

UU ELDER BERRIES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U. RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. V I #4

Albert Q. Perry, Editor

RR-1 Box 45

Spring, 1991
Dexter, Maine 04930

ELECTION RESULTS

Here are the results of the UURMA Officers elected for the Biennium 1991-1993. These new officers will assume their duties on July 1, 1991. Out of a total of 350 ballots sent to UURMA members, 111 were returned with a unanimous vote for the following slate as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Ballots received from 31 of the 50 states, with most coming from Massachusetts (20); next high was California (11); followed by Maine and Florida (8 each); VT (7); NY (6); IL (5); with the other 24 states submitting 1, 2 or 3 ballots each.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1989-91

PRESIDENT

Rev. J. Harold Hadley
35 Pomeroy Court
Amherst, Mass. 01002
Tel. 413/253-3143

VICE PRESIDENT

Rev. Keith C. Munson
9 Island View Avenue
Saco, Maine 04072
Tel. 207/282-2204

SECRETARY

Joyce R. Huff
956 Main Street
Fitchburg, Ma. 01420
Tel. 508/342-5601

TREASURER

Rev. William E. Gardner
77 Sailfish Drive
East Falmouth, Ma. 02536
Tel. 508/540-3862

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10 Mechanic St.
Dexter, Me. 04930
Tel. 207/924-3378

BOARD MEMBERS

Freda M. Carnes
25 Revere Street #2
Boston, Ma. 02114
Tel. 617/723-9822

Rev. Philip R. Giles
27 Herring Run Road
North Harwich, Ma 02645
Tel. 508/432-3068

Margaret H. Johnston
"The Hills"
West Newbury, Vt. 05085
Tel. 802/429-2412

Elected were:

President - Keith Munson
9 Island Avenue
Saco, ME 04072

Vice President - Max Gaebler
1212 Dartmouth Road
Madison, WI 53705

Secretary - Freda Carnes
25 Revere Street, #2
Boston, MA 02114

Treasurer - William Gardner
77 Sailfish Drive
East Falmouth, MA 02536

Members of the Board

John Cummins
4238 Sheridan Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Margaret Johnston
"The Hills"
West Newbury, VT 05085

Philip Giles
27 Herring Run Road
N. Harwick, MA 02645

Newsletter Editor

Gordon McKeeman
24 Lake Forest Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Members of the Committee on Nominations:

Barbara Gudmundson
5505 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Harry Thor
393 West Bunn Hill Road
Vestal, NY 13850

Donald Hinckley, Chairman
26 Old Winthrop Road
Augusta, ME 04330

(Election Results - Continued)

This election marks a significant change in policy in so far as the UURMA is concerned. At the initial gathering and organizational meeting, most of those attending were from the New England area and the first question put to a nominee was: "Can you arrange to attend Board meetings in Boston?" Without any set dues or established level of contribution, it was impossible to estimate what income might be available to work with. However, as our organization has developed, it has been increasingly recognized that we should have better representation of different areas of the country. A year ago, the President attended a conference in the Mid-West and inquired as to the amount of responsibility members from that area might be willing to assume.

The original proposal was to choose all of the officers from the Mid-West, but a more gradual transition seemed advisable. Three or four allowed themselves to be nominated, with the understanding that Board Meetings would be in Boston for another two years, and all that is necessary is sufficient income to pay their expenses. It was also decided to choose a Newsletter Editor from outside of New England, and we are on the way to creating a really nation-wide organization.

"Bob" Dick completed the Nominating Committee Report by noting, "There was one major 'slip-up' for which the Chair of the Nominating Committee must assume full responsibility - opportunity was not provided on the ballot for ALL MEMBERS TO CAST THEIR VOTE. One respondent gently chided the chairman in this fashion: 'Do husband and wife - both members - get one vote or two? Just wondering.' ... Of course, the member was right. The ByLaws prescribe: "All ministers and ministers of religious education in fellowship with the UUA and classified by the Association as retired, and their spouses and the widows and widowers of U.U. ministers, shall be members of this organization unless they shall specifically indicate that they do not want to be members." (Art. III, Membership)

"Bob" concluded: "What can I say after I say "I AM SORRY?"

Actually, your Editor feels that "Bob" was overly hard upon himself. It would have been very difficult to provide ballots for spouses. We get address labels for Retired Ministers from the Department of the Ministry and address labels for Surviving Spouses of deceased ministers from the Treasurer's Office. No one, so far as I know, has a list of addresses for spouses of living ministers. To have to put two ballots in each mailing, with the assumption that only where there was a spouse would the second one be used would violate the usual traditions of elections. Probably no one would have sent back two who was not entitled to do so, but elections are not usually handled in that way.

What should be noticed is that for the first time there was a significant response from the membership for a more representative slate of officers and the Nominating Committee deserves appreciation and praise.

