

**Unitarian
Universalist
Retired
Ministers
Association**

August 1994

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

Volume IX

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1993-1994

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ELDERBERRIES

Number 4

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UURMA at the GAUGA

The weather was sizzling, even for Texas in June. The Fort Worth Convention Center had commodious accommodations for all kinds of Gatherings. And the UURMA was visible in a number of events.

-- Vice-President Max Gaebler spoke for the 50-year ministers at the Ministry Days worship service;

-- President Keith Munson greeted the newly retired ministers (William DeWolfe, Leon Hopper, John Jablonski, Brandoch Lovely, David MacPherson, Alexander Meek, Martha Newman, Sidney Peterman, Shirley Ranck, Francis Ruland, Albert Thelander and Bruno Visco) at the Service of the Living Tradition;

-- Newly retired ministers and partners were guests at the UURMA Luncheon following the Service of the Living Tradition. Thirty members were present for the luncheon. Members who had died during the previous year were memorialized;

-- Two workshops presented by the UURMA, "Speaking from Experience" and "Growing Older in Ministry ... and After" were well attended and well received;

-- UURMA members assisted in staffing the exhibit of the Office of Church Finances, of which UURMA is a participating member. Board member Ray Naseman is our representative on the Office Board. There is a change in the UUA staffing of that Office. Rev. Harry Green is now its Director, replacing Rev. David Hubner who is now Director of Ministerial Development in the UUA Department of Ministry;

-- The Angus H. MacLean Award for contributions to Religious Education was given (at long last!) to Dorothy Tilden Spoerl, UURMA member and pioneer (with Sophia Fahs) in modernizing Unitarian Universalist efforts in Religious Education. Dorothy's current address is:

Family Living
24 Hall Street
Saco, Maine 04072.

UURMA ELECTION

133 votes were cast in the recent UURMA election process. The following were duly elected:

Vice-President	to '96
Max Gaebler (WI)	
Treasurer	to '96
Iska Cole (OH)	
Secretary	to '96
Barbara Gudmundson (MN)	
Board Member	to '96
Ray Nasemann (NY)	
Newsletter Editor	to '96
Gordon McKeeman (VA)	
Nominating Committee	
Ted Webb (CA) Chair '95	
Maurice Cobb (ME) '96	
Maryell Cleary (MS) '96	

The following will continue to serve on the UURMA Board, their terms expiring in 1995:

President:

Keith Munson (ME)

Board Members:

Helen Dick (VT)

Violet Kochendoerfer (MN)

WINTER IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands would like to welcome a visiting "Winter Minister" for January or February or March for one or two months of ministering in exchange for plane fares and housing in a lovely hilltop apartment with swimming pool.

Further information may be obtained by writing to:

UU Fellowship of St. Croix
P.O. Box 3034
Kingshill, Virgin Islands 00851
Attn.: Margery Tonks

LIFE AFTER MINISTRY

Dorothy Fisher wrote to the Editor, recounting a number of occasions which were satisfying and significant to her and Jack.

One was participating in the Global Vision 2000 Conference, a part of the 1993 Centenary Celebration of Swami Vivekananda's Universal Vedantic Message. It was held at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., August 6-8, 1993. A letter received by the Fishers described it in these words: "... The program conveyed the vision of wholeness as inspired by Swami Vivekananda's Message. Over ten thousand participants benefited directly from this program. The grand success of this program was the tremendous enthusiasm generated by the over 2000 youths from around the world who participated in the Conference."

Two others related to Jack's ministries in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and West Newton, Massachusetts. In Oklahoma City, Jack [preached at the 100th anniversary service, celebrating the centennial of the church's founding. Dorothy and Jack also led a forum on "Life in the Church and in the City during our Ministry there." The West Newton UU Church hosted the Sabbath services of Temple Shalom while its building was being erected. Jack was minister of the UU Congregation at the time.

David van Strien Reports Some Exciting Travel:

"I took advantage of an opportunity to join with a group from the Sierra Club in following the Silk Road from Xian, the ancient capital of the Middle Kingdom, westward across China to Chinese Turkestan where we traveled from oasis to oasis across the Gobi and Telemaken Deserts to Kashgar. From there we went south over the Ramirs, Karakorams, Hindu Kush and Himalayas, ending up in Islamabad in the Indus Valley. It was the same route over which the Manicheans, Nestorians, Buddhists, and Islamic groups spread their respective faiths. The trip exceeded my expectations, which were extremely high!"

THE EL PASO, TX, U U COMMUNITY is looking for part-time ministerial help. 20-24 services per year and minimal office hours. +/- \$15,000 per annum. Contact: El Paso U U Comm., c/o John Lockhart, Pres., 4425 Byron St., El Paso, TX 19930.

