

**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Retired  
Ministers  
Association**

November 1995

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

Volume XI

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1995-1996**

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# ELDERBERRIES

Number 1

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# MAX MEDIA

The other day I had a letter from a friend saying that he had retired from the ministry a few months ago, and with his wife had settled in North Carolina, that they were busy with personal and volunteer activities, looking forward to keeping up with things through the pages of *Elderberries* and our regional conferences. This friend is one whom we shall welcome into our ranks at the General Assembly next June, though they will long before then receive this publication and, I hope, will have attended a conference.

At the other end of the line I've heard from a couple of old, old friends (now past or nearing ninety) that going to conferences is more than they can manage, that their contacts will continue through the pages of *Elderberries*, Christmas greetings, and contacts with our Caring Network.

These bits of recent correspondence are evidence of the importance our UURMA has attained in the decade since the Petersham gathering. Many of us continue to participate in denominational doings at District and continental levels and in our local congregations. But the range and pace of our activities shrinks as we grow older. What a delight it is to know that this structure is in place, a structure through which we can keep in touch with one another and to which we can turn for support and assistance whenever it might be useful.

Our recent Board meeting, with three new members, gave evidence that this structure is in good hands. It is a privilege to be part of it.

## IT'S YOUR MONEY

In the recent past, *Elderberries* has contained some comments about the decline of the amount of the Service Gratuity. That decline has now been halted. The UURMA Executive Board is now seeking to have the cuts restored.

A serious concern still remains. The UUA is custodian of funds given to it to assist ministers (including those retired) and their families in situations of need. The UUA is bound legally to use "sustenance funds" to give financial assistance to address the needs of ministers and their families. These funds cannot be used for any other purpose. The concern is that information regarding needs does not get to the Department of the Ministry. People eligible are sometimes reluctant to ask. This results in hardship that is avoidable. Keep in mind that this money belongs to the people for whom it was given. Donors restricted the use of their gifts out of concern for the financial plight of ministerial families. If you are in need, this money belongs to you. It is yours by right. Donors recognized that often ministerial families served the cause of liberal religion sacrificially. The donors provided that the money be used to address needs. If you - or some colleague who you know - need(s) this helping hand, please ask. It's your money, set aside and intended for your us, if you need it.

## RANDOM NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Do you have two addresses, winter/summer? If so, ISKA COLE (address on page one) would like to have dates of the shift from one to the other.

### MORE UURMA AUTHORS

JOHN MORGAN

*Surfing the Tidal Wave*, memoirs of his ministry in Toronto, 1960-1973, published by First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto.

DR. HELEN MORGAN

*The Voice of the Vanquished*, a novel about Cortez, Doña Marina and the conquest of Mexico.

*First Captured, Last Freed*, the story of her uncle, Edward Everett Hale and his harrowing experiences as a Japanese prisoner-of-war in WWII.

MARY ROSE CURTIS

has edited some of Jim's writings under the title, *Everything Matters, Nothing is Settled*. \$6.50 - 6208 Madawaska Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816

New Contact Persons, CHARLES and CLAUDINE GRADY, report, "Claudine types with the aid of her DecTalk hardware and JAWS (Job Access with Speech) software. With these helpers she can hear everything that can be put on the screen."

From Contact Person BOB REED: "Just days before their 60th Wedding Anniversary (September 28) Chad and Janet Spring were very wonderfully surprised when the members of their Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Richmond, Kentucky, presented a special luncheon in their honor. One of their daughters was present. The other two could not be present but still secretly had helped to enrich the occasion."

