

UU ELDER BERRIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U. RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. V I #2

Albert Q. Perry, Editor

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Dexter, Maine 04930

RECOGNITION AND VINDICATION FOR RELIGIOUS REALISTS IN WORLD WAR II

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Fifty years ago this coming spring, this country began preparations for involvement in the war raging in Europe by enacting a Draft Law. Probably many theological students would have resisted in some way, but they were exempt by statute, providing that they registered.

A few did not and went to jail. One of these was a friend and class-mate of mine, and I was pleasantly surprised a few years ago when flying to New York to find him on the plane and to learn that he had become an important official of a denomination we may consider more traditional than our own.

Some other theological students who registered demanded the right to be classified as Conscientious Objectors. One such was our own Bob Dick, and he dropped out of theological school and began working 12 hour days in what had been a Civilian Conservation Camp in New Hampshire. After about 2 years of this, he volunteered for a "guinea pig" unit (C.P.S.115-R) in Rochester, N.Y. There were 14 Conscientious Objectors in this unit, and they were involved in all kinds of tests at the Rochester Medical School, which were of differing degrees of unpleasantness and danger.

As I am sure that all know, "Bob" was discharged in 1946 and renewed his preparation for the ministry at the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. Since 1948, "Bob" has been serving a variety of Unitarian Universalist churches with great sensitivity and dedication.

This part of the story most of us know, but a year or two ago, one of the "Guinea Pigs" came back to Rochester with a contribution of a million dollars to establish within the College of Arts and Sciences an inter-disciplinary center for peace research. The college plans to raise five million more to create a department for the study of peace and international cooperation, and this will be named after Peter Watson, the Conscientious Objector who made the initial contribution.

The story of this group and their individual concerns has been put together and edited by "Bob" Dick. At long last, the sacrifices and suffering of this dedicated group is being recognized, in part because of the efforts of our friend and fellow member in the UURMA. Perhaps all got copies of the book which "Bob" edited, "GUINEA PIGS FOR PEACE," but if not, probably copies could be obtained by contributors to this Department of Peace and International Cooperation.

"A. POWELL DAVIES and His Times"

by *George N. Marshall*

As Reviewed by the Editor--A.Q.P.

I saw and heard the Rev. A. Powell Davies in 1932 when he was the Guest Speaker at a Y.P.C.U. convention at my home church in Portland, Maine. I do not remember what his topic was or what he said, but I vaguely recall that he was inspiring and witty, and that he had a delightful accent.

Such was my first, and only opportunity to learn anything about the young British, Methodist clergyman, who eventually became one of the most prominent and influential of contemporary Unitarians - and whose biography by George Marshall was published this year. (My association with George has been considerably closer in that we were roommates during our Freshman year at Tufts; and I guess that he put out the first issue of the UURMA newsletter and gave it the controversial, but I think clever, name of "ElderBerries.")

As a friend of many, many years, I have rejoiced to own and read most of the books that George has written, but I believe that this may be his best and most important for our movement. Certainly, it provides an insight into contemporary Unitarianism such as those of us in our now combined church who were Universalists never really possessed....

In evaluating this biography, the first impression is that it is a magnificent job of research. It appears that George read everything in Dr. Davies' personal and church files: everything that he wrote or said and most of what was written or said about him. In a way we are tempted to give thanks that Dr. Davies' end came swiftly and while he was greatly involved in the work of his church and the role of his country, and that he never had a chance to "tidy things up" and to discard the seemingly unimportant as we are apt to do in retirement. The amazing part is that George Marshall seems to have read it all, together with all sorts of newspaper stories and magazine articles and denominational reports, etc.

My second reaction is that this is an amazingly honest book and one very important to our now-combined movement in that for the first time it provides an accurate account of matters about which the Universalist part of the church and, probably, most of the laity knew only rumors.

It was a curious situation when some, who seemingly had totalitarian sympathies, infiltrated departments and programs of the Unitarian movement and undermined its democratic traditions. Dr. Davies was not alone in resisting, but he was a leader in the effort to keep "the Free Church" free. He was equally active in resisting the efforts of the "Untra Right" to dictate government programs and policies. As one of the founders of the Americans for Democratic Action he contributed greatly to a positive effort to establish a truly democratic society in an era of extremism, and George Marshall has done a magnificent job of telling his three-part story.

