front in 1939, was taken prisoner ten days after the signing of the armistice (a violation of the Geneva Convention), and remained prisoner for five years in the camp described in the book. Upon his return in 1945, he rebuilt his publishing company and printed the diary, written by two of his comrades. I had it with me when I emigrated to the U.S. in 1956.

What started as just a translation became an unexpected, exciting journey of discovery. Not required to work, these 5,000 officers, idle all day, immediately understood that in order to survive, they needed to pursue worthwhile endeavors. The psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor, wrote, “There is nothing in the world that would so effectively help one to survive even the worst conditions as the knowledge that there is a meaning to one’s life.”

Without supplies the officer POWs turned to their human potential. Since the diary was written in secret, conveying only what could be seen, I spent many months tracking down what was going on behind the scene, how they could organize a university, theater groups, an orchestra, a library, print a newspaper twice a month, set up a two-week long exhibit, and obtain over twenty clandestine radios. They executed the largest escape of the war, when 133 men escaped in two days, September 18-19, 1943.

After sixty years in the U.S. with no real connections with France, it surprised me how much I understood the cultural basis of the camp community, drawing on my growing-up years in an occupied and war-torn country, and at the same time looking at it with the benefit of an outsider as an American adult. It is an inspiring story of men, who, adopting the motto, “our bodies are shackled, our spirits are free,” were able to maintain their self-respect and dignity despite their dire and humiliating situation.

Five Years Behind Hitler’s Barbed Wire was published in October, 2015, and is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Indie Books etc., and also as an e-book. I am listed as Jacqueline Vautrain Collins. I am continuing this work with a website, www.wwiipowcommunity.com and a little later, a blog.



An aninga drying its wings

Jacqueline Collins lives in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina after retiring as Minister Emerita from a sixteen-year ministry with the Unitarian Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2005. She belongs to a writers group, is on the Steering Committee of the Village to Village network (helping seniors age at home), is looking into helping refugees, and knits items for local orphanages and foster children.



Jacqueline in 2015

Membership Matters

The Fall, 2016 issue of *Elderberries* had an article by our President, Jim Eller, discussing the issue of membership in UURMaPA. Your Board has been having some conversations about the meaning of membership and wondering about the possibility of a kind of two-tiered membership structure: those who are passive members (simply by virtue of retiring) and have little interest in UURMaPA, and those who actively participate and/or support the organization. A small task force was charged with exploring some of the issues involved and making recommendations to the Board.

Current Membership Structure

When a minister fills out an “Intent to Retire” form for the UUA, UURMaPA is notified and that person and his/her partner, if applicable, automatically become members of UURMaPA.

Background

- It is very difficult to recruit and retain UURMaPA Area Connectors (formerly known as Area Caring Coordinators). This may in part be due to the fact that many UURMaPA members don’t want or need any connection with their retired colleagues. Thus the Area Connectors often feel discouraged at their perceived lack of success in making connections with the people in their areas.
- With no dues requirement, depending solely on voluntary contributions to meet its budget, UURMaPA often runs at a deficit.
- 1/3 of the membership of the UUMA is made up of retired ministers.
- UURMaPA is a 900+ “member” organization with an all-volunteer Board and programmatic committees.
- UURMaPA continues to expand its offerings — conferences, peer groups, an active web presence, as well as new programs.

Considerations

- Retired ministers make up a large percentage of UUMA membership. Is the UUMA serving them adequately? Are the UUMA chapters?
- Given the significant increase in the number of retirees over the last few years, how might UURMaPA better serve the needs of those who want to stay connected?
- The UUMA and UURMaPA are currently exploring ways of including ministers’ families in the structure and programming of the UUMA, for ministers still in service.

- UURMaPA is currently the only official UUA organization that includes ministers’ partners as fully participating members.

The Task Force has some recommendations that will be discussed further at the in-person Board meeting just before the Santa Barbara conference.

Please stay tuned, and be assured that no final decisions will be made without plenty of opportunities for discussion among the current UURMaPA members.

— Marni Harmony
for the Membership Task Force

Memento Mori Matters

If you learn of the death of a partner member, please send whatever information you have to the Connections Network Coordinator (connections@uurmapa.org), and to Roger Rochester, our Partner Obit editor (uuroger@gmail.com), so that we can contact the surviving family members and post an obituary.

When a retired minister dies, the UUMA and UUA share the information broadly, so we in UURMaPA know we will hear about it. Then Jay Atkinson, Clergy Obit editor, or his assistants can enhance the information and we can share it in *Announce*, *Elderberries*, *In Memoriam* services at conferences, and in our web archives.

