



Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

ELDERBERRIES

VOLUME 34

NUMBER 2

SPRING 2018

Ellen Brandenburg

UURMaPAn's Unsung Award winner for 2017

(Citation given orally by Marni Harmony, with published edited version here)

The Unsung UURMaPAn Award is given more-or-less annually to one of our UURMaPA members who has not formerly been recognized for his or her contributions to our UU retired movement and for their generous service to others. The award honors a volunteer who has made a generous contribution to our association, working behind the scenes during their retirement years.



Board member Marni Harmony presents Ellen Brandenburg with UURMaPA Unsung Award in Florida

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the winner of the 2017 (or maybe it's 2018) Unsung UURMaPAn Award is **Ellen Brandenburg**. I find it fitting to be awarding this distinction to Ellen at this particular conference, given that we've heard from 3 candidates for our ministry. Just in case any of our memories are weak, Ellen worked with ministerial students in her role as Ministerial Credentialing Director at the UUA. She nurtured many of us along the way, as well as developing the Regional Sub-Committees on Candidacy program

Since her retirement, she's volunteered as a docent at the Peabody Essex Museum, an outstanding art museum near her home in Salem, Massachusetts; survived a health crisis and the death of her husband, George; and continued her involvement with the Salem congregation. After George's passing, Ellen studied the nuances of sailing and successfully became the skipper of their sailboat.

continued on p. 6

UURMaPA BOARD

Judy Welles, President

Diane Miller, Vice President

Judy Gibson, Secretary

Joel Weaver, Treasurer

Nancee Campbell, Newsletter Editor

Art Severance, Connections Chair

Ginger Luke, Member-at-Large

Marni Harmony, Member-at-Large

Cathie Severance, Member-at-Large

OTHER OFFICERS

Richard Speck
Membership Coordinator

Dick Gilbert
Nominating Committee Chair

Duane Fickeisen
Webmaster

Susan Lamar
Historian

**Jay Atkinson and
Roger Rochester**
Obituary Editors

Contact information for everyone above can be found in the on-line directory at www.uurmapa.org. You may view online or download the Membership Directory (updated regularly) at www.uurmapa.org under the Publications tab..

Send Updates! Please send any changes to your mailing address, phone or email to: Richard Speck at membership@uurmapa.org or 4721 Mermaid Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19808

Password is WISDOM.

From your Editor

Dear Friends –

The most recent opportunity to embarrass myself publicly came with the publication of the last *Elderberries*. There were several typos (hence the embarrassment) that I didn't catch because I was dashing to the airport to attend the winter UURMaPA conference in Florida. I promise to try to do better with this newsletter, but the real story was that conference.

I was never very involved with the national denomination, but this was my third UURMaPA conference. It's been a slow tempo for me to get comfortable, but I realized half way through this meeting that "*These are my people. Whether I knew them before or not, retired UU ministers are my people.*"

I live in a friendly-to-retired-ministers UUMA chapter, and I've been to several of their conferences. They were very good, but their meetings no longer speak my language of the Fifth Season. These UURMaPA conferences have what I need in retirement (and/or job change), and I always come away feeling heard and somehow smarter.

At the winter conference the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker gave an exceptional talk on 'Moral Injury', and Wayne Arnison did his Odyssey. The worship services and individual fellowship were inspiring, inclusive and fun. I've been surprised at the commonalities we UU ministers have in retirement!

If you've never been, we encourage many more new faces at the fall conference in Attleboro. Please join us! Lots of active UURMaPA old-timers await with open hearts to offer you a hearty "*Welcome Home*".

Nancee

Check out photos of your friends in this issue!



A Word from our President

Doing What Comes Naturally



I spend a fair amount of time on Facebook, regardless of the privacy issues, because it keeps me in touch with many friends and colleagues, and I get lots of interesting ideas there.

For example, a woman colleague with children at home mentioned a while ago that cooking and baking are her go-to stress relievers.

When things are tough at church, her children can routinely expect to find a batch of cookies or a cake waiting for them when they get home from school (or at least within the next day or two).

When I read her post, I thought “That’s exactly what I do!” I hadn’t consciously identified baking as a go-to stress reliever, but it’s true that I love to bake, and when life gets hard or I feel that too much is being asked of me, I’ll make cookies or a pie and feel a lot better afterward.