I must also note that in many respects Dr. Davies was the product of his upbringing and never lost his affection for the teachings of Jesus. I was a little amused when, according to George's account, some of these did not seem applicable for the times that he tried to re-interpret the English words and phrases in which they were commonly expressed. If one feels that the Christian tradition of pacifism must be set aside on some occasions, it seems to me better to simply say so than to try to re-interpret something Jesus said in Aramaic and was translated into Greek, and eventually, into Elizabethan English. But because he did such things, while also being a thorough-going liberal, possibly explains his universal appeal.

As I noted at the beginning of this review, I never saw or heard Dr. Davies after I was 16, but at the time of "The March on Washington" his congregation provided housing for the sizable delegation we sent to participate, and we acknowledged our indebtedness to a great man who created a truly "liberal" church.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 1990

	<u>Operating Accounts</u>		<u>Special Accounts</u>	
	Actual	Budget	Account	Contact
INCOME				
Contributions from Members	4,528.95	4,500.00		
UUMA Chapter Grant	200.00	200.00		
UUA Support Services Grant				5,000.00
Interest Income	<u>857.90</u>	<u>400.00</u>		
Total Income	<u>5,586.85</u>	<u>5,100.00</u>		<u>5,000.00</u>
EXPENSES				
Executive Board	1,741.62	1,500.00		
Newsletter (ELDER-BERRIES)	1,372.18	1,200.00		
Telephone, Postage and Supplies	603.98	1,000.00		
Brochure	473.55			
Council on Church Staff Finances	200.00	200.00		
Contact Program	113.76	500.00		
Conferences	368.23	1,500.00	2,241.96	
Miscellaneous	<u>43.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>		
Total Expenses	4,196.32	6,400.00	2,241.96	
NET INCOME (EXPENSE) for Period	<u>670.53</u>		<u>(2,241.96)</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
	<u>5,586.85</u>		<u>0</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>

	Operating Account	Conference Account	Contact Account	Total
Balance, July 1, 1989	4,296.55	5,721.11		10,017.66
Add/Subtract Net Income/(Expense)	<u>670.53</u>	<u>(2,241.96)</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>3,428.57</u>
Balance, June 30, 1990	4,967.08	3,479.15	5,000.00	13,446.23
Checking Account	4,446.23			
Cert. of Deposit (12/12/90 - 8.2%)	<u>9,000.00</u>			
	13,446.23			
Allocation of Conference Funds:				
Southeast (Florida IV)	470.72			
Mid-West	1,070.00			
Western	<u>1,938.43</u>			
	3,479.15			

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

	1988-89	1989-90
Members Contributing	143	153
Amount Contributed	\$4,062.50	\$4,528.95
Average Contribution	28.41	29.60

William E. Gardner, Treasurer

CONTACT PERSON APPOINTMENTS

Board members Freda Carnes and Peg Johnston, Coordinators of the Volunteer Contact Persons Program, announce that there are now 14 of the 18 Districts supplied with one or more persons serving as the UURMA representatives in the Districts indicated in the listing that follows.

If you would like to serve in one of the Districts where "no appointment" is indicated, call or write to Freda or Peg soon. (See also the Spring Issue of 1990 ElderBerries for more about the Contact Program.)

If you are one of those listed below and learn a significant news about any of our UURMA members in your District, please notify the Editor of ElderBerries that it may be included on the "Personals" page.

UURMA CONTACT PERSONS BY DISTRICTS

NORTHEAST (NE)

1) Northeast Section

Rev. Albert Perry,

RR 1 Box 45
Dexter, ME 04930

207-924-3378

2) Central North

Rev. Don Hinckley,

26 Old Winthrop Rd. Apt. 208
Augusta, ME 04330

207-622-3911

3) Central South

Rev. Earle McKinney,

P.O. Box 130
Gray, ME 04039

207-657-2058

4) Southwest

Rev. Maurice Cobb,

HC 81 Box 1714
W. Newfield, ME 04095

207-793-4453

NEW HAMPSHIRE & VERMONT (NHVT)

Rev. & Mrs. Robert Dick,

1 Walnut Way
Springfield, VT 05156

803-886-8271

CONNECTICUT VALLEY (CT)

Rev. & Mrs. Harold Hadley,

15 Pomeroy Ct.
Amherst, MA 01002

413-253-3142

ST. LAWRENCE (ST.L)

Rev. John McPhee,

P.O. Box 208
Edwards NY 13655

315-562-3462

FLORIDA (FLA)

