Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners

November 1997

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

Volume XIII

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1997-1998

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ELDERBERRES

Number 1

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Ed. Note: The Old Geezer is not deceased. but space and type size limitations left no space for him in this issue. He grumbled and muttered through the cloud of smoke coming from the famous corncob pipe, "I shall return!"

From Our President, Bill DeWolfe

Greetings from Damariscotta! Fall has been a most colorful time. Our state has been returned to us year round residents. The tourists have gone home and the snowbirds have fled to the South. Barbara and I experienced our first "early bird" day, when the stores open at 6 a.m. and offer large discounts to the shoppers. We were there at six and were home by 8:30, having shopped in 6 stores and enjoyed breakfast at a local eatery.

Late in October, your board met in Boston. You will find a summary treasurer's report elsewhere in this issue. The board is most appreciative of your support for our efforts together. You contributed well over \$9,000 for the year ending June 30. Your response to my letter seeking contributions has elated Treasurer Iska very much and gratified all of us. We are already ahead of last year's pace. Our current budget is counting on \$11,000 in member contributions.

One of the Board's goals for this year is to cooperate with all other concerned UU offices/ organizations in actualizing the meeting of ministerial needs with the available resources. I would like to share one example of this cooperation. In September, a UURMAPA Caring Committee member (CCM below) was visiting with a member couple in the facility, where they reside. This couple receive Medicaid benefits. These benefits were to be reduced because one government agency alleged that they owed the government money from their pre-Medicaid days, while another agency had determined that their Service Gratuity was income, not a gift. The result of this situation was that the couple would only have \$10 a month for spending money. After consulting with the couple's social worker, our CCM reported the situation to Ralph Mero in Boston. Ralph asked me to follow up on the matter. After a telephone call to the social worker, I called Ralph. The following actions resulted. A letter with legal documentation was written by Diane Miller, Director of the UUA Department of Ministry, to the government case worker explaining why the Service Gratuity is a gift and is not to be considered as income. Ralph Mero sent a sizeable check from Department of Ministry resources to the couple to help meet their needs while their problems with the government are being resolved. All of this took little more than a week to accomplish. We have had to deal with a similar problem about the Service Gratuity in another jurisdiction.

There are several lessons in this situation for all UURMAPA members. (1) If any agency, governmental or not, treats your Service Gratuity Checks as "income," immediately contact Ralph Mero at the UU Office of Church Staff Finances or contact any UURMAPA Caring Committee or Board Member. (2) Ministers and/or their Partners need to become comfortable with letting the various UU agencies concerned for their quality of life know their needs. (3) In cooperation, there is an opportunity for real service to our members.

The next meeting of your board will be in Savannah, GA on March 2-3, 1997. Please share with us any concerns you have.

Next Elderberries Deadline January 15, 1998

November 1997

LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

John Brigham serves on the Board of POLIS (Pursuit of Learning in Society), part of the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Quincy University. He also has facilitated programs on Yugoslavia and will soon lead a short course on Darwin and *The Moral Animal* by Robert Wright.

Ben Hersey's papers have been accepted by the Harvard Divinity School.

George Williams is recovering from a small stroke and will soon return to writing. Cards/letters are desired.

BOY, DO WE DO BOOKS!!!!

Maryell Clary has published The Wonder of Life, a collection of Ken Patton's writing.

John Hanley Morgan's ninth book is *Stir Around and Make a Light*, a collection of sketches based on his experiences in the ministry.

Nancy Reid has compiled and published a history of Dennis, MA.

Bob Wolley's latest is *The Pranks and Enlightenment of Frank an' Me,* a story about two boys in a New England harbor town.

Walter Donald Kring has published *Herman Melville's Religious Journey*, which bids fair to provide some controversy about Melville's life.

Vi Kochendoerfer's third book, Santa Fe in the Fifties, is in process and she has started a fourth, Growing up in Minnesota. She's also offering her Duluth home as a bed and breakfast for those traveling though the area. Write or call.