This flash of insight made me wonder what others use as their stress relief activities, whether or not they are aware of making that choice. So, I polled my Facebook friends to ask, and what an interesting array of responses I received!

One colleague makes playlists — what a great idea! Another friend watches lame TV at night, as an antidote to watching MSNBC during the day. A third swims laps in a quiet place while listening to something repetitive like Gregorian chant, while a fourth takes walks in the small historic cemetery in her neighborhood. And in a stunning example of symbiosis, another colleague poses little action figures in front of printed cityscapes and photographs them; I especially enjoy poking around in junk stores (okay, “antiques,” if you insist), so I’ve told him I’ll look for action figures for his hobby and we’ll both be happy.

As I thought about baking as a de-stressor, and determined that I really should bake more often, I also thought “The last thing Duane and I need in our diets is more baked goods!” Hmmm, how could I do more baking without the ill-gotten gains that would invariably ensue if we consumed all of them? Easy! Bake for someone else!

I remembered that our realtor lived across the street from an AIDS hospice, and she often took her baked goods over there. But... maybe cookies and cake aren’t the most wholesome foods for people with AIDS? Who else might like to eat what I bake? Well, teenagers, of course! Our church (First Unitarian in Portland, Oregon) was involved in starting — and now leases space to — an agency called Outside In, which provides both drop-in and residential support services to LGBTQ youth who would otherwise be living on the streets because their families had kicked them out.

I’m now in conversation with the staff at Outside In about how and when I can bring baked goods to their building, in the hope that teenagers will enjoy them and remember that some people, even if they are anonymous, care about them and want to give them a literal taste of something lovin’ that comes from the oven. And if that doesn’t work out, I’ll find another way to share.

What are your go-to stress relievers? Is there a way that you might turn this pleasurable activity into something for the greater good? Playing the piano for a nursing home audience? Floral bouquets for home-bound hospice patients? Knitted or crocheted prayer shawls for your congregation’s pastoral ministry program?

You might as well lower your blood pressure while you’re doing something good for the world. After all, now that you’re retired, you have time for this, right?

Love, *Judy Welles*, President

Meet our New Board Members!



Rev. Dave Hunter, Candidate for Treasurer

The son and brother of bankers, Dave is a graduate of Princeton University (1964), the Harvard Law School (1967), and Wesley Theological Seminary (2003). His 35-year professional career in civil rights began with a summer in the South in 1965, participating in a study of the use of capital punishment for those convicted of rape, and concluding with 25 years as an attorney in the Voting Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. As a young adult in Washington DC, Dave was an anti-Vietnam War activist, the president and then

treasurer of his cooperative apartment building, and the first president of the Cooperative Housing Association, a coalition of housing coops in Washington.

Dave was introduced to Unitarian Universalism by his wife, the Rev. Kerry Mueller. As a lay UU, Dave led several annual canvasses and a capital fund drive at his home church in Arlington, VA and served on the board of the Joseph Priestley District. Dave and Kerry were co-ministers for the UU Fellowship of Fayetteville, Arkansas from 2006 to 2011. In retirement, Dave and Kerry served as co-consulting ministers for the UUs of Gettysburg from 2012 to 2017. Dave served as treasurer of the Priestley-Kingsbury UUMA chapter and is currently the chapter vice president, as well as Dave and Kerry being Connections Coordinators for their UURMaPA chapter. They are members of the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon PA, where they were married in 1980; Dave sings in the choir and leads occasional adult education classes.



Rev. Barbara Child, Candidate for Board Secretary

Barbara Child lived most of her life in the Middle West. She became a Unitarian Universalist in 1963 while teaching in the English Department at Kent State University. Being on the Kent Commons during the National Guard killings there on May 4, 1970, turned out to be life-changing for her. Already a civil libertarian, she went on to practice poverty law and teach at Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco and University of Florida College of Law.

Meanwhile, Barbara became active in the UU world! She served on the continental and Florida District Women and Religion Committees, chaired the UUA Commission on Social Witness, and then on the Commission on Appraisal. Ministry became her third profession after she graduated from Starr King School in 1996. She served as called minister at the UU Church of Tampa; however, most of her ministry has been as an Accredited Interim Minister.