Rev. Carl Westman,

1925 Central Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33803

813-682-2440

CENTRAL MIDWEST (CMW)

Takes in 4 Districts: Central,
Michigan, Prairie Star, Ohio
Valley (40 on Mailing List)

Rev. John & Dru Cummins,

4238 Sheridan Ave.
Minneapolis MN 55410

612-922-2477

Rev. John Brigham,

2604 Chestnut St.
Quincy, IL 62301

217-223-2858

PACIFIC NORTHWEST (PNW)

Rev. Felix Lion, 3310 Ocean Blvd.
Victoria, B.C. Canada
604-478-3752

MOUNTAIN DESERT (MD)

Rev. Richard Henry, 1772 Ross Dr.
Ogden, UT 84401
801-399-1285

Rev. Leon Fay, 436 Chimaja Rd.
Corrales, NM
505-897-3717

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST (PSW)

Rev. Theodore Webb, 2212 Ralston Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95821
916-925-6034

JOSEPH PRIESTLY (JP)

Rev. Charles Howe, 3909 Commander Dr.
Hyattsville, MD
301-277-8821

THOMAS JEFFERSON (TJ)

Rev. & Mrs. Gordon McKeeman, 24 Lake Forest Dr.
Charlottesville, VA 22901
804-973-0378

MID SOUTH (MS)

Rev. Clifton G. Hoffman, 321 Milledge Heights
Athens, GA 30606

MASS BAY (MG)

Rev. Farley Wheelwright, 1241 Adams, #606
Boston, MA 02124
617-298-1684

SOUTHWEST (SW)

Rev. Albert D'Orlando, 2236 Dublin St.
New Orleans, LA 70118

DISTRICTS WITH NO APPOINTMENT

BALLOU CHANNING (BC)

Rhode Island, Cape Cod and other parts of Massachusetts

CENTRAL MASS. (CM)

Central Massachusetts

PACIFIC CENTRAL (PC)

Parts of Nevada and California

METRO-NEW YORK (MNY)

Largely New York City

Volunteers invited.
Call: Freda Carnes 617-723-9822
or: Peg Johnston 802-429-2412

MIDWEST UURMA CONFERENCE

Violet Kochendoerfer

Fourteen of us (five couples, three minister's widows, and me as a single) were joined by our Prexie and his wife, Harold and Shirley, for the Second Annual Meeting of the MIDWEST UURMA in Minneapolis for a great, full and fun weekend planned and beautifully executed by John and Dru Cummins. At times they must have felt that they had gone back to "taking care of a big family."

When I worked with couples planning their wedding, I always used to say to them, "Now, don't worry if you flub something up...that's what you'll talk about the rest of your lives!" And what many of us will recall as the comic highlight of this conference was trying to follow each other in a motor caravan in Minneapolis traffic with one-way streets and street repair in each block. I can still hear John saying "Now listen well! I'm going to repeat this only three times."

We loved the sumptuous accommodations of the new Radisson Plaza Hotel (where "Gorbie" stayed when he visited Minnesota recently) and it seemed to be the consensus that we'd done our stints in camping out accommodations and deserved a bit of luxury. Again, as John said, "Most of us can afford to take off for Florida any time we so desire..." so we felt that conference allowances in the budget should be used for scholarships for those living on tight budgets.

First Unitarian Society was home base for us in lovely surroundings. Friday night we heard from Harold, who almost convinced us to go along with having the UURMA Board moved to the Midwest area (if the Board so decides). In addition it was suggested that the Board meetings be limited to two, or even one annual meeting (with telephone conferences if necessary) with the feeling that it was more important to use whatever resources we have to help members in need--rather than for travel expenses...After that each of us shared highlights of the past year. We always look forward to this!

Saturday morning we were joined by a tall chap (5'18" he said) and his attractive wife. Bill Holden held us spell-bound with his tales about how he received and is living with the heart of a 16-year old girl! We followed him step by step and came to realize that it is a long, long, involved, scary, often touch-and-go experience. I was entranced with his sharing that during much of the actual procedures he seemed entirely detached. Although he didn't see the bright white light of near-death experience, he went through near-death more than once, and added something which might confront each of us in asking, "How would having a second chance change my life?" Bill re-ordered his priorities in many ways and finds a need to offer himself in volunteer situations whenever he can.