But when a partner dies, there is no system in place for notifying those who might have known the partner of her or his death. We in UURMaPA are the only ones in the UUA system who share notices, memorialize the person and archive their obituaries.

So if you learn that a partner member has died, please don’t assume that we already know about it. Instead, be sure to notify Roger and the Connections Chair (or any UURMaPA Board member) so we can pass the word along and honor them.

— Judy Gibson, Secretary
secretary@uurmapa.org

UUJEC Conference

UUs for a Just Economic Community ([UUJEC](http://uujec.com)), with its partner in the capital region, UUs for Social Justice ([UUSJ](http://uusi.org)), is hosting the *Reversing Inequality Conference* on April 3-5 in Washington DC to provide an opportunity for all UUs to stand for their values and show their resolve. This conference will focus on the crucial social and economic justice issues that the new administration is threatening. We will be joined by several of our justice allies (including Sister Simone Campbell and Chuck Collins), build advocacy skills, and spend time on Capitol Hill talking with decision makers.

Conference details, registration information and local lodging options can be found here: <http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>

Elders in Action

I Just Had to Say Something

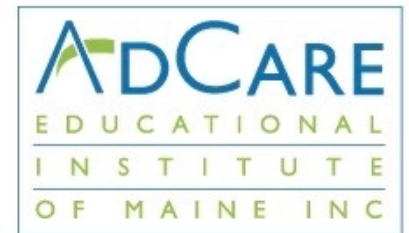
Ministry was a mid-life decision for me, and I left a job as the Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator for the State of Maine when I went to Starr King in my mid-40's.

I took with me an understanding of both the complexity of the labyrinth that is the substance abuse field, and the often bizarre workings of state government. That knowledge proved helpful to me in parish ministry.

When I retired to the same city in Maine that I had left 20 years before, there were still familiar faces around. I wanted to put my volunteer efforts into services for the elderly, so I took a volunteer job at an Area Agency on Aging, where I got an excellent overview of federal, state and local services for the elderly.

Maybe it's just *my* eyes that tend to notice things like "No Services Here" signs everywhere. I noticed that Maine has the oldest per capita population in the country, one of the very poorest and most isolated senior populations, the highest rate of anti-depressants dispensed to people over 60 (per capita), and furthermore... the cab driver in my home town tells me about all the alcoholics, because he delivers their liquor every day. Nevertheless, scientific or anecdotal, substance abuse and medication misuse among the elderly can't compete for attention with the big brass band of the horrific opioid epidemic among our young people.

One of my former colleagues now runs a well-established and respected educational and training outfit. I wrote to him suggesting some sort of training on the topic of substance/medication misuse and the elderly, and he suggested I come put the program together. This being a new venture in the state, he said he'd give me an office but I'd have to find all the rest of the resources.



I wrote several grants, requesting money to develop two different trainings: one for substance abuse clinicians about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the body as it ages, and the other one for home health aides about the warning signs of either addiction or medication mismanagement for their homebound clients. Two very different audiences, but both with access to elders who would need help if they were facing an addiction problem.



Nancee preaching at her home church in Augusta, Maine

I finally got a modest grant, found a gerontologist who knew something about addiction, and we've held two well-received workshops for substance abuse clinicians. I'm going to produce a series of webinars on the warning signs of possible dependence for home health aides, and these will be able to be viewed by folks from all over Maine, a large state to travel.

This volunteer work has kept me busy, and it's strengthening the threads that already make up the patchwork colors on my life's path. In the beginning, I took an understanding of the substance abuse field and state work into my ministry. 20 years later and through the grace of my God, I brought a sense of ministry back into the work I'm doing now for seniors in Maine.

— Nancee Campbell

Nancee Campbell retired from her Stockton, California ministry and returned to Augusta, Maine more than a decade ago, and has been working on the above project for the last three years. She also works as a per diem Hospice and hospital chaplain, and is looking forward to serving UURMaPA as your next Elderberries editor, if elected.

Fall Attleboro Conference at LaSalette Retreat Center

Save the Dates: October 2-5, 2017

We have confirmed our fall conference for the same time period this coming year. We're reviewing your suggestions and working on program ideas and extra curricular activities that we hope will appeal to almost everyone, while giving us lots of time to renew old friendships and make new ones. Look for more specific information and registration forms in the Spring *Elderberries*.

– Phyllis Hubbell, phubbell@uuma.org

UURMaPA Has a New Website

We have launched our re-designed website (www.uurmapa.org). Your computer's browser may have cached the old version, so if the new one doesn't appear, try reloading the page. This has taken months of work, the aid of a professional web designer (Greg Bear at www.gbmediadesign.com), and many volunteer hours of moving and adapting content. If you are familiar with our old site, you'll find pretty



much the same content on the new one, but it has been updated with a clean look, our new-ish logo and color scheme, and hopefully easier navigation.

