

UU ELDER BERRIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U. RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. VI #3

Albert Q. Perry, Editor

Winter, 1991

Dexter, Maine 04930

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"MAKING IT ALONE" - Laura Hersey

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I was privileged, at the meetings of the Retired Ministers Association, in October to lead a discussion on "Making It Alone". One thing that was discovered in the course of our discussion, was that each person meets the challenge in his or her own way. Most agree that activity is important, whether it be volunteer work in some community organization or activity according to one's own talents and interests. There are those who find satisfaction in sharing his or her pain in groups with others in like circumstances.

The general feeling was that work is the best panacea; work that will consume the hours and demand attention; work that will become an interest in itself and will lead to new friends, new activities, and new growth. It was my own good fortune to find peace and satisfaction in my role as curator of an art gallery where, during the summer months each year, I came to have a little knowledge of art and enjoyed acquaintance with those who created and those who purchased it.

Then there is reading, there is writing, and there is music; all fields of expression for one to absorb or to express one's self in. There is radio at night with its ongoing programs of talk, any one of which may strike a spark of response to the listener. And there are friends who come, not to console, but to open new ways for you to explore. George Wood asked me to preach for him on two Sundays while he was on vacation. It was an all-consuming experience.

Some comfort came to me in putting my feelings into words, as others might find relief in painting or music-craft. It seemed to provide a means of expression that lessened the internal distress while occupying time and the mind. This was purely subjective, of course, but for me it provided a means of dealing with unacceptable reality.

What is important to know is that you are not alone. The situation you find yourself in is a common one and you can take from your own experience and give to other sufferers as it was given to you.

(At the Northeast Conference last fall, Laura Hersey was prevailed upon to lead a group in an exploration of the inevitability that many of us will eventually have to face: "Making It Alone." Needless to say, writing about such a tragic personal experience could not be easy and I hated to request it, but I could not imagine anyone more capable of doing this than Laura. We are very grateful to her, and suggest that other area conferences arrange similar programs.-A.Q.P.)

1991 SOUTHEAST UURMA CONVOCATION

George G. Brooks

For the third year in a row we met as a group at the "UU in the Pines" in Brookville, FL from late afternoon Monday, February 11 through noon on Wednesday, February 13. For each of the last two years the number attending increased and the accommodations were improved.

Present were 34 retired ministers, spouses or widows. Guests for the entire program included the Reverends David Pohl, representing the UUA; and Fred Gillis, representing the UUMA. District Directors, Rev. John and Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt were present for the day on Tuesday.

Each morning and evening program began with a short worship experience, led respectively by Eunice and Al Zeigler, Ruth Cope, Carl Bretz and Carl Westman. The War, consequences, aftermath and reasons, were much on all minds. The quality of each presentation was high and very satisfying.

The first evening was devoted to individual reports as to the highlights of their past year. With significantly larger attendance from the previous year, the request to keep each report brief was necessary and, surprisingly, followed. Thankfully, joys and sorrows from many surfaced so the session was fruitful.

Tuesday morning saw reports from David Pohl, Fred Gillis and the DeWolf-Hurts. Dave's was informative, Fred's was serious and John was able to report a reduction in his District responsibilities and a part-time Ministry with the UU Fellowship of West Volusia, which has always been his first love.

Early Tuesday afternoon we were privileged to hear the history of the area of Brooksville and the nearby coastal region from Ed Ericson, a native Floridian who grew up in and around Tarpon Springs. Tuesday evening was fun. Bucky McKeeman clued us into "What's Under the Kilt" (and did he look sharp!) and six members participated in a reading of "The People, YES" by Carl Sandburg. It was directed by Dave Cole, and those participating included: Dave, Iska Cole, Eunice Zeigler, Carl Westman, Charles Grady and Keith Munson.

We closed the program Wednesday morning with consideration of how the UURMA might even better serve its members and the UU movement. This was led by Keith Munson with some able assists by Phil Giles. Keith, assisted by John Morgan, closed the program with a short worship experience.

Members of the Planning Committee were George and Priscilla Brooks, John and Jeanette Morgan and Jack and Marie Zoerheide. George and Priscilla Brooks will continue on the Planning Committee for next year, assisted by Roy and Lucille Congdon (an overlap with Northeast) and Todd and Carolyn Taylor.

