

**Unitarian
Universalist
Retired
Ministers
Association**

February 1996

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

Volume X

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1995-1996**

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ELDERBERRIES

Number 2

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Max Gaebler, our esteemed and active President, is presently on a three month assignment in Australia. So, the "Max Media" column is being filled by the newsletter Editor who hopes to improve a bit on what would otherwise be an unsullied page. The *Good Housekeeping* item (about Elderberries) is the point of departure.

We do not claim any medicinal properties in "our" ELDERBERRIES. You can't suck on it, or ingest it to ward off coughs, colds and flu. I might, however, remind

you that UURMA does try to promote some healthful things: A Caring Network to keep in touch with our 500-plus members, the vast majority of whom are in the "Senior Citizen" category; regional conferences to offer

occasions for face-to-face sociability; advocacy for the retired ministers and their partners, particularly in reference to financial needs, and also in regard to some thorny problems of relationships with active ministers and churches.

From *Good Housekeeping* (February, 1996)

"Q. I've heard there was a new herbal flu remedy made from elderberries. Does it work? Is it safe?"

"A. Elderberries have a long history as a folk remedy for coughs, colds and flu. Recently researchers identified the plant's specific antiviral properties and an immunologist Madeleine Momcuoglu, Ph.D., at the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem has developed a syrup and lozenge that contain the active ingredients. Called Sambucol, it's now sold as a dietary supplement in health food stores in the United States. Adults take either one tablespoon of syrup or one lozenge four times a day. ..."

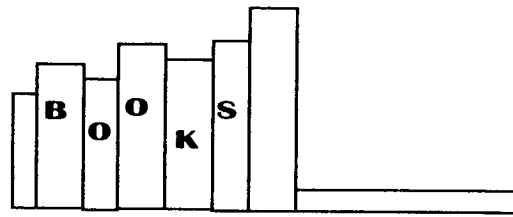
So, it may be that "our" *Elderberries* also contains some ingredients with antiviral properties. There's isolation and loneliness and indigency and depressions and despair and illness to be addressed.

***Good Housekeeping* says that Sambucol**

has not been cited as yet as having any adverse reactions. I hope the same might be said of "our" *Elderberries*. If such do occur, we would like to hear about them. There's already enough trouble in the world.

UURMA Finances

Treasurer Iska Cole sent along a note from John Brigham suggesting that UURMA folk who do Sunday services (as he does) split the fee, sending a portion (as he does) to UURMA. Iska indicated that Farley Wheelwright had sent a check for one such service. Perhaps others would do likewise. It should also be noted with gratitude that the UUMA Executive Board granted \$2000.00 to UURMA for its ongoing work.



The latest book of writings by Rev. James H. Curtis entitled *Nothing is Settled; Everything Matters* contains sermons, essays, drawings and poems. The particular items for this book were chosen from among hundreds by a computer program of *I Ching* (The Chinese book of wisdom). The drawings express Jim's personal experiences with the *I Ching* hexagrams. He intended to draw all 64 hexagrams, but he died before completing this commitment. The book costs \$5.00 , postage and handling are \$1.50. It may be ordered from

Mary Rose Curtis
6208 Madawaska Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Waldemar Argow, one of our most accomplished wordsmiths, has produced a small gem in his latest publication, *A Maine Coast Reader*. It consists of three sections, "The Man Who Lived at the End of the World," "Nocturne (A Down East Celebration of the Majesty and Mystery of Night," and "Sea and Shore Lessons from the Cook of Nature." "Wally" writes his hope that readers will "find something of the peace that passes understanding and of those subtle reassurances all of us long for." Order (\$7.95 a copy plus \$2.00 for postage and handling) from

The Personal Bookshop
78 Main Street
Thomaston, Maine 04861

Former UURMA President, Keith Munson, comments *How and Why We age* by Leonard Hayflick. "This 375 page study, published in 1994, is informative, comprehensive and well organized, written for the curious. It is acclaimed by leading anthropologists as the best 'critical evaluation of the present state of knowledge in the field of aging...' The book critiques the many theories about why we age. Hugh Downs writes, 'fascinating ... it sorts out and dispatches several myths all with an engaging style and a clarity that is breathtaking.'

"The author explains how aging affects every part of the human body, presenting what we now know and explains the philosophical dimensions of our theories and knowledge.

"A scholarly treatise, *How and Why We Age*, is written like a detective story.