Barbara served for several years as a Ministerial Settlement Representative and as a Good Officer. Retired from full-time ministry in 2010, she now serves on the UUMA's Good Officer Support Team. With Keith Kron, she has edited two editions of *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*. She is currently editing an anthology of readings and rituals on transition and change in congregational life. She has also completed a memoir about her decade with her partner, a Vietnam veteran, his suicide, and her life afterwards. In 2016, she was honored to receive UURMaPA's Creative Saging Award.

UURMaPA Awards

Two special awards honor our members and highlight distinct contributions. All members are welcome to offer nominations. Who would you choose for these awards? Send an email to diane_miller@comcast.net or call (617) 851-8222. Be sure to include why you think one of our members might be the recipient of one of these awards.

UURMaPA's annual ***Creative Sageing Award*** recognizes a minister or a partner for outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement. Such ventures are only limited by the imagination and could include such things as publication and other creative work, community service, teaching or mentoring. The winner will be announced and feted at our annual luncheon at General Assembly in Kansas City and awarded a cash prize.

The Unsung UURMaPA Award is given to someone whose service has been to UURMaPA but not already recognized. Nominations are invited to honor a volunteer who has made an extraordinary contribution to our group, working behind the scenes during their retirement years. This award is generally presented at a Conference and includes a cash prize and our laud and honor.

*Our lives begin to end the day we become
silent about things that matter.*

MLK Jr.

SAVE THE DATE!

**General Assembly Annual Lunch Gathering
Friday, June 22, 11:30 — 1:30 PM
Crowne Plaza, Salon A
Kansas City, MO**

Our annual luncheon at GA will be held Friday, June 22nd from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The luncheon is a great time to connect with retired colleagues and partners, hear what's going on with UURMaPA, celebrate this year's recipient of the Creative Sageing Award, and welcome our newest retirees (who attend the lunch as our guests). The lunch will be buffet style, with every effort made to be dietary conscious to meet all our various needs. The cost will be \$32 per person. Please note that registrations and payment are due by **May 30th**. (Earlier is great!). *There will be no registration or payment at the door.* So, don't delay . . . you know if you are going to GA, so why not just send in your registration for the UURMaPA luncheon right now! Please include your name(s), email and phone. Checks should be made out to **UURMaPA**, noting "GA luncheon" on the check. Please send checks by May 30th to: Joel Weaver, UURMaPA Treasurer, [535 Gradyville Rd. Unit V-212 Newtown Square, PA 19073](mailto:joel@uurmapa.org)

Continued from p. 1

And she has quietly said “yes” to some things that keep UURMaPA going. She joined the task group with me and the UURMaPA Vice President before me to research and decide who would receive our Creative Sageing Award. She chaired the UURMaPA Nominating Committee for two terms, from 2009 to 2013; and both she and George were famous for the hospitality they provided at the Attleboro conferences. Writes Diane Miller, “Ellen sails on an even keel, even when waters are rough. She meets challenges with an open and clear mind. She connects with people with equanimity and genuine interest.”

This is the award for the “Unsung” UURMaPAN. Although I know some, I don’t know all the ways Ellen has contributed to the greater good. But I do know that among her talents — and they are many — Ellen can easily bring us joy and laughter as she carefully hangs spoon after spoon on her face. That, alone, would be enough to warrant this award!



Your smiling UURMaPA Board

Continued from p. 8

Reform in Oregon, where there is now a limited right to die, can be traced directly to the First Unitarian Church of Portland. Interestingly ‘Dying with Dignity Canada’ had its first office in the First Unitarian Church in Toronto. When I was executive director of the Canadian Unitarian Council in the 1980’s I was friendly with the then executive director of DWD, Marilynne Seguin. At that time, she labored alone in one room with a typewriter and a few volunteers. From their efforts a Canada-wide network of groups arose who successfully lobbied legislators and changed public opinion which resulted in the successful appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. Alan served on their board when he lived for a time in Toronto in retirement. Reform in Canada is somewhat easier because all criminal law is federal. Reform in the US will happen more slowly but as in the case of Marilynne Seguin, never underestimate what can be achieved by one determined person.

