

**Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers  
and Partners  
Association**

February 1997

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 2

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## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

IN RECENT MONTHS Carolyn and I have had from two congregations I served before coming to Madison, invitations to share in exciting new plans for renewing and expanding their facilities. We came to Madison in 1952, so it's a long time since we were directly involved in these two churches, one of them for three years and the other for four.

We are, unfortunately, not in a position to make major contributions to either project, but we did send off a very modest gift to each as a token of our continuing interest in and concern for these places that were -- and remain -- such important parts of our lives. Both of these congregations have thrived in recent years, thanks to the growth and development of the communities they serve and to strong leadership, both lay and ministerial. Though they have changed enormously over the intervening decades, we still have very dear friends in both, people with whom we exchange holiday greetings and whom (on all too rare occasions) we visit.

I speak of this simply to underscore the sense of wholeness, embracing all of one's lifetime experiences, which comes with advancing years.

There is not a single UURMAPA experience -- attending a conference or reading an issue of Elderberries or an exchange of letters with one or another of you who share this loose but wonderfully supportive fellowship -- that does not bring reminders of the context in which I have spent most of my adult life. Not all those reminders are happy; some indeed are uncomfortable. Yet they all reinforce the sense of wholeness and continuity which is one of the rewards these later years can bring.

I realize that we follow varied paths. Many among us came to the ministry, at least to the UU ministry (or our spouses did), only later in life, while others were in it only briefly and have moved in other professional circles in more recent years. Yet for all of us it has provided at least a part of the context in which we have become who we now are.

I hope that for each of us UURMAPA can serve to enrich the uniqueness of our own lives with a sense of the shared journey on which we have all been traveling. Though the pace has slackened, for some of us to a very slow pace indeed, may we each draw some measure of satisfaction and support from the recollection of that journey and of our companions along the way.

Max Gaebler

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## **WHAT?? ANOTHER ELECTION???**

We must, in 1997, elect a new President, Vice-President, two Board Members, and a Chair of the Nominating Committee. Three incumbents: Ginny Crane, Bill DeWolfe and Farley Wheelwright are eligible for re-election, though not necessarily only to the office she/he presently holds. Max Gaebler, Barbara Gudmundsen, and Al Henriksen are not eligible for re-election.

Please send your nominations for President, Vice-President, two Board Members, and a Nominating Committee Chair by March 10, 1997 to:

Jeanne Bletzer  
RR 1, Box 662  
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Al Henriksen  
Chair, Nominating Committee

## Letters . . .

"Elderberries" is our connection to UURMAPA and of interest now.

I would, however, like to have more reported about Board meetings and decisions. Also - more news and letters from individuals and what their retirement life is like - as Doe Lockwood asked.

Also, the Revision of UUMA Guidelines about retired ministers' role; i.e., using them as resources, etc., is important to all and UUA.

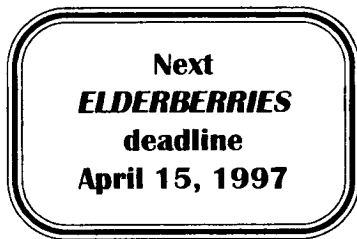
Therefore, I would like to hear more and these topics of interest to me - and hope you will reconsider.

---Peggy Doss

Peggy, I guess I don't communicate as well as I would like. All the things you want will be included in present and future issues of *Elderberries* except for detailed minutes from Board meetings. They are just too long. Excerpts will be provided, however .

--Larry Hamby, editor

### IMPORTANT!!



The UUA wants to make sure that all members of UURMAPA are receiving *The World*. If you are not receiving the UUA's magazine six times a year, please send your name and address to our Vice President, Bill DeWolfe. He will submit them to the appropriate office at the UUA.

The UUA's policy for subscriptions is based on local congregations submitting lists of subscribers and keeping them updated. If you are not an active participant in a local congregation or have recently moved, your receipt of *The World* could lapse. So, send your name and address to:

Rev. William A. DeWolfe, Vice President  
UURMAPA  
75 Tioga Street  
Springfield, MA 01128-1343

## FINANCIAL CORNER

**REPORT:** Through January, 1997, we have received \$5502.00 in contributions for this fiscal year. That is \$2000.00 lower than last year around this time.

If your financial situation does not permit you to contribute what you would like in one payment, make it easy on yourself! Send a small amount monthly, semi-monthly or quarterly, for the total that you would like to contribute. I don't mind doing the bookkeeping and we will ease a financial crunch on both ends.

Iska Cole, Treasurer

### MORE IMPORTANT !!



## Now, ABOUT RETIREMENT . . .

Since my last written words on this subject, Elise and I have completed our first full year of retirement. Some additional comments are in order. I must report that we have acceded to the demands of our high-tech culture in one respect -- we have found it worthwhile to connect our telephone answering machine. We do not wish to miss any calls from family members and telemarketers do not leave messages anyway.

