

**Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers
and Partners
Association**

August 1996

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

Volume XI

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1996-1997

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ELDERBERRIES

Number 4

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One of the major responsibilities of our Board is in the area of advocacy, making sure our interests are appropriately represented in our denomination as a whole. I speak of this because over the past few years we have been engaged in very friendly and mutually fruitful conversation with our younger colleagues in the UUMA.

This conversation has involved many matters of mutual concern. But a particular focus has been the additions to our Code of Professional Conduct and our Guidelines adopted at the Annual Meeting in Calgary four years ago. At that time there had been no effective involvement of retired ministers as such in the process, and the results seemed -- to say the least -- uncomfortably one-sided to many of us.

This one-sidedness has now been widely recognized, and there has been continuing conversation at many levels as to how we may best amend these provisions to honor the potential resources for congregational life represented by retired ministers and their families as members of a congregation while at the same time recognizing and supporting the priority of the settled minister. This ongoing conversation has been reflected from time to time in the pages of Elderberries (see especially Vol. X, No. 1 -- Nov., 1994).

I am happy to report that the UUMA Committee on Guidelines has invited one of our newly retired colleagues, Charles Stephen of Lincoln, NE, to join its ranks. And this year the carefully honed suggestions for revision, largely the work of Gordon McKeeman in our behalf, are to be submitted for discussion at UUMA chapter meetings and for final action at the Annual Meeting preceding the GA at Phoenix next June.

All this is by way of urging as many of you as possible to be present at your District UUMA meetings to make sure that discussions of this important matter are not carried on in the absence of one of the directly affected groups. If you need more specific background, I am sure both Gordon McKeeman and Charles Stephen would be happy to hear from you. And I will welcome especially any word you may wish to send me after participating in a UUMA chapter discussion of the subject.

We and our younger colleagues, our successors in the liberal ministry, should - and, for the most part, do - respect each other's special and unique contributions. I, for one, look forward to our conversation with one another this coming year.

Max Gaebler

CONTINUING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF AN IMPROVED UUMA CODE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND GUIDELINES

For several years the retired ministers and partners have been seeking some revisions in the UUMA's Code and Guidelines as they relate to the roles and status of retired ministers. These efforts began with some complaints, followed by a detailed examination of the documents and the drafting of proposals for amendments. These proposals were then redrafted, pursuant to some cogent comments from the retired ministers. The redrafted proposals were then submitted to the UUMA with the request that they not be acted on immediately, but rather that they be submitted to UUMA Chapters for discussion. That process is continuing. Rev. John Weston (4500 Warwick Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 60111-1822 - [816] 531-2131) is the new Chair of the UUMA Code/Guidelines Committee. He solicits your suggestions. Rev Charles Stephen, Jr., Lincoln NE, has been appointed to serve on that Committee, in response to a UURMAPA request that the retired ministers be represented on the Code/Guidelines Committee. If we wish changes in the document to present the place of retired ministers and partners in local congregations in a more positive light, we will need to continue our participation in this ongoing process.

Gordon McKeeman

PASSING THE TORCH

ELDERBERRIES has survived three changes of Editors. George Marshall got it started. Al Perry gave it a new format, expansion and some of his own gifted prose. The editorship came to me, Gordon McKeeman, in the form of a file of issues covering 1985-1992. Since that time I have tried to retain the excellence of its past, give it a more contemporary look and to reflect the concerns of the retired ministers and their life partners, promote the activities of the UURMA (now UURMAPA), and to provide a shard or two that falls within the rubric "inspiration." In all this I have had the wise counsel and devoted labors of Phyllis McKeeman and the computer typographical and design as assistance of Vern Curry earlier, and of Larry Hamby lately. Many have contributed words for its pages, and more have offered advice, and some have proffered appreciation. For all of this the McKeemans are grateful.

In the manner of all healthy organizations the mantle of editorial leadership has now been given again, this time to Larry Hamby, whose design and graphic work you know, and who, with UURMAPA's and the McKeemans' blessing, takes up the task. We know you will support his endeavors and enjoy his ample talents. He is much more reachable than his predecessors via e-mail and fax, as well as by phone and the Postal Service. We look forward to ELDERBERRIES new chapters and voice

Gordon B. McKeeman

TAKING THE TORCH

Gordon, if this is a race, then I wonder where it leads and when it will be won. You ran it well; I have admired your work over the past two or so years, and you fault yourself by giving me credit for too much design, most of which was yours. In any event, thanks for the kind words; I'll try to live up to them. I don't, at the moment, have any great changes in mind because you leave me a neat package to work with.