Kathleen Hunter, February 26, 2018



Wayne Arnason is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist with a 44 year career of service in UU congregations and institutions. He served in two long-term parish ministries, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church in Charlottesville, Virginia from 1984-2000, and with his wife, the Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, at the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church from 2000-2016. He retired from full-time ministry in 2016, moved back to Charlottesville, and is serving the UU Congregation of Sterling, VA as their half-time interim minister.

Within the UURMaPA, Wayne has served on task forces studying our membership procedures and our future relationship with the UUMA.

We are Seeking a New Minister!

Congregation: St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Website and email address. www.uustcroix.org, uufstx@gmail.com

Ministry title: Part Time Minister, STXUUF

Job Description:

St. Croix UUF is seeking a part-time minister. He or she would have experience in working with smaller congregations with the intent to grow, and we welcome applications from retired ministers. This ministry will be approximately 1/4 to 1/3 time and have an initial term of 9 months. Ideally the Minister would also explore establishing a shared ministry team of lay members as ministerial associates. The salary range is \$7,500 to \$8,442 depending on the experience, background, and available time on island of the candidate.

More information regarding this position can be found in our Congregational Record on the UUA.org website via the Ministerial Transitions page.

For further information and details on duties and life on St. Croix, contact the St. Croix UUF search committee at uufstx@gmail.com.

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker educated, inspired and entertained us all at the winter UURMaPA conference in Tampa, Florida. Her expertise and wisdom in the field of 'moral injury' was enlightening, and the informal atmosphere of the Franciscan Retreat Center enabled relaxed conversation among the attendees. Dr. Parker is currently on the ministerial staff of All Soul's UU Church in Washington, D.C.



Turning of Our Lives

“Death and Dying” was the title of a sermon series preached in the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR. in March of 1972 by their then forty-five-year-old minister, Alan Deale. His predecessor at the church, Dr. Richard Steiner, had ended his life on his own terms when his health had failed. He was criticized for that by some in Portland, where he had been a significant figure and an early proponent of death with dignity. Alan’s sermons were a call for his congregation’s members to think about death and grief because “the subject of death and all its meaning has been one of the more unmentionable aspects of our culture.” A few weeks before he died, Alan reread Ernest Becker’s Pulitzer prize winning book, The Denial of Death, published in 1973, and talked again of our society’s uneasiness with discussions about death.

At the same church in 1990, Alan Deale preached a sermon entitled “Death with Dignity”. By then he had enabled two wives to die at home, both with incurable cancer. He drew on his skills as a corpsman in the US Navy to do this for them. He felt moved to preach that sermon by the death of Janet Adkins, a member of the church who had been Dr. Kevorkian’s first patient. Her death and her subsequent service at First Church attracted national and international attention. Many news services gathered at the church at the time of the service. Alan gave the feed to the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company) because he thought, rightly as it turned out, that they would behave better during the service and be less intrusive. He was interviewed by the news services and by the New York Times. His elderly mother heard one of the clips and asked him “What were you doing in Montréal?” He was pleased by the attention not for himself but for the social change he was advocating.

Forty five years after his first sermon on the topic, when he was now ninety years of age, he applied for medical aid in dying (MAID) in Ontario, Canada, where it is legal. He was not in pain. He had lived an active life until January 4, 2018 when he became weak, and over the next few days steadily weaker. When he could no longer get out of bed, he wanted to leave. When the doctor asked him why, one of his answers was “lying in bed all day is not my idea of life” and another was, when asked if he didn’t have more wisdom to offer the world “I have done the best I could, and I am finished”. Witty to the end, he said, “I am ready to move from being to non-being”. The doctor looked puzzled. Alan said “Heidegger, Heidegger”. He was approved for dying on January 27, 2018, to take place February 7, 2018. After the papers were signed, he said to me “I do not want to wait that long” and from then on, he began the labor of dying. Those of you who have been at a death know that it is uncannily like the labor of birth. Alan died, at home on Charleston Lake, on January 29, 2018.

