

**Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers  
and Partners  
Association**

May 1997

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

Volume XII

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
1996-1997**

**PRESIDENT**

Max D. Gaebler  
1212 Dartmouth Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705  
(608) 238-4663

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

William A. DeWolfe  
929 Biscay Road  
Damariscotta, Maine 04543  
(207) 563-6838

**SECRETARY**

Alexander Meek  
17503 El Camino Real  
Houston, Texas 77058  
(713) 488-2001

**TREASURER**

Iska Cole  
240 Argyle Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116  
(216) 333-2228

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Larry Hamby  
487 Cedar Walk  
St. Simons Island, Georgia 31522  
(912) 634-9902  
larry\_hamby@Compuserve.com

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Virginia Crane  
2880 Exeter Place  
Santa Barbara, California 93105  
(805) 682-3476  
ginnycrane@AOL.com  
Barbara R. Gudmundson  
5505 28th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417  
(612) 722-1811  
Farley W. Wheelwright  
1241 Adams Street, #606  
Boston, Massachusetts 02124  
(617) 298-1684  
011-52-415-2-186 after 1/1/97  
revwheel@aol.com

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Alfred Henriksen, Chair  
28820 Cedarbluff Drive  
Ranch Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
(310) 541-0642

# ELDERBERRIES

Number 3

## ON THE INSIDE

<b>FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....</b>	<b>P. 2</b>
<b>LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS.....</b>	<b>P. 3</b>
<b>MORE LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS.... CARING NETWORK NEWS</b>	<b>P. 4</b>
<b>EXTRACTS FROM THE APRIL BOARD MEETING.... IMPORTANT! GA NOTES</b>	<b>P. 5</b>
<b>A NEW ADVISORY SERVICE..... CONFERENCES</b>	<b>P. 6</b>
<b>DEATHS.....</b>	<b>P. 7</b>
<b>CLASSIFIEDS.....</b>	<b>P. 8</b>

**OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS** -- a little ritual has developed at our Board meetings which I think has become increasingly meaningful to all of us. I refer to the item, always early on our agenda, listed simply as "Necrology." First Gordon McKeeman and now Farley Wheelwright have lifted up this moment for us, reminding us of that segment of the life cycle we inhabit. They have done it in ways that help us, as we call before our mind's eye the images of those whose names are read, to reflect upon the strange yet natural concurrence of transience and continuity in life.

I would close this brief reflection, my last as President of UURMAPA, with a brief bit of what Farley Wheelwright said in introducing this moment in our meeting last month.

Let us be honest with death.

Let us not pretend that it is less than it is.

It is separation, it is sorrow,

It is grief.

But let us not pretend that it is more than it is.

It is not annihilation. As long as memory endures life endures.

Let us be honest with death,

for in that honesty pain is eased, sorrow softened;

spirits departed will continue in the lives of those whose lives they have touched.

To which I would add only "Amen" and "Amen."

--- Max Gaebler

### **I CANNOT BE SO UNKIND ---**

as to let Max Gaebler's departure as President of UURMAPA go unnoticed.

I have long known Max's reputation as an outstanding leader among us. But it was only when I joined the UURMAPA Board that I experienced this leadership. He demonstrated qualities of leadership which I have thought to have expired with the coming of the "New Age," wherein reason dies and fantasy is king.

Those of you who know Max know what I am writing about. He is a magnificent manager in that his directness is tempered by gentleness and concern for the other person's feelings. He is genuinely concerned about others. He is always calm. He is almost always humorous. He is always dependable. He is that rare humane person we seldom meet.

Enough! I shall miss him.

--- Larry Hamby, Editor

### **EDITORIAL NOTE**

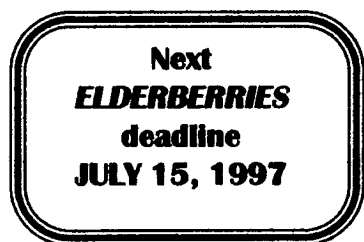
I have set *Elderberries* in a slightly larger type and used the same typeface almost everywhere in order to make it more readable, at the request of several. It has meant that there is less space to include everything, and I still have some personal material which has not been included. What's your pleasure? Readability and less material and white space? More material in a small font size?

## LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

News from northern California uncovers the hide-a-way of two UURMAPA friends, **Bob Botley** and **Byrd Helligas**. They are keeping each other going strong in Willow Creek. Though they are 50 miles from the Humbolt Fellowship, they are supportive, serving in elected offices and leading learning groups. Bob and Anna May seem to be set on seeing the world, traveling extensively. They rejoice with the coming of spring and summer, seasons which "are gloriously beautiful" in that part of the country.

