

# UU ELDER BERRIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U. RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Vol IV #4

Albert Q. Perry, Editor

P.O. Box 66

Spring 1989

Eastport, Maine 04631

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1987-1989

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### New Haven, Conn.

June 21-27

Regretfully, we recognize that all registrations for the General Assembly at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., must have been made before this issue can be distributed. We greatly regret this fact but it could not be helped, and we are forced to assume that all attending are fully informed of all places and prices and problems.

One correction may get out in time, and that is that the dinner for UU Retired Ministers has been moved to the Timothy Dwight Commons Room in the Woolsey Building. It will be at 11:45 A.M., and the cost will be \$12 for those without G.A. Meal Tickets and \$4 with the G.A. Meal Tickets.

### NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Oct. 10, 11, and 12

The third annual gathering of retired ministers, spouses and surviving-spouses in the New England area (members from anywhere would be welcome) will be held at the Oblate Retreat Center in Hudson, New Hampshire. This is near Nashua, N.H.

An outstanding program committee headed by Russell and Jeanne Bletzer is making arrangements and planning this event, and the fact that we have so many details this early is most promising. Others on the committee are Peg Johnston and Helen & Bob Dick.

The cost will be \$65 each for two nights and six meals; and no change in prices can be anticipated. The Oblate Retreat House was about the most reasonable place that the Committee could find and it has the kind of facilities we need such as elevator service, rooms for all who might want to come, good food, etc. It is recognized that \$130 for a couple on a very limited retirement income can present difficulties, and there is a search by the committee for any source of funds which might permit subsidies. Such does not seem easily available, but the outing will be well worth the cost.

For a new conference activity, the committee is promoting an exhibit of "THE WAY WE WERE," and all are urged to go through their photo albums and other collections of memorabilia and find some pictures to loan. Identify the picture and mark the name and address of the lender on the back.

The committee has already produced one mailing and if you want to keep in touch with what is being planned, or if you have any suggestions, write: THE BLETZERS, R. R. 1, Box 662, Woodstock, VT 05091.

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The UURMA is recognized by the Unitarian Universalist As'sn as an independent "Denominational Group," and it has been accepted as a full-fledged chapter of the UUMA.

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## NEWS AND NOTES

The Editor has received good wishes from many of our readers and especially appreciated was one from Edith Christianson, who also corrected a story in our last issue and noted that Maurice Cobb will be conducting a Committal Service for George Niles on June 10th in Bradley, Maine. Tentatively, this will be at 2:00 P.M. (call Maurice if you wish to attend) and it is NOT private.

Word has been received of the passing of Mrs. Elizabeth H. Boynton of Winter Park Towers in Winter Park, Florida. She died Nov. 10, 1988.

We also regret not having known at the time of the death of Inez A. McLaughlin, the widow of the late Rev. Richard H. McLaughlin, the first pastor of the Universalist Church of West Hartford, Conn. She died on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 1988, at the age of 98. She left two daughters, Beatrice and Portia, and we understand that she was an enthusiastic recipient of ElderBerries. Throughout most of her life she had been active as a teacher of music, and her daughter Beatrice inherited some of her skills in this realm. For her Memorial Service, Beatrice composed and wrote the words for "Through the Clouds," a Nocturne for Flute, Soprano, Piano and String Quartet. Her musical meditation might well contribute to our moods as we read some of these obituaries:

See through the clouds with the setting sun:  
their dazzling shifting colors,  
The blinding brilliance seen through the clouds!

See through the clouds with the setting sun:  
their dazzling shifting colors,  
The blinding brilliance seen through beyond!

Seen through the clouds beyond -- beyond --  
What is beyond? What is beyond?

Agnes S. Birkhead, widow of the late Rev. Leon M. Birkhead, died last fall at the age of 102 years. Her husband was minister of the All Souls Unitarian Church in Kansas City, MO, and subsequently he was the founder of "The Friends of Democracy."

John Q. Parkhurst died April 12th, and Bob Dick officiated at a Memorial Service on April 15th. John was minister of our church in Joliet, IL, for 25 years, and he and his wife, Gladys, have been living in Vermont since his retirement. They attended at least one of our UURMA Conferences.

Rev. Tharold Olofson died in Hanska, MN, on March 5, 1989. He was one of our once-numerous Icelandic Unitarians and served the Nora Church. He is survived by a brother, daughter and son.

Rev. Max Morriss died in Independence, Oregon, on April 17, 1989. His Memorial Service was held at the First Unitarian Society of Salem, OR.