A primary change is that the new design is "responsive," meaning that it will rearrange itself to fit on the screen of your device, whether it is a smart phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. That should make it much more user-friendly and easier to read on the smaller screens. That change was necessary for search engines to continue to provide links to our site when searching from a smart phone or tablet.

If you haven't been to the site for a while, perhaps you are not aware that it includes an extensive archive of our newsletter, *Elderberries*. The archive is not complete, and we would love to get our hands on the missing issues. If you have a stash of them and would be willing to lend them for scanning, please be in touch with the webmaster, the Rev. Duane Fickeisen (webmaster@uurmapa.org).

We're also the only place that keeps archives of obituaries for both deceased retired ministers and partners. Our obituary writers strive to produce a full and interesting obituary, and that sometimes takes time. Meanwhile, we'll post the death notice that is sent out by our Secretary. A new sidebar on the home page provides direct links to the death notices and obituaries for recently deceased ministers and partners. Older obituaries provide only a brief synopsis, and the ones from the earliest years of UURMaPA are simple notices of a death date.

You'll also find a publications page with access to our Directory (which is updated monthly) and various reports. You still need a password (WISDOM) to access the Directory. And be sure to check out the Area Connections in order to network with other UURMaPAns, and the Governance page to find out who is on your board and to read board minutes and reports (if that's your cup of tea).

We're still working on providing on-line registration for conferences, and expect that feature to be added in

time for registration for the Fall, 2017 Attleboro Conference.

What you won't see, but will make your webmaster's life so much easier, is the behind the scenes stuff. The new site is far, far easier to update, maintain, and add content than the old one. Even your semi-ept volunteer webmaster can do most of it without professional help or ranting and pulling out what's left of his hair with this new design. And that is a very good thing.

As always, your webmaster relies on YOU for input. If you see an error, please don't just pass it by or grumble about it, but let us know at webmaster@uurmapa.org. Happy browsing!

— Duane Fickeisen
Webmaster

Introducing Art Severance

Art Severance was born and raised in Laconia, NH. His family was active in the Congregational Church (UCC) and Art became active, not just in the local youth group but also at the state level on the NH State Youth Council. He graduated high school in 1967 and went to Ursinus College (outside of Philadelphia) to become a UCC minister, but the 1960's culture and his study of liberal arts found him evolving out of traditional religion and, he thought, ministry. He graduated in 1972 with no idea what he was going to do. But having met Cathie (whom he married in 1973), a Special Ed teacher, he found a job in a private Special Ed school, also exploring social service jobs in education, and residential treatment counseling. They weren't active in any church.



When a friend invited them to a UU fellowship in 1981, they discovered they had been UU's all along. Art entered semi-nary to become a UU minister and graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary (ironically a UCC seminary!) in 1987. His internship was at the Princeton Unitarian Church, under Dr. Edward Frost. He then took part time ministries at small fellowships in Baptistown, NJ, Lower Bucks County, PA, and BuxMont UU Fellowship in Warrington, PA.

In 1991, he was called to First UU Church San Antonio, TX, where he served until 2006, helping them grow from 250 to 450 members, and build a 500 seat sanctuary. Then came a year as interim minister at the Boulder UU Fellowship in CO, after which he was called to East Shore UU Church outside of Cleveland, OH, where he served until 2011. He then served an interim ministry in Stockton, CA, then a 2 year Developmental Ministry in Amherst, NY, retiring in 2015.

Art and Cathie have 3 grown daughters and 3 grandchildren who live in Austin and San Antonio, TX, so they plan to move to San Antonio as soon as their Ohio house sells.

Art is also a folk singer, songwriter, guitar player and an amateur photographer. He sells old books, prints, ads, and paper on eBay — look for "Sev's Vintage Paper."

At its January meeting, the Board appointed Art to fill the vacancy for Connections Assistant until July, when he will become the Connections Chair.

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 UURMaPA members have been nominated for the Board. 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 (Dick Gilbert at rsgilbert@uuma.org or 585/244-7403) for any position by April 1, the slate is considered elected and begins serving on July 1, 2017.