Herb Vetter's latest editing is The Heart of God, the prayers of Rabindranath Tagore.

PAN-SOUTH WINTER CONFERENCE

to be held in beautiful historic Savannah, Georiga February 28 - March 2, 1998

Audrey Vincent and her congregation welcome us to a truly memorable weekend, with traditional Low Country cuisine, tours, and lectures of the finest kind. After many years, Savannah UUs are back in their original antebellum church, where most of our activities are to be held. We'll be treated to a Low Country Boil: a catered dinner at the church, featuring such traditional fare as crab, shrimp, sweet corn, and other Savannah fixin's.

Dr. John Duncan, Professor of History, Armstrong-Atlantic State University, and noted raconteur, will speak on Savannah's colorful history.

"MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL" — No, not the best-seller, but a bus tour of historic Savannah cemeteries, led by author Margaret DeBolt and local historian Milton Rahn.

COST? Preliminary estimates are \$210 for a couple and \$165 for a single person. These are estimated because the final figures will depend on the number attending. Subsidy money is available. Send your check issued to UURMAPA to Registrar Charles Grady, 419-A Fourth Ave., West, Hendersonville NC, 28739 (704) 697-7325

Deadline: December 31, 1997

SEVENTH WESTERN CONFERENCE 1998 Marianist Center, Cupertino, California March 30 – April 2, 1998

ROLE OF A PROPHETIC FAITH IN TODAY'S WORLD - an inquiry into increasing long term impact and meaning in our social action. Social justice minister of the San Francisco Church, Kay Jorgensen, will share her expertise.

THE IMPACT OF AGING ON SOCIAL ACTIVISM will be explored by panelists Gretchen Manker, Rosemary Matson, and Eve Gilmartin.

ODYSSEYS will be presented by Virginia Stephens and Ken Helms.

Cost for three nights, all meals, pool, jacuzzi — \$255 per person (Financial assistance available)

Registrants from MDD, PCD, PNWD, PSWD have priority.

Send Registration, including a \$90.00 deposit to Joyce Smith, 1903 E. Rhea Rd. Tempe, AZ 85284-3467

DEADLINE- January 12, 1998

FINANCIAL CORNER

Total contributors last year: 211 for a total of \$9,471.71. July 1, 1997 through October 15, 1997 received 73 contributions for \$3,477.00.

Many of you have increased your contributions by 20% or more. You know who you are and we are grateful! If your financial situation does not permit you to contribute what you would like in one payment, make it easy on yourself! Send a smaller amount quarterly or semi-monthly ... Every little bit helps ... It's better than nothing! (We received 2 @ \$5.00) One member sends \$6.00 per month for a total of \$72.00 annual contribution, to avoid an annual contribution which totaled \$35. I don't mind doing the bookkeeping and we will ease a financial crunch on both ends.

Iska Cole, Treasurer

	1996-7		1997-8
INCOME	Budgeted	Actual	Budget
Contributions	9,000.00	9,471.71	11,100.00
Bank Account Earnings	150.00	404.48	300.00
UUA subsidy	1.800.00	_900.00	0.00
Total	10,950.00	10,776.19	11,400.00
EHPENSES			
Board Meetings	6,000.00	6,377.49	6,000.00
Elderberries	1,800.00	1,609.54	1,800.00
Telephone, Postage, etc.	1,400.00	1,511.06	1,700.00
Conferences	0.00	168.03	0.00
Directory	0.00	1,255.26	0.00
Nominating Committee	400.00	298.3 1	400.00
GA Luncheon	300.00	360.51	450.00
Listing in UUA Directory	50.00	50.00	50.00
CCSF	200.00	200.00	200.00
GA Representation	500.00	0.00	500.00
Contingencies	_300.00	35.00	300.00
Total	10,950.00	11,865.20	11,400.00
•	Operating	Conference	Caring
Balances	Account	Account 583.30	Account 3,383.61
Daialitt3	2,377.23	303.30	3,303.01

UURMAPA CARING NETWORK CONTACT PERSONS: 10/97

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November 1997

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CARING NETWORK NEWS

I'm pleased to report new members who have joined the Network, and we appreciate their willingness to serve. Now that he is no longer president, MAX GAEBLER joins CAROLYN in working with the Central Midwest District.