The exact dates of the 1992 Convocation could not be announced since a week-long Elderhostel first needed to be fitted into the schedule for "UU in the Pines", but it will be as early in February as practical. Such announcement should be in the next ElderBerries.

Regrettably, several who had hoped to attend were prevented from doing so by illness. Unable to attend were Rev. and Mrs. James C. Brewer (Barbara) of Ashville, N.C., and Rev. and Mrs. Donald W. Lawson (Betty) of Naples, FL.

Those participating are listed on the next page.

SOUTHEAST CONVOCATION OF THE UURMA February 11-13, 1991

Attending were the following:

Rev. Waldemar Argow 300 A-L-A North 206 Ocean Parks	Jupiter FL 33477
Rev. Carl Bretz 110 31st Street East	Tuscaloosa AL 35405
Rev. & Mrs. David H. Cole (ska) 70 Knightsbridge Road, Apt. 3-D	Great Neck NY 11021
Rev. & Mrs. Leroy Congdon (Lucille) 2331 Belleair Road, Apt. 3-D	Clearwater FL 34624-2706
Mrs. Ruth O. Cope 2037 Ridgewood Lane	Madison IN 47250
Rev. John DeWolf-Hurt (Mary Louise) 4 Cherry Drive Court	Ocala FL 32672
Rev. Edward L. Ericson 865 Virginia Court, Apt. 202	Dunedin FL 34698
Rev. & Mrs. Philip R. Giles (Yvonne) 27 Herring Run Road	N. Harwick MA 02645
Rev. Frederick Gillis (UU Ministers Assoc.) 285 First Avenue	E. Greenwich RI 02818
Rev. & Mrs. Charles W. Grady (Emily) 427 6th Avenue W., Apt A-2	Hendersonville NC 28739
Rev. & Mrs. Paul H. Husted (Betty) 8189 Blackbeard Court Port	St. Lucie FL 33452
Rev. William Hammond & Grace N. Lindquist 230 Foster Street	Littleton MA 01460
Mrs. Alfred W. Hobart (Mary Aymar) 1358 Brandywine Circle, Apt. 2	Fort Myers FL 33919
Rev. George Marshall 233 Summerwalk Circle	Chapel Hill NC 27514
Rev. & Mrs. Gordon B. McKeeman (Phyllis) 24 Lake Forest Drive	Charlottesville VA 22901
Rev. & Mrs. John H. Morgan (Jeanette) 402 S.E. 42nd Terrace, D8	Cape Coral FL 33904
Rev. & Mrs. Keith C. Munson (Peggy) 4604 Gail Boulevard	W. Melbourne FL 32904
Mrs. Annette Y. Redman 2910 Edgehill Drive	Alexandria VA 22302
Rev. & Mrs. Todd Taylor (Carolyn) 105 2nd Avenue	St. Petersburg FL 33705
Rev. Carl J. Westman 1925 Central Avenue, Lot 300	Lakeland FL 33803
Rev. & Mrs. Albert F. Ziegler (Eunice) 6344 Skyline Court	Spring Hill FL 34606
Rev. & Mrs. Jack D. Zoerheide (Marie) 1111 S.E. 8th Terrace, Apt. 3-E	Cape Coral FL 33990
Rev. David C. Pohl (UU Assoc.) 25 Beacon Street	Boston MA 02108
Rev. & Mrs. George C. Brooks (Priscilla) 1515 Forrest Nelson Boulevard, 0-207	Port Charlotte FL 33952

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Statement of Income and Expenses for the period of July 1, 1990 to December 31, 1990