Our newly elected President will have some exciting stories to tell at the conferences and meetings he may attend. Before assuming the responsibilities of his office, he will be sailing across the Atlantic on a four-masted schooner, the first in many, many years to be built and to make the historic voyage.

NEW EDITOR - GORDON B. McKEEMAN

In accordance with the urging of the present Newsletter Editor, the Nominating Committee undertook a search for a successor and is to be greatly praised for their success. It would be hard to name a better qualified person than Gordon McKeeman.

Actually, Gordon began his editing experience in Junior High School, and he has been providing our movement with scholarly leadership ever since. He was a distinguished minister of four of our churches for a total of nearly 40 years. Then, he was appointed President of the Starr King School of the Ministry. He wrote two Devotional Manuals and wrote the Introduction to "A Treatise of Atonement".

"Bucky" (as he is commonly known) is married to Phyllis, has three children and four grandchildren. He and his wife live at 24 Lake Forest Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901.

He is now retired from the Editorship of the newsletter of the Four Seasons Patio House Association, and he notes that his considerable experience in this effort has taught him that getting information and copy is the hardest part of the job. We urge that the membership assist him in this regard.

In thinking about Elderberries, Gordon hopes to make it useful for its readers by means of tips on money-saving news, adding years to life and life to years, as well as notes about colleagues. All are urged to communicate anything that might be included, assured that Gordon has all the necessary wisdom and judgment in making choices.

THANKS!!!!

from the retiring Editor

Almost six years ago, near the end of the Petersham Conference, the need for a Newsletter Editor was mentioned, and my old friend and college roommate, George Marshall, who had put out a mimeographed mailing prior to the conference, suggested my name. I don't think that I was elected, but the newly elected Board of Directors went along with the suggestion and asked me if I could attend occasional Board Meetings in Boston and if I had an available printer. I felt honored to be asked and agreed to do my best, and then went back to the camp where we were living to figure out what our new and somewhat unique organization might need. Actually, I wasn't too worried as I figured that the Department of the Ministry would take care of handling and mailing as had been done with a mailing to retired ministers which was edited by Max Kapp.

After a couple of issues, our Board decided that it did not want our mailing lost in general mailings to the ministry, and my wife and I undertook that part of the Editorship. I recruited a couple of correspondents, with Maurice Cobb being most faithful in providing some personal items. Dorothy Spoerl also assisted and suggested the one sentence book review, and provided a number which were longer. I got a lot of fillers from George Whitney, and tried to get a couple of the major addresses at our conferences. The real need was always for personal items, and I would urge that we all recognize the need to keep the new Editor posted on what is happening to whom in nation-wide family.

Self-evidently, moving around as became necessary as a result of my wife's illnesses and our injuries in an auto accident probably interfered with some things that I should have done, but just about everyone has been appreciative and helpful. Actually, I have received but one critical letter in six years; and I take this as evidence of the kindness of our readers rather than the excellence of our publication.

There have been problems on occasion, and some details were more time-consuming than sometimes seemed necessary, but because of kindness of our members, this has been a very satisfying way of rounding out my career with the movement.

Above all else, I would recognize and express my appreciation of the unfailing support of our President, Harold Hadley. I have a strong personal feeling that it was our great good fortune to have started our unprecedented organization under his leadership. It has been a pleasure to work with all of the Directors, but especially with Harold.

MID-WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

September 20-22, 1991

The Mid-West area UURMA is sponsoring something a little different for their regional conference this coming September. It will be held at the Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago, Illinois. Not only does this make available the rich resources of our oldest, distinctively Unitarian Universalist Theological School, but for some this might be an initial visit to the school. It also provides retirees with the fresh dreams and interests of those just starting out.

On Friday, September 20, the conference will open with Vespers by the students. This will be followed by Wine and Cheese and Conversation with Martin Marty. Dinner will be at the Remarda Inn, and the evening will be completed with a session of "Sharing and Caring".

On Saturday, September 21, the opening session will present Dr. Heije Farber, former I.A.A.F. President and Pioneer in the study of Pastoral Care. His presentation will be followed by Anna L. Brigham who will explore the topic: "American Women on U.S. Stamps". There will be a variety of cultural events, some leisure time and dinner with Dr. Spencer Lavan as the speaker.

On Sunday, September 22, the attendees are invited to the Forum at the First Unitarian Society and then the regular Morning Service. This will be followed by lunch and the closing of the conference.

Although this is planned especially for those in the Mid-West, it is available to all. For full details, write to:

Dru Cummings, Registrar

4238 Sheridan Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55410

NORTHEAST FALL CONFERENCE

October 8-10 Oblate Retreat Center, Hudson, NH

Accepting the nearly unanimous approval of our members as a mandate, the committee has reserved the Oblate Retreat Center in Hudson, NH for this Fall. As customary, we'll gather Tuesday afternoon, with a Fellowship hour at five and conclude with lunch on Thursday.