When we began this chapter of life, we were anxious about the economics of retirement. Happily, we discovered that our modest retirement income enables us to live in comfort. Neither of us has had to find a job in a fast-food restaurant. While we are glad to accept any "Senior Discounts" that are offered, such courtesies do leave us with a gnawing question. Where were the discounts when we were raising a child on a small salary?

We enjoy our volunteer work at a local social agency. In fact, this volunteer commitment underscores our delight in being retired. The other day, an agency staff member called to inquire whether or not we could come when it snows. We replied that "we do not drive in the snow." Now in the real world, in which people work for a living, what boss ever calls to see if one plans to get to the office in bad weather? One just gets there!

So our present life with its varied activities and relaxed pace is truly great. If we'd had any idea that it would be this good, we'd have skipped work and gone right to retirement!

--George Briggs

I have been active in Democratic politics, working for my friend and neighbor, Senator Paul Simon, and recently for the victory of his chosen successor for his seat in the U.S. Senate, Richard Durbin. But less seasonal and more sustained have been my and Muriel's efforts to found a chamber music society in my town of Carbondale, Illinois, where I finished my career as Professor of Religious Studies at Southern Illinois University. This society is now in its fifth season.

--John F. Hayward

The following is adapted from the SIU Alumnus magazine:

The Haywards say, almost in unison, "we like symphony, we like opera, but we love chamber music." It is the democratic nature of the music which clearly brings them the greatest pleasure.

For many years, the Haywards have philanthropically supported chamber music, notably through the endowment of a Marlboro, Vermont scholarship. Also through their efforts, Southern Illinois University established the Southern Illinois Chamber Music Society, which has now completed its fourth season. For Jack and Muriel there could be no better legacy than a timeless gift of music."



## MORE RETIREMENT . . .

I'm back in Oxford for awhile. I returned to finish some research and they nabbed me to return to my job as chaplain/ tutor. My main work is supervising the training of the divinity students. By the way, it's Harris Manchester College (used to be just Manchester College), which is an integral part of Oxford University. For some freakish reason I have an obsolete title, that of Life Fellow. I got that because I was named a Fellow by the Queen in the Royal Charter after my retirement, so they can't fire me or make me retire.

However, I'll return to the states after next term (called Hilary Term for some reason no one knows), and spend my time in my study doodling. I enjoy life here at Oxford and I've managed to do a good bit of research, mostly on early 19th century Unitarian history, slopping over into the 17th century.

You asked about the royals. Most English people are disgusted with them. The Queen Mother (96 years old) is adored and the Queen and Prince

Philip are well liked but the rest are an embarrassment to the human race. Fergie, the Duchess of York, would like to live in America. Let's trade Madonna for her.

Speaking of royalty, a true story making the rounds here is that one of our students is Nicholas Windsor, son of the Duke & Duchess of Kent. I was doing tutorials with him and half way through the first one I asked how he should be addressed. I noted that we Americans aren't used to titles but I'd call him whatever he wants. He said just call him Nicholas (he was 18 at the time), so I agreed. Toward the end of the session he asked how he should address me and I replied, "Dr. Schulman". I don't believe in students being familiar with tutors. (Correctly, he should be addressed as "Lord Nicholas."

We do have a lovely house in The Woodlands, a suburb of Houston, and Alice is active in a variety of groups, including chair of the RE at Northwoods UU Church.

--Frank Schulman

One of the most helpful gifts towards my retirement came from a parishioner in Brockton, Mass. After 35 years as a minister and administrator, the gift was a chance to find out what my abilities really were through the program called Human Engineering. If I had taken the four half day work samples before going to college and theological school, I'm not sure I'd gone into the ministry.

According to the results the field I could best handle was architecture. This made it easy to move back to Maine, take a little community church where there was no concern about what I did during the week as long as I was in the pulpit on Sundays. So I apprenticed myself out to a friend who was an old fashioned carpenter-house painter.

Working with Elmer Shaw my architectural interests and capacities were fulfilled many times over in fixing up dwellings in our town and others, as well as designing and building the home my wife and I have lived in for the past 22 years. During that time, I've also been a circuit riding minister in western Maine so both sides of me have been utilized and enjoyed. I don't think it is ever too late to find out what your real interests and abilities are so that you don't end up never being satisfied with what you're doing. More information? Write to me.

--Al Niles

## PAN-SOUTH CONFERENCE

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

MARCH 17-19, 1997

### Sister Helen Prejean

author of *Dead Man Walking*, will speak on

### "Dead Man Walking -- The Journey"

(Sr. Prejean has devoted many years of her life to abolishing the death penalty. Her book has been made into an Academy Award film.)

### Professor Lance Hill

Executive Director of the Southern Institute at Tulane University will speak on

### "Civil Rights: The Unfinished Revolution"

There will also be a talk on the history of New Orleans, a bus tour of the city, and planning time for the future.