President: Judy Welles (term 2017-2019)

Vice-President: Diane Miller (term 2017-2019)

Connections Chair: Art Severance (term 2017-2019)

Elderberries editor: Nancee Campbell (to complete term through 2018)

At Large Position # 1 Conferences: Ginger Luke (to complete term through June 2018)

At Large Position # 2 Connections Assistant: Cathie Severance (term 2017-2019)

At Large Position # 3: Liaison to UUA and UUMA: Marni Harmony (term 2017-2019)

Nominating Committee: Dick Gilbert (term 2017-2019)

— Richard Gilbert, Chair
Nominating Committee

New Members Since October, 2016

Katie Lee Crane and Jonas Barciauskas
Ann Fox and Leo Brautigam
Craig Hirshberg and Dominick DePinto
Silvio Nardoni and Wanda Teays
Lynda and Stuart Smith

UURMaPA 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 only limited by the imagination and could include such things as publication and other creative work, community service, teaching or mentoring.

I am grateful to Makaanah Morris and Ellen Brandenburg who will join me in choosing the 2017 recipient. The winner will be announced at General Assembly in New Orleans and awarded a cash prize of \$500.

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

Thanks from Chris

In 2000 Andy and I moved from Schenectady, NY to Vancouver, BC. He was serving as interim minister there and I was studying business and personal coaching. One of the light-hearted selling points of being a coach was that we could work from home "in our bathrobes." The training helped me grow and I had the opportunity to work with a half dozen clients, which was rewarding.

In November, 2016, I was honored to be named the Unsung UURMaPAN for the year. I have been touched to have a number of you contact me with heartfelt comments. The award included \$500 in cash. Now that I have had some time to think what I wanted, I chose a very cozy bathrobe from a well-known catalogue store in Maine. I had chosen a lilac color. But then I spotted another color in the catalogue — elderberry. Well, of course my choice was made! The robe feels great on the chilly nights.

I also bought some practical clothes for day to day use. The remaining funds will promote "Older But Not Wiser" (our musical). I continue to enjoy wearing the chalice, which the board gave me in 2012. I wear it to my arthritis exercise class three times a week. Seeing the necklace, several other UUs have found me, which is fun.

Serving UURMaPA is gratifying and these special extras mean a lot. Thank you.

— Chris Lilly Backus



UURMaPA's 2017 Budget

	<u>2016 Actual</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>V%</u>
<u>Operations</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Member Donations	\$22,726	\$25,000	10%
Project Grants from UUA	14,500	11,500	-21%
Other Income	<u>1,141</u>	<u>1,125</u>	-1%
Total Income	\$38,367	\$37,625	-2%
 <u>Expense</u>			
Fundraising and Administrative	\$13,202	\$14,760	12%
Grant Projects	-	28,000	N/A
Conferences Subsidy/(Surplus)	(2,593)	3,730	N/A
UUA General Assembly Participation	3,949	3,935	0%
Communications (<i>Elderberries</i> , Video Call Groups)	6,258	4,850	-22%
Connections Network and Member Recognition Awards	<u>1,922</u>	<u>3,500</u>	82%
Total Expense	\$22,738	\$58,775	158%
 Net Surplus/(Deficit) From Operations	 \$15,629	 (\$21,150)	 N/A
 Navias Donation (Added to the Endowment)	 \$11,250	 \$0	 N/A
Investment Earnings	\$1,331	\$1,870	40%
 Total UURMaPA Surplus/(Deficit)	 <u>\$28,210</u>	 <u>(\$19,280)</u>	 N/A

Comments on UURMaPA 2016 Results and 2017 Budget

2016 regular donations from members have declined from \$29K in 2015 to a three-year low of \$23K in 2016. Our 2017 budget expects a modest improvement to \$25K.

In 2016 we received a UUA grant for the first time. The grant money will be spent in 2017 to support the retirement seminar. In 2017 we received a grant to kick off a program to provide ministry by UURMaPA members for congregations in need of temporary assistance. Both of those grants will be spent in 2017.

Conferences are planned to be nearly self-financed through fees charged to attendees. We will, of course, continue to provide scholarships to members in need of assistance to attend, and fees are collected before conference costs are paid. The surplus in 2016 about offsets the deficit in 2017.

Communications costs in 2017 are expected to decline from 2016 because more members are opting for online delivery of *Elderberries* instead of USPS mail.

The Connections Network has changed our policy to provide the same memorial gift donation amount for partners as for ministers. There is a new recognition award in 2017 named the Navias Award to recognize excellence in religious education. (In 2016 we received a \$11.5K bequest from the estate of Gene Navias.)

The swing from surplus in 2016 to deficit in 2017 is largely due to receiving substantial amounts in grants and conference fees before the related expense is paid.

Joel Weaver, Treasurer

Turning of Our Lives

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

— Proverbs 25: 25

Andy and Chris Backus celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 31 with long-time friends from Maryland, Arizona and Bellingham. The Backuses were married on December 31, 1966 in Cherry Hill, NJ, by Ed Lane, who was then minister of the Unitarian Church in Cherry Hill.

