

**Unitarian  
Universalist  
Retired  
Ministers  
Association**

May 1994

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

Volume IX

**EXECUTIVE BOARD  
1993-1994**

**PRESIDENT**

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

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Rev. Max D. Gaebler  
1212 Dartmouth Road  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705  
(608) 238-4663

**SECRETARY**

Rev. John Cummins  
4238 Sheridan Avenue, South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410  
(612) 922-2477

**TREASURER**

Iska Cole  
240 Argyle Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116  
(216) 333-2228

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Rev. Gordon B. McKeeman  
24 Lake Forest Drive  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901  
(804) 973-0378

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Helen H. Dick  
1 Walnut Way  
Springfield, Vermont 05156  
(802) 886-8271

Rev. Violet Kochendoerfer  
226 North 60th Avenue, East  
Duluth, Minnesota 55804  
(218) 525-2006

Rev. Raymond R. Nasemann  
1150 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, New York 13224  
(315) 445-0061

# ELDERBERRIES

Number 3

**ON THE INSIDE:**

- - - Munson's Musings	p. 2
- - - Request from Ed Lane	p. 2
- - - Ministerial Relations	p. 3
- - - October N. E. Conference	p. 4
- - - UURMA GA Activities	p. 5
- - - A New Organization: UUUDD	p. 5
- - - It Is Surprising	p. 5
- - - UURMA Author: William D. Hammond	p. 5
- - - UURMA Author: Betty Moulton Lawson	p. 6
- - - The Wheel of Life.	p. 7
- - - Corrections	p. 7
- - - GA Luncheon Reservation	p. 7
- - - Poem - Rollene Wells	p. 8

## MUNSON'S MUSINGS

The harsh winter for those in the northern clime is over and the "voice of the turtle dove is heard in the land." That's good news for so many of us. And there are other salubrious happenings that I would share with you.

First, let me report that our Editor and Board Member is steadily regaining his health. After nearly a year confined to a wheelchair, "Bucky" is making steady progress with a walker. In March, Mayo Clinic gave a different diagnosis and he is home exercising and regaining his strength daily. I need to share this splendid news with you for I know he would not do so himself.

Next, I report that financial contributions are up this year. Treasurer Iska reports an increase over last year of \$1300. We thank you one and all for supporting "your" UURMA. We on the Board promise to use these resources judiciously. Many have expressed appreciation for The Directory, as it has helped to locate dear friends, some in their very neighborhood.

It is delightful to experience the marvelous vitality in so many of our churches. Peggy and I witnessed this in the Florida churches this past winter. From St. Augustine to Naples, from Gainesville to Orlando, there is enthusiasm and spirit that is marvelous to behold.

All four regional conferences were held this year with goodly attendance and interesting programs.

Now we are preparing for the GA in Fort Worth, Texas. We are sponsoring and leading two workshops, will hold the annual Luncheon and Reception for the newly retired and will be involved for the second

## A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ....

Anyone who has done time as a minister has a bagful of stories. And whenever I hear you tell them someone usually says, "Those ought to be published." I intend to do just that on my sabbatical which begins in February.

So send me your funniest church stories. Weddings, funerals and memorial, and kids -- but also ordinary church days -- produce a raft of them. I'll compile and edit them. Tom Funk, who used to do a lot of the little filler cartoons in *The New Yorker* has agreed to illustrate it.

In response to the item in the UUMA newsletter over fifty have been received. But I'd like a lot more to work with. Mail them in now, while you are thinking about it. Otherwise, I'll wind up sitting around and twiddling my thumbs for a sabbatical. Send them to me at home where I'll be doing the work.

Ed Lane  
42 Wareland Road  
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

**DEADLINE**  
for Next Issue  
July 15, 1994

year in the Service of the Living Tradition. I hope to see many of you there.

In closing, I refer to Betty Friedan's new book, *The Fountain of Age*. She writes, "The way you define yourself makes such a difference." As an old friend wrote, "I always thought I would die young, but now it's too late."