"It is a wise book,' reports Z. A. Medvedev, ' that tells the scientific truths plainly and clearly.'"

FOLLOW-UPS

UUMA Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines

The UURMA has submitted recommendations for changes in the Code and Guidelines relating to relationships between retired and emeritus ministers and settled ministers in congregations. Accompanying the recommendations was a suggestion that the specific recommendations be considered in the context of a more general discussion of changes that have occurred and are on going regarding the nature of ministry.

The UUMA Committee on Ministerial Guidelines and Code of Professional Practice has asked UUMA chapters to discuss these questions:

1. What is the role of a minister emeritus in a congregation? By whom and how should that determination be made?
2. What is the role of a retired minister who is a member of a church she or he has not served? By whom and how should that determination be made?
3. What are the appropriate collegial relationships between retired, emeritus, community, student and any other ministers who attend a church, and the incumbent minister(s) who serve the church? Who makes the determination about these ministers' relationship to the parish? Who can facilitate the conversations that need to take place to create understandings between colleagues?
4. What is the role of the congregation itself in determining these roles and relationships? Who should help the congregation understand or clarify these kinds of issues?
5. In light of your answers to 1-4, are there changes you think appropriate to our current Code and Guidelines?

UUMA chapters are urged to include retired ministers in such discussions. UURMA ministerial members are requested to be alert to opportunities to participate in discussing these concerns.

Nominations

The Nominating Committee is at work identifying potential nominees to fill the following UURMA positions by election in the spring:

- Treasurer:** Incumbent Iska Cole is eligible for reelection.
- Newsletter Editor:** Incumbent Gordon McKeeman is not eligible for re-election having served for four years
- Secretary:** Incumbent Barbara Gudmundson is eligible for reelection.
- Board Member:** Incumbent Ray Nasemann is eligible for reelection.

Send suggestions to:
 Rev Maurice Cobb
 HC 81, Box 1714
 West Newfield, Maine 04095

Caring Network correction:
 The telephone number for Alan Deale/Kathleen Hunter is 603-434-2359.

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

GEORGE CHURCHILL WHITNEY

Surviving: wife

November 30, 1995

Age 85

Doris Whitney

1802 Debra Street

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001-1983

Daughters

Judith, Tucson, Arizona

Mary Jane Macready,

Huntsville, Alabama

LEWIS A. HILLYARD

Surviving: wife

December 10, 1995

Nancy Ackerman

children

Francis, Berkeley, California

Douglas, Tomales, California

Thomas, Paris, France

CONFERENCES

A WESTERN UURMAPA CONFERENCE

will be held MARCH 25-28, 1996 at the MARIANIST CENTER, CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

The program will include

a major paper by Ted Webb on "Universalism Now"

a discussion on what religion means to us at this point in our lives, led by Ernie Pipes

an odyssey by Ford and Barbara Lewis

a discussion moderated by Arnold Crompton on

"What can we Learn from the Growth of Fundamentalism."

and worship services led by Lex Crane

The approximate cost for three days and nights, including all meals will be \$210.00 per person.

Some financial assistance is available.

Registrars, from whom you can obtain further information are

Mary and Al Thelander

13833 Lake Wildwood Drive

Penn Valley, California 95946

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Indianapolis, Indiana

June 20-25, 1996

UURMA will host a luncheon for the newly retired ministers and partners and conduct a workshop or two.

Regretfully the Florida UURMA gathering has been cancelled.

DEADLINE for the MAY issue of ELDERBERRIES is APRIL 15, 1996

The Darkling Thrush

I leant upon a coppice gate
 When Frost was spectre-gray,
 And Winter's dregs made desolate
 The weakening eye of day.
 The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
 Like strings of broken lyres,
 And all mankind that haunted nigh
 Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
 The Century's corpse outleant,
 His crypt the cloudy canopy,
 The wind his death-lament.
 The ancient pulse of germ and birth
 Was shrunken hard and dry,
 And every spirit upon earth
 Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
 The bleak twigs overhead
 In a full-hearted evensong
 Of joy illimited;
 An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
 In blast-beruffled plume,
 Had chosen thus to fling his soul
 Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
 Of such ecstatic sound
 Was written on terrestrial things
 Afar or nigh around,
 That I could think there trembled through
 His happy good-night air
 Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
 And I was unaware.

Thomas Hardy

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

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