AIRFARE BARGAIN

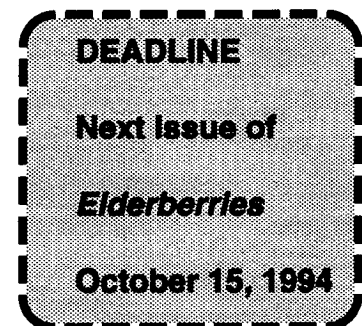
In response to a request, the Editor has undertaken modest research in the field of Senior Discounts on airline travel. Most airlines routinely offer a 10% discount on any fare. A more attractive arrangement for middle- and long-distance travel is offered in the form of coupon booklets. Most airlines offer 4 and 8 coupon booklets. Each individual must have his/her own booklet. Each coupon entitles you to a one-way ticket to any destination within the contiguous continental United States. Some also include travel to Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Others require two coupons for these destinations. Seating, however, is limited on each flight, so travel plans should be made well in advance. Fourteen day advance reservations are required. Coupons also are accepted on a "standby" basis. This means you can go on a flight that is not completely filled at departure time. Coupons are good for one year from date of purchase, although if reservations are made within the year, travel can extend beyond the year. Generally, there are no other restrictions, no blackout dates, no weekend travel requirements. Coupon booklets are refundable if no coupon has been used. 4 coupon booklets sell for \$500-\$600; 8 coupon booklets for \$1000-\$1036. This information was obtained from American, United, Continental, Delta, TWA, and USAir. Your travel agent can help you with further details.

The coupon booklets offer fares for middle- and long-distance travel that are substantially below regular quoted fares and also are lower than many "special" fares, which often entail restrictions of one kind or another. For short distance air travel, the 10% discount is often a better choice. The usual lower age limit for eligibility for Senior Discounts is 62. When you read about UURMA conferences in distant places, consider coupon booklet fare costs. They may make your attendance affordable.

OTHER CONFERENCE DATES

St. Augustine, Florida -- March 3-5, 1995 (Tentative dates)

Pacific Coast: Cupertino/San Jose -- March 20-24, 1995



UURMA CONFERENCES ... FALL, 1994

September 16-18

Annual CMW UURMA Conference

First Unitarian Church
5007 Waterman Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri
(314) 361-0595

Program: Friday evening - at the church - Private dinner and Reception with **Eugene McCarthy** prior to his public presentation and reception (at the church)
Saturday morning - **Dr. James Cargis**, Professor at Webster University and Radio/ TV commentator: "A Futuristic View w/optimism" "Is the World Becoming a Better place?"
Saturday noon - Luncheon - at the church
Saturday afternoon - "options" (local attractions)
Saturday evening - Entertainment/Social time.
Sunday morning - Church service with luncheon following

Note: Friday evening dinner, Saturday and Sunday luncheons at the church;
cost included in registration fee.

Breakfasts and Saturday evening "on own" and/or as arranged with our group, at personal cost

Accommodations: The Inn at the Park (Best Western)
4630 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

Registration: Cost: \$120 per person (double occupancy; single occupancy requires additional cost)

Registration fee includes 2 overnights, 3 meals at the church and pre-arranged programs.

PROMPTLY make reservations and send check to:

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

October 4-6

9th Annual Northeast UURMA Conference

Lasalette Center for Christian Living
947 Park Street (Route 18)
Attleboro, Massachusetts

Theme:

Aspects of Aging

Speakers:

Dennis Garvey: TV Producer; Founder of the Center for Successful Aging;
Director, Adult Health Services, Falmouth, Massachusetts, Hospital.
John Buehrens: President, UUA
David Cole: Conference Preacher
Don Lothrop: Worship Leader
Farley Wheelwright: Worship Leader

Registration required - deadline: September 22, 1994

Full Cost \$93.00 per person (note special needs for room arrangements or for diet)

Send check payable to UURMA to:

Isabel Niles, Registrar
PO Box 1038
North Sebago, Maine 04029-1038

Continuing the dialogue ...

RETIRED MINISTERS' RELATIONS

Dear Gordon:

I believe that in the current *Guidelines* of the UUMA, regarding retired ministers, the UUMA overstepped its bounds, for in effect, the *Guidelines* subvert the First Amendment rights that apply to all - including clergy. Since most UU clergy give lip service to these rights, it seems unseemly for them to deprive others of these unalienable blessings to soothe their own insecurities.

I have, in the past, abided by the guidelines but believe the UUMA exceeded its authority when it sought to make retired ministers and their spouses "intellectual eunuchs" and "social zombies." In my opinion the present *Guidelines* violate the first five "Principles" that we are supposed to "affirm and promote."

I believe *Guidelines* have a right to advise on matters of ecclesiastical and professional activity but not on matters that affect the rights and duties of all church members.