When they retired to Bellingham, WA in 2004, they joined UURMaPA, where Andy served as Treasurer and Chris later served as Newsletter Editor and Nominating Committee Chair. She was honored as the Unsung UURMaPAN in 2016. Andy was honored with the Creative Sageing Award in 2013. In retirement they have more time to enjoy aboard “Hepsabeth,” their 36-foot cruiser. They have both been active in the Bellingham Sail and Power Squadron, and in Semiahmoo Yacht Club. And they volunteer at the Bellingham Theatre Guild, where Andy is President.

Andy is a composer and teacher. Chris is an artist and writer. Together they have written a full length musical play entitled, “Older But Not Wiser (Younger But Not Cute).” With the help of Dave Hunter and Sophie Philbin, they shared selections from the play at the Attleboro UURMaPA conference in October, 2016.

Jeremy Brigham writes with lots of news from the upper midwest. He asked his colleagues what they are reading now, and here are their answers, along with other news:

In Minneapolis, **John Cummins** is reading biographies, one about Gloria Steinem and another about Winston Churchill’s wife. **Charles Grady** is reading *A Time of Gifts*, by Patrick Leigh-Fermor, who wrote about his walk across Europe from Holland to Constantinople in the 1930s. He is also reading *Names on the Land* by George Stewart, and Annie Dillard’s memoir. **Patricia Jiminez** is doing research in the Meadville Lombard Library into the sanctuary movement and the role of Hispanic issues in UU churches.

In Iowa, **Charlotte Shivers** and **Robert Baker** have moved to Des Moines, which has taken most of their time recently. **Pat Peterson**, Pete’s wife, visited her daughter and two granddaughters in Uganda in the fall of 2016 for two weeks. **Charity Rowley** is reading four books simultaneously, including mysteries and novels. **Jeremy Brigham** started reading *Vanity Fair* by Thackeray and *Don Quixote* by Cervantes. He and his wife are deeply engaged in raising three teenage grandchildren. He volunteers as Executive Director for Iowans for Gun Safety, building the organization and battling bad gun bills in the state legislature.

In Nebraska, **Ron Knapp** has written three books since retirement and donated seven file boxes of sermons to Meadville Lombard. **Charles Stephen Jr.** is reading World War Two history, biographies and a few mysteries. Sarah Voss is reading a Nebraska book, *The Meaning of Names*, by Karen Shoemaker, addressing among other things how Germans were treated in that state during World War I; *The Power of Three*, by Diana Wynne Jones, a mystery book; and *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari, a history of *homo sapiens*.

In Kansas, **Thea Nietfeld** is reading a dialogue between a Benedictine sister and a Japanese poet. She is also reading works by the pagan, Starhawk, about a healing city. **Greta Crosby** is reading mysteries.

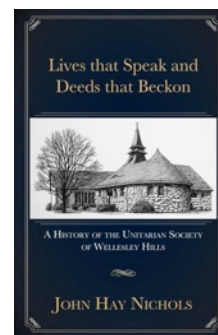


Last October, **Gordon and Judy** Gibson received the Whitney Young Lifetime Achievement Award from the Knoxville, TN Area Urban League. Gordon writes, “We are not as impressed by our press clippings as other people are, but this was a really gratifying award. It’s gratifying because prior recipients have really impressive records of achievement (and have kept on achieving after receiving the award). It’s gratifying because it is named for a Unitarian Universalist. It is gratifying because we appear to be the first non-Black recipients of this award from the Knoxville Area Urban League. And, of course, we are pleased that the Living Legacy Project, on whose pilgrimages and programs we continue to work, was mentioned as a factor in the award.”

Barry Whittemore retired from active parish ministry in June, 2013. He was simultaneously adjunct faculty at the University of North Georgia. In the Fall of 2014, he was moved to a full time position as Lecturer in Appalachian, American, and Religious History. He writes, “In October, 2015, I presented a paper at the Appalachian Carpathian Conference, held that year in Brassov, Romania. Since my Department

provides zero funding for overseas travel, I took some additional time and made a side trip to Kolozsvár for a long weekend, where I got a guided tour of religious sites, attended church and convocation at the seminary, and met the Unitarian Historian. This was a real pilgrimage for me as well as a highlight in my rejuvenated academic career. I was trained as a Hungarian linguist in the Army, so this trip brought together that, Unitarianism, and Appalachia in a profound way. I would love to return as a tourist, if not a teacher. Teaching a five course load keeps me busy and fulfilled.”