So, in the end he did not use MAID, but it was a comfort to him that it was available because of a Supreme Court of Canada decision in February of 2015 which established a Canadian’s right to die. But work on the issue is not finished. I do not think Alan would have been able to give consent if he had lived until February 7th, and a requirement for MAID is that a person needs to consent at the time of death. This works in most cases for cancer patients who can have palliative care which keeps them pain free until the appointed date, but it is not appropriate for someone in Alan’s situation. He could have lapsed into a coma and lingered and then nothing could have easily been done. Persons diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease cannot give consent in advance. So, the advocacy now is centered on how to advance a subtler understanding of consent which can consider a wider range of situations.

continued on p. 6

UURMaPA Fall Conference
October 1 - 4, 2018
La Salette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA
Changing Aging

The 2018 UURMaPA Fall conference theme this year is inspired by William H. Thomas, MD's book What Are Old People For: How Elders Will Save The World. Our keynote speaker, Kyrié Carpenter, lectures around the country and works at Eden Alternative, an international nonprofit founded by Dr. Thomas, dedicated to creating quality of life for Elders



Kyrié's joie de vie and curiosity are infectious. She has a passion for story; from myths and fairy tales to the ones we each could write every day. This love led her to study integral coaching and depth psychology. 'Psychology', etymologically speaking, means "the study of the soul". For Kyrié this means finding and tending to the soulful in everyday life. Kyrié is also an advocate for a graceful aging ideology and views crises (quarter-life, mid-life and eldership) as opportunities for embracing who we innately are. She believes the aging process facilitates personal development.

The UURMaPA board was so enthusiastic about this topic that they plan to send each registered household a copy of the book What Are Old People For: How Elders Will Save The World before the conference. We strongly encourage you to read this before the conference and bring your questions, comments and life experience.

There will be a variety of workshops, worship services, trips in the area and planned time each day to reconnect with old and new friends. The cost is \$295 per person: This includes 3 nights lodging, meals, snacks & beverages, as well as the program. Commuter costs are \$165 per person and this year we have the added ability for people to bring their own RV, as there are up to 10 spots available for electric and water hookup. RV cost will be \$175 per person.

Scholarships are available. **Registration DEADLINE is September 8th, 2018.**

You can use the form on the last page of this issue of *Elderberries* or go to the UURMaPA.org website and check out the form there.

Registration Questions? Call or email Alison Stephens at astephensme@gmail.com or 207-812-5323

Mail your form and check to Alison Stephens, PO Box 873, Blue Hill, Maine 04612.

For more information regarding the conference contact Carol Taylor
at catuuminr@gmail.com or call (610) 558-2323.

AN INVITATION TO WRITE YOUR OWN PRE-OBITUARY

by Richard Gilbert with additions by Judy Gibson

How Do I Want to Be Remembered?

UURMaPA invites members to write their own obituary and share it with us. Why? One of the important tasks of UURMaPA, including *Elderberries*, is to memorialize the lives of members – ministers and partners. The UUA Ministries and Faith Development staff provides obituaries for ministers, but not for partners. We would like to include in those tributes how you would like to be remembered at the time of your death. The writing process is also a potentially powerful spiritual experience.

The following guidelines are offered to help you think about what you might want to say to those who will remember you. It would be helpful if you would summarize your suggestions into a few paragraphs and submit your “pre-obituary” to secretary@uurmapa.com. When we are notified of your death, your pre-obit will be an invaluable resource for composing an obituary we can share with members to honor your life.

Questions for reflection:

1. Life functions in space. What are the places in which significant things have happened to you? We might call this process ‘mapping the spirit’.
2. All life is meeting others. Who are the three or four people who have had the greatest impact on your life? Why?
3. Experiences shape our religious faith. What are two or three formative experience in your life and why are they important to you?
4. We live in communities. Which communities, religious or not, have had a lasting influence on your development?
5. We are choosing creatures. Think of the important decisions you chose throughout your life and discuss what they meant to you, how they were made, and the result.
6. Life is made of joy and sorrow. List a few of the happiest and saddest experiences of your life.
7. Each of us has a “master story,” a theme that summarizes our life endeavor. Can you discern your master story, detect what might be a theme for your life thus far? Can you reflect upon your odyssey and discern any theological values that have informed you?

*Old and new
friends are
always good
company*



In Memoriam

Longer and more detailed versions of all obituaries can be found on the UURMaPA web site at: <http://www.uurmapa.org/obituaries.html>. No password is necessary to access that page. Many thanks to Jay Atkinson and Roger Rochester for their careful and sensitive work writing the ministers and partners obituaries, respectively.