A last note from **Lillian Abbe**: "After being retired from a most rewarding job for the UU Women's Federation (I worked awhile and finally ended up at 87 in California). I am very happily situated ... I accomplish nothing but this is one of the things one must accept as the body deteriorates and the mind keeps conjuring up ideas. ... I was at the first meeting of the UURMA and am delighted to see how it has grown."

**John Brigham** writes that he was instrumental in founding POLIS (Pursuit of Learning in Society), a seniors learning group at Quincy University. (ed. Note: I'll include more info in the next *Elderberries*) and has facilitated programs on "Turmoil in Former Yugoslavia," and "Our American Transcendentalists."



'From **Herb Adams** ... "Can we get into some kind of vibrant, pithy, controversial and literate discussion about 'issues' in *Elderberries*? Like, 'What's Upsetting about the Fellowshiping Committee?' or 'Restructuring the UUA,' or 'The Feminization of the Ministry?' (Ed. Note: OK Herb, you start! Send me 125 words of vibrant, pithy, controversial, literate material and it will be in the next *Elderberries*.)"

From **Keith Munson** ... "Things get better with age. I'm approaching magnificence". (Ed. note: I always suspected that of you, Keith.) Or this one from Satchel Paige, "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you was"

From **John Nichols Booth**: "This August 7th, I shall hit 85, 20 years longer than I had ever dreamed of attaining. Another pleasant surprise was to have my two pamphlets *Introducing Unitarianism* and *Introducing Unitarian Universalism* remain in vigorous print fifty years. Changing ideas of what constitutes effective pieces for changing times led to each's demise after years of service. The present generation never heard of me!

A heart attack in 1985 and sextuple coronary bypasses slowed me up, although five textbooks have rolled out of my typewriter since, to a satisfactory reception. Subjects: history, biography, insights into conjuring

I took my daughter on a lengthy trip across China last year; my grandson, Sean married a beautiful Russian-Ukrainian girl in Tver, Russia; and great grandson, Robert, reaches age four this year. So I watch the years stream by, and the new generations that we have spawned take over. The other day in Hollywood, I watched the veil removed, in an alcove at the Museum and Hall of Fame of the Society of American Magicians, from a life-size wax figure wearing the actual evening clothes of my years as a magician. And how long will the Wheel Of Life allow it to endure? Just a wink in the history of magic."

## MORE LETTERS AND PERSONAL HAPPENINGS

**Ora Eads** in LaFollette Tennessee is successfully contributing his poetry to various magazines in the US and abroad.

**Charles and Claudine Grady** took in an Elderhostel trip to Warsaw, Prague and Budapest, and another in the Twin Cities included attending a broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion*. Charles writes, "Its guiding genius, Garrison Keillor, is perhaps the best preacher working in America today. His 'News from Lake Wobegon' is often a carefully crafted, moving sermon.

**Al Niles** reports that a bout with his heart as left him cheerful and lethargic from medications, but that he continues to work with his primitive computers and he signed his letter, "Still functioningly yours."

**From Vi Kochendorfer:** "If you don't have one -- **Buy a Computer!** I guarantee it will change your life! It did mine!

(Ed. note: in that connection, here are a couple of ideas: If you are not on the list of about 250 UUMA members and thus receiving daily "chats" from Internet, then you are missing out and should be. Send e-mail to: listproc@uuma.org (with the following message) "Subscribe uuma-chat." ... In the same vein, those of you with computers can make your dues payment to the UURMAPA relatively painlessly by using "Checkfree" to send a monthly amount to Iska Cole. This seems cheaper somehow than an annual payment.)

## CARING NETWORK NEWS

Here are some changes to be made in the roster published in *Elderberries* last November.

JANE KIBBY has accepted the position of Contact Person for Joseph Priestly, North. Welcome Jane! Great appreciation goes to VIRGINIA KNOWLES who previously covered JPD, North and who continues on as contact for JPD, South.

Because of the large number of members (60) living in Pacific Central, we are dividing it into two sections for the Caring Network: "Bay Area" and "Non-Bay Area." I am pleased that MARGUARITE and TED WEBB will be the new "Non-Bay" contact persons, and that GUY MEYER will be the "Bay" contact. Welcome aboard all!

CHRIS WETZEL is leaving as contact for Southern California. HELEN and CLIFF GORDON (clifgord@silcom.com) are taking that position. Welcome, Gordons! Chris, I'll miss you and our e-mail messages.