John Nichols has recently published his book *Lives That Speak and Deeds That Beckon*, a history of the Unitarian Society of Wellesley Hills. [“A wonderful book,” says your editor, who grew up in that church and fell in love with the idea of “church” as a child.] It’s available on Amazon.



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

– Charles Darwin

In Memoriam

Longer and more detailed versions of all obituaries can be found on the UURMaPA web site at uurmapa.org/obituaries/. 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.

ALEXANDER L. CRAIG (1937 - 2014)

The Reverend Dr. Alexander Craig, public school educator and administrator, parish minister, gifted counselor, and dedicated servant of the human family, died on July 22, 2014, aged 76.

Alexander Lincoln Craig was born in Boston on October 22, 1937, to Emily and Edward Craig. In 1961 he began a 28-year career as an educator, while completing work for an Ed.D. at Syracuse University in 1968.

Leaving his public school career at 50 to pursue Unitarian Universalist ministry at Bangor Theological Seminary, he was ordained by the First Universalist Church of Sangerville, ME, in 1990, where he served in a yoked ministry with the First Universalist Church of Dexter, for 10 years. He then served the UU Church of St. Petersburg, FL (2001-05) and the Spirit of Life Unitarian Universalists of Odessa (2005-12), returning to St. Petersburg as pastoral care minister (2009-12). He was named Minister *Emeritus* of both congregations in 2012.

In the NE District of the UUA, Alec served as Chair of Extension and of Adult Activities, Disaster Coordinator for the UU Service Committee, and liaison to students at Bangor Theological Seminary. Later he served terms as vice-president and president of Florida’s West Central Cluster of UU Congregations.

Volunteer community work with community organizations in NE and FL was a central commitment of Mr. Craig’s life, as both educator and minister. He was a member of the Interfaith Alliance and the ACLU, worked for Habitat for Humanity, taught safe driving courses for the AARP, and worked part time for the Salvation Army.

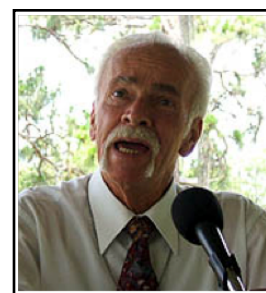
His wife, Penny, recalled particularly his devotion to end-of-life pastoral care: “He loved doing funerals, and loved visiting people in nursing homes and hospitals, holding their hands, and making sure their families felt like they were being heard.”

He is survived by his wife Penny Craig, two children; two granddaughters, and two brothers.

A Scottish Celebration of Life was held in October 2014 in Seminole, FL, and a second Scottish Celebration of Life was slated for New Hampshire during the summer of 2015.

In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to the American Lung Association, 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601 (www.lung.org) and/or to your local hospice organization.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Penny Craig, 9053 Pinehurst Drive, Seminole, FL 33777.



JOHN ALEXIE CRANE (1922-2015)



The Reverend Dr. John Alexie (“Lex”) Crane — long-time parish minister, social activist, and mentor to aspiring colleagues — died on August 7, 2015, at the age of 93.

Lex was a voracious reader, a talented writer, and an impressive polymath. His wide-ranging interests led him and his wife Ginny to travel throughout the world; especially memorable was a semester in China, where they witnessed the student protests at Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

John Alexie Crane was born in Baltimore on January 14, 1922 to John A. and Minnie E. Crane. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945, suffering severe wounds during the Battle of the Bulge. He returned to earn a B.A. in English in 1949, an M.A. in creative writing in 1950, an M.Div. from Starr King in 1951, and a second M.A. (in social psychology) from the University of California in 1971, leading to his licensure as a California Marriage and Family Counselor.

Mr. Crane began his career in parish ministry in 1951 at the First Unitarian Church in Vancouver, BC, where he was ordained the next year and served until 1955. He moved on to ministries in IL, CA, and CO. After two years at the UUA, he returned to the parish in Yakima, WA, serving there until his retirement in 1987, upon which he was named Minister *Emeritus*. He spent the next 15 years of his “retirement” serving interim ministries in Southern California. After a final retirement in 2002, he was voted Minister *Emeritus* to the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

In addition to social service and activism outside congregational walls, the Rev. Mr. Crane lent his support to the wider UU movement, serving three times on the Executive Board of the UUMA, as a Trustee of Starr King School for the Ministry, and on the faculty and staff of UU leadership schools. In 2008 he received the annual Creative Sageing Award of the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association.

Lex’s wife, Ginny survived him by only a few months. Other survivors include two sons, a step-daughter and two stepsons, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Lex was preceded in death by one son.

A memorial service was held on November 22, 2015, at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. Contributions in Lex’s memory are encouraged to Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, California 93101 (<http://www.ussb.org>).