	<u>Operating Accounts</u>		<u>Special Amounts</u>	
	Actual	Budget	Conference	Contact
INCOME				
Contributions from Members	3,380.00	5,000.00		
UUMA Grant		200.00		
Interest Income	<u>466.74</u>	<u>800.00</u>		
Total Income	<u>3,846.74</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>		
EXPENSES				
Executive Board	998.32	1,500.00		
Newsletter (ElderBerries)	931.33	1,500.00		
Telephone, Postage and Supplies	426.05	800.00		
Conferences:				
Administration	21.16			
Northeast	<u>697.14</u>	718.30		
Midwest			443.00	
Contact Program				100.32
Council on Church Staff Finances		200.00		
Contingencies	<u>26.01</u>	<u>500.00</u>		
Total Expenses	3,100.01	<u>6,000.00</u>	443.00	100.32
NET INCOME (EXPENSE) for Period	<u>746.73</u>		<u>(443.00)</u>	<u>(100.32)</u>
	<u>3,846.74</u>		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	Operating Account	Conference Account	Contact Account	Total
Balance, July 1, 1990	4,967.08	3,479.15	5,000.00	13,446.23
Add/Subtract Net Income/(Expense)	<u>746.73</u>	<u>(443.00)</u>	<u>(100.32)</u>	<u>203.41</u>
Balance, December 31, 1990	<u>5,713.81</u>	<u>3,036.15</u>	<u>4,899.68</u>	<u>13,649.64</u>
Checking Account (Falmouth National Bank)	4,649.64			
Cert. of Deposit (Falmouth National Bank)				
6/12/91 7.75%	<u>9,000.00</u>			
	<u>13,649.64</u>			
Allocation of Funds remaining in the Special Conference Account:				
Southeast (Florida)	470.72			
Midwest	627.00			
Western	<u>1,938.43</u>			
	<u>3,036.15</u>			

William E. Gardner,
Treasurer

It should be noticed that our organization is almost entirely financed by voluntary contributions, and that as we try to do more things, we need more income. For one thing, this coming year we shall be bringing folks to Board Meetings from other parts of the country, and this, needless to say, will be expensive.

FINANCIAL NOTES

The Rev. David P. Hubner, Director
UU Office of Church Staff Finances
25 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108
(617) 742-2100

The UU Office of Church Staff Finances was established in 1976 to provide personal financial services and guidance to those who serve or have retired from UU congregations or organizations. We offer a whole range of insurance products, provide a contact point for questions about UUA Pension Plan and administer ministerial aid funds including the Doran Fund and Service Gratuity. We want to work with and be of service to you.

There are a couple of matters about personal finances that I thought might be helpful to share with you in this issue of ElderBerries:

Medi-Gap Insurance As you know, having some form of supplementary insurance to go along with Medicare is very important--and has become increasingly so as Medicare benefits have been chipped away.

Medex III The UUA Medicare supplement, Medex III provided by Massachusetts Blue Cross Blue Shield, is an excellent program which we can recommend wholeheartedly. It covers many health care services after Medicare coverage is exhausted and pays most Medicare deductibles and co-payments. It also pays 100% of allowed charges for generic drugs and 80% for brand-name drugs. Monthly rates for 1991 are \$97 per participant, the same as last year.

AARP Plans The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) provides a range of supplementary plans to Medicare at different premium levels. Their top plan is roughly the equivalent of our Medex III. AARP now charges different rates depending on where you live. While we still hope you'll want to stay in the UU plan, if you want to do a little comparison shopping with AARP, their phone number is 1-800-523-5800. Their lowest cost plans don't provide very strong benefits, so don't be too attracted by the apparently low premiums on them.

Insurance Subsidies This is just a reminder that because of some smart and generous people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there are at least limited ministerial aid funds available for medical insurance subsidies (and other needs, see below) through the UUA. If your out-of-pocket medical and medical insurance costs exceed 15% of family income, please so inform us. We may be able to help.

Ministerial Aid Funds Please remember that there are limited but potentially helpful ministerial aid funds available to assist those who serve and have served our UU movement. If you are aware of someone who might need help please let us know.

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

WHY I DON'T APPLAUD IN CHURCH

Ford Lewis

(Editor's Note: Recently, Ford Lewis sent me this article which he had written for a local church publication, and while I think that it is more needed by the Laity than the Clergy, many of us will be glad to hear that someone has said it...My only regret is that I cannot print the whole thing.-A.Q.P.)