TOM BEST, Kalispell, Montana, sent along this bit of autobiography:

"From my Episcopal Church background (high church) the transition to Unitarian Universalist was an interesting adventure. One first has to understand the classic high church attitude wherein my mother when we traveled would never allow us to attend an Episcopal Church unless it was extreme ritual ... otherwise we would end up at a Roman Catholic Church as the alternative. I attended an Episcopal prep school whose headmaster was a Cowley Father from St. John's, Boston. My seminary was traditional (Philadelphia) and the education was conservative and reflective of Roman Catholic training. But liberal college education and an inspiring history professor planted seeds of discovery. Contact with more liberal Roman Catholic resources, Bishop Pike and Alan Watts put me through at least ten years of adventure, finally sabbatical to England (conclusion was I didn't want to be a curator of an Elizabethan Museum and to Israel wherein I began a separation from G-O-D, a term used by religious to justify bad behavior. Anyway, the comment I made was 'My movement from the Episcopal faith to UU was a fun experience as now all the good guys in the historical context became the bad guys and the bad guys became the good guys.'"

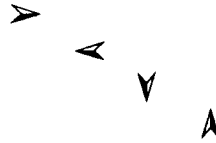
RAY PONTIER says that the group he is presently serving, the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship, contributed \$4,000 to Social Action agencies. This is slightly more than the Fellowship's annual budget.

JEFF SELTH includes Retired Ministers in the "Speakers List" for Pacific Southwest District.

## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



The results of the name change plebiscite were examined and discussed. It was evident that a majority of the respondents favored a name change. The Board voted (7 aye, the President abstaining) to change our name to "UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTER AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION." In accordance with its By-Laws, the Executive Board hereby gives notice of its intention to adopt a By-Law change to that name and solicits comments which it must read before voting on the By-Law change at its April, 1996 Meeting.



Much concern and considerable time was devoted to the UURMA's financial situation. The founders' intent was that UURMA be a self-supporting organization, financed by the contributions of its adherents. In most years of its existence, contributions have exceeded those of the prior year. In the 94-95 fiscal year (July 1-June 30), contributions were \$1351.18 less than those of the previous year. Since the annual budget is only \$8100, this shortfall is serious and approaching catastrophic. The President will shortly send out the annual appeal for generous contributions. A liberal response would be much appreciated. Other funding possibilities are also being explored.



The Board spent an evening in conversation with Harry Green (Director of the Council on Church Staff Finances) and Glen Snowden (member of the Committee on Ministerial Aid Funds). A particular focus was proposed surveys to be sent to the UURMA mailing list - one to ministers, a similar one to surviving partners. A number of suggestions were submitted with an eye to sharpening and expanding the questions, while protecting the anonymity of respondents. The Board gave its endorsement to this effort to gather information about the UU retired ministers and partners. The Board urges your prompt and full response to the revised survey.

**DEADLINE - FEBRUARY ISSUE - ELDERBERRIES - JAN 15**

# - CONFERENCES -

## IN RETROSPECT

### **MID-CONTINENT - SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 4 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

A small gathering (11) enjoyed a delicious dinner Friday evening at John and Dru Cummins' home, followed by a check-in, a particular feature of which was Rachel Hoagland's description of her building a new home and moving to Kearney, Nebraska. Saturday morning featured Dr. Thomas Anderson on "Myths About Stroke" and Dr. Erving Miller on "Medical Photography." Saturday afternoon's activities included visits to the Art Museum and Sculpture Garden. Following a gourmet buffet dinner at the Guthrie Theater, the group attended the Guthrie production of "The Big White Fog." Sunday attendance at the service at the First Universalist Church and lunch concluded the conference.

### **NORTHEAST - OCTOBER 3-5 - SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS**

A large (for us) group (64) participated in a splendidly ordered conference at the LaSalette Centers. Featured speakers were Rev. David Bumbaugh ("The Heart of Our Faith"), Rev. Harry Green (Church Staff Finances), Rev. Charles and Nancy Eddis ("Kangaroos, Kiwis, and Klicks"). A choice of tours (Herb Gardner or Doolittle Home) graced Wednesday afternoon. A rousing 10th Anniversary Champagne Dinner, decorations, cake, *et al*; worship services conducted by Virginia Wheelwright, Rev. Clarke Wells and closing memorial service planned, orchestrated and conducted by Rev. Keith Munson with the assistance of Shirley Hadley, Rev. Dr. Philip Giles and Rev. William Gardner, with Dorothy Fisher at the organ; happy hours coordinated by Rev. Raymond and Barbara Pontier; community singing led by Margi Nasemann and autoharp, all blended to make a great time for all present.

