

**Unitarian
Universalist
Retired
Ministers
Association**

May 1995

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

Volume X

EXECUTIVE BOARD
1994-1995

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

Barbara R. Gudmundson
5505 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
(612) 722-9132

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
16 Bird Street
Foxboro, Massachusetts 02035
(508) 543-8656

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
My, How You've Changed! Name Change?	p. 3 p. 3
Nominating Committee Potpourri	p. 4 p. 4
Kenneth Patton Anthology Blacksburg, VA Part-time Ministry Unitarian Church - Adelaide, Australia Happy 100th Birthday!	
UURMA Conference	p. 5
Wheel of Life	p. 6
Caring Network News UURMA at the GA	p. 7 p. 7
Ministry is	p. 8

MUNSON'S MUSINGS . . .

This is the last issue of *ELDERBERRIES* in which I will share some of my thoughts with you as President. With the By-Law change creating rotating offices and a four year term limit, some new officers will be elected this Spring as a few of us retire from the Board.

These past eight years, and in particular the last four as President have been one of the highlights of my ministry. I entered Crane Theological School at Tufts College (now University) in the Fall of 1949 and from ordination until retirement in 1985 I served a half dozen or so churches. During that forty years there were many exciting and gratifying experiences. None overshadowed the excitement of being a part of the formation and early development of the UU Retired Ministers and Spouses Association.

David Hubner once observed that, before the founding of the UURMA, when a minister retired it was often as if he or she had disappeared from the face of the earth. Now a healthy level of recognition, concern and celebration happens.

During these developing years of the UURMA, since the Petersham Convocation in 1985, numerous programs and activities have come to fruition. We sponsor four regional conferences which many are able to attend. The Caring Network attempts to make at least two contacts a year with each member, coordinating these efforts with the District Executive.

ELDERBERRIES, published and mailed to 500 plus members, disseminates information and inspiration. We are now visible at GA. We maintain liaison and cooperative relationship with the UUMA. We have recently revised, printed and mailed the Directory thereby helping the UUA update its records as well as assisting our members in locating colleagues of long standing and ascertaining the whereabouts of many surviving spouses. We acknowledge and congratulate the newly retired and honor the deceased. We have a voting seat on the Council of Church Staff Finances and continually remind the powers-that-be of the need to provide more adequate financial support for some of our brothers and sisters in retirement.

We are in dialogue and correspondence with The Guidelines Committee and the Executive Board of the UUMA, searching for ways to improve the inadequate, infelicitous and in some instances unfortunate wording of the *Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines* as they pertain to the responsibilities, rights and privileges of our members.

So I thank you for this distinctive opportunity to play a part in the creation and development of the UURMA. Your personal and financial support has made these dreams come true and promises to guide the UURMA into new areas of service and mutual support in the years ahead.

Agapè

Keith

MY, HOW YOU'VE CHANGED!

It is becoming more and more apparent that the assumptions underlying the ministry have changed substantially over the years. Awareness of these changes surface sometimes in the minds and hearts of those who have been in the ministry for many years.

We have witnessed a shift from ministry as "calling" to ministry as "profession." Negotiating contracts, having sabbatical leaves, specifying in writing duties and privileges are procedures that are unfamiliar to those who began their ministries a generation or two ago. Sometimes they reflect an assumption of the church as untrustworthy adversary.

We have witnessed the proliferation of special interest groups to promote fragmenting causes. We thought that community building across boundaries of difference was a large part of ministry. Now we see much emphasis on encouraging and promoting diversity. We wonder how these fit together. We hear much about the accumulation and use of power, with its emphasis on winning and getting one's way. We wonder if this might not prove divisive and even destructive of a "community of memory and hope."

Even though reconciliation and wholeness are considered hallmarks of religious living, we hear much about taking political action, supportive of "friends," destructive of "enemies."

We have lived through many fads, group processes, organizational development, personality typing and a variety of liberations and struggles for power. Does it appear that ministry is more effective, more empowering, more liberating than it was two generations ago? Do people leave the church service feeling stronger, more hopeful, more generous of heart and mind, more faithful than they felt when they came?

We do it differently now. But is it better, or just different? Does it produce more largeness of spirit, more wholesomeness of soul? Or have we simply caught the diseases of our culture?

-gbm-

NAME CHANGE -

"What's in a name?" asked William Shakespeare. Some UURMA members continue to ask "What's not in a name?", pointing out that spouses/partners and surviving spouses/partners are full-fledged members of our organization and that the name ought to reflect and embrace all its members.

The Board earnestly solicits your expression of preference on this matter by means of a Referendum Form enclosed with the election ballot, which is being sent to you soon. Kindly return it with the election ballot to

Rev. Theodore Webb
2212 Ralston Road
Sacramento, CA 95821.

