

UU ELDER BERRIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U. RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Volume III #4

Albert Q. Perry, Editor

16 Shackford St.

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Eastport, ME 04631

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1987-89

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27TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUNE 16-21

by Harold Hadley

Unitarian Universalists, continental wide, will soon be responding to the call to the 27th Annual General Assembly at Palm Springs, California, June 16-21, 1988. Attendees will be challenged by the unique Assembly theme - "TOUCH THE EARTH...REACH THE SKY", coined from the deeply rooted belief of those South-West early American Indian cultures calling for stewardship of the earth and it's life giving environment.

The ancient Indian symbol systems depict a cosmical union of human beings, the earth and its environment as their central theme. They were children of the land and co-workers with its universal processes, the central strains of which are today integral parts of our liberal religious faith.

High regard for each stage of the human life cycle developed naturally into a deeply held respect for the wisdom and sage counsel of the elder members of the community. It is, therefore, particularly appropriate that at this General Assembly our UU retired ministers not only participate in many of the general activities, but also, join in some of our own discussions, sharings and celebrations.

Following are three planned programs of unique appeal to retired minister and spouses:

1. PROFESSIONAL DAY (WORKSHOP)

TIME: Thursday, June 16, 2 p.m.

PLACE: To be announced in final program.

TOPIC: "Ready, Set, Retire"

A general retirement planning workshop for UU professionals and spouses.

LEADER: Sylvio Nardoni, Director, Council on Church Staff Finances, and others.

2. GENERAL ASSEMBLY (WORKSHOP AND SPEAKER)

TIME: Friday, June 17, 4-5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hotel Wyndham, Room - Chino B

TOPIC: "Dynamics of a Fulfilling Retirement"

SPEAKER: Rev. Dr. Harry B. Scholefield, Minister Emeritus, First Universalist Society, San Francisco, California

3. SERVICE OF LIVING TRADITION

TIME: Sunday, June 19, 10 a.m.

SPEAKER: Rev. Charles S. Stephen, Jr., Minister Unitarian Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

Twenty or more UU ministers will participate in the "Recognition of Those Completing Full Time Service" and will receive their certificates of retirement.

Following is a list of ministers as identified by the UUA as having retired during the year following the 1987 General Assembly. To date, we do not have the names of their respective spouses. Our apologies!

Eugene H. Adams, Medford, MA

David H. Cole, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Marvin Evans, Seattle, WA

Ann B. Fields, Concord, MA

Max Gaebler, Madison, WI

Elium E. Gault, Hazlet, NJ

Alfred J. Henriksen, Summit, NJ

Daniel Higgins, Clairbourne, MD

Donald J. Hinckley, Augusta, ME

Homer A. Jack, Swarthmore, PA

Donald J. Jacobsen, Atlanta, GA

Thomas J. Maloney, Edwardsville, IL

Fred H. Miller, Brattleboro, VT

Richard J. Norsworthy, Dexter, ME

Roy A. Ockert, Talent, OR

Kenneth L. Patton, Glen Rock, NJ

George J.W. Pennington, West Orange, NJ

Donald W. Rowley, Nashua, NH

John Whitman Sears, Red Wood City, CA

Kenneth J. Smith, Vineyard Haven, MA

Addison E. Steeves, Lewiston, ME

Carl H. Whittier, Columbus, OH

"PHANTOMSY" AT DEER ISLE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In response to an invitation in a previous issue, Helene F. McGorrill, widow of Dr. Milton McGorrill, sent in this delightful story. It may not say anything very significant politically, psychologically or economically, but if such are the thoughts of a person of 90 years, as is Mrs. McGorrill, I can hardly wait.)

Sitting in the old gray, acorn-knobbed porch rocker, I watched the summer sun slipping away into the night. As the huge red ball sank lower and lower, the whole day reflected its glory. Over the "Indian Mound" on the far side of the harbor there appeared streaks of rainbow colors through the clouds drifting across the deep blue sky. As I watched the last tip of the sun disappear below the horizon, the brilliant colors in the sky slowly faded, leaving a softly tinted afterglow. Relaxing, I considered that many hundreds of miles away from Maine, this same scene soon would be repeated, or was already being repeated in Michigan, perhaps, and much later would be repeated in Colorado where I had once lived.