## UPCOMING

### **FLORIDA - MARCH 8-10, 1996 - FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**

Details in process. Southeast folk, watch for them.

Others interested, contact Rev. William DeWolfe,

75 Tioga Street, Springfield, MA 01128

### **WESTERN - MARCH 25-28, 1996 - CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA**

A planning committee chaired by Eve and Aron Gilmartin is developing a program for this conference, to be held (again) at the Beautiful Marianist Center in Cupertino, California, south of San Francisco. The program will include: a discussion on what religion means to us now at this point in our lives, led by Ernie Pipes, and daily worship services led by Lex Crane. The approximate cost will be \$210 per person for three days and nights and all meals. Some financial assistance is available. Further details will be mailed to UURMA members in the Western region in early December. Others interested should write to Registrars Mary and Al Thelander, 12833 Lake Wildwood Drive, Penn Valley, CA 95946 for information and registration form.

**UURMA CARING NETWORK: CONTACT PERSONS - SEPTEMBER 1995****CHAIR**

Ginny Crane - 2880 Exeter Place, Santa Barbara, CA 93105-2218 [805-682-3476]

**BALLOU CHANNING**

Yvonne Giles - 27 Herring Run Road, North Harwich, MA 02645 [508-432-3068]

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS**

Grace N. Lindquist - 230 Foster Street, Littleton, MA 01460 [508-486-3988]

**CENTRAL MIDWEST**

Carolyn Gaebler - 1212 Dartmouth Road, Madison, WI 53705 [608-238-4663]

**CONNECTICUT VALLEY**

Joan M. Waterhouse - 74 Main St North #203, Woodbury, CT 06798 [203-266-0063]

**FLORIDA**

Mable H. Harkins - PO Box 337, De Leon Springs, FL 32130-0337 [904-985-4872]

**JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, Northern**

Virginia P. Knowles - 9737 Mt Pisgah Rd. #704, Silver Spring, MD 20903-2010 [301-439-6324]

**JOSEPH PRIESTLEY, Southern**

Muriel Davies - 25 Observation Court #101, Germantown, MD 20876-6416 [301-916-9572]

**MASS BAY**

Ralph and Wynanda Helverson - 125 Fresh Pond Pky, Cambridge, MA 02138 [617-868-6627]

**METRO NEW YORK**

Horace Colpitts - 1270 5th Avenue 8G, New York, NY 10029 [212-722-1552]

**MICHIGAN**

Maryell Cleary - 1183 Arbor Drive Apt D, East Lansing, MI 48823-5228 [517-332-9419]

**MID-SOUTH**

Albert D'Orlando - 3630 White Oak Drive, New Orleans, LA 70131 [504-394-5950]

**MOUNTAIN DESERT**

Walter Royal Jones - 2004 Valley Forge Ave., Ft. Collins, CO 80526-1651 [303-493-6548]

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - VERMONT**

Alan Deale and Kathleen Hunter - Box 10, East Derry, NH 03041 [603-434-2360]

**NORTHEAST**

Chair: Maurice W. Cobb - HC81 - Box 1714, West Newfield, ME 04095 [207-793-4453]

Joseph Majeau - 84 Mechanics St., Westbrook ME 04092 [207-856-2908]

Earle T. McKinney - Box 130, Gray, ME 04039 [207-657-2058]

Keith & Peggy Munson - 9 Island View Ave., Saco, ME 04072 [207-282-2204]

**OHIO MEADVILLE**

David H. Cole - 240 Argyle, Rocky River, OH 44116-1608 [216-333- 2228]

**OHIO VALLEY**

Robert Reed - 750 Zorn Ave. #37, Louisville, Ky 40206 [502-899-3071]

**PACIFIC CENTRAL**

Aron S. Gilmartin - 1759 Crescent Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598-1103 [415-935-0257]

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

Felix D. Lion - 3310 Ocean Blvd., Victoria, BC V9C 1W6, Canada [604-478-3752]