Your Committee has already signed up some program folk, planned some fun, and other things are cooking. The continuing emphasis will be on a balance of fun and serious considerations, with music and laughter aplenty.

The Committee asks all attending to work on three things: each minister is asked to bring pictures of the churches he/she has served and, if possible, pictures of oneself at the time of serving that church. Also, each spouse and minister is asked to come prepared to share briefly one funny, embarrassing, or touching occasion in the ministry of which one was a part. Finally, all are asked to bring a school picture to be posted, unidentified, for the Guessing Game Contest. (Prize to be announced later.)

All are urged to expand our circle by personally inviting one or several of our number to attend this Fall's gathering. Last year, there were 59, but effort on the part of those who have previously attended can witness to the value and fun of the gathering can result in new folk attending.

REGISTRAR: Vonne Giles, 27 Herring Road, Harwick, MA 02645 (508) 432-3068.

COMMITTEE: Vonne and Phil Giles, Grace Lindquist and Bill Hammond.

U.U.R.M.A. IN REVIEW

At the May meeting of the Board of Directors of the UURMA, the President reported on the past activities which led to the establishment of this organization. He reported that the "Continuing Life of the UU Retired Minister" was the pertinent topic of the Professional Day workshop at the G.A. (Vancouver) in 1983, at which eight UU retired ministers were present and together outlined a three-point proposal for action as follows:

1. Revive the defunct "Elder Churchman" journal under a new name.
2. Organize a U.U. Retired Ministers Association.
3. Hold a Retired Ministers Continental Conference.

The original eight Professional Day workshop participants were, in order of their attendance signatures: Aron Gilmartin, Marjorie Leaming, Harold Hadley, Donald Thompson, Ralph Helverson, John Fisher, John Laws and Horace Westwood.

Following that meeting, a mail survey of UU retired ministers gave substantial approval of the three recommendations. Also a newsletter edited by interim editor, John Morgan of Toronto, was processed and mailed, courtesy of the UUA Department of the Ministry, to all retired ministers and spouses of deceased ministers.

Implementations of the original proposals was not immediately possible, but in 1985 six UU retired ministers (William Gardner, Walter Kring, George Marshall, Arnold Westwood, Horace Westwood and Harold Hadley) met at Senexet House at the invitation of Ron Clark and the council of Church Finances to brainstorm ideas for proposed pre-retirement Ministers Training Workshops in preparation for their retirement.

The concluding day sessions were graciously given over to the concern of the retirees present to discuss and attempt implementation of the long delayed recommendations of the '83 G.A. workshop. The six retired ministers present soon became a steering committee for the purpose of setting up an interim organization and to develop plans, first of all, to call an Area Conference in New England to give a broader base for proceeding with involving and including still others. The hope was that other area groups might be formed and that eventually the 1983 goal of a Continental Conference and a Retired Ministers Association might be realized. (Actually we have gone far beyond the original goals and have a vital national organization and regularly held area conferences.)

Even before we had a UURMA, George Whitney was sharing his thoughts and concerns with just about any of us who might express interest. Along with concerns about society and religion, he has written a lot of poetry, which I have always assumed that I might share with the readers of this newsletter. Recently, he wrote: -

MORNING SONG

These things abide,
sun's glad surprises,
the creaming tide
between the rocks,
the patient eyes
of grazing flocks
upon the hill,
the razor's kiss
upon a foamy chin,
the bell's song on
the distant mill,
coffee's invitation
to break our fast
and jewels within
the morning grass,
our love and invocation
for this welcome day.
These shall not pass away. - GW

The following ministers "Completing Full-Time Ministries" should receive certificates of retirement at the 1991 General Assembly in Hollywood, Florida, at the Sunday, June 22 "Service of the Living Tradition." They will also be invited, following that service, to a UURMA luncheon welcoming the new 1990-91 retirees and their spouses into full UURMA membership.

The MINISTERS COMPLETING FULL-TIME MINISTRIES with their dates of retirement are as follows:

Cornelius J. Bakker	8/31/90
James C. Brewer	8/31/90
Maryell Cleary	8/31/90
Rudolf C. Gelsey	6/30/90
Charles Wesley Grady	9/1/90
Hugo J. Holleroth	1/1/91
William R. Jacobsen	6/30/90
Paul E. Killinger	12/13/90
Bjarne Kjelshus	1/2/91
S. Hunter Leggitt	9/19/90
Robert J. Lewis	3/1/91
Gertrude V. Linder-Stawski	11/19/90
Thomas J. Maloney	2/1/91
Raymond G. Manker	8/31/90
David P. Osborn	8/31/90
Robert E. Payson	2/1/90
Christopher Grist Raible	12/19/90
Floyd H. Ross	1/2/91
Robert S. Slater	6/30/90
Robert W. Sterling	12/19/90
David D. VanStrien	8/1/90
Robert Nelson West	1/8/91
Donald E. White	1/4/91

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Statement of Income and Expenses for ten month period July 1, 1990 to April 30, 1991.