High on my hill overlooking my part of Penobscot Bay, my island home was a peaceful spot. Only the distant sound of cars on the highway intruded upon the silence. The barn swallows that circle and swoop overhead at dusk were frolicking as usual. I was completely relaxed sitting there on the porch as generations before me had since 1827, feet on railing, enjoying the same peace, the same view, perhaps even some of the same thoughts.

Suddenly, I became aware of an unusual sound invading my solitude. At first, it was almost like the rustling of leaves on trees before a storm. Then the sounds grew louder and I seemed to hear voices and laughter. Did I imagine the sound of paddles digging in and out of the water as would be made by many canoes out in the harbor? Could Indians be returning? Then I saw the outline of canoes and heard them being pulled up on the shore. Many canoes - many Indians!

In the dimming light, I saw movement on the shore; then feverish activity as figures started digging in the flats - soggy and wet from the out-going tide. Indians, of course, digging for clams...Later, I saw a flickering flame on the shore which gradually became a huge fire. Many forms gathered about the fire. They finally withdrew into small groups and the feasting began. A "Clam Bake" was on. Sounds became fainter and fainter....

I continued watching eagerly as smoke from the dying fire rose into the sky over the Indian Mound. Then it was gone. The beating drums, the laughing, the yelling had softened to just the noise of canoes pulling off the shore. As the last canoe disappeared through the channel in the bay at the end of the Indian Mound, silence reigned again on my front porch. The Indians had departed!

A chill evening breeze had sprung up which so often happens after the sun goes down. The trees about the house had come alive, and the branches swayed in the heightened wind. I roused and realized that I must have dozed. I was cold!

I went into the house remembering what I had just experienced. It had happened exactly as I had told my children about the Indians on our regular jaunts to the Indian Mound for a swim. The clam shells, now scattered and mixed with ocean sand, could still be found; lucky "explorers" could now and then find an Indian arrowhead. History tells us that Indians of Penobscot Bay gathered from far and near for these feasts, leaving huge piles of clam shells in their wake. Over the centuries these piles became part of the mound now covered with grass and trees.

As I settled down for the evening, I resolved that somehow, sometime, I'd get over to that Indian Mound again and see if maybe there might be a NEW pile of clam shells there. After all, who knows? Perhaps there will be! I intend to find out!!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Although support from our membership is increasing in this third year of our organization, we need contributions from more of our constituency if we are to accomplish our objectives. In 1985-86 we had 60 contributors; in 1986-87 the number increased to 80 and as of April 20 this year, 107 have responded with contributions totaling \$3,192 for an average contribution of \$29.

Elder-Berries, our newsletter, reaches about 400 retired ministers (including spouses) and surviving spouses. We hope more will participate in supporting the UURMA so we can provide the services that you want.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

July 1, 1987-April 20, 1988

INCOME

Denominational Grants	\$1,200.00	
Contributions from Members	3,192.00	
Interest Income	200.30	4,592.30

EXPENSES

Executive Board	941.09	
Newsletter (Elder-Berries)	759.88	
Telephone, Postage, Supplies	667.04	
Conferences	1,692.78	
Contact Counseling Program	257.69	
Miscellaneous	113.00	4,431.48

Net Income For the Period		160.82
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Add:

Balance, July 1, 1987		4,262.99

Balance, April 20, 1988		4,423.81
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Our fiscal year ends June 30. Make checks payable to UURMA and mail to Rev. William E. Gardner, Treasurer, 77 Sailfish Drive, East Falmouth, Mass., 02536.

UURMA SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

In the three short years of its existence the UU Retired Ministers Association has been graciously accepted in our Denominational life as a viable organization.

The UURMA is listed in the UUA Directory along with other respected "Denominational Groups". The Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association has granted full Chapter status to the UURMA.

Certain significant accomplishments of our Association may also be proudly cited, such as, the publishing of the widely acclaimed quarterly Newsletter "Elder-Berries"; four successful Area Conferences held; sponsorship of General Assembly and Professional Day workshops annually, as well as, the instituting of Area Experimental Contact-Counseling programs. All of this with a steadily growing membership, now totaling over 550 persons.

Given all of the achievements to date, there are many, including the UURMA Executive Board, who often feel that we have not really come to know and to understand our widely scattered membership well enough to always be sure that we are adequately addressing their primary interests and concerns.