Americans lust for entertainment. We are a show-biz society. No other business matches it in effect or appeal. Television, the decisive shaper of culture in our times, is the amplified mutation of the medicine shows of my boyhood, but television penetrates deeper into the American psyche than all the medicine shows, ministerial shows, riverboat productions, chautauquas and lyceums put together. From it we have the laugh track, the legislator earnestly addressing an empty chamber, audience laughter on cue and a Pavlovian penchant for cheering everything from the national anthem to celebrated jumping frogs.

Since the 1960's, we seem to have been bringing these manners to church with us. We bring these responses to weddings and funerals. We may clap for the choir. Let's hear it for announcements! These Ole's no doubt reflect generous impulses. Silence in a religious service, however, unlike a television program, is not an awkward space to be filled with sound, no matter how trivial. On the contrary, in some traditions, silence is preferred to sounding brass and a tinkling symbol. Let quietness prevail until there is something worthy to be heard.

A religious service is not a show biz performance. It is not an entertainment except to a mind stamped out on the television assembly line, hungry for spectacles. It is something to do with discovery. It is a search and sometimes a finding. I go to church to lay open and uncover something hidden. If I find it, I learn that it has been hidden within myself, and that the service has simply been the means of self-discovery. Deep inside the mind there are truths waiting for a readiness on our part to receive them, like the 'Deus absconditus', the hidden God of the mystics, who waits for us to come looking.

Probably the deepest and best truths are private and incommunicable. Whoever gives you his finest judgment is bringing his second best, though it is the best he can disclose. The rest is eternally his. Such truths, it seems to me, do not survive well as vaudeville.

At church I like to be in a contemplative mood, a state of mind completely at odds with the entertainment mode. When an idea I don't want to forget floats to the surface, I jot it down. I pay attention not only to what the minister is saying, but to what life is saying. I take notes not so much on the sermon as on what I am led to think about while listening to the sermon, what I am reminded of by the sermon. I have a quaint notion that somewhere a message may exist that is addressed just to me, something to be whispered in my ear alone. I want to be ready to receive it no matter what else is going on, including the sermon.

As for the sermon, what if we don't like it? Does entertainment protocol require that we register that reaction too? If the anthem falls flat, what do honesty and correct thinking demand of us then? Is the act of worship and our response to it a neglected field for the Gallup Pole or the Nielsen rating service? Those who conduct religious services ought to be free from the prospect of favor or disfavor, free from percentages and averages, and carried along by the demands of their own inner standards. All of us are human enough to want acceptance and approval, clergy included, but your face sends the message of your feelings. Meanwhile, silence itself can be the sound of a great amen.

I have not always been the listener. Sometimes I have been the speaker. If I confess to you my guilty secret, it is the hope that whenever I may be called upon to conduct a service, the effect will be too good to be applauded.

(Editorial Note: Periodically, we invite any of our readers to send a brief review of some book recently read that might be of interest to our membership. We are grateful to Bob Dick for sending us two.-A.Q.P.)

THE CPS STORY: An Illustrated History of Civilian Public Service - Albert N. Keim

Publisher: Good Books, Intercourse, PA 17534 (\$11.95)

A valuable addition and a profound contribution to a little known story - and important aspect of WWII that too few have any awareness of. Keim was too young to be drafted during WWII. When he was drafted in 1955 he worked for two years as a conscientious objector for the Mennonite Central Committee PAX service in Germany. After earning his Ph.D. in history he has taught at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, VA since 1965 in the field of modern American History. An earlier book by the same author was published by Beacon Press - "Compulsory Education and the Amish" in 1975.

Touching briefly on hardships inflicted on CO's in the past, the book states that 72,354 applied for objector status upon registering. Of that number, 25,000 accepted non-combat service in the army, more than 6,000 were imprisoned, and about 12,000 went to CPS to do what was euphemistically called "work of national importance".

Selective Service Director, Lewis B. Hershey, like the CPS Program, especially the fact that the base camps were for the most part what had been former CCC Camps, located in out-of-the-way places. He is quoted as saying, "The C.O., by my theory, is best handled if no one hears of him."