Condolences may be sent to Jack Crane, 239 1/2 Olive Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 or jabungusintl@gmail.com.

WAYNE FULKERSON (1935 - 2016)

Wayne Fulkerson, spouse of the Reverend Peg Morgan, died October 19, 2016, following a stroke.

He was born August 22, 1935 in Portland, OR to Marie Markstaller and Glenn Fulkerson. His parents, unable to care for him at the time, left him with an aunt and uncle, Selma and George Linville. Three years later, they retrieved him and took him to California, where they entered him in child beauty contests, where he often came in second.

After returning to Portland, his parents separated and his mother remarried. When he graduated from high school, Wayne enlisted in the Navy, and was sent to serve in San Diego, CA. After his service ended, he enrolled at San Diego State University, where he met and married Sharilyn Ruth Allan.

Wayne and Sherry remained in San Diego for 15 years and had one son, Mark, before relocating to Redmond, WA, where Wayne worked for Safeco Insurance. A change in the company’s management drove him to seek better skills in dealing with stress and resolving conflict, which led him to discover Buddhism. When he developed heart health issues, he took an early retirement.

After retiring, Wayne was Sharilyn’s assistant in her accounting business. Sherry and Wayne treasured their dogs and cats; and they loved the diverse wildlife that lived in their back yard. Sadly, Sherry died of lung cancer in 1999.

Wayne found new love with Peg Morgan, and they married in 2002. With her, he travelled the world, explored spirituality, and shared beloved friends. Wayne learned about the power of community as he integrated into Westside UU Congregation, where Peg served. He sang in the choir, and loved sharing his Buddhist beliefs. He loved the values that UUs teach our children and supported all that his community stands for.



He is survived by his wife Peg Morgan, one son, and two step-sons. Gifts may be directed to Westside Unitarian Universalist Congregation Memorial Fund (to support children's, justice, and spiritual growth programs) 7141 California Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98136. Letters of condolence can be sent to Peg Morgan, 10526B 39th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125 or pegmorgan@comcast.net.

ROBERT MERRILL HEMSTREET (1930 - 2015)



The Reverend Robert M. Hemstreet — UU Humanist, creator of the Thanksgiving cider and cornbread communion, and lifelong searcher — died on February 11, 2015 at the age of 84.

Robert Merrill Hemstreet was born on May 25, 1930 to Albert B. and Beatrice Merrill Hemstreet. He earned a B.A. from New York University in 1952, received an honorable discharge from the Army in 1955, and studied at Crane Theological School, graduating with a M.Div. degree in 1964.

Ordained by the First Unitarian Church at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada in 1964, he served there from 1964 to 1968. From 1969 to 1975 he served several congregations in PA and DE, then served as minister to the UU Church of Flushing, NY from 1976 to 1995, where he was elected Minister *Emeritus* in 1999.

He was President of three UUMA chapters, a member of the Board of the Metro NY District, and a Trustee of the St. Lawrence Foundation for Theological Education. He founded Unitarian Universalists for Socialism, and always attended the Institute for Religion in an Age of Science at Star Island. The Thanksgiving cornbread and cider communion service that he wrote has been widely anthologized and is now a feature of many UU congregations.

Bob was an activist for the disenfranchised for his whole life. When the call came from Dr. Martin Luther King in 1965 for clergy to go to Selma, a former congregant of Bob's emptied the cash register in the store he owned and gave Bob the \$300 — Bob answered the call.

He is survived by his wife, Wendy Moscow, who remembers him as one who was “always searching,” even in his final days. Notes of condolence may be sent to her at 25-18 Union Street, #5E, Flushing, NY 11354. His memorial service was held on March 21, 2015 at the UU Congregation of Queens. Contributions in his memory are encouraged to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, 689 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-3302 (<http://www.uusc.org>).

POLLY LEONARD (1924 - 2016)

Anna “Polly” Leonard, 91, wife of the Reverend Richard Leonard, died on May 14, 2016, at Delmar Gardens in Lawrenceville, GA, after a seven year struggle with Alzheimer's. Rev. Leonard is Minister *Emeritus* of All Souls Unitarian Church in New York City.

Born September 9, 1924, in Lancaster, PA, Anna Barr was married to Stanley C. Mason during WWII. After that marriage ended in divorce, she and Richard Leonard were married in 1970. Her three children and his daughters combined in an extended family of almost 200 persons, which included their parents, their siblings and families, seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, plus innumerable relatives and in-laws. Polly was the matriarch, delighting in the yearly family reunions.



