

**Unitarian
Universalist
Retired
Ministers
Association**

November 1993

An Association of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, their spouses,
and the surviving spouses of deceased Unitarian Universalist ministers

Volume IX

**EXECUTIVE BOARD
1993-1994**

PRESIDENT

Rev. Keith C. Munson
9 Island View Avenue
Saco, Maine 04072
(207) 282-2204

VICE PRESIDENT

Rev. Max D. Gaebler
1212 Dartmouth Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53705
(608) 238-4663

SECRETARY

Rev. John Cummins
4238 Sheridan Avenue, South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410
(612) 922-2477

TREASURER

Iska Cole
240 Argyle Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
(216) 333-2228

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Rev. Gordon B. McKeeman
24 Lake Forest Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901
(804) 973-0378

BOARD MEMBERS

Helen H. Dick
1 Walnut Way
Springfield, Vermont 05156
(802) 886-8271

Rev. Violet Kochendoerfer
226 North 60th Avenue, East
Duluth, Minnesota 55804
(218) 525-2006

Rev. Raymond R. Nasemann
1150 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, New York 13224
(315) 445-0061

ELDERBERRIES

Number 1

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

- Reports of gatherings of UURMA'er's for picnics - conferences - mutual support; in Maine, Indiana and New Hampshire.
- Information regarding upcoming gatherings - in Florida and California, with excellent programs at lovely sites.
- A report by Rudi Gelsey on his attendance at the Parliament of World Religions held in August in Chicago.
- The Wheel of Life reporting on the deaths of colleagues and partners.
- Activities reports which give hint of "Life After Ministry" from Alna, Maine and Narrowsburg, New York.
- Commentary by the UURMA President on suggestions that UURMA reduce expenses for Executive Board meetings.
- A revised list of Caring Network District and Area Representatives.

Grant Haskell writes:

"Betty and I were vacationing in Vermont in July when Betty broke her arm. We called the Dicks, Bob and Helen. They were so helpful in directing us to hospital and doctors. It so happened that Helen had hip surgery earlier in the spring and knew the answers to our plight.

"But most important was their being responsive and helpful, keeping our anxiety to a minimum. Later we visited a number of times and renewed old acquaintances.

"I thought you would be interested as we obtained Helen Dick's address and telephone number from the ELDERBERRIES issue that had just been forwarded."

- Gordon B. McKeeman -

MUNSON'S MUSINGS

Gordon and I were not able to attend the October 13th and 14th UURMA Board meeting. We were disappointed because it was a very special occasion when the three new Board members were present and Iska Cole, one of these, was officially elected Treasurer. UUA President, John Buehrens, and the new head of the Department of the Ministry, Diane Miller, were guests at the Tuesday evening dinner meeting. Dialogue centered on their thoughts and concerns for those of us who retired, our partners and surviving spouses. Vice-President, Max Gaebler, reports that it was a stimulating and positive session.

At the Board meeting on the following day, it was voted to invite the new President of the UUMA, Wayne Arnason, to meet with the Board in January exploring relationships between our two organizations and still further areas of mutual benefit, support, concern, and cooperation. In January we will also begin to formulate plans for our programs and involvements at General Assembly in June, 1994 in Fort Worth, Texas.

I mention these most recent activities and share with you something of the dimensions of our advocacy activities.

In the formative years it was convenient to gather a Board within a contiguous area. As we developed a sense of the continental nature of this organization and the importance of expanding our concerns for the representation of all our membership, the Board expanded to include participation from other regions.

We are aware that this move toward continental representation, plus the necessity for us to meet at least three times a year puts an extra burden upon our limited budget. There are, however, immediate concerns and advocacy activities that can be addressed more effectively through face-to-face meetings.

We know you do appreciate all the effort and devotion that your colleagues have given over the past decade to bring us thus far along in providing support to each other and calling attention to the household of faith that we look upon our commitment as a life-long relationship.

LIFE AFTER MINISTRY**RAMONA BARTH**

has been the Chair of the Edna St. Vincent Millay Centennial Committee, which planned observances of the 100th Anniversary of her birth. A feature of the observance was poetry reading at sea - sailing around Ragged Island where Vincent (as she liked to be called) and her husband lived for many summers. As she wrote:

I am weary of words and people

Sick of the city, wanting the sea

I have a need of water near

I have a need to hold and handle

shells and anchors and ships again!