We received an interesting note about the activities of Betsey and John Skeirik who seem to be struggling progressively toward retirement, while they do enough preaching and teaching to permit some exciting travel. This summer they will take a bus trip with weavers and painters and the like through Rumania and Transylvania--with plenty of stops for visits with all sorts of artisans.

## INCOME AND EXPENSES

When this association of Retired U.U. Ministers, Spouses and Surviving Spouses was organized about four years ago, a major problem was in respect to financing. The U.U.A. was able to assist in starting and has continued to subsidize the first conference in an area. Once anything was started, the hope and expectation was that the membership would find ways of keeping it going.

The second challenge was that we wanted to serve all eligible folk, and that meant that dues could not be charged in that those who needed the organization most would probably be least likely to afford it. As a result we have tried to finance a program of service and stimulation by periodic appeals for contributions, and we are still solvent.

We have received grants from the Council on Church Staff Finances to subsidize initial conferences in the Midwest and far West, and we are in the process of underwriting Contact Programs in as many areas as possible to keep in touch with folk who might need assurance that they are not forgotten and who might need some special help. We are also working on a campaign to increase the endowment behind the Service Gratuity program.

### CONDENSES STATEMENT 6/1/88 to 5/10/89

#### INCOME

Council on Church Staff Finances	4,000.00
UUMA Chapter Grant	200.00
Contributions from Members	3,807.50
Interest Income	<u>293.92</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,301.42</b>

#### EXPENSES

Executive Board	397.76
Newspaper (ElderBerries)	1,126.50
Telephone, Postage, Supplies	571.76
Conferences	79.82
Contact Program	45.30
Service Gratuity Campaign	91.00
Misc.	<u>29.07</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,341.21</b>

#### SUMMARY

Balance, July 1, 1988	3,650.48
Net Income to 5/10/89	<u>5,960.21</u>
<b>Balance 5/10/89</b>	<b>9,610.69</b>

(Note: Much of this is already committed to specific programs.)

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The greatest source of confidence in our effort has been the steady growth of voluntary contributions. For four years, our figures are as follows:

1985-86	55 people	gave \$1,477	Averaging \$26.85 each
1986-87	83 people	gave \$2,343	Averaging \$28.22 each
1987-88	114 people	gave \$3,312	Averaging \$29.05 each
1988-89	137 people	gave \$3,807	Averaging \$27.79 each

(to May 10th only)

With these figures, we make a final appeal for support before the end of our Fiscal Year on June 30th. Our ability to serve better depends upon the willingness of those who can to give more, and this is happening and to continue the progress, rush your check to Rev. William Gardner, 77 Sailfish Dr., E. Falmouth, MA 02536.

# THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

## Election Provisions according to the Bylaws

"The officers and a nominating committee consisting of a Chair and two other members shall be elected biennially in the month of May in the odd numbered years. They shall assume office on July 1 following their election and shall serve for two years. If, however, their successors have not been elected by the end of their terms they shall continue in office until their successors are qualified. All members shall be eligible to vote by mail ballots in an election conducted by the Nominating Committee. During the month of February preceding the election the Nominating Committee shall poll the membership for suggestions of nominees. From these suggestions the Committee shall make its nominations and conduct an election by mail during the month of May and shall certify to the Secretary the results of the election. No nominee shall be listed on the ballot without his or her consent. The Nominating Committee is authorized to establish such procedures as are necessary to carry out these provisions.

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Two years ago the decision was made to conduct our elections through ElderBerries and we have attempted to do it again this year. The Nominating Committee fulfilled its responsibilities on time, but your Editor was tied up for about four months as a result of a serious auto accident, and the publication schedule could not be (at least, was not) kept. We are late, but know of no competing candidates, and the Board of Directors authorized the counting of any ballots received in June. Write-in candidates are permitted, but permission should be obtained and enclosed with the ballot. Members are urged to vote their preferences even though this seems to be an uncontested election.

## Report of the Nominating Committee

## Write-in Candidate

PRESIDENT

J. Harold Hadley

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VICE PRESIDENT

Keith C. Munson

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SECRETARY

Joyce C. Huff

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TREASURER

William E. Gardner

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Albert Q. Perry

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BOARD MEMBERS:

Freda Carnes

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Margaret H. Johnson

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Laura Hersey

\_\_\_\_\_

Donald M. Hinckley

\_\_\_\_\_

Robert T. Dick, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

To vote for the slate as presented, or modified, mark an X on the line to the right:

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Mail Ballot by June 30, 1989, to:

*Robert T. Dick  
1 Walnut Way  
Springfield, Vermont 05156-9142*