DEADLINE
AUGUST 1995 ELDERBERRIES
JULY 15, 1995

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

REPORT

The Nominating Committee of the UURMA has submitted its report. Ballots will be sent to you directly by the Nominating Committee.

Executive Board:

President:

Vice President:

Board Members:

Nominating Committee:

Max Gaebler

William DeWolfe

Virginia Crane

Farley Wheelwright

Alfred Henriksen

POTPOURRI . . .

REV. MARYELL CLEARY, a long-time, close friend of the late Kenneth Patton, is endeavoring to gather for publication by Beacon Press an anthology of his work, some of which has hitherto appeared only in periodicals. She is requesting some assistance in persuading Beacon Press of the importance of such a publication. She would be delighted to hear from any who would support this project by suggesting particular inclusions or by writing to Beacon Press in advocacy of it. Her address is

1183 Arbor Drive, Apt D
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the **New River Valley, Blacksburg, VA**, is seeking the part-time services of a minister. Rudi Gelsey has done a three month visiting minister stint there. The congregation has elected a Search Committee. Morton Nadler, Convener, is the person to contact for further information. Blacksburg is in southwestern Virginia, the home of Virginia Tech. Mr. Nadler may be reached at

414 Stonegate Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060-3244

The Unitarian Church in **ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA**, is seeking UU Ministerial assistance. It provides a comfortable house, car, and a \$750 allowance to help with travel. For more information, call Rev. Diane Miller at the UUA. For more detailed information about the church, Adelaide, etc., call Polly Guild at (617) 893-1058.

Elizabeth Steeves, widow of Earle and mother of Bertram and Addison, will observe her 100th BIRTHDAY on May 30. Her address
19 South Street
Washingtonville, New York 10992

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE - JULY 16

If Spring is here, can Fall be far behind?

THINK AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND!

Plan now to join us for the
UURMA NORTHEAST CONFERENCE 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 3, 4, 5, 1995

LaSalette Conference Center
Attleboro, Massachusetts

Feature presentation by Rev. David E. Bumbaugh of Summit, NJ, addressing
"THE HEART OF OUR FAITH"

An evening of
"Kiwis, Kangaroos, Koalas and Klicks"
with Nancy and Charles Eddis

Registration, Room and Board: \$100

Details of the program will be mailed directly to Northeast UURMA folks soon. Others may contact any member of the Planning Committee:

Bill and Barbara DeWolfe, 75 Tioga Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01128

Charles and Nancy Eddis, 463 Lansdowne Avenue, Westmount, QC, H3Y 2V4 Canada

Alan Deale and Kathleen Hunter, 9 Old Chester Road, Box 10, East Derry, New Hampshire 03041

MID-CONTINENT UURMA CONFERENCE - SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 1995 MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Accommodations:

Hampton Inn - Free Shuttle from the airport; Free continental breakfast; pool.

Meetings:

First Universalist Church. Saturday speakers to be announced.

Saturday evening:

Drama - *The Big White Fog* - which follows the individually purchased gourmet buffet dinner at the Guthrie Theater.

The Cost: approximately \$120 per person which includes two nights at the hotel, program and drama.

Planning Committee Chairs:

Jon and Dru Cummins
4238 Sheridan Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410
(612) 922-2477

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

DONALD L. WASSMAN - NOVEMBER 9, 1994

Surviving: Wife Katherine B. Wassman
5822 Wyndham Circle
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Daughters Bonnie and Leslie
Son Bobby

HAROLD R. DEAN - JANUARY 22, 1995

Surviving: Children David; Manila, Rhode Island
Deborah; Roslindale, Massachusetts
Elizabeth D. Stenhouse;
Holmdel Township, New Jersey

CATHERINE (KAY) HOFFMAN - FEBRUARY 23, 1995

Surviving: Husband Clifton Hoffman
321 Milledge Heights
Athens, Georgia 30601

Children Charles; Hondo, Texas
Frances; Summit, New Jersey
John; Athens, Georgia

G. PETER FLECK - FEBRUARY 25, 1995

Surviving: Wife Ruth M. Fleck
South Orleans, Massachusetts

Children Ann Fleck Henderson; Cambridge, MA
Andrea Fleck Clardy; Ithaca, New York
Marjorie Fleck Withers; Woodland, ME

CARL H. VOSS - MARCH 14, 1995

Surviving: Wife Dr. Phyllis G. Voss
7783 Port Vicente Court
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

DONALD MARSHALL - APRIL 30, 1995

Surviving: Wife Carolyn Marshall
1923 Park Forest Drive
State College, Pennsylvania 16803

Children Morgan; Carson City, Nevada
Sarah; Santa Rosa, California
Michelle Tuttle; Green Belt, Maryland
Mark; Rhode Island
Chris; Rhode Island

CALLA BUTLER BURHOE -

No other