RAYMOND PONTIER'S

(Minister, Upper Delaware UU Fellowship, Narrowsburg, NY) Reflections on Peace appeared in the *Times Herald Record* for 6/5/93. The concluding paragraph: "There are, as most of us are aware, no easy ways to save the world.... It is not that most Americans are indifferent or callous, but they see the quagmire military involvement will lead to.... The smart people in Washington need some creative alternatives. They need to become mediators and reconcilers, channels for negotiation, humanitarians providing food and medicine, peace-makers who refuse to traffic in the sale of arms that make the killing possible. 'There is,' as A. J. Muste said, 'no way to peace; peace is the way.'"

JANET HAWKES'

report of a MAINE CHAPTER UURMA picnic... "August 9, 1993 dawned sunny and bright. On this day, sixteen members of the ME chapter of UURMA and surviving spouses found their way to the little Universalist church in Green, ME, there to enjoy good food and fellowship among the company of old and trusted friends.

Prior to our leave taking, Thumb Twiddlers were passed around to enlist from those attending a deeper meditation before going our separate ways. Since the writer of this piece is new to the group, I only have one comment to make, 'I hope we do it again next year.'"

I just returned from a spectacular week in Chicago at the Parliament of World Religions and felt blessed by the radiance and a handshake from the Dalai-Lama, an incarnation of the Bodhisattva of Infinite Compassion.

Our new UUA President Dr. John Buehrens gave a seminar on UU'ism; Spencer Lavan and John Godbey of Meadville/Lombard, along with Khoren Arisian spoke about liberal religion in the global context. Rev. Ted Tollefson of our DuPage church spoke under the auspices of the Joseph Campbell Foundation. I was privileged to hold forth on "Spiritual Practice on a Multifaith Planet." Altogether some 50 or so Unitarian Universalist ministers and lay people were among the 7,700 registered attenders and 600 presenters. The Parliament had been convened to commemorate the 1893 interfaith gathering at the Chicago World Fair. And what a contrast!

100 years ago there were no women on the platform and only a few in the audience. This time Goddess religion, neo-pagan priestesses and the feminine face of God were very visible.

100 years ago there some Hindus, especially the magnificent Swami Vivekananda of the Ramakrishna lineage, but no Buddhists. This time Tibetan Buddhists in their saffron robes, headed up by the Dalai lama, and many other Buddhists from East and West were at the center of the religious dialogue.

100 years ago, there were no Native Americans present and only one solitary Muslim. This time, several dozen Native American tribes, nations and spiritualities were represented, along with a large contingent of Muslims who, by the way, were not of the "Islamic Fundamentalist" variety, but very open to dialogue and pluralism.

100 years ago, Christianity dominated the proceeding and there was still much desire to convert those ignorant of the sublime virtues of triumphalist Christendom. This time, the chief concerns were not which religion is true, but how can each one contribute to a fruitful dialogue, promote peace, save the environment.

Parliament of World Religions

- A Report -

So despite the horrors of ethnic cleansing, the genocide of Bosnian Muslims, the persecution of Sikhs in India Bahais in Iran, Coptic Christians in Egypt, along with widespread religious intolerance, there is also some progress to report.

At the Parliament of World Religions, there was little one-upmanship, much compassion; more listening than preaching; less blaming than humility. Spirituality and perennial philosophy seemed to be held in higher esteem than the institutional aspect and claims of organized religion.

Overall, there was a generous spirit of inclusiveness and mutual appreciation, with some minor exceptions, such as the withdrawal by Eastern Orthodoxy in protest against the presence of religions not based on God. Four out of 10 Jewish sponsors of the event also resigned, due to a presentation by Louis Farrakhan.

A subgroup of the Parliament, the Assembly of Spiritual Leaders, drafted a document entitled "Declaration of Global Ethic," based largely on the input of the Swiss theologian Dr. Hans Küng of the University of Tübingen. The following excerpts sound very much like a Unitarian Universalist manifesto:

"We are interdependent. We take individual responsibility for all we do. We make a commitment to respect life and dignity, individuality and diversity. We consider humankind our family. We dedicate ourselves to a culture of non-violence, respect and peace. We must strive for a just social and economic order. No new global order without a new global ethic."