Agape,

Keith



## RETIRED MINISTERS AND UUMA GUIDELINES

*There has been considerable discussion (and no little dissatisfaction) about the section of the UUMA Guidelines concerning the relationship of retired ministers and their partners with the active ministers of the churches which they attend. After considerable discussion, the Western Section of the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association adopted the following statement of Guiding Principles as a contribution to the ongoing discussion. It is printed here with the hope that it may elicit comments, suggestions and other contributions, so that a more mutually satisfactory statement regarding this relationship may emerge to be proposed as an amendment to the UUMA Guidelines.*

**Considering that retired ministers and their partners have usually given a large portion of their lives to the furtherance of the principles and ideals of Unitarian Universalism and its institutional growth and well-being, and care deeply for the strength and positive influence on our movement and its active leadership, they should be encouraged to continue in retirement their concerns and involvement in its destiny as in their previous professional life. Each has areas of particular concerns and interests in which they can help further the larger work to which they have dedicated their lives.**

**We declare that retired ministers and partners should seek to cooperate with active ministers and shall not infringe upon the prerogatives of the latter in their churches.**

**The retired minister and settled minister have unique possibilities of encouraging and affirming each other. Mutual respect for personal styles can result in growing self-esteem and sense of direction. We shall actively and sincerely strive to develop a relationship of caring and mutual cooperation with recognized and practicing ministers in all communities in which we may find ourselves.**

**Retired ministers and partners have the opportunity to model the best in lay member participation and involvement with a church. The retired minister and partner welcome being ministered to (in the best sense) by the active minister as any other member. The retired minister and partner have skills and experience that may be wisely utilized by the church.**

## TENTH ANNUAL NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

October 4-6, 1994

LaSalette Center

947 Park Street (Route 118)

Attleboro, Massachusetts 02730

**Theme: "Getting To Know You"**

**Theme Speaker: Dennis M. Garvey**, Director of Adult Health Services for the Falmouth, MA, hospital. He is the founder of the Center for Successful Aging at the Cape Cod Community College. He travels extensively to speak on "Aspects Of Aging" and has produced TV Programs on Channel 5 in the Boston area.

The theme will be emphasized throughout the Conference through panels that provide opportunities for conferees to share thoughts and feelings about their lives as they relate to the ministry.

The Conference will feature David Cole as worship leader and preacher for the Conference service; Farley Wheelwright and Donald Lothrop as leaders of worship services; UUA President John Buehrens as an honored speaker; and President Keith Munson as our Continental leader of UURMA.

The theme will be emphasized by allotting more free time in which conferees may talk to each other individually or in groups.

Several small group meetings on selected topics of special interest will be scheduled. A fellowship hour will be included each day.

**The Cost:** \$93.00 per person. Funds are available for full or partial scholarships as needed. Further information will be in the mail to all area members soon.

**Committee:**

Albert Niles

Belle Niles

Earle McKinney

Dorothy "Pete" McKinney

Maurice Cobb



May 1994

**UURMA Activities . . . .** at the General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, June 23-28, 1994 include two workshops:

**"Speaking From Experience,"** with a panel of retired ministers; and

**"Growing Older in Ministry ... And After,"** with Farley Wheelwright as leader.

Additionally, on June 26, UURMA President Keith Munson will welcome the newly retired ministers as a part of the Service of the Living Tradition. Following the Service, there will be a luncheon (see reservation information on page 7) at about 11:30 a.m. in the Longhorn Room at the Ramada Inn to welcome the newly retired ministers and partners into the UURMA.

Dear Editor:

UUs worldwide are beginning to organize around end-of-life concerns through a brand new UUA organization: *Unitarian Universalists Dedicated to Issues of Dying and Death (UUDDD)*. Anyone interested in further information should contact:

UUDDD

1630 West 33rd Place

Chicago, Illinois 60608-6202

Kyle Nash

Director, UUDDD

IT IS SURPRISING - -

and gratifying to hear from far-flung members.

-- **ORLOFF MILLER** writes from Ludwigshafen, Germany, an "address correction for ELDERBERRIES which I much enjoy."

-- **DAYTON YODER** (Hemet, CA) says, "I am in good health at 88, and with Lucille have just returned from an interesting tour to New Zealand and Australia."

-- **CHARLES EDDIS** writes from Auckland, NZ, "I have read with interest the February issue of *ELDERBERRIES*. I am particularly pleased to get the advance notice of the date of the Northeast Conference in Attleboro, MA. I have put it in my diary."