To that end, a survey questionnaire, now in its final stages of preparation, will soon be sent to all Retired Ministers. Hopefully, at some future date, there may be another survey, speaking more explicitly to the concerns of the retiree spouses.

The present questionnaire has been designed under professional guidance to help better understand: 1) Who the UU retired ministers are; 2) How their lives and interests have evolved since retirement; 3) What retirement has meant for them in terms of finances and life style and; 4) What their relationship to the UUA is now and what retired ministers would like this relationship to be. Such a survey will, hopefully, give more direction and substance for both pre-retirement planning programs, as well as, for future Board planned projects. The Department of Ministry and the UUMA leadership are likewise much interested to see the final results for their future UU professional retiree educational programs.

Any UU Retired Minister who does not receive a questionnaire should notify a UURMA Board Member and a copy will be sent promptly. With our relatively small numbers of retired ministers themselves (231 on the list) we will need a high percent of questionnaires completed and returned if the survey is to reflect a true analysis of the whole.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUING COOPERATION!

J. Harold Hadley
President

WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?

William D. Hammond

At the UURMA Convocation in Florida in February, I found that while a number of us Elderberries are busy with writing projects, only one or two have established clear paths toward publication. Some have dreamed of finding a "Patron" who might stake them to some printing costs, but have also found that the typical "Vanity Press" route is not inexpensive. Meanwhile, others of us have begun to be aware that there is something new on the scene, offering less costly routes to publication. It is called "Desk Top Publishing". My own interest in this subject has led me to accede to Harold Hadley's request that I explore the possibility of developing a specific "Elderproject" in this vein. I have already located some "Desk Top Publishers" with whom we might be able to work.

There appears to be a basic kind of low-cost book, limited to 96 pages (24 sheets of paper, carrying 4 pages of print each, plus a cover of slightly heavier paper, saddle-stapled and trimmed), minimum run of 200 copies, costing about \$3 per copy at present. One such publisher requires that copy be submitted on computer floppy disks, in MS-DOS operating system, Wordstar or Word Perfect programs. Another works only from disks produced on MacIntosh computers. A third offers some modest help toward publicity for your book.

Before going any further, it is important that I get a much clearer idea of how many of us are, or might become, interested in "getting published" under a press-name and logo of our own, at modest cost to the authors, somewhat as noted above. **WE ARE HERE TALKING ABOUT A PROJECT BY AND FOR UURMA MEMBERS.** I have the impression that some are, or will be, ready to fill one or more whole books of their own, while others would be interested in contributing one or two, or a few, pieces to a compendium of some sort.

SO, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE WRITE TO ME AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. Tell me something about (a.) The kind of materials you'd like to publish - poetry, worship material, sermons, essays, stories, whatever; (b.) The quantity of materials you might want to put out (a 96 page book-full? More? Less?); (c.) Do you work with a computer, and if so, what Operating System and Word Processing Program? (*); and (d.) Is your material ready now, or, if not, when do you think it might be ready?

* (My distinct impression at this point is that if you do NOT personally produce computer-ready prepared copy, you would have to get somebody to put your material in that form for you, before submitting it to a Desk Top Publisher. **HOWEVER**, please don't let this factor keep you from responding to this initial inquiry; for I am still at the very beginning of learning about these things.)

FINALLY, if any of you wish to recommend a specific Desk Top Publisher whom you know personally, please tell me about him/her, including your reasons for recommending.

COMMUNICATE WITH:

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Leicester, NC 28748
Phone: 704-683-3695

COPING WITH TOO MUCH TO REMEMBER

John Ruskin Clark

The old man explained, "If as I grow older I seem to become more forgetful, it is not that I am becoming senile but that I have so much to remember." Then he gave me his maxims for coping with too much to remember:

"Finish things - then you have less to remember."

"Do it now - then you don't have to remember to do it."

"Put it back - if it is where it belongs, then you don't have to remember where you left it."

"Do one thing at a time - then you don't have to remember what you are doing."

"Program your mind - if you anticipate your route and which lane you should be in, then you don't have to remember where you are going."

"Don't do it - forget or throw away the unimportant, then you have less to remember."

"Write it down - then you have to remember only where you left the note."

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a nice and congratulatory letter from Anne Fenn, wife of Dr. Dan Huntington Fenn, and in it she enclosed one of the aphorisms for which Dr. Fenn is well known. It reads: "Democracy is like a plane. It needs a left wing and a right wing, and the fusilage in the center to make it fly."

