

Unitarian  
Universalist  
Retired  
Ministers  
Association

NOVEMBER 1992

An association of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers, their spouses and surviving spouses of deceased Unitarian Universalist ministers.

VOLUME VIII

# ELDERBERRIES

NO 1

*EXECUTIVE BOARD*

1991 - 93

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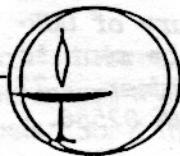
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508/432-3068

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1 Walnut Way  
Springfield, VT 05156  
802/886-8271



*The meek are getting ready!*

Harry Meserve, in his newsletter, "View from the Cove", reports that a friend of his has such a button. It does provoke thought and that, one might suppose, is the purpose of the button. My own favorite at the moment is "Why let reality wreck your day?" It suggests that reality is only one component of the future, and that there is another component -- that which may yet be, the possible. In an important way, that's what the UURMA is exploring -- what is possible in the years at the end of life. It is possible for us to be attentive to one another's needs. That has led us to organize the Caring Network. It is possible for us to explore other activities than the active ministry. That has led us to organize conferences and to publicize what some retirees find into which to pour talent and energy. We call it "life after ministry." We are also concerned that the voice of retirees be heard in the councils of the UUA and UUMA. Of particular concern here are financial security and relationships with the churches (and other organizations) that we have served. There appear to be roles enough to keep a modest organization busy. We welcome your participation in whatever aspects you find meaningful and helpful.

*Gordon B. McKeeman*

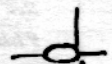



HERE is another first, a photograph of the President of the UURMA caparisoned in the garb of the period of Christopher Columbus. Keith is presently on the high seas portraying Columbus and reading daily from Columbus' log as the full-rigged ship follows Columbus' course to the New World. Peggy is accompanying Keith on this historic voyage. Let it be said that ship on which they are sailing is considerably larger than the Santa Maria. Doubtless, they will have many adventures to describe once they return to the Mainland.


## GRACE NOTES

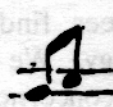
THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE is seeking suggestions for nominees. Suggestions may be sent any member of the Nominating Committee who are:


Don Hinckley, 26 Old Winthrop Rd., Apt. 208, Augusta, ME 04330;  
Barbara Gudmundson, 5505 28th Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55417;  
Harry Thor, 410 Bunn Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850.

ON THE AGENDA of the Executive Board of UURMA is the matter of the name. Some wish to have the name changed to include "mates", "partners" or some other indication that the membership of the organization is inclusive of spouses and widowed partners of UU ministers. 

UUA DIRECTORIES are sent to retired ministers, but not to spouses of deceased ministers. However, directories are available to spouses by request. If you are a widow or widower of a UU minister, you may obtain a UUA Directory without cost or obligation by writing to the Department of Ministry, UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA, 02108. 

SUBMISSIONS for "Elderberries" are most welcome. Kindly send them to the Editor, Gordon McKeeman, 24 Lake Forest Drive, Charlottesville, VA., 22901. The deadline for possible inclusion in the February issue is February 1, 1993. 

THE UURMA BOARD will act on the proposed changes to the By-laws at its January 5-6 meeting in Boston. As of this writing no comments or objections to the proposal has been received. The changes will provide for alternation of terms so that not all Board terms will expire at the same time, and also will limit the number of terms Board members may serve. 

Contributions to the treasury of UUR-MA should be sent to the Treasurer, William Gardner, 77 Sailfish Drive, E. Falmouth, MA 02536. 

## IS THERE LIFE AFTER MINISTRY? (CONTINUED)

In a letter from Dick Henry to the Caring Network Contact Leon Fay. Dick spoke of activities that were commanding his interest and energy. We thought you might enjoy some excerpts:

*Immediately upon retiring I went to Meadville in Chicago to be minister-in-residence for a quarter, then spent seven months as general contractor building this house. A couple years ago I was asked to head a capital funds campaign for the Salt Lake church, which turned out to be very successful. (We raised \$322,000+ when the professional consultant had told us we could make \$250,000.) Following that effort I went to Czechoslovakia to get some of the writings of Norbert Capek translated for an eventual biography which Bill Schulz and I have talked about doing together. I leave this Monday, actually, 13th (April) for a trip to Prague in as many years in connection with this project.*