To those of you who don't know me, I need to tell you a bit about me which those who know me already know. I tend toward informality, am witty and wry at times (read "cynical"), like good stories, respect good writing and try to practice it, and as a follower of Henry Nelson Wieman, find myself committed to ongoing change. The future, even at my age, is beckoning and I like to find, learn new things and then move on.

I am an editor. This means that I don't produce the content of *ELDERBERRIES*. The content is yours: yours to write, to send to me for publication, and I solicit it, hoping that I shall be so inundated with good material that we may need to expand *ELDERBERRIES*, or I shall have enough material all at once to keep me busy for the next four years. If you don't send it, then you will find yourself reading what I want to write, copy and publish.

Please send (and I rank order my preferences) your material via e-mail (102536,767@compuserve.com), which I can edit directly into my publishing software, fax (912-634-8435), or paper copy. For fax and paper copy, please send originals (not carbons) and use a standard font like a typewriter font or a traditional font like "Times" for I can scan the page and convert it into editable text. I also solicit your suggestions, criticisms and compliments!

I'm looking forward to working with the Board, the membership and *ELDERBERRIES*. Many thanks for your vote of confidence.

Larry Hamby

- CONFERENCES -

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

October 1-3, 1996
 LaSalette Center for Christian Living
 947 Park Street
 Attleboro, Massachusetts

Featured Speaker

Dorothy Emerson

Director, UU Women's Heritage Society

Also

Kenneth MacLean

UUA Special Assistant for Interfaith and International Activities
 will offer

"a tour of the UUA's overseas pursuits."
 and

David Hubner

UUA Director of Ministerial Development
 will review the UUA report on Clergy Retirement
 and comment on
 the current ministerial landscape

with

plenty of time for celebration with worship, remembrance and song,
 renewal of acquaintances, and making new friends

Cost: \$100 person

(Don't let money be the reason for your absence. Subsidies are available.)

Reservations due by September 10 (with special needs) to

Dorothy Boroush

PO Box 142

East Taunton, Massachusetts 02718

(508) 824-2953

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Late February/Early March, 1997

New Orleans, Louisiana

Contact

Al D'Orlando

3630 White Oak Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

- ANOTHER CONFERENCE -

MIDWEST UURMAPA CONFERENCE

October 11-13, 1996

Friday, October 11

- Afternoon: Check in at the Ivy Inn (full details will accompany acknowledgment of your reservation).
- 5:30 p.m.: Social Hour at the Unitarian Meeting House.
- 6:30 p.m.: Dinner, followed by our usual report-in which we hope will feature a report by **Ruth Langhinrichs** on her experience at the Beijing conference last year on the status of women.

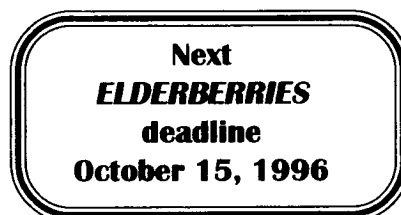
Saturday, October 12

- 8:30 a.m.: Continental breakfast at Unitarian Meeting House.
- 9:30 a.m.: Conversations with **Merton Sealts**, Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin, whose professional interests have centered on Emerson and Melville, and with **Robert Siegfried**, Emeritus Professor of the History of Science, a chemist who has long been interested in the relationship between science and religion.
- Noon: Lunch, followed by conversation about UURMAPA and plans for our conference next year.
- 2:00 p.m.: Escorted groups will leave from the church to visit Olbrich Garden (our up-and-coming botanical garden), the Elvehjem Museum of Art at the University, and the Rare Book Room at the University Library. Choose one of these or spend the afternoon on your own.
- 5:00 p.m.: Social hour at the Gaeblers' home, a 5-minute drive from the Ivy Inn or the Meeting House.
- 6:30 p.m.: Dinner at the Meeting House. We're inviting members of the church's new Senior UU group to join us for dinner and an evening of entertainment both musical and dramatic. We'll finish no later than ten o'clock.

Sunday, October 13

- 11:00 a.m.: Church Service at the Unitarian Meeting House
- 12:30 p.m.: Lunch at the Meeting House before leaving for home

The cost of this program is \$125 per person, including all meals (except Sunday breakfast) and two nights at the Ivy Inn (double occupancy; add \$45 if you wish a single room).



