

*Unitarian
Universalist
Retired
Ministers
Association*

MAY 1993

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

VOLUME VIII

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1991-93

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ELDERBERRIES

NUMBER 3

TOO MUCH TO EXPECT?

In the last issue of ELDERBERRIES we commented on the "disappearance" of Retired Ministers. Many of us are content to be away from center stage, liberated from the daily demands, the deadlines, the ceaseless ebb and flow of meetings, the nagging consciousness that every seventh day is a Sunday. Being "out of the loop" is fine. Let the succeeding generation take up the burdens and opportunities of religious leadership.

But there is a qualitative feeling difference between being out of the loop and being cast aside. Even if we are not consulted on decisions that affect us, personally, the revelations that the denomination we devoted our lives to serve had misappropriated funds intended for ministerial support and assistance does tend to make us feel invisible.

The "settlement" of the matter did not fully restore the funds thus illegally used, because this would be "too expensive." Now we hear that the U.U.A. concluded its last fiscal year with a \$300,000 surplus. Yet the Service Gratuity declines due to "disappointing investment results." President Schulz says the denomination has never been in better financial condition.

Is it too much to expect that the ministers who have served the Association as religious professionals might be visible enough in their retirement to receive something more than "Sorry" from the U.U.A.?

-- Gordon B. McKeeman



MUNSON'S MUSINGS

Sooner or Later

Perhaps you have noticed that the emphases and concerns of the UURMA Board have been broadening. We continue our sponsorship of regional conferences, Caring Network activities and relationships with the UUMA, UUA, etc. These are vital to the purposes and goals which we hold in common.

Expanding beyond these, we begin to recognize from your letters and conference discussions the responsibility to become advocates for the retired Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Community.

As this dimension expands our agenda, we are involved in deliberations about the UUMA guidelines as they pertain to the retired; the seeming lack of concern by the UUA Board for a responsible service gratuity system; an encouraging and open policy for assistance with part-time ministries.

These and a number of other advocacy matters begin to be the focus of our attention at Board meetings and conferences. Since this appears to be an added dimension of the UURMA's program, we need to consider these issues.

Sooner or later we need to:

- 1 - reconsider our name, so that it reflects our whole constituency, ministers, partners and spouses of deceased ministers;
- 2 - resolve some of the code of ethics issues that are currently under discussion. (The West Coast conference has submitted a proposal regarding our having our own code of ethics);
- 3 - attend to the financial soundness of our organization;
- 4 - establish a workable liaison relationship with the UUMA Executive Board.

Sooner or later?

- Keith C. Munson -

JIM CURTIS REMEMBERED

Mary Rose Curtis (Mrs. James) is planning a 20th Anniversary Memorial Service for Jim on 30 May 1993. She writes, "I would like to invite any of his colleagues who wish to -- to write me their comments or remembrances, and also how much he meant to them as a colleague and personally. I will read them at the 'service'." Her address is Ms. Mary Rose Curtis, 6208 Madawaska Road, Bethesda, MD 20816-3113.

"DISAPPEARANCE"

In response to our comment about the disappearance of retired ministers, Art Hover writes: "The last issue of the Elderberries talked about retired UU ministers who disappeared after retirement. I think in our case we may be peculiar to our setting for retirement--and the building of our own retirement home is keeping us extra busy and out of the mainstream. But I have also been mulling a more general response which seems clear to me why UU ministers might tend to disappear

If UU Ministers are a part of the denominational "in crowd" they probably will remain active on committees and commissions for the UUA or District.... This used to be called "the good old boy network" until the "good old girls" pierced the cloth ceiling. I saw this separation clearly in my four years as part-time District Executive for the Northeast District twenty years ago and I don't see that it has changed that much since then.

Most of us just do the best work we can on the local level--win some, lose some, nothing spectacular. If we have a long final ministry we are required by the demands of the profession and, understandably, for the health of the final congregation to sever all close ties of friendship and caring with dear people left behind. The wisest of us move out of the area last served and that distances us from even our non-parishioner friends and geographically close colleagues.



LIFE AFTER MINISTRY

We have received word of the death of the death of the member of UURMA whom we assume to have been our oldest member, Eula Skinner Kelley. Her obituary was of interest enough to suggest reprinting parts of it:

Port Clyde, ME - Eula Skinner Kelley, 102, the last surviving member of the lighthouse family of Charles and Arville Skinner, died Tuesday (April 20) at a local hospital. The Skinners were keepers of Marshall Point Lighthouse here for more than 44 years.