ANOTHER UURMA AUTHOR is Bill Hammond, whose book, *The Ecology of the Human Spirit*, will soon be published by Rising Press, Minneapolis. The book consists of essays (nee sermons) on what he calls "Reverential Naturalism." These are excellent, thought-provoking sermons/essays that sound like Bill addressing important questions and providing meaningful answers.

## Shelling San Sal An Illustrated Guide to Common Shells of San Salvador Island

by Betty Moulton Lawson

Published by the Bahamian Field Station, San Salvador, Bahamas, December, 1993

I have published my one and only book, a project of several years, which is as exciting as having a baby and better at my age! Having shelled on San Sal as many times as possible in the last 5 years, while teaching at Elderhostels at the field station, I noticed that their publications include many on the flora and fauna of the island (even a book on bats) so I asked why there wasn't one on shells (my avocation for the past 15 years). That's how it all got started and it was my joy and pleasure to research and write it. Although I am not an artist, I hope my illustrations are good enough to help the novice sheller with identification.

The book is a plastic covered soft-back of 71 pages. Two hundred fifteen of the more common species are described with a drawing, Latin and common names, size, color, range and where to find them. The price is \$12.00. This book will be sold only at the Bahamian Field Station, but I will be going there to teach at two Elderhostels in April, and since my first 25 copies are gone, I plan to bring back some more copies. If you would like one write or call me at

675 110th Avenue North  
Naples, Florida 33963  
(813) 598-2464.

Rev. Donald W. Lawson, my wonderful, loving husband for 50 years is now in an Assisted Living Facility because his Alzheimer's progressed to the point that I could no longer care for him at home. It is only three miles from here so I see him often and would be glad to take him any notes or cards you would care to send.

**MID CONTINENT U.U.R.M.A.  
CONFERENCE**

**St. Louis, MO - Sept. 17-19, 1994  
Announced Featured Speaker,  
Eugene McCarthy**



## THE WHEEL OF LIFE

The following deaths have been reported to the Editor.

Regretfully many of the details are lacking.

Caroline MacKinnon - March 1, 1994

Surviving: a daughter, Marilyn, and a son, Kent

Ruth Barker - Age 87

Surviving: a daughter, Esther Whalen, and a son, R. Edgar Barker

### CORRECTIONS:

**You may think that retired folk "settle down." That's because you haven't tried to keep an address list up to date. There are too many changes to print on a quarterly basis. At some undetermined future date we will issue another Directory with up-to-date changes.**

**We apologize for confusing William Gardner (former UURMA Treasurer) and William Gardiner (UUA Social Responsibility Director) and for calling Leroy Congdon, Leroy Compton -- and for any other errors mercifully not called to our attention.**

### U.U.R.M.A.

General Assembly Luncheon  
Ramada Inn -- Longhorn Room  
June 26, 1994  
11:30 a.m.

Dear Iska:

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ places at the UURMA Luncheon for:

---



---



---

Cost \$15.00 each; payable at the luncheon.

**!!! RESERVATION IMPERATIVE !!!**

Send form to be received by June 10 to:

Iska Cole  
240 Argyle Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116  
Telephone: (216) 333-2288 or after 5/27 (207)882-5034

Once upon a time I dreamed a church.  
But we all know what dreaming really is....  
It's fantasy and truth, things we have known,  
And strangers, without purpose to the plot.  
And places both familiar and remote,  
Reminding us of places we don't know  
And, yet, remember -- in the dream, that is.

In my church there were people I loved,  
And strangers that I never saw before,  
All working toward an end yet undefined  
But clear to me in this church dream I had.

I saw the love; it showed up in the eyes  
Of those whose names I grew to know so well.  
But, funny thing, I saw it on the face  
Of someone that I didn't know at all.

Isn't it a strange phenomenon  
That people get together in a church.  
So many of the names I do not know.  
And yet each one is precious to me now.  
This church has made me feel at home with all  
Whose entering makes this a sacred place.

- Rollene S. Wells -

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION**

c/o Gordon B. McKeeman  
24 Lake Forest Drive  
Charlottesville, VA 22901