Thanks to all our Contact Persons for responding to our push last fall updating the UURMAPA mailing list of over 550 members. You were most helpful in gathering an enormous amount of information.

Please send us (Iska Cole, Larry Hamby, or me) ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS. If you don't, *Elderberries* is returned to the sender; it is not forwarded. We then have to spend double postage to send it to your new address.

Ginny Crane, Caring Network Chair

**EXTRACTS FROM THE  
UURMAPA BOARD MEETING OF  
APRIL 14 - 16, 1997**

(A cooperative endeavor of Scotty Meek, Ginny Crane and Larry Hamby)

Ralph Mero, Director of the Church Staff Finance Office, shared with us his concern that some of our retired ministers and/or surviving spouses may not be receiving the financial help they need, and we have formed a partnership with his office to work on the problem. Details will be announced.

Treasurer Iska Cole reported that she received voluntary contributions from 203 individuals this year - an increase over previous years!

Correspondence was shared which indicated that not all is well between retired ministers and their successors. We hope the proposed amendments to the UUMA Guidelines help ease some of the tension. Max Gaebler reported that the

changes to the UUMA Code and Guidelines recommended by UURMAPA will be presented for adoption at the UUMA business meeting at GA in Phoenix.

Enthusiastic reports came from each of the regional conferences.

There was a request from the Board for more humor in *Elderberries*. (Ed. note: AHA!)

A discussion was held about having UURMAPA represented on UUA and district committees. Our membership can bring experience and expertise to enhance denominational work.

The board met with Tracy Robinson-Harris, UUA Deputy Director for Congregational, District and Extension Services who can be a connection between UURMAPA and the district structures, promoting our needs and our services. The UUA Board recognizes UURMAPA as a proactive, cooperative organization, a professional group of UUs.

A thunderous vote of acclaim was accorded soon-to-retire President Max Gaebler for his gentle, steady leadership.

## IMPORTANT!

If you don't already know about it, you should become familiar with Ralph Mero's office at the UUA. Ralph has the title of Director of Church Staff Finances, but this gives no clue to our interest. He also has numerous funds which are designated to help retired ministers who have acute needs. He cannot find you; you must find him. He is discreet and you may trust his office to handle things discreetly. He knows, as we all do, how hard it is to ask for help, so you'll find him sympathetic. He also knows how proud we are. And he won't violate that pride.

### GA NOTES

You can participate in Professional Days at GA for a \$30.00 fee. Much reduced, thanks to the UUMA - - - Don't forget the 6/1/97 deadline for UURMAPA GA luncheon reservations - - The luncheon will be Sunday, June 22, 12:30 - 2:00, after the second service - - 4:30 Sunday: UURMAPA sponsored workshop: "Retirement: A New Beginning,"

### ELDERBERRIES INTRODUCES ADVICE COLUMN

Today, elders are no longer considered to be of much value; wisdom resides in the young and in technology. *Elderberries*, knowing the vast store of wisdom contained within our ranks, and seeking to provide help for the retired from someone who can understand and be helpful, has retained the services of Ulysses U. R. M. A. Palimpsest-Androscoggin, (aka, The Reverend O. Geezer) who has more layers of wisdom than most of us could possibly imagine. Obviously, he is a New Englander. He has already received some inquiries.

Dear Geez,

Since I have retired, some sources of income have been cut off, namely funeral and wedding fees. My wife, who has always taken the traditional wedding fee, is especially upset about this. My successor in the local church refuses to let me use the church newsletter to solicit ceremonial engagements. What do I do about this?

signed: Hopeful.

Dear Hopeful,

Boy, have you opened up a can of worms! Until your ill-timed letter arrived, my wife had not heard that ministers' wives get the wedding fees. Now, she (a CPA, by the way) calculates that, including lost earnings, I owe her \$17,546.89. You think you've got a problem? Look what you've done to me! Don't ever write again.

signed: Geez

**Do you have a question? Do you need help? Write to Geez c/o Elderberries**

### CONFERENCES

THE SIXTH ANNUAL WESTERN CONFERENCE was held March 24-27, 1997 at the Marianist Center, Cupertino California. Conversations with Huston Smith and meditation instruction with Kendra Smith were instructive, enlightening and very congenial. In addition, Brandy Lovely gave a fascinating and insightful paper on the politics of parish ministry which evoked great interest and much discussion. Further enriching the conference Til Evans shared her personal life odyssey as did Dorothy and Leon Hopper. The story of their life and ministries was deeply moving. Thirty-four ministers and partners shared these program highlights - as well as the peaceful ambiance of the Marianist Center.