Mrs. Kelley was a schoolteacher, and taught two terms in the Port Clyde schools from 1912 to 1913, in Livermore Falls and in Waterville for 35 years.

In 1939, she married the Rev. Will A. Kelley, Universalist minister in Oakland, ME. They retired to her home in Warren in 1950. The Rev. Mr. Kelley died shortly thereafter.

She enjoyed collecting buttons, stamps, flowers and friends. An archer, she won many bow competitions in her youth.

For the past two years, she had been living in Port Clyde.

On March 28, her 102nd birthday, Lee and Tom Szelog and the Marshall Point Lighthouse Museum Committee were hosts for a birthday party in the lighthouse where she had lived as a child.

Surviving are two nephews and two nieces.

Quotable quote from On the Pulse of Morning, Maya Angelou's poem written for the 1993 Presidential Inauguration:

History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, and if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.

The fiscal year of the UURMA is July 1-June 30. The UURMA is supported by the voluntary contributions of its members and friends. You will find the address of the Treasurer on the cover page, should you be moved to make a contribution.

Helen Dick received Honorable Mention from the American Mothers Committee, Inc. for an essay she wrote about her father, Rev. Harry Adams Hersey. Entitled "A Nurturing Father Remembered", she expressed appreciation for interests shared: music and bicycling; and that she learned to be "systematic" from him -- EVERY Thursday while she was in college he sent her a "penny post card" and numbered them. She saved them all!

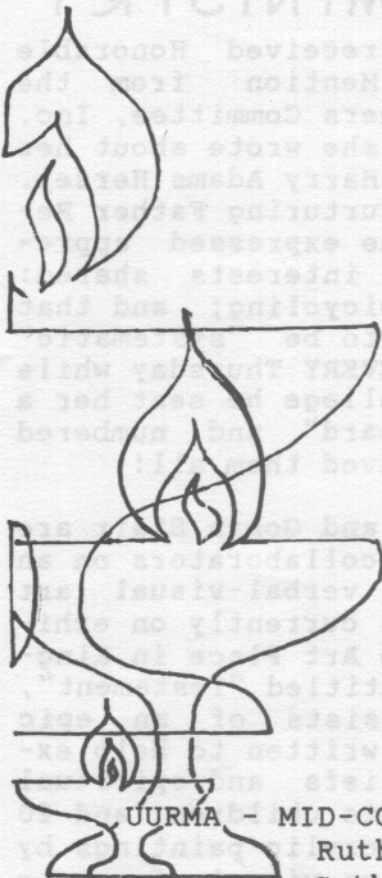
Bob Wolley and Gobin Stair are collaborators on an experimental verbal-visual art form which is currently on exhibition at The Art Place in Kingston, MA. Entitled "Testament", the work consists of an epic poem by Bob, written to help explain his beliefs and spiritual concepts to his children, and 20 large scale acrylic paintings by Gobin that give visual form to the poem's concepts.

Eugene Adams is volunteering his free time to many community services in Medford, MA, including the Medford Public Library's Home Delivery Program. His many community activities were the subject of a feature article in the Middlesex East Supplement to the Daily Times.

Vern Curry has found it necessary to conclude his service as the computer whiz of Elderberries. We thank him for his talented service to us. Anybody else with a similar talent who'd like to try his/her hand at formatting and illustrating Elderberries should contact the Editor for further details.

CONFERENCE ECHOES AND SHOUTS

UURMAPA - WEST -



The 1993 conference was held at the beautiful Marianist Center in Cupertino, a suburb on the west side of San Jose, California. The program was partly an internal do-it-ourself enterprise and partly engagements with challenging speakers. Catching up, treasure sharing, personal theology, roles in church and community, and odyssey sessions gave participants opportunities to explore our beliefs and experiences. Til Evans, now retired after service as a religious education director, Starr King teacher and Acting President, and Lindi Ramsden, minister of the rapidly growing San Jose church, presented vivid and vital discussions on women's ways of thinking and roles in religion and society. Mtangulizi Sanyika who, as Hayward Henry, was leader and chairman of BUUC and the Black Affairs Council, presented an extraordinarily brilliant and persuasive examination of the Black Power controversy and current black concerns.