ALAN L. EGLY (1931-2016)



The Reverend Alan Egly, parish minister, humanitarian activist, and philanthropic fundraiser, died on 31 January 2016 at the age of 84.

Alan L. Egly was born 19 July 1931 to Jesse and Ida Egly. He earned a B.S. from Illinois State University in 1952, an M.Div. from Anderson College in 1956, and a graduate degree in Religious Education from Union Theological Seminary in 1967.

Mr. Egly was ordained to the Church of God in 1959 and served various parishes in Brooklyn before moving to All Souls Church of Brooklyn, NY in 1965. After entering ministerial fellowship with the UUA in 1972, he served several briefer ministries in New York before taking a call to the UU Church of the Quad Cities (Davenport, Iowa) in 1979. After eight years there, the Rev. Mr. Egly moved on to community ministry as Executive Director to the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, serving from 1987 to retirement in 2014, while holding a part-time pastorate with the Unitarian Fellowship of Burlington (Iowa) until 1995 when he was named Minister Emeritus.

Alan and his wife Pat expanded their family of four children with the addition of foster children. Together they worked with many neighborhood organizations toward a dream of maintaining safe and affordable neighborhoods, personally renovating homes on the block where they lived. Alan's daughter, Lorrie, remembers her father as one who "spent his life in service."

Alan is survived by his wife, Patricia, children, six children and six grandchildren, and one brother. Memorial gifts to [Final Exit](#) or [Compassion and Choices](#) are encouraged, and condolences sent to Patricia Egly, 701 Iowa Street, Davenport, IA 52803.



MARVIN D. EVANS (1925-2016)



The Reverend Marvin Evans, parish minister and devoted servant of the wider UU movement, died on 9 January 2016 at the age of 90.

Marvin Davis Evans was born on 2 December 1925 to Olaus Bowdoin Evans and Pearl Hutchinson Evans. After high school he joined the U.S. Army, serving in the liberation of Europe. He earned a B.A. from Randolph-Macon College in 1949, and a B.D. from Meadville Lombard in 1963.



After ordination in 1963 by the First Unitarian Church of Richmond (Virginia), the Rev. Evans served the Unitarian Church of Victoria, British Columbia, until 1967. Leaving the settled ministry, he took up a string of interim ministries along with a stint as UUA Director of Church Staff Finances (1978-81), finally retiring as Minister Emeritus to the Bellingham (Wash) Unitarian Fellowship in 1988. During these years, he served many active roles with the UUA and UUMA.

Marvin and his wife, Mary Hood Evans, moved to Seattle in 1967 and were dedicated members of University Unitarian Church for thirty years. After Mary died in 2004, Marvin became active in the Cedars Church (UU) on Bainbridge Island, from 2006 until his death.

His son David wrote: "Beyond family and a love of books and sailing, the Unitarian Church was very much in the center of my father's life. He greatly enjoyed the service he gave to the church, who in return have been very supportive of him in his 'radiant twilight years.'"

The Cedars UU Church hosted a memorial service on 13 February 2016. Condolences may be sent to the family at: David Evans & Alexis Johanson, P.O. Box 377, Keyport, WA 98345.



JOHN A. FARMAKIS (1923 – 2016)

The Rev. John Farmakis, parish minister and dedicated humanitarian, died on 24 January 2016 at the age of 92.

John A. Farmakis was born in Philadelphia of Greek and Scottish ancestry on 30 August 1923 to Alexander Farmakis and Henrietta (Cunningham) Farmakis. After earning a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946, hoping to serve the mission of the United Nations. After his discharge, he enrolled in Harvard Divinity School, earning an S.T.B. in 1950.

Mr. Farmakis was ordained to the ministry in 1952 by All Souls Universalist Church of Oakland, Maine, while serving a pastorate there (1951-53). After a one-year ministry to First Parish Church of Saugus (Mass.), he served as a U.S. Navy chaplain (1954-56). Then followed his two longest parish ministries: to the UU Society of Stanford, Conn. (1956-70) and to the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence (1970-88). During his career the Rev. Mr. Farmakis was active in Universalist and UU Service Committees, Universalist and UU Historical Societies, and on the UUA's Overseas and Interfaith Relations Board.

