

**Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers  
and Partners  
Association**

November 1996

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

Volume XII

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1996-1997**

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# ELDERBERRIES

Number 1

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**AT OUR RECENT BOARD MEETING . . .**

we heard enthusiastic reports on the two conferences that have been held so far this season -- those in the Northeast (Attleboro) and the Midwest (Madison). Still to come are gatherings in the South (New Orleans) and the West (San Jose).

I speak of this important dimension of our activities in order to remind all of you not only of the satisfactions that come from these opportunities to keep old and important friendships alive and well, but also to inform you that resources are available to help us fit such gatherings into our budgets. Ralph Mero, the new Director of the UUA's office of Church Staff Finances, assured us at our Board meeting that whenever a partial (or even, on occasion, a full) remission of fees could make the difference in enabling any of us to get to the conference nearest to us, that assistance is available directly through the conference registrar. Ralph doesn't even need to know the names of the beneficiaries. So if an extra \$50 or \$75 would make it possible for you to attend the nearest conference, don't hesitate to let the registrar know your situation.

That same help, of course, is available for larger and more vital needs any of us may have: help with Medigap insurance, a new hearing aid, special glasses or expensive medications -- to name but a few examples. The resources are there to help; but they can't be used if we don't let Ralph Mero know. You can write or call him directly, or you can talk to Ginny Crane or one of her far-flung colleagues on our Caring Network.

Best wishes to one and all.

**Max Gaebler**  
 President

A note received from the UUA tells us that those surviving spouses or partners who would like a UUA Directory should write to:

Jean Hartman  
 Department of Ministry  
 UUA  
 25 Beacon Street  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02108

or e-mail.

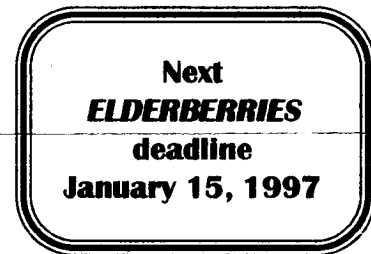
[jhartman@MINISTRY.uua.org](mailto:jhartman@MINISTRY.uua.org)

**A NOTE FROM RALPH MERO . . .**

I want to reiterate how nice it was to meet with your Board last week, and how strongly I feel that retired ministers should be more involved as a knowledge resource for UUA congregations and the UUA. I hope some of your colleagues will think about the retired executive or CEO model and let me know if they have time to pass along some of their ministerial wisdom to some of the younger ministers coming along. That might be a story for the next Elderberries.

Sincerely,

Ralph Mero


**BOARD MEETING REPORT**

The minutes from the October meeting of the Board are five pages of closely typed notes. They are impossible to condense. Those of you who want a copy are invited to write Scotty Meek (address in the masthead), and request a copy. Please enclose either a stamped (two stamps, please) envelope and \$1.00 for copying and he will be glad to send them to you.

I know this may not meet the needs of those who want the minutes in *Elderberries* but those are the facts.

## Letters . . .

Some of the most interesting stories I have enjoyed, but see little of in our newsletter, are those related to what retired ministers and their families are doing besides getting the wheelchairs out of storage (oiled and polished). As the Southwest Network person for UURMAPA I am always promoting the submission of articles to ELDERBERRIES by those in my district but never see anything. Could the myths about ministers' egos be just that?

It occurred to me how much more readily people would respond to a personal request from the editor for articles, in addition to the generalized invitation always offered. I can think of a couple in my district right off.

Frank Schulman and his wife Alice have returned to Woodland, Texas after a ministry of eight years in England at Manhattan College, Oxford, as well as parish ministries there, all after retirement. What happened there, Frank? What kind of retired organization do the Unitarians have there, Frank? How do Unitarians in England feel about royalty? etc.,

Frank Schulman

5 Marsh Millet Ct.

The Woodlands, TX 77380

Dr. Leonora Montgomery has just retired to what looks like a full agenda for the future (article enclosed). What was it like, Leonora, to begin a ministry at the time most people are drawing their first Social Security check? How about a report from her on that retreat in Canterbury or her take on the UU 's in the Netherlands? A personal request from you would probably do it.

Doe Lockwood

I like in *Elderberries* "Taking the Torch." I, too, have to learn new things. Of which one is to use my right hand again. In January, I had the knuckles of my right hand replaced. Now, after eight months and twice a week working with a PT trained for re-use of artificial bones, fingers, etc., I'm learning to write. At age 83, that's work.

I look forward to receiving *Elderberries* - my only real contact of knowing about friends. For "identification" my husband was instrumental in the formation of UUA (Bill Lewis).

Lois J. Lewis

### A LETTER ABOUT A NEW KIND OF Ministry

When I received an invitation from the Iroquois (St. Lawrence District) UUMA Chapter to be their "Chaplain" for their fall retreat I was surprised but intrigued. It developed that this was something of a pilot project and that the job was not defined beyond the request to "be there and be available for any in the group who might wish to talk privately with me."