We lucked out when the second scheduled speaker couldn't come, and Max Gaebler shared slides and experiences of East Germany - so much in the news these days - something which made us comment on the fact that often we have in our very midst those who have exciting experiences to share.

After lunch at the Minneapolis Museum of Art, (I love the free admission and even free parking lot) we got in on the opening of the Dutch Marine Art Exhibit. After a couple of hours of free time, we gathered back at the church for libations before having dinner at the nearby famous Guthrie Theatre, before a modern presentation of Thornton Wilder's "SKIN OF OUR TEETH." For my taste it was a bit too 'avante garde', for which the Guthrie is world famous. Max skipped the play to fly to Chicago to keep an appointment with his kids. They had promised to take him to the last ball game of White Sox at Cominskey Park!

On Sunday, after a Forum and a service (featuring a New Zealand woman speaking on "THE FAITH DIMENSION OF HUMANISM," some of us had luncheon at the Walker Museum of Modern Art adjacent to the church, before saying

our good-byes. Oh yes, it seems likely that we will accept an invitation to get together there next year in September. This should be closer to some of you in Ohio and Michigan, so we hope you'll think about joining us.

Just for fun, and so you might check with them, here are those that were there!

The Brighams
The Cummins
The Gaeblers
The Haleys
The Mondales
The Springs
Ruth Cope
Barbara Gudmundson
Vi Kochendoerfer and
Dorothy Simonetti

(The thing which intrigues your Editor is that we have, to date, three area conferences in different parts of the country with totally different kinds of programs, even though we all had similar training and experiences in UU ministers and spouses. In New England, we seem to always go to some Monastery or Convent and to have a comparatively serious, traditionally UU, program. In the Midwest, our folk tend to go to plays and art exhibits and the like. In Florida, programs have been held at our own conference center and in association with minister's meetings - and the programs seem to be generally practical. Possibly because many of our retired folk in Florida are serving churches and can still use office equipment, Computers etc.

We can hardly wait to see what the pattern will be in California, when a Conference is undertaken there. One thing is certain, there is no typical form of program to which leaders need to conform.)

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If you expect to be in Florida or nearby this winter, we suggest attending the Southeast Convocation at the "U.U. in the Pines". Register now and get all of the details.

REGISTRATION

Names(s) _____

Address: _____

_____ Telephone () _____

For couples: Prefer -----Double Bed _____ Twin Beds _____

Please enclose a check payable to "UU IN THE PINES" for \$54 each.
(\$8 for Program Expenses will be collected at Convocation.)

The nearest major airport is Tampa International. Please indicate airline, flight number
and arrival time _____

Mail to:

Priscilla Brooks, Registrar
1515 Forrest Nelson Blvd. Apt. 0207
Pt. Charlotte, FL 33952

PERSONALS

The River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Maryland recently honored Mary Rose Curtis, widow of 'Jim' Curtis, for her "OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY." It took a whole page to list the things she had done. A particularly significant sentence read: "You exemplify for our church, our denomination and our community the kind of activism in social causes that we all accept in our minds, set forth in our words, but all too often fail to realize in our actions." (There is a contemporary tendency to downgrade the importance of minister's wives to the organization, but she certainly refutes this theory. CONGRATULATIONS!)

Rev. Richard Langhinrichs died July 31 after a prolonged bout with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, two daughters who reside at 459 Englewood Court, Ft. Wayne, IN. He served our church in Ft. Wayne with great distinction for 23 years and was named Minister Emeritus upon his retirement in 1989.

Word has been received from George Marshall that a new edition of his "Buddha, His Quest for Serenity" has been issued in both hard cover and paperback. His biography of Albert Schweitzer has been given a third printing by the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship; and both George and Homer Jack will attend and participate in the program for the International Schweitzer Colloquism at the UN.

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BEST COMMENT TO DATE ON "A. POWELL DAVIES AND HIS TIMES" IS FROM NORMAN COUSINS WHO WROTE THE PUBLISHER:

"I am grateful to you for the opportunity and the privilege of reading "A. Powell Davies and His Times." What gives George Marshall's book both value and distinction is his ability to provide an effective balance between a man's life and the issues that dominated his thoughts and concerns. George Marshall is an ideal choice for this biography, sensitive as he is to the inner life and ideas of a man and the basic events that created the context of his life. I read the book with mounting admiration for George Marshall's writing skills and his perception."

-Norman Cousins

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