**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST, Arizona and Nevada**

Raymond and Gretchen Manker - 4538 E. Peppertree Ln., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 [602-840-8186]

**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST, Southern California**

Christine M. Wetzel - 7109 Ruane St., San Diego, CA 92119-1210 [619-469-5168]

**PRAIRIE STAR**

Violet Kochendoerfer - 226 N. 60th. Ave. E, Duluth, MN 55804-1354 [218-525-2006]

**ST. LAWRENCE, United States**

Harry A. Thor - 410 Bunn Hill Rd, Vestal, NY 13850 [607-785-3692]

More----->

# THE WHEEL OF LIFE

**BRUNO JESS VISCO**

**September 5, 1995; Age 63**

Surviving: Two daughters, mother, brother  
Daughter Lydia Visco  
15134 Stone Lane North, C-202  
Mother Mrs. Geraldine Visco  
39 C Bendcliffe Circle  
Auburndale, Massachusetts

02166

**HOPE JOY REAMON**

**September 12, 1995; Age 89**

Surviving: Two daughters  
Judy Ingison  
297 Fountain Street  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01108  
Carolyn McMahon  
2207 Grange Circle  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

**HEBER BROWN ROBINSON**

**September 28, 1995; Age 80**

Surviving: Two sons, John and Bill  
One daughter, Catherine  
Family Contact  
Frances V. Westman  
2209 Abbott Martin Road, #2-7  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

**BRAINARD F. GIBBONS**

**October 23, 1995; Age 93**

Surviving: Son  
Chadwick B. Gibbons  
Pleasantville, NY  
Daughters Nancy Pierson  
Old Greenwich, CT  
Cynthia Dupont  
72 Cox Avenue, Box 241  
Armonk, NY 10504

**MARILYN WOLLEY**

**November 8, 1995; Age 69**

Surviving: Husband  
Rev. Robert S. Wolley  
15 Tracy Circle  
E. Falmouth, MA 02536  
Daughters Cheryl Gartland, Brooklyn, NY  
Andrea Wolley, Boston, MA  
Son Charles Wolley, Tampa, FL

**ROBERT C. WITHINGTON**

**November 9, 1995; Age 91**

Surviving: Wife  
Catherine Wilcox Withington  
626-B Martin Point Road  
Friendship, ME 04547  
Son Geoffrey Withington  
Flemington, NJ  
Daughter Ann Gautier, Colorado Springs, CO

**FLORENCE CHRISTIANSEN (Chris) BAILEY**

**November 14, 1995; Age 70**

Surviving: Children  
Paul, Berkeley, CA  
Scott, Richmond, CA  
Barbara, Santa Rosa, CA  
Susan, Cambria, CA  
Robin, San Leandro, CA  
Christine Martinez  
4106 Fariss Lane  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

**DOROTHY MCKINNEY**

**November 20, 1995**

Surviving: Husband  
Rev. Earle T. McKinney  
P.O. Box 130  
Gray, ME 04039

**CARING NETWORK (Cont.)**

**ST. LAWRENCE, Canada**

Charles W. Eddis - 463 Lansdowne Ave., Westmount PQ, H3Y 1V4 Canada [514-933-3758]

**SOUTHWEST**

Doe Lockwood - 1035 E. 37th St., Tulsa, OK 74105 [918-743-2810] or [918-435-8079]

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

Charles and Claudine Grady - 419 4th Ave. W Apt A, Hendersonville, NC 28739-4258 [704-697-7325]

**WESTERN CANADA5**

John Cummins - 4238 Sheridan Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55410 [612-922-2477]

### "The Authority of Truth, Known or to be Known"

During April, the trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky decided that they would hire only professors who believe that God does not want women to preach. The following week, women won the first, second and third prizes in the seminary's annual preaching competition. The judges, who were all male, did not know the gender of the authors of the manuscripts, and heard audio tapes of the sermon delivery only after the finalists had been chosen.

Quoted from *Kairos*,  
newsletter of  
The Unitarian Church  
Rockford, Illinois

#### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Gordon B. McKeeman  
24 Lake Forest Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