I received a warm welcome at a pleasant lakeside setting with good food and the company of colleagues old and new; and though I thoroughly enjoyed the three days, I wondered, at some points, if the group was getting what it wanted and needed in a chaplaincy.

As it turned out, two members came to me with concerns they did not feel they could discuss with anyone else. One brought a personal and the other a professional concern, and both expressed appreciation for my being there and listening to them.

This information seems to have provided for the group a justification for its chaplaincy project. The program initiated by our Iroquois UUMA Chapter is one of great potential value and deserving to be both commended and supported.

Peter Weller

I have two suggestions for the newsletter (which I value!).

1. Could there be minutes in brief from Board meetings?

2. Could the Caring Network be listed each time? I found I have to search for an old copy when I wanted to know about a colleague in another district.

Charity Rowley

Editor's comments:

Doe, you have just made a personal request: Frank and Leonora both get this newsletter.

Charity, the Caring Network takes up too much space to use every time, but they are included in this issue. With regard to the report of Board Meetings, please see page 2.

I received other letters dealing with retired ministers and the UUMA guidelines; they are too detailed to print. This is a problem which continues to plague us. No doubt the Board is working on it

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**CARING NETWORK NEWS**

I'm pleased to announce that Shirley Hadley is now our Contact Person for the Metro New York District. Shirley replaces Horace Colpitts who has been outstanding in being in touch with our members in MNYD. Thank you Horace and best wishes.

My appreciation to all of you Contact Persons who responded to my queries in regard to updating our mailing list for a new Directory. Our membership does change and move!

An important reminder to all UURMAPA members, I want to repeat that funds are available as a supplement to help in financial need. Be it a hearing aid, eye glasses, prescription, dental work, Pacemaker, cataract surgery, moving expense, emergency or other home repair, health insurance supplement, or an ongoing need, etc. etc. Just contact the Church Staff Finances Director, Ralph Mero, Dept. of Ministry, UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108; phone (617) 742-2100. Much as we find it difficult to ask for help, Ralph is there to give grants from UUA funds waiting to be tapped.

Ginny Crane, Caring Network Chair

**SOME HISTORY OF THE ONGOING ETHICAL GUIDELINES DISCUSSION**

Regarding the UUMA Code where it pertains to the Retired, the concerns do have a longer history than was reported.

When I was VP of the UUMA Board with Harold Hadley as President he and I discussed the strong and angry language in The Code. We were also getting flack from ministers who were about to retire and understood that they must "leave town." The issues needed clarifying. UUA ignored the retired. New ministers were complaining about previous ministers interfering, or what they interpreted as interference. Some did, I'm sure. But the Code has some harsh language and still does.

The Western group, at my encouragement, drafted a statement "requesting" the UUMA Board to give the matter serious attention. They even prepared a statement that was presented as a UUMA Code for our members. Then a year or two later when I was presiding at the business meeting of the Northeast Conference a strong statement regarding the whole issue was drafted, voted and presented to the UURMA Board, to be passed on to the UUMA Exec.

There is a lot of history to this whole concern for the language in the Code and the stringent way the retired are to be dealt with if they do not follow the rules. I do think we should keep the matter before the UUMA in hopes that some day there will be a much better understanding and rapport in our midst.

Keith Munson

## WESTERN UURMAPA CONFERENCE

March 24 -- March 27, 1997

Marianist Center, Cupertino, California

Featured:

Conversations with Huston Smith

Registration is full, but applicants are  
welcome to be on a waiting list

Registrar:

Gretchen Manker

4530 E Peppertree Lane

Paradise Valley AZ 85253

(602) 840-8186

## PAN - SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

New Orleans, Louisiana

March 17 - March 19

Featured:

Sr. Helen Prejean  
author of

*Dead Man Walking*

Registrar:

Albert D'Orlando

3630 White Oak Drive

New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

(504) 394-5950

# THE WHEEL OF LIFE

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Muriel Davies has accepted an unpaid position as advisor to the new Maryland church, The Sugarloaf Congregation. She celebrates her 90th birthday Nov. 16. Muriel was our Caring Network Contact Person in the Joseph Priestley District - South until recently.**

**A SPECIAL READ FOR US . . . . . A MODERN PIONEER . . . . . by Vi Kochendoerfer**

It's not only historic, but prophetic. Thirty years ago she was involved with social issues still with us today! Gays were best parishioners in Provincetown where she worried about the mixed up lives of children of the artists - an epidemic today. In Calgary she spoke of adults unclear in their basic values who could not pass on to youth a vital example for setting priorities in our changing world; and first hearing of unmarried couples living together, made "A Case for Trial Marriage," with pros and cons. During WWII in Tallahassee with ten percent Blacks in her group, she helped boys escape to Canada and got deferments, and was an AMA lobbyist to liberalize Florida abortion laws. She taught a course on "Death and Society" with Methodist and Lutheran clergy at Kent State; and while there she was an early promoter of the "About your Sexuality" program, which we're just now bringing out once again. She'd like letters from you!