*The past year, though, I've spent trying to get a program together for shipping books to Czech and Slovak universities, starting with Charles University in Prague. I wrote a proposal and offered it to UUSC, which turned it down last August. Almost simultaneously I discovered an organization called American Czech and Slovak Education Fund whose exec had drawn up a plan almost identical to mine...and got the Mellon Foundation to fund on a pilot basis for \$50,000...In January I convened a meeting in NYC at which we had reps from several educational institutions, a couple foundations, Slavic librarians, and others...as a result of which a quite comprehensive program of supplying books requested by the academics is in place and rolling. It's been fun being part of helping that come together...and I've learned a lot, as well as made some interesting contacts, in the process.*

*Meanwhile, Vaclav Havel's writings have excited me a great deal: I regard him as one of the world's top half-dozen minds with vision adequate to the world's needs.... We would do well to familiarize ourselves with him; he has much to teach us.*

And from a recent Tufts University publication, word of the continuing life of one of our nonagenarians, Elmer Colcord:

*(Grand Marshal) - As a student, The Rev. Elmer Colcord A'17, C'19, worked his way through Tufts, earning 18 cents an hour as a conductor on Boston's electric trolley cars. Now retired from a life in the ministry served in Unitarian Universalist churches in Western Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Cape Cod, Maine and Somerville, he still delivers a message of warmth, enthusiasm and understanding at the annual 'over 55' reunion celebration during Alumni Weekend. A 97-year old youngster-at-heart, Colcord stays pretty busy year-round on his poetry, adding to his rare book collection, and doing household chores. His spirit and vigor are admirable, and his dedication to Tufts is unmatched.*

TWO MATTERS regarding "Elderberries":

Even though we find it hard to imagine, there may be those who wish to be removed from the mailing list. It is simple to do. Simply drop a line to the Editor, 24 Lake Forest Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22901. We have no desire to inflict ourselves on others. Besides, it will save a bit on postage.

We have been making an effort to address "Elderberries" to all the members of UURMA. This means trying to discover the names of spouses, so that we may add them to our mailing labels. So, if the mailing label does not reflect your situation, it is probably because we do not know your partner's name. We would be happy to add it. Let us know.

# OF ONCE AND FUTURE CONFERENCES...

**MID CONTINENT CONFERENCE** - reports from the attendees (17) at the late September conference in Milwaukee were most enthusiastic about the arrangements and the program. Especially appreciated were conversations with Roman Catholic Archbishop Weakland and with former mayor of Milwaukee, Socialist Frank Zeidler. Other program elements were also well received. They included a visit to the Milwaukee Museum of Art and a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan.

ONCE

**NORTHEAST CONFERENCE** - the oldest of the UURMA gatherings, the Northeast Planning group introduced some innovations. Among them were brief worship services at day's beginning and ending, an odyssey (this year's by Eugene and Helen Pickett), a panel of opinions on the UUA's next ten years, and an ingenious community sing. The food at the Oblate Center in Hudson, NH was excellent, but the housing arrangements seemed to discourage some regulars from returning. David Pohl's report on matters of interest and concern from the Department of Ministry played to attentive audience, and there were many questions. Of special concern seemed to be the Service Gratuity payments, the amount of which is declining. David cited two reasons for the decrease: additional numbers of ministers becoming eligible for payments and a decline in interest income from funds held for the purpose of underwriting Service Gratuity payments. There appears to be little likelihood of change in the near future. More likely are further decreases.

ONCE

AGAIN

AND FUTURE

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE** - Several attempts to recruit leadership for the Florida gathering have proven fruitless, so the UURMA Executive Board decided that the projected conference at UU-in-the-Pines should be cancelled. This has been done. Future winter gatherings in the South must await the emergence of energetic leadership.

**PACIFIC COAST CONFERENCE** - dates are March 1-3, 1993 at Malibu. The local planning committee is working diligently on the development of an attractive and stimulating conference. Further information will be forthcoming. Inquiries may be addressed to Ford Lewis, 2248-1 Woodside Lane, Sacramento, CA 95825.

**MID-CONTINENT CONFERENCE** - Dorothy Simonetti, Ruth Langhinrichs and Ruth Cope are the Planning Committee for the conference to be held in Bloomington, IN in late September, 1993.

**NORTHEAST CONFERENCE** - Planning Committee for 1993 meeting includes Marion and Arthur Jellis, Helen and Bob Dick and Gladys Harrison Morrissey. Place: Oblate Center, Hudson, NH, Oct. 5-7. Suggestion should be mailed to the Jellis', P.O.Box 1495, Laurel Lane, New London, NH 03257

# CARING NETWORK CONTACTS

Helen Dick has completed the roster of Caring Network Contact Persons. She is UURMA member in each district responsible for keeping in touch with our members, and giving assistance when necessary. We are printing the entire list in this issue. Keep it for future reference. The listing is alphabetical by district. In most cases phone numbers are also listed for your convenience.