The Rev. Judy Buck-Glenn writes that John "was honest, honorable, kind, and deeply-read, with a keen mind and a passionate commitment to Enlightenment liberalism. He is deeply missed by a small circle of very devoted friends, who feel privileged to have known this quietly-rather-great man." In lieu of flowers, donations are encouraged to The John A. Farmakis Memorial Fund, University of Pennsylvania, Associate Director of Gift Planning Services, 3535 Market Street, Suite 500, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3309. Notes of condolence may be sent to his nephew at John.Farmakis@gmail.com.



Margret H. Kolbjornsen (1923 – 2018)



Margret H. Kolbjornsen, widow of the Reverend John M. Kolbjornsen, died February 3, 2018 at the age of 94. She was born in Hannover, Germany in 1923, and came to New York City with her family in 1926. She attended Staten Island schools and earned a BS in Mathematics from Douglass College in 1946. She loved the outdoors and began working with the Girl Scouts of America.

Margret first met John Kolbjornsen during a neighborhood snowball fight when they were children. In 1948 they married and moved to Copenhagen, where he served in the American Embassy, and where their first child was born. In 1952 they returned to the US, as John attended Harvard Divinity School, and they welcomed a second daughter. Two sons were born in the next few years. After John's ordination to the Unitarian ministry they served churches in Sharon, Massachusetts; Williamsville, New York; Norwell, Massachusetts; Sioux City, Iowa; and Springfield, Vermont. Margret contributed her beautiful singing voice to the choirs of every church her husband served, and also sang with the Buffalo Schola Cantorum, the Scituate Choral Society, the Morningside Singers in Sioux City, the Seacoast Singers in Durham, and the Monadnock Chorus from which she retired two days before her 93rd birthday.

In 1971 Margret earned an MEd and began teaching 6th grade math and science in Durham, NH, where she remained until her retirement and relocation to Peterborough. Her summer vacations were spent visiting her German cousins and traveling in Europe. On several trips she sailed the Danube from its source to the Black Sea. Star Island, a UU Conference Center off Portsmouth, NH, was part of her summers as well; she attended the Natural History Conference, beginning in 1974, and volunteered in the Island Gift Shop. She was an accomplished gardener, and kept her hands busy knitting "comfort dolls" that physicians took on medical missions to third-world countries.

A Memorial Service was held March 24, at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church. At her request, memorial donations in her name may be made to the Church and to Summerhill Assisted Living.



FRANCES JEANNE MELIS MILLS (1942-2016)



The Reverend Jeanne Mills, for whom parish ministry was a late calling after a rich and multi-faceted life as an educator, environmental activist, and archivist, died on 2 February 2016 at the age of 73.

Frances Jeanne Melis was born 18 October 1942 to Francis Kenneth Melis and Frances Inez Esson Melis. She earned a B.A. from Bucknell University in 1963 and an M.Ed. from Columbia University in 1965. She taught English in South America (1965-1967) as a Peace Corps volunteer, earned an MBA from Simmons College in 1983, and an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1997. Jeanne was ordained in 1997 by the Second Congregational Society (UU) in Nantucket (Mass) and spent the next thirteen years serving interim ministries in Nashville (Tenn), Midland (Mich), Tulsa (Okla), Chicago, Houston, Huntington and Schenectady (New York), Eugene (Oregon), and Savannah (Georgia), retiring from the parish in 2010.

Her sister Darleen remembers Jeanne as "a woman of great energy and interests who could accomplish much." Family and friends remember her as an inspiring, caring and free-spirited person. Fellow Peace Corps Volunteer, Stephen Sheppard remembers, "Jeanne was the best of us. Giving, caring, unselfish. Her good, positive, energy became part of us all from the moment she came into our lives so many years ago. We miss her already."

Jeanne is survived by two brothers, two sisters, two daughters, a grandson, and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held at the United Church of Dorset, Vermont, 5 March 2016. Memorial donations are encouraged to the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#) or the [Knox County Humane Society](#) in Rockland, Maine.



FARLEY W. WHEELWRIGHT (1916 - 2016)



Farley receives UURMaPA award from Jon Sievert, President of the San Miguel UU congregation.

The Reverend Dr. Farley Wheelwright, legendary social activist, colorful and passionate debater at UUA General Assemblies, and dedicated parish minister, died on 27 February 2016, aged 99.