All but one meal will be provided. Cost for the entire package, including housing at the St. Charles Inn is \$140.00/per person/double occupancy. Add \$60.00 for a single room. Parking \$3.00/day.

Scholarships are available. Just ask and it will be handled discreetly. Reservations and requests to:

Albert D'Orlando, Registrar

3630 White Oak Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

You'll find a new name in your 1997 *Who's Who in America 1997*. **Barbara Rohrke Gudmundson's** biography has been included. Congratulations, Barbara! So, now we have a famous Board member!

## LATE BREAKING NEWS!

The UUMA will soon send out special membership cards to Life Members. . . . Registration fees for GA are now \$30.00 for those not serving in a ministerial capacity. The UUMA luncheon will be an additional \$20.00. . . . The proposed revisions in the UUMA Professional guidelines are circulating among District chapters. Max Gaebler reports that in the Midwest, there was a mood of "genuine mutuality" in the discussion. He anticipates a more balanced and equitable approach than before. That's good news.

## FROM YOUR EDITOR

I have been gratified by the response to the request for personal experiences in retirement. Please send more; they're interesting and they have given me (and I am sure others) the opportunity to reacquaint myself with people I haven't followed for years. I am personally very interested in your responses to the newer developments in communication and computers. This is, of course, a personal hobby of mine -- so let me know what you think!

I continue to solicit comments and criticisms, even compliments about what's being done in *Elderberries*.

-- Larry Hamby

**DEATHS****Gratia Laws****May, 1996****June Dolphin****June 9, 1996****Wilburn Beach Miller****October 23, 1996****Age 89**

Surviving: wife

Helen Miller  
Foreside Harbor  
191 Foreside Road  
Falmouth, Maine 04105**Eunice H. Ziegler****November 1, 1996****Age 88****John DeWolf-Hurt****November 5, 1996****Age 75**

Surviving: wife

Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt  
4 Cherry Drive  
Ocala, Florida 34472  
John, Randy**Lawrence E. McGinty****November 9, 1996****Age 67**

Surviving: children

Melanie, Jeffrey

**Newell Deane Starr****November 16, 1996****Age 73**

Surviving: children

Deanna, Susan, David,  
Stephen, Mark**William Loveland Barnett****November 19, 1996****Age 84**

Surviving: wife

Ethel Barnett  
791 Creekview Road  
Severna, Maryland 21146  
Neil**Lee Reid****November 22, 1996****Age 64**

Surviving: husband

Wallace Reid  
208 King Street  
Englewood, New Jersey 87631  
Sarah, Martha, Kate**Angus deMille Cameron****November 23, 1996****Age 85**

Surviving: Wife

Cary deMille Cameron  
RR2, Clifton Royal  
Kings County  
New Brunswick E0G 1N0  
Canada**Carl A. N. Storm****November 30, 1996****Age 85**

Surviving: wife

Janette Foster Storm  
501 V.E.S. Road  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503  
Jon, Mark**Robert Henry Holmes****January 27, 1997****Age 83**

Surviving: wife

Mary Ellen Soerheide  
PO Box 83  
Harrison, Maine 04040  
David, Christine Farquhar

Retiring?? Or Retired?? Want to keep your hand in?? Want to live on the ocean??

The UU Congregation of the Outer Banks is offering a half-time position (at a half-time salary) to a retiree who would like to live in a beautiful area while keeping a hand in and supplementing her or his retirement income.

UUCOB is a small congregation, supported by some fifty members and about 15 "friends" who contribute financially. We were formed in 1986 and chartered in early 1987. We have our own building on two acres of land. We hope to find a retired, half-time minister who could provide two services a month, perform normal pastoral duties such as ministering to the physical or emotionally needy, and who could help us attract new members of all ages.

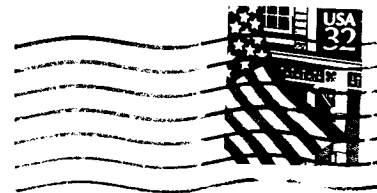
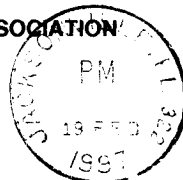
Our church is located in the village of Kitty Hawk on the northern Outer Banks, about 80 miles southeast of Norfolk, Virginia. The area has much to offer as a retirement location. Most of our congregation moved here from more populated areas, attracted by the beauty of the waters of the sea and the sounds, the open spaces, the clean air, the wildlife, the slower pace of living, and the friendliness of the local populace.

For more information, please call or write:

Virginia Valpey  
Chair, Search Committee  
P. O. Box 249  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949-0249  
(919) 261-3239.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION**

c/o L. M. HAMBY  
487 CEDAR WALK  
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GEORGIA 31522



Address Correction Requested