Rudi Gelsey
1 Deer Run
Gansevoort, NY 12831

U. U. R. M. A. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Spend a long weekend with UURMA in Florida
Friday, February 25 through Sunday, February 27, 1994

Thanks to the Gainesville UU Fellowship and its minister, Jack Donovan, Florida is back on the UURMA conference schedule February 25-27, 1994. The program will take the form of a mini-Elderhostel. Following dinner on Friday evening, a check-in will help us get acquainted or re-acquainted. On Saturday morning we'll meet with two Professors *Emeriti* from the University of Florida who are active UU's. Prof. Glenn Hoffman, a Renaissance scholar, will address "The Renaissance Person in Retirement." Prof. Stan Ericksen, a psychologist, will address "A 'Wisertarian' Moment of Truth." It is Mr. Ericksen's contention that older UU's should function as "Vice-Presidents of Personal Relationships" within their congregations.

Saturday afternoon will be occupied by a visit to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' home at nearby Cross Creek and an interpretative talk by an expert storyteller of Ms. Rawlings' life and work. Dinner on the town will be followed (we hope) with an evening concert or play. Sunday we'll attend the service of the Gainesville Fellowship with lunch to follow.

Rooms have been reserved at the very attractive La Quinta Inn which offers special clergy rates. Conference package (two nights lodging -- shared room with double beds, three meals and program) is just \$85.00 per person. Saturday dinner and concert/play admission are extra. Single room surcharge is \$40.00

Primary mailing will be sent to UURMA members in Southwest, Mid-South, Florida and Thomas Jefferson Districts, but All UURMAers are welcome!

Registrar: Al D'Orlando
3630 White Oak Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70131

A REMINDER: Iska Cole is the new Treasurer of UURMA. Member contributions should be sent to her at:

240 Argyle Drive
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Members are reminded that one important meaning of the word liberal is generous!

Deadline - February ELDERBERRIES - January 15, 1994

- In Prospect - 1994

WESTERN SECTION OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

MARIANIST CENTER, CUPERTINO CALIFORNIA (near San Jose)

MARCH 7, 8, 9, 10, 1994

Contact/Register with:

Gretchen Manker, 4530 E. Peppertree Lane
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 (602) 840-8186

P R O G R A M

Monday, March 7

- 4:00 p.m. - Registration
- 6:00 - Dinner
- 7:00 - Catching Up - Al Henriksen, presiding

Tuesday, March 8

- 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 9:00 - Worship Service
- 9:30 - "A Life Journey" - Frances Fritchman
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Quiet Time
- 2:00 - "Reflections on My Life in the Ministry" - (TBA)
- 4:00 - Free Time
- 5:00 - Hospitality
- 6:00 - Dinner
- 7:00 - Mark Belletini will share with us the inside workings into the preparation of the new hymnal as well as his favorite hymns and readings.
- 9:00 - Socializing

Wednesday, March 9

- 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 9:00 - Worship Service
- 9:30 - "Post-Retirement Financial Management" - David Strong, IDS
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Quiet Time
- 2:00 - "New Directions in Church Leadership" - Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, President, Starr King School for the Ministry
- 4:00 - Free Time
- 5:00 - Hospitality
- 6:00 - Dinner
- 7:00 - (TBA)
- 9:00 - Socializing

Thursday, March 10

- 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 9:00 - Worship Service
- 9:30 - Max Gaebler, Vice-President of UURMA will report on conflict resolution and other retiree concerns.
- 11:00 - Business Meeting
- 12:00 noon - Lunch and adjournment

UURMA CARING NETWORK CONTACTS

Ballou Channing
Yvonne Giles
27 Herring Run Rd.
North Harwich, MA 02645
(508)432-3068

Central Massachusetts
William Hammond
Grace Lindquist
230 Foster St.
Littleton, MA 01460
(508)486-3988

Central Midwest
Rachel Hoagland
218 N. Blackhawk Ave.
Madison, WI 53705
(608)238-3954

Connecticut Valley
Harold and Shirley Hadley
35 Pomeroy Ct.
Amherst, MA 01002
(413)253-3143