TO: NORTHEAST DISTRICT UU RETIRED MINISTERS, SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES....

The Executive Board of the UURMA has asked us to serve as "Area Contact" persons with you, and to be as helpful and supportive as possible.

We will be sending to you soon some information about our benefits from the UUA and the District. In the meantime, please contact us, 657-2058, (collect is fine) if you have a need, or if there is something about yourselves or others we should know.

We hope this finds you reasonably well, and uplifted by the renewal of the earth.

Cordially,
Pete and Earle (McKinney)

MY PET THEORY

Maurice W. Cobb

There is something about retirement that attracts advice. "Don't overwork!" "Keep active!" "Take up a hobby." "Enjoy life." "Travel." Etc.

It was an article about "Tips for the Elderly" by Lloyd Ferris that did me in. It suggested that every older person should have a pet to avoid loneliness, assume a modest responsibility and, above all, share in the fun and entertainment a cat, canary or goldfish can bring.

Having a pet is an all or nothing commitment. You can't have half a rabbit or a pony only half of the time. I chose a puppy. It was a mongrel because they are free. He was an inmate of a Dog Shelter because he had been abandoned. In addition, he had big paws, dreamy eyes and a tail that waved like an old sock in a gale of wind.

I thought the huge paws would give him a sure footing and keep him from falling over. Alas, later I found out that big paws mean that the dog is going to be a monster. Now that he is grown, the neighbors call him a horse. He is part Labrador and suspected to be at least minimally Doberman. A portion of his genealogy remains somewhere in a mysterious past as dark as his color.

I named him "Nova" because it means "new". He is surely a new experience for me. He's friendly. He has some intelligence. He understands more than he is willing to let on. But just because he understands, it doesn't mean that he is going to do anything about it.

He is interesting to watch. If I could harness his energy we'd have a solution to the need of power to run our civilization. He isn't very expensive to feed either. The cost comes from a strange habit he exhibits when riding in a car. When we drive down the highway and another dog runs along the road, Nova expresses his enthusiasm by chewing up the upholstery on the inside of my old Buick.

The destruction he creates tends to induce the salesman at the garage to lower the trade-in value when I turn it in. Also, the interior of the vehicle is not as attractive for passengers.

Nevertheless, I'm glad I rescued the dog. He never lets me forget when it's time to get up, eat, or go to bed. He's a good "watch" dog only in that when strangers come, he watches them. He doesn't bark or drive them away. My theory is that if you want a pet, it might help to select one compatible with your interest, time, energy and personality. Then, take the opportunity to enjoy.

READING IN RETIREMENT

(Periodically, we like to have one or more of the membership call attention to a significant book or books.)

Personally, your Editor is presently reading "THE SIXTIES - YEARS OF HOPE, DAYS OF RAGE" by Todd Gitlin. I still feel that that was a great decade in which to be a minister, although I might have starved if my wife had not had a good job, but it is now a real joy to relive some of those times and tensions as experienced by one of the principle leaders of SDS and other organizations seeking to reform or re-direct our society.

Ramona Barth writes that she is reading "REAL RAPE" by Gov. Dukakis' campaign manager, Susan Estrich, Prof. of Criminal Law at Harvard. Of it, she says: "Like AIDS, the word, RAPE, makes good conventional people choke and this focus on our rampant crime is welcome...I am also reading "DOROTHY PARKER", a tormented woman of her times...I am WRITING a monograph on Anne Hutchinson, on the 350th year of her banishment from Massachusetts."

Only Maurice Cobb would write that he does most of his reading in books that people give him when they don't like his sermon and hope to help him do a better job. (They should look for a book that would make them more appreciative of a unique and delightful kind of person.) Anyway, he has been reading "THE SACRED BEETLE AND OTHER GREAT ES-SAYS IN SCIENCE" by 32 distinguished authors and scientists from Charles Darwin to Carl Sagan.

Maurice also claims that another parishoner thought that he should sprinkle his sermons with more wit and lighten the heavy stuff with a bit of humor. He gave him a copy of "WORD FOR WORD" by Andrew Rooney in which there are 306 pages of dry and witty, tongue in cheek commentary on the practices and foibles of our personal and social customs.