(Her book is available from the UUA Book Store by calling 1-800-215-9076)

## DEATHS

**MARY B. SUMNER**

**APRIL 22, 1996**

Surviving:

Son

John Sumner

70 Beverly Circle

Englewood, Florida 34223

**RUSSELL LUTRELL LINCOLN** **JUNE 9, 1996**

**Age 81**

Surviving:

Children

James R. Lincoln

Alice Lincoln Prather

**ALMA GILBERT**

**JUNE 18, 1996**

**Age 89**

# THE WHEEL OF LIFE

## DEATHS

### ANN B. FIELDS

JULY 3, 1996

Age 68

Surviving: husband Arnold C. Fields  
101 Farmer's Cliff Road  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742  
(508) 369-2441  
Children Robert Fields  
Meredith Fields  
Richard Fields  
Thomas Fields

### WALDEMAR W. ARGOW

JULY 15, 1996

Age 80

Surviving: wife Mrs. Waldemar Argow  
Cushing, Maine 04563  
(207) 354-6407  
daughter Nancy Katherine Argow

### RUSSELL R. BLETZER

JULY 24, 1996

Age 83

Surviving: wife Jeanne Bletzer  
RR #1, Box 662  
Woodstock, Vermont 05091  
(802) 457-3362  
children Ingrid Wheeler  
Jonathan Bletzer  
Cameron Reed  
Kenneth Kuch

### BETTYE DOTY

AUGUST 13, 1996

Age 75

Surviving: Children Leslie Munson  
Jeff Doty  
Mark Doty

### EDWARD A. CAHILL

SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

Age 83

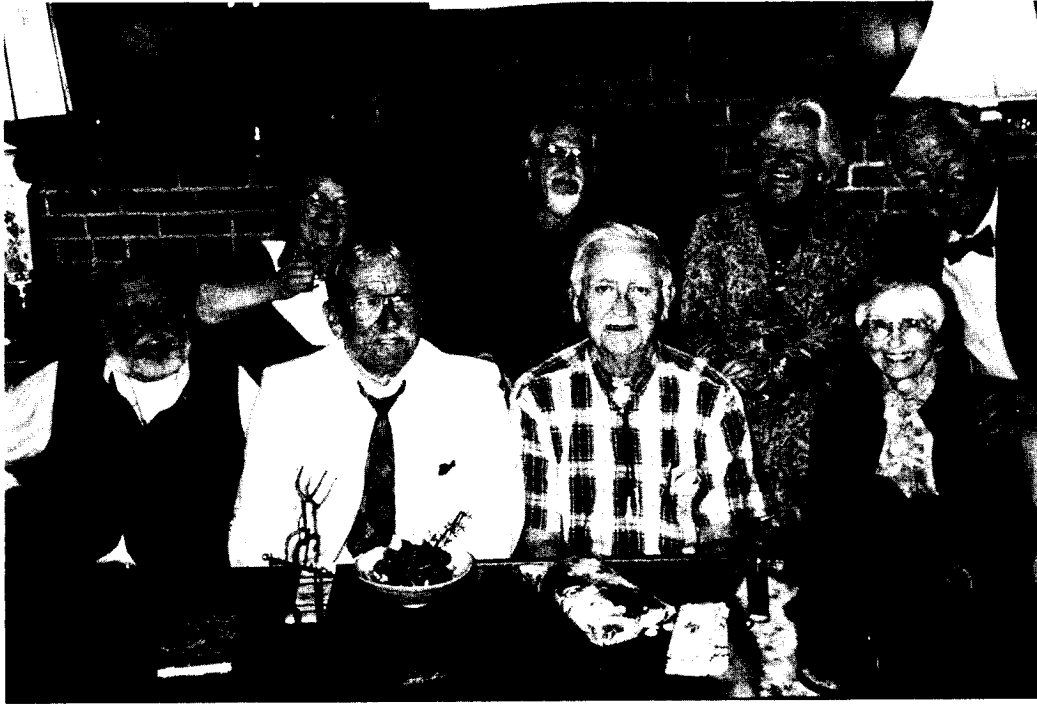
Surviving: wife Esme MacKinnon Cahill  
183 Deer Path  
Contoocook, New Hampshire 03229  
(603) 746-4452  
daughter Linda Joan Brun

### ERWIN A. GAEDE

SEPTEMBER 14, 1996

Age 79

Surviving: Children Susan Shipstead  
Sherry Lynn Gouild  
Steven L. Gaede

**THE GANG OF EIGHT****YOUR BOARD AT WORK !!!**

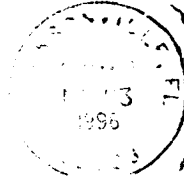
From Left to Right: Farley Wheelwright, Barbara Gudmundsen, Scotty Meek, Larry Hamby, Billy DeWolfe, Iska Cole, Ginny Crane and Max Gaebler

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION**

c/o L. M. HAMBY

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***Address Correction Requested***