THE PAN SOUTH CONFERENCE was held March 17-19, 1997 at First Church, New Orleans, Louisiana. This was one of the best southern conferences ever, thanks to the excellent organizing work by Al D'Orlando and his wife Cathy, and the hospitality of New Orleans First Church and its minister, Suzanne Meyer.

Sister Helen Prejean, author of the notable book "Dead Man Walking," was to have addressed us; however she had to cancel when a close friend afflicted with terminal cancer became worse. We were fortunate to have a young attorney who is associated with St. Helen give us an eloquent and moving overview of the issues involved in working with death-row inmates. Programs on New Orleans history and a detailed account of the present state of Civil Rights in the South completed the program.

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Mid Continent	Iowa City, IA	10/3/97-10/5/97
Registrar:	Charity Rowley 519 Park Road Iowa City, IA 52246 (319) 351-7972	
Northeast	Attleboro, MA	10/7/97-10/9/97
Western	Cupertino, CA	3/30/98-4/2/98
Pan-South	Savannah, GA? Charleston, SC?	3/30/98-4/2/98

**DEATHS**

- Sheldon Christian** **March 17, 1997** **Age 90**  
 Son: Erik Christian  
 Box 110 - Route 2,  
 Blackwater Cove  
 Dagsboro, Delaware 19939  
 (302) 539-4573.
- Harmon M. Gehr** **March 20, 1997** **Age 90**  
 Spouse: Isabel Adams Gehr  
 3836 E. Green Street  
 Pasadena, California 91107  
 (818) 792-7213
- Janet Spring** **March 20, 1997**  
 Spouse: Chadbourne A. Spring  
 Kentucky Towers, 15  
 250 Herndon Street  
 Berea, Kentucky 40403  
 (606) 986-9859
- Elizabeth E. Steeves** **March 13, 1997** **Age 101**  
 Widow of Earles R. Steeves
- John Wallace Laws** **April 7, 1997** **Age 84**  
 Daughter: Judy Wood  
 1435 Alta Avenue  
 Upland, California 91786  
 (909) 982-1728  
 Jwood@aol.com
- Helen S. Conley** **April 10, 1997** **Age 89**  
 Widow of Raymond V. Conley
- Addison E. Steeves** **April 9, 1997**  
 Spouse: Marilyn Ireland Steeves  
 16 Highland Avenue  
 Lisbon Falls, Maine  
 (207)353-2201
- Lillian Abbe** **April 16, 1997**
- Robert S. Lehman** **May 3, 1997** **Age 84**  
 Spouse: Helen Lehman  
 5328 Kalmia Street  
 San Diego, CA 92105  
 (619) 263-8463
- Aron S. Gilmartin** **April 19, 1997** **Age 87**  
 Spouse: Eve Gilmartin  
 1759 Crescent Drive  
 Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
 (510) 935-0257

**Kathleen Petursson, Ellen Romig, Edward Sausaman, Nellie Thayer:** No further information

## CLASSIFIEDS

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF THE PENINSULA, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA** is seeking a half-time minister. The fellowship has about 90 members and 55 pledging units, and has potential for growth. The total compensation package, salary and benefits, would be \$20,000. For additional information, interested candidates should contact: Joan Coirin, Chair of the Ministerial Search Committee at (757) 867-7708 or Planthappy@aol.com.

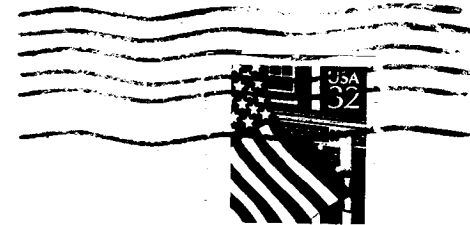
**THE UU FELLOWSHIP, SALISBURY, MARYLAND** is searching for a half-time minister. "We are a small but growing Fellowship of 38, committed to growth and in the process of locating a larger facility. We have no debt on our present building. The Eastern Shore is an expanding area, a good place in which to work and live, and in need of a larger UU influence in both the city of Salisbury and the adjoining towns." Contact: Nancy M. Saulsbury, RD 2, Box 230-7, Frankford, DE 19945 or ERNNAN@compucenter.net.

**Did You Know** that the UU House (formerly Priestley and Rush Houses) has assistance for those of us who might want to use their facilities? If interested, write

Unitarian Universalist House  
224 West Tulpehocken Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144  
(215) 843-0809

The **UURMAPA Board** would like to know of other retirement places offering help to residents.

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



*Address Correction Requested*