She excelled in the banking world and conducted investigations for Citibank CEOs Walter Wriston and John Reed. She was a marvelous cook. Polly traveled the world together with Dick over the years, including trips to Mongolia, Nepal, Antarctica, Japan, China, and Russia. At the same time, she was an active participant in church life.

Her daughter Helen Thilo Bigelow preceded her in death, but Polly is survived by her other children, Kenneth Grant Mason and Martha Jean Mason, her stepdaughters, Suzanne Sykora and Elizabeth Leonard. Her winsome spirit is missed by her family, her friends, and her congregation. Her memorial service at All Souls on October 1, 2016 was attended by hundreds.

Donations in her name can be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to All Souls Church, 1157 Lexington Ave., NY, NY 10075. Letters of condolence may be sent to Dick Leonard, 142 West End Ave, #15-V, New York, NY 10023-6112.

DORIS MARIE LOCKWOOD (1928 - 2016)



Doris Marie “Doe” Lockwood, 88, the widow of the Reverend Russell W. Lockwood, died November 12, 2016. She was born August 10, 1928 in Tulsa, OK to James Earl McDonald and May Fern Hill.

She was married twice, the first time to G.T. Minnick in 1947. After her three children were born, she turned to creative outlets, writing plays, skits, and songs. She also began exploring religion, a search that led her to All Souls Unitarian Church.

In the early 70s the family moved to Puerto Rico, where her husband had a temporary assignment. After they returned to Tulsa and the children left home for college, her marriage ended in 1976.

Doe had resumed her activities at church, where she met Russell Lockwood at the Southwest Summer Institute. Soon, everyone recognized that he was the true love of her life. They married in 1977.

They became members at Hope Unitarian Church, also in Tulsa, where she soon became involved in volunteer activities. She and Russell built a lake house where they would often gather with friends. She took road trips with her close friends, exploring new places as she had with her children when they were young.

Russell died suddenly in 1988 and Doe grieved deeply. Eventually, with time and travel and the arrival of grandchildren, her depression lifted, and she resumed her volunteer commitments, serving on the UURMaPA board until a few years ago.

At one time, Doe compiled a list of her activities, which included dozens of General Assemblies, District Conferences, Summer Institutes, and UUA committee appointments. But she listed as her Most Important Accomplishment the hundreds of casseroles she had prepared for the bereaved.

Her memorial service was held at Hope Unitarian Church on December 10, 2016. Doe is survived by three children, three step-children, and five grandchildren.

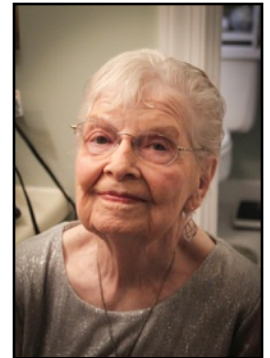
Messages of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Lee Ann Cole, 2224 E 5th Pl., Tulsa OK 74104 or by e-mail to lacole527@gmail.com. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Unitarian Church, 8432 S Sheridan Road, Tulsa, OK 74133.

ROLLENE SUMNER WELLS (1927 - 2016)

Rollene Sumner was the second daughter of George and Stella Sumner. She graduated in 1949 from Georgia State College for Women.

She married the love of her life, John M. Wells in 1949, beginning a rich life that included a stint in the Air Force. After John's discharge, they found themselves unable to live in the segregated Deep South any more, so they moved to Northern Virginia.

It was there they found the Unitarian Universalist Church, joining the congregation in Arlington, VA in 1957. When John decided to become a minister, Rollene bravely adjusted not only to accompanying him (with four daughters) to seminary in upstate Canton, NY, but also to being a minister's spouse. She became a leader in her own right, serving on the board of the UU Women's Federation and supporting many liberal causes throughout her long life.



Rollene was a high school teacher both near Canton and then with foreign students in Fairfax County, VA. She was also an excellent musician who played piano and sang, seldom going more than an hour without humming or singing. And she was a big lover of animals, particularly dogs and, in her later years, cats.

After John's death in 1988, Rollene went through a difficult period that ultimately led her, at age 70, to find community with the Friends of Bill. As one family member put it, “Rollene was always kind and good but when she got sober she became wise.”

Rollene and John had four daughters, Karen, Brooksie, Mary, and Babara. Exactly one year before her death, she married Wayne Moyer, who was also an active Unitarian Universalist. Their shared faith was a comfort to them both.

Her memorial service took place on Dec. 30, 2016 at the UU Church of Richmond, VA. Notes of condolence may be sent to Barbara Ten Hove and Mary Wells, 240 Avebury Dr., North Chesterfield, VA 23236. Memorial contributions may be made to The First UU Church of Richmond, 1000 Blanton Ave, Richmond, VA 23221.

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