Mr. Wheelwright fought devotedly against racial injustice, repeatedly traveling to Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia in the 1960s, registering voters, becoming more politically radical, and being incarcerated more than once. For all his notoriety as a social activist, however, Farley treasured his career as a pastoral minister above all else. “When I think of an afternoon spent supporting a grieving mother because of the crib death of her two-month old baby, my participation in the social activist movement seems almost inconsequential,” he said. “It is the most exalted job I can possibly conceive of for myself and my talents.”

Farley Wilder Wheelwright was born on 5 December 1916 to a four-generation Unitarian family. He earned a B.A. from St. Lawrence University in 1957, an M.Div. from Hartford Seminary Foundation in 1961, and a D.Min. from Andover-Newton in 1977.

Mr. Wheelwright was ordained to the ministry in 1961 by the North Greenwich (Conn.) Congregational Church. He was called to the UU Church of Central Nassau (NY) in 1962 and went on to serve at the Unitarian Society of Cleveland, Ohio (1968-72), the First Unitarian Church of New Bedford, Mass (1974-80), and the UU Society of Sepulveda (Los Angeles), 1981-85, being named Minister Emeritus at Sepulveda upon his retirement, after which he served interim ministries in Australia, Boston, and Attleboro.

In Cleveland, the Rev. Mr. Wheelwright founded the Clergy Counseling Center on Abortion, supported by local UU and other liberal clergy, each voluntarily putting themselves in jeopardy of arrest. Hundreds of young and middle-aged women were sent as far away as London for safe abortions. The group made national news when Farley’s photo in clerical robes made banner headlines reading, “He leads young girls to abortion.”

Farley and his wife Virginia moved to San Miguel de Allende (Mexico) in 1993. Both were active in the Mexican community and in the local UU Fellowship of expats. Farley (along with Virginia, posthumously) was given UURMaPA’s “Creative Sage-ing” award in 2014.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Escuela de Educacion Especial (eesma.com) and/or to Jovenes Adelante (JovenesAdelante.org). Condolences may be sent to his daughter, Delia Moon, at 303 Mesa



UURMaPA Fall Conference REGISTRATION Form
October 1-4, 2018
La Salette Center, Attleboro, MA

Please register me/us for the UURMaPA Fall Conference in Attleboro, MA. Price per person is \$_____, this fee covers the program, a single room (bath shared with another single room) for 3 nights, 9 meals, social hour refreshments, and general expenses. The fee for the conference for attendees NOT staying at the La Salette Center overnight is \$_____ per person. There is space available for RV hookup of electric and water, and that fee is \$_____.

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please Indicate special needs; dietary, or otherwise: _____

Full registration fee: \$295.00 per person \$ _____

Commuter registration fee: \$165.00 per person \$ _____

RV registration fee: \$175.00 per person \$ _____

(10 electric & water hookups available)

Additional contribution to help others attend \$ _____

Total (check payable to UURMaPA) \$ _____

Registration form and check must be received by September 8th, 2018.

Mail this form and your check to Alison Stephens, PO Box 873, Blue Hill, ME 04614-0873.

Confirmation of your reservation and directions to La Salette Center will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form and check.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE is available. Indicate the amount you need in to attend and include costs for travel, caregiver for a dependent, and the registration fee in your request.

Contact: Joel Weaver, treasurer until June 2018 at Email: weaver_je@hotmail.com
or call 610-558-2323 -- and after June 2018

contact the new treasurer, David Hunter. Email: davidhunter2405@comcast.net or call 484-318-8678.

NOTE: La Salette Center's toilets and showers in the sleeping quarters are not wheelchair accessible; however, it is only a few steps from the sleeping room to the toilet. All toilets and showers are equipped with grab bars & soap dishes. First floor toilets are wheel chair accessible and there is an elevator for accessing the sleeping floors and chapel.

Questions - Concerns - Special Requests??? **Contact Alison Stephens, email:**
astephensme@gmail.com or cell 207-812-5323

In case of cancellation, UURMAPA will do our best to refund as much fee as possible, some costs however will be nonrefundable. If you spot is filled, you will receive a full refund.



Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers and Partners Association

c/o Richard Speck
4721 Mermaid Blvd.
Wilmington, DE. 19808-1803