In the Ohio Meadville District, CAROL BRODY is replacing DAVID COLE, who finds at least half of the time he is not living in that district.

ROY OCKERT is the new Contact Person in the Pacific Northwest District, where FELIX LION has been our representative.

Prairie Star District is now being served by CHARITY ROWLEY, succeeding VIOLET KOCHENDOERFER, who had been Contact Person following her term on our board.

Warm thank yous to all of you who have been part of the Network. Your endeavors in being in contact with our members is so very much appreciated.

Also a thank you to those who have joined as Contact Persons. The Caring Network is the heart of our association.

The Caring Network is currently involved in a project across the continent. I have asked each Contact Person to have UURMAPA become officially an "affiliate" in their district. The impact will be twofold at least. The district directories would list UURMAPA with the names of their Contact Persons, giving our association visible presence. UUs in the districts would be apprised of our existence as a resource of experienced UU ministers and church leaders. Look for it happening in your district.

Ginny Crane, Chair

November 1997

DEATHS

Mildred Baughan Date Not Known

Date Not Known Widow of Ray Baughan Stanley C. Marshman Sept 25, 1997 Widower of Barbara Marshman Age 89

Edna P. Bruner August 3, 1997 Age 93

Robert C. Palmer Sept 25, 1997 Age 86

Josiah R. Bartlett August 15, 1997 Age 84

The following poem was read as a memorial to our deceased colleagues by Farley Wheelwright at the UURMAPA Board Meeting October 22, 1997.

When Death Comes

When death comes like the hungry bear in autumn; when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse to buy me, and snaps the purse shut; when death comes like the measle-pox;

When death comes like an icebag between the shoulder blades,

I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering: what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

And therefore, I look upon everything as a brotherhood and sisterhood, and I look upon time as no more than an idea, and I consider eternity as another possibility, and I think of each life as a flower, as common as a field daisy, and as singular,

And each name a comfortable music in the mouth, tending, as all music does, toward silence, and each body a lion of courage, and something precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say:

all my life I was a bride married to amazement.

I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder
If I have made of my life something particular, and real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

From New And Selected Poems, Mary Oliver (Beacon Press 1992).

UURMAPA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Oct 20 - 22, 1997 - Boston

President Bill DeWolfe stated that our Caring Network is our most important activity. Even with the recent 5% increase in the Service Gratuity, that program can no longer be counted on for significant help and our focus now has to be on discovering individual needs among our retired ministers and their surviving spouses, and matching those needs to available resources.

The 1997 - 98 Budget will require an increase in contributions from members of \$1,800. The Board

is optimistic that our members will respond generously.

The Membership Directory will be printed only every other year, but new members, board members, and others who request it will receive a printout of the mailing list in the alternate year.

The next Board Meeting will be on March 2 - 3, 1998 following the Mid-South Conference in

Savannah, GA.

We are working on updating our history, and looking to establish the position of Archivist.

Extracts by Alexander Meek, Jr., Secretary

(Members interested in a copy of the emtire Minutes can request such from the Secretary.)

Witness for Life

is the Newsletter of Unitarian Universalists Against the Death Penalty. To get a sample issue, and/or their brochure, write:

> Jean Rabenold 1600 Buena Vista Drive Vista, CA 92083

Phone: (760) 436-2075 Email: jrabenold@aol.com

UUA Directories

Here's how surviving spouses and partners can get a copy of the UUA Directory. Contact:

Jean Hartman

Department of Ministry, UUA

25 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

Phone: (617)742-2100 ext. 437

Fax: (617)367-3237

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