INCOME	Operating Accounts		Special Accounts	
	Actual	Budget	Conference	Contact
Contributions from Members	4,945.00	5,000.00		
UUMA Grant	200.00	200.00		
Interest Income	<u>770.05</u>	<u>800.00</u>		
Total Income	<u>5,915.05</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>		
EXPENSES				
Executive Board	1,421.53	1,500.00		
Newsletter (ElderBerries)	1,712.53	1,500.00		
Telephone, Postage and Supplies	492.47	800.00		
Conferences:				
Administration	21.16			
Northeast	<u>697.14</u>	718.30		
Midwest			443.00	
Contact Program				167.41
Council on Church Staff Finances	200.00	200.00		
Nominating Committee	20.00			
Contingencies	<u>26.01</u>	<u>500.00</u>		
Total Expenses	4,590.84	<u>6,000.00</u>	443.00	167.41
NET INCOME (EXPENSE)	<u>1,324.21</u>		<u>(443.00)</u>	<u>(167.41)</u>
	<u>5,915.05</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>1,324.21</u>	<u>(443.00)</u>	<u>(167.41)</u>	<u>713.80</u>
Balance, April 30, 1991	<u>6,291.29</u>	<u>3,036.15</u>	<u>4,832.59</u>	<u>14,160.03</u>

Checking Account (Falmouth National Bank)	5,160.03
Cert. of Deposit (Falmouth National Bank)	
6/12/91 7.75%	<u>9,000.00</u>
	<u>14,160.03</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

As noted before, the UURMA is entirely dependant upon contributions by the members, but perhaps we should note that with the addition of Board Members from more distant parts of the country, expenses will be greater. We appreciate what people have given, but we might need slightly more if our efforts are to be maintained. A.Q.P.

NEWS AND NOTES

We are still notified occasionally of members who are not on the mailing list, or of folk for whom we have an incorrect address, and who do not receive our mailing. I suppose that this is inevitable, but the Editor is not the one to notify. He mails by means of address labels that he gets from 25 Beacon Street. Retired UU Ministers may check their addresses in the Directory and, if necessary, make a correction by writing the Office of the Treasurer. Surviving spouses should notify the Department of the Ministry if they are not receiving their mailings.

The May meeting of the Executive Board turned into a gala occasion when Freda Carnes arranged a kind of party for those retiring from office: Harold Hadley, Joyce Huff and your Editor. It was quite a surprise and a very pleasant one.

We learned, too late for the previous issue, that Eula (Mrs. Will) Kelley celebrated her 100th birthday on March 28. She lives in Warren, Maine, and the whole town turned out for a celebration at the Oddfellows Hall. We add our belated congratulations!

We make plenty of mistakes, but we made our worst in the past issue when reporting on the Southwest Conference. We mis-read the report of those attending and listed Emily as the wife of Charles Grady. Actually, Emily is the guide dog for Charles' wife of forty-four years, Claudine. We most sincerely apologize!! (Actually, we resisted printing the names of folks attending conferences lest we omit someone or misspell a name; but we never dreamt that we could do anything this bad.)

With regret we note the untimely passing of Reverend Marilyn Magnussen on March 16. She was but 51 years of age. She is survived by her daughter, Juliet Cusick of 37 Greenough Street, Brookline, MA.

With personal sorrow we learn of the death of Reverend Jesse Dom on May 1. Your Editor attended his Installation Service in the All Souls Church of Brooklyn, NY, which brought that historic church back into our combined movement. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Dom of 6993 Blackberry Court, Demotte, Indiana 46310.

On May 3, the Reverend Theodore Jones died at the age of 80. Since receiving Preliminary Fellowship in 1976, he served as Minister Associated with the First Parish Church in Waltham, MA. He is survived by his wife, Natalie Jones of 1010 Waltham Street, Unit F13, Lexington, MA 02173.

We must also note the passing of the Reverend Douglas Frazier whom most of us knew as "Doug" when he was at Ferry Beach and as advisor to the Y.P.C.U. More recently, he served as Superintendent of the California State Convention and, after that, as leader of the American Ethical Union. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Adele Frazier of 31 Vineyard Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960.

One of the pleasures of the editorship of this newsletter is that whenever we mention someone that we have not seen in many, many years, we often get a response. So it was with "Dick" Gibbs with whom I went to college and who was serving the Unitarian Church in Brockton, MA when I was minister of the Brockton Universalists. He reports being reasonably well.