Florida
Charles Barber
30925 Scrub Oak Ln
Eustis, FL 32726
(904)589-9547

Joseph Priestley
Charles Howe
3909 Commander Dr.
Hyattsville, MD 20782
(301)277-8821
Virginia Knowles
9737 Mt. Pisgah Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20903
(301)439-6324

Massachusetts Bay
Ralph and Wynanda Helverson
125 Fresh Pond Pkwy
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617)868-6627

Metropolitan New York
Horace Colpitts
1270 5th Ave
New York, NY 10029
(212)722-1552

Michigan
Maryell Cleary
1183 Arbor Dr.
E. Lansing, MI 48823
(517)332-9419

Mid-South
Albert D'Orlando
3630 White Oak Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70131
(504)394-7009

Mountain Desert
Leon C. Fay
Box 2835
Corrales, NM 87048
(505)897-3717

New Hampshire-Vermont
Robert and Helen Dick
1 Walnut Way
Springfield, VT 05156
(802)886-8271

Northeast
Maurice Cobb
HC 81, Box 1714
West Newfield, ME 04095
(207)793-4453
Kenneth Hawkes
229 Flaggy Meadow Rd. #3
Gorham, ME 04038
(207)784-9844
Earle McKinney
Box 130
Gray, ME 04039
(207)657-2058
Herbert Weeks
429 Turner St.
Auburn, ME 04210
(207)784-9844

Ohio-Meadville
David Cole
240 Argyle
Rocky River, OH 44116
(216)333-2228

Ohio Valley
Ruth Cope
2037 Ridgewood Ln.
Madison, IN 47250
(812)273-4586

Pacific Central
Aron and Eve Gilmartin
1759 Crescent Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
(415)935-0257

Pacific Northwest
Felix Lion
3310 Ocean Blvd.
Victoria, BC Canada V9C 1W6
(604)478-3753

Pacific Southwest
Ray and Gretchen Manker
4530 E. Peppertree Ln.
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
(602)840-8186
Lex and Virginia Crane
2880 Exeter Pl.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805)682-3476

Prairie Star
John Cummins
4238 Sheridan Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410
(612)922-2477

Saint Lawrence
Rudoph and Gertrud Gelsey
1 Deer Run
Gansevoort, NY 12831
(518)584-8982

Southwest
Doe Lockwood
1035 E. 37th St.
Tulsa, OK 74105
(918)743-2810

Thomas Jefferson
Edith Christensen
Box 10056
Wilmington, NC 28405
(919)395-0996

Western Canada
John Cummins
4238 Sheridan Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410
(612)922-2477

UURMA FALL CONFERENCES ...

IN RETROSPECT

Vi Kochendoerfer's observations on the MID-CONTINENT UURMA Conference, September 17-19 in Indianapolis:

The weekend arranged by two wives - Ruth Langhingrichs and Dorothy Simonetti - turned out to be memorable as the experiences outdid the paper program in every way. I was so impressed with the beauty and wealth of Indianapolis, the lovely Catholic retreat center we used nearby the impressive All Souls UU Church.

The first evening set the tone, as we used the whole time sharing past years and experiences, impressed with what each had done not only in UU circles, but in other areas of interest. David Hubner joined us for discussions of finances, we toured the impressive Eiteljorg Museum of American Indian and Western art which was way beyond expectations, shared dinner at their impressive Depot center, and were especially welcomed and dined at All Souls, where we heard the second sermon of their new minister, Bruce Clear.

And from the NORTHEAST conference in Hudson NH, October 5-7:

Sixty four registrants from Maine to California found warm hospitality, the beauty of New England Autumn, and a stimulating program headlined by Bob and Helen Dick, Ed Cahill, Peg Gooding, David Hubner, Deane Starr and Diane Miller. Worship leaders were Bill Hammond, Ann Fields and Barbara Marshman, and Horace Westwood. The Planning Coordinators for the 1994 Conference will be the McKinneys, The Niles, and Maurice Cobb. A new site is being sought!

MISCELLANEA

... **Diane Miller**, Director of the UUA Department of Ministry, asks that you be informed that UUA Directories are available - free of charge - to Retired Ministers and Surviving Spouses. Write to:

25 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
or call (617)742-2100

... **Note:** A UURMA directory is being prepared and will be sent to you later this year.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

cl. Gordon B. McKeeman
24 Lake Forest Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