- YET ANOTHER CONFERENCE -

WESTERN UURMAPA CONFERENCE

Monday, March 24 -- Thursday, March 27, 1997
Marianist Center, Cupertino California

CONVERSATIONS WITH HUSTON SMITH

Huston Smith: World religion scholar and mystic, whose writings have illuminated the great Wisdom Traditions of humankind. Huston was recently interviewed by Bill Moyers in a PBS series. The format of our Conversations will contain questions, concerns, issues relating to the world's spiritual traditions, written and submitted by attendees.

MEDITATION INSTRUCTION

Kendra Smith: PhD in Psychology with many years of meditation experience. Kendra will offer daily information, instruction and experience in insight (vipassana) meditation. About meditation she writes: "Although its supreme aim is a nonconceptual experience of the ultimate, it is a way to cultivate what Dan Goleman has named Emotional Intelligence..."

MY STRUGGLE WITH DEMONS, WITCHES AND ACTS OF GOD

Brandoch Lovely: Minister Emeritus, Neighborhood Church, Pasadena, California where he served 25 years. He then ministered to the Orange Coast UChurch, Costa Mesa, California and most recently Emerson Unitarian Church, Canoga Park, California. Brandy is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School. Discussion will follow his presentation.

Space at the Center is very limited, with registrants from MDD, PCD, PNWD, and PSWD given priority. Anyone from outside these Western districts may apply to register (without deposit) and will be placed on a waiting list. If space becomes available after the Westerners' Sept. 21st registration deadline, other registrants will be notified immediately in the order received. Confirmation by the registrar will then be sent upon receipt of a \$90 per person deposit. Total cost of 3-day Conference, \$210 per person.

Planners: Ginny & Lex Crane, Carol Edwards, Maggie & Ernie Pipes

Registrar:
Gretchen Manker
4538 E. Peppertree Lane
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253-3251
602-840-8186

CARING NETWORK NEWS

Virginia Knowles is now the Contact Person for Joseph Priestley District, South, where she lives. Virginia has kindly been covering JPD, North and her replacement for the North will be announced in the next Elderberries. Our grateful thanks to Muriel Davies for her fine work as Contact Person for JPD, South.

Ginny Crane

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

HONORS

Drusilla Cummins, LhD
Meadville/Lonbard, June 2, 1996
Albert D'Orlando, DD
Meadville/Lombard, June 2, 1996

SPECIAL HONORS

Elizabeth Steeves
celebrated her 101st birthday
May 30, 1996

MINISTERS COMPLETING FULL-TIME MINISTRIES

Janet Bowering
George Briggs
Nicholas C. Cardell
Nancy Doughty
Jan Evans-Tiller
John DeWolf-Hurt

Robert B. Fraser
Junella Hanson
Barbara Hebner
Robert Merrill Hemstreet
Ronald Knapp
Dennis G. Kuby

William D. Main
Richard A. Perry
Frank Schulman
John A. Taylor
Clarke D. Wells

FIFTY YEAR HONOREES

1946 - 1996

Robert L. Cope
Alfred J. N. Henriksen
Richard Henry

Donald M. Hinckley
James M. Hutchinson
Nathaniel P. Lauriat

Earle T. McKinney
John H. Morgan
Keith C. Munson

Addison E. Steeves
Theodore A. Webb

DEATHS

LEONARD HELIE

Surviving: son

MAY 2, 1996

Age 85

Leonard Helie, Jr.
Wharton, New Jersey
(201) 386-8326

BARBARA MARSHMAN

Surviving: husband

JUNE 11, 1996

Age 86

Stanley Marshman

daughter

Melinda Anderson
19 Glen Ridge Drive
Bedford, Massachusetts 01730
(617) 275-2762

*South of the Yangtze,
Thinking of Spring*

*How many times will I see spring green
again, or yellow birds tireless in song?*

*The road home ends at the edge of heaven.
Here beyond the river, my old hair white,*

*my heart flown north in cloudy passes,
I'm shadow in moonlit southern mountains.*

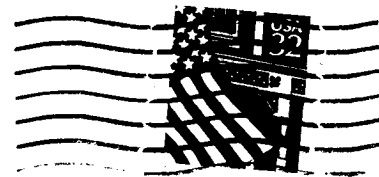
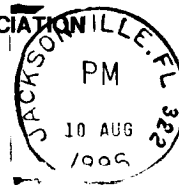
*My life a blaze of spent abundance, my old
fields and gardens buried in weeds, where*

*am I going? It's year's-end, and I'm here
chanting long farewells at heaven's gate.*

Li Po

(Thanks to Gordon McKeeman for this lovely Chinese poem translated by David Hinton.)

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION
c/o L. M. HAMBY
487 CEDAR WALK
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522



Address Correction Requested