I believe the UUMA has a right to expect retirees and their spouses to be guided by the common decencies and common courtesies in dealing with their successors -- as with all people. The retirees should recognize that they are retired and have no right to encroach on the professional and ecclesiastical rights of their successors.

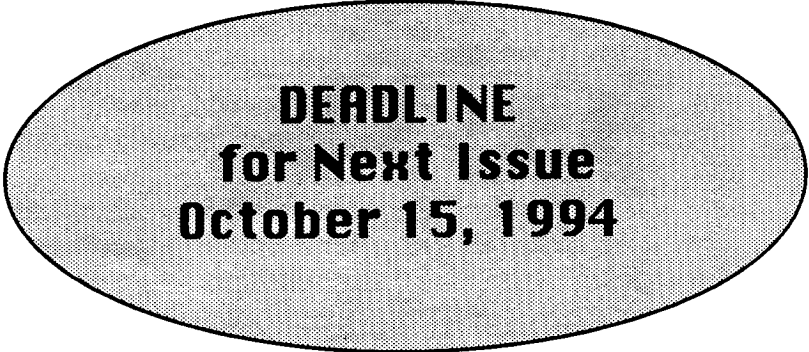
The current policy, that seems to be encouraged, of acting as if retired ministers do not exist and whose presence is an unwanted alien substance in the church organism, is an unproductive arrangement and unnecessarily deprives the religious fellowship of many tangible and intangible contributions. It can also create in the incumbent clergy some unhealthy and unappetizing behavioral modes.

I believe the "Western Section" has opened discussion on a subject that very much needs attention. It has the potential of making improvements that could enrich our movement.

Thanks for sharing their thoughts via *Elderberries*.

Yours in fellowship,

David D. VanStrien



**DEADLINE
for Next Issue
October 15, 1994**

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

EDITH BARTLETT RICKER - February, 1994

Surviving: brother Jo Bartlett

MARTHA C. GRIFFITH - April 21, 1994

Surviving: parents J. B. and Tommie Sue Griffith
Jacksonville, FL

WILLIAM BURNSIDE MILLER - May 14, 1994

Surviving: wife Shirley
children Erie Lynn Swann, Leonia, NJ
LeeAnn Hesse, Yarmouthport, MA
parents Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Wilburn B. Miller,
Portland, ME

CARLETON MINER FISHER - May 22, 1994

Surviving: children David Fisher, Freeport, NY
Peter Fisher, Crowley, CO
Linda Broadway, Northfield, MA

ALBERT WILLIAM DEAL - June 6, 1994

Surviving: wife Caroline Bailey
children Bailey Jane Deal
Wendy Marie Deal
Albert William Deal, Jr.

FRED HAMILTON MILLER - June 21, 1994

Surviving: children Dwight Miller, St. Louis, MO
David Miller, Pensacola, FL

JAMES LUTHER ADAMS - July 26, 1994

Surviving: children M. Eloise Adams, Bethesda, MD
Elaine Miller, Madison, WI
Barbara Thompson, Chicago, IL

CARING NETWORK NEWS

"Contact persons for the Caring Network have been very faithful in their participation in this program. I want to THANK ALL, and, at this time, ESPECIALLY the ones who are being replaced:

RACHEL HOAGLAND, CMW (who is moving to Nebraska);
J. HAROLD and SHIRLEY HADLEY, CV (now moving to MN);
RUTH COPE, OV (who has joined a Presbyterian church); and
JOHN CUMMINS, PS, who will, however, continue for Western Canada.

"New appointments to the Caring Network are:

CV Joan Waterhouse
74 Main Street, North, #203
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798

OV Bette Dom
6993 Blackberry Court
Demotte, Indiana 46310

CMW Carolyn Gaebler
1212 Dartmouth Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

PS Violet Kochendoerfer
226 North 60th Avenue East
Duluth, Minnesota 55804

"Thank you and Welcome!"

Helen Dick

CONTACT

I stretch forth my hand
 knowing not what I shall touch...
 A tender spot,
 An open wound,
 Warmth,
 Pulsing life,
 Fragile blossoms,
 A rock,
 Ice.

I am tentative, trembling...
 Wishing to avoid hurt,
 Wanting to link my life with Life.
 Lonely, I desire companions.
 Naked, I long for defenders.
 Lost, I want to find ...
 to be found.
 Will I touch strangers
 or enemies
 or nothing?

My hand is withdrawn
 But still it touches
 My vulnerable skin, my furrowed brow,
 My empty pocket, my full heart.
 Do others reach, tremble, withdraw?
 Do they desire, long, seek?
 Are they lonely, fearful, lost?
 Will they grasp a tentative,
 trembling hand?

I stretch forth my hand
 Knowing not what it shall touch...
 But hoping....

Gordon B. McKeeman

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION
 c/o Gordon B. McKeeman
 24 Lake Forest Drive
 Charlottesville, VA 22901