The 1994 conference will be held at the same site in March. Ray and Gretchen Manker and Al Henriksen will join 5 others of their appointment as the Steering Committee.

UURMA - MID-CONTINENT -

Ruth Cope and Ruth Langhinrichs, co-chairs. Gathering SEPTEMBER 17-19, 1993, Indianapolis, IN, at the Fatima Retreat House. Per Person inclusive fee - \$120.00. (Scholarships available on request.) Details and registration form will be included in the August issue of ELDERBERRIES. Program themes:

The Native Americans "They had what our world has lost - a passion and a reverence for the web of life and the earth...For us, this achievement is still only a long hope..." (John Collier, after many years as U.S. Comm. of Bureau of Indian Affairs.)

Universalism at 200 Celebrate!
Comfortable quarters, great food, museum field trip.....

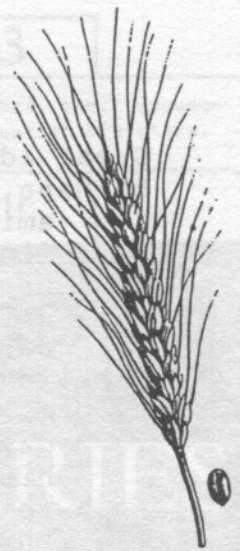
If you can't wait for details, call John Cummins
612/922-2477

UURMA - NORTHEAST -

Arthur and Marion Jellis report for the Steering Committee that the dates will be OCTOBER 5-7, 1993, and the site Oblate Center, Hudson, N.H. Convenient local motel accommodations will be available for any who find the Center facilities uncomfortable or inconvenient. Same good food and meeting space. A stimulating program is promised.



The Wheel of Life



Harriet E. Scott - March 6, 1993
surviving - Daughter, Kathy Brogan
2900 Cranberry Highway
E. Wareham, MA 02538

Hugo Leaming - March 24, 1993
no information concerning survivors

Edwin H. Wilson - March 26, 1993
surviving - two sons

Eula Skinner Kelly - April 20, 1993
obituary on page 3

U.U.R.M.A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVENTS

Friday, June 25 -

WORKSHOP:

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Topic:

Facilitating the Retirement Process

Chair:

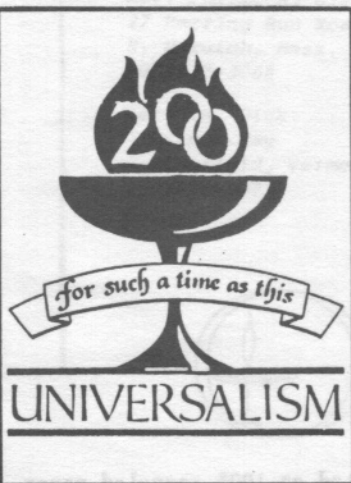
Max Gaebler

Panel Members:

Polly Laughland Guild
Michael Schuler
David Pohl

Location:

Pine Room
Radisson Hotel



June 23 - 28 -

HOSPITALITY SUITE

U. U. R. M. A.

Omni Hotel - ask
Desk for Room #

Hosts & Hostesses:

Keith and Peggy
Munson
Gordon and Phyllis
McKeeman

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Daily

Drop in!

Chat about

U.U.R.M.A. -
Share concerns and
suggestions -

Beverages, munchies.

Sunday, June 25 -

U.U.R.M.A. LUNCHEON

Welcoming the newly
Retired Ministers
and Spouses.

11:30 a.m. immedi-
ately following
the Service of the
Living Tradition.

Pomodore Room
Radisson Hotel

The Luncheon is open
to all U.U.R.M.A.
members. Make res-
ervations with
Rev. William Gardner
77 Sailfish Drive
E. Falmouth MA 02536
508/540-3862

Newly Retired Minis-
ters and Spouses
will be guests of
U.U.R.M.A. at the
luncheon.



GREAT IDEAS

Great ideas ... come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps, then if we listen attentively, we shall hear amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings, the gentle stirring of life and hope.

Some will say that hope lies in a nation; others in a person.

I believe rather that it is awakened, revived, nourished by millions of individuals whose needs and works every day negate frontiers and the crudest implications of history.

As a result, there shines forth fleetingly the ever threatened truth that each and every person, on the foundation of his or her own sufferings and joys, builds for all.

- Albert Camus -

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

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Address Correction Requested

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