**Ballou-Channing** - Yvonne Giles, 27 Herring Run Rd., North Harwich, MA 02645. 508/432-3068

**Central Mass.** - William Hammond/Grace Lindquist, P.O.Box 932, Littleton, MA 01460. 508/486-3988

**Central Midwest** - Carolyn Gaebler, 1212 Dartmouth Rd., Madison, WI 53705. 608/238-4663.

**Conn, Valley** - J. Harold and Shirley Hadley, 35 Pomeroy Ct., Amherst, MA, 01002. 413/253-3143.

**Florida** - Charles Barber, 30925 Scrub Oak Lane, Eustis, FL 32726. 904/589-9547.

**Joseph Priestley** - Charles Howe, 3909 Commander Dr., Hyattsville, MD, 20782. 301/277-8821.

**Mass. Bay** - Ralph and Wynanda Helverson, 125 Fresh Pond Pkwy., Cambridge, MA 02138. 617/868-6627.

**Metro NY** - Horace Colpitts, 1270 5th Ave., NY, NY 10029. 212/722-1552

**Michigan** - Maryell Cleary, 1183 Arbor Dr., Apt. B, East Lansing, MI 48823

## The Wheel of Life

**William Hutchinson** - June 29, 1992  
surviving - Wife, Elizabeth M. Hutchinson  
Box 217, Bridgton, ME 04009  
a son and a daughter

**Leonard Prater** - July 22, 1992  
surviving - Daughter, Marie Zelinski  
8178 English Elm Circle  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

**John Trantham** - September 17, 1992  
surviving - Wife, Gayle Trantham  
3103 Bowman  
Las Cruces, NM 88005

two daughters and a grandchild

**John Shidara** - September 24, 1992  
surviving, Wife, Tsune Shidara  
14-441 Fukuoka, Akaho  
Komagane, Japan

**David Eaton** - October 21, 1992  
surviving - Wife, Delores Easton  
2039 New Hampshire Ave.,  
Washington, DC 20009  
daughter, two sisters and a brother

**Mid-South** - Albert D'Orlando, 2236 Dublin St., New Orleans, LA, 70118.

**Mountain Desert** - Leon C. Fay, P.O.Box 2835, Corrales, NM 87048. 505/897-3717

**NH/VT** - Robert and Helen Dick, 1 Walnut Way, Springfield, VT 05156. 802/886-8271

**Northeast** - Maurice Cobb, HC 81 Box 1714, W. Newfield, ME 04095. 207/793-4453  
Earle McKinney, P.O.Box 130, Gray, ME 04039. 207/657-2058  
Donald Hinckley, 26 Old Winthrop Rd., Apt. 208, Augusta, ME 04430. 207/622-3911

**Ohio Meadville** - Jesse Cavileer, 1240 Palo Alto St., Pittsburg, PA 15212

**Ohio Valley** - Ruth Cope, 2037 Ridgewood Lane, Madson, IN 47250. 812/273-4586

**Pacific Central** - Aron and Eva Gilmartin, 1759 Crescent Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

**Pacific Northwest** - Felix Lion, 3310 Ocean Boulevard, Victoria, BC Canada V9C 1W6.

**Pacific Southwest** - Raymond and Gretchen Manker, 5430 E. Peppertree Lane, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253. 602/840-8186

**Prairie Star** - John Cummins, 4238 Sheridan Ave., So. Minneapolis, MN 55410. 612/922-2477

**St. Lawrence** - Rudolph and Gertrude Gelsey, 1 Deer Run Gansevoort, NY 12831. 518/584-8982

**Southwest** Doe Lockwood, 1035 E. 37th St., Tulsa, OK 74105. 918/743-2810

**Thomas Jefferson** - Edith Christensen, PO Box 10056, Wilmington, NC 28405. 919/395-0996

**Western Canada** - John Cummins (see Prairie Star)

## LET US GIVE THANKS

...for the bounty of people: for children who are our second planting, and, though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are;

...for generous friends...with hearts...and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

...for feisty friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

...for crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

...for handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and as good for you;

...for funny friends, who are as silly as Brussel sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;

...for friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you throughout the winter;

...for old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the eveningtime, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

...for loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts, and withering;

...and finally, for friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, and who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter, for all these we give thanks.

*Max Coots*

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSN.  
c/o GORDON B. MCKESMAN  
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