Inasmuch as the religious background of the author is Amish/Mennonite it is to be expected that special attention would be given Church of the Brethren and Mennonite Camps. Chapter 5, entitled, 'Mental Health', does deal with Byberry (Philadelphia State Hospital) where significant advances were made in patient care and cleanliness by members of the unit sponsored by the Friends Service Committee. If the account has a weakness it is in the area of fair and equal treatment of the units sponsored by the Friends.

(I was in three CPS Camps, all under sponsorship of the American Friends: West Compton, NH (#32); Brattleboro, VT (#87); and Rochester, NY (#115-R). I was a guinea pig in a study of typhus control conducted by the Rockefeller Foundation in a sidecamp in NH. Following that study, DDT was sent to Naples, Italy where there was an outbreak of Typhus. At Rochester, NY I was a subject in a variety of experiments at Strong Memorial Hospital in Nutrition, High Altitude and tests designed to determine the ability of the body to endure the rigors of cold and heat.)

This is a worthy book including more than 90 photographs. It concludes with "A Wife's Story" by Rachel S. Fisher; a map of the United States showing the location of CPS Camps, followed by a listing of the names and locations of the 151 camps and a Gallery of Photos showing various aspects of life in CPS Camps.

We lack space for Bob's other review, but it explored "Look What They've Done To My Church" by Leonard Urban, a former Catholic Priest who left the priesthood in order to get married. This, too, is a significant book and we regret not being able to carry the complete review of it.

(We always urge all in our membership to share their readings with their friends by sending an occasional review. A.Q.P.)

NEWS AND NOTES

On Sunday, February 10, the Reverend James K. Allen died of esophageal cancer. He was 82 years old. He had served the First Parish Church in Dorchester, MA since 1954. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Hummer Allen, of 29 High Street, Dorchester, MA 02122. Many, many years ago, when he was serving a Methodist Church in an outlying section of Brockton, MA, Irene and I, Dick Gibbs and his wife and some others met regularly at his parsonage while we supported the F.O.R. and our wives knitted for the boys in the CPS Camps. Whether or not this resulted in his coming into our movement, I do not know, but he certainly became one of our most faithful pastors.

Rev. Ernest H. Sommerfield died on January 5 and is survived by his wife, Ruth Sommerfield of 4607 Harwich Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109. He was an active UU minister from 1945 until his retirement in 1977, when he was named Minister Emeritus of the Harrisburg, PA church.

Both John Brigham and John Cummings sent the following notice and we urge others to follow their example... Reverend Charles Saleska died recently in Davenport, Iowa after a long struggle with cancer. A Memorial Service was held in the Davenport UU church, of which he was Minister Emeritus on February 10. His wife, the Rev. Charlotte Justice Saleska is serving as minister of the Davenport Unitarian Church, and may be reached at 3415 Fernwood Avenue, Davenport, Iowa 52807.

Leonard Helie has sold his home in Wiscasset, ME and moved to Costa Rica where he is writing poetry. (Maybe he will send us some to include in a future issue.)

We are reasonably assured that a UURMA Conference or Convocation will be held in the near future for members on the West Coast. Working on the project are Ted Webb, Roy Ockert, Ford Lewis, Aron Gilmartin and George Whitney, in consultation with Keith Munson of the UURMA Board. The time and place of the gathering has not yet been set, but they are considering many locations, including Hawaii. Hopefully, it will be held between this coming October and March, 1992.

This year, the Report of the Nominating Committee will be mailed separately to all of our members rather than being printed in the Spring ElderBerries. The hope is that this will produce a more general response. Look for it in April and respond promptly that results may be known in May

While noting the approach of our Biennial Elections, your Editor would explain that he urged the Nominating Committee to find a replacement for him. As he tried to explain in a previous issue, he felt that after six years he was sort of monopolizing a position that almost any minister could fill successfully, and that most would enjoy doing. It has been a lot of fun, and he is most appreciative of the many kind and complimentary words that he has received. He will continue as Editor through the summer issue; - so keep sending stories for that by the first of June!!

NEW CONTACT PERSON

When the Perry's moved away from Eastport, and were for a time without a reliable car, there was a need to get a new Contact Person for the Northern and Coastal areas of Maine. Bob Sallies accepted the responsibility, and may be reached at P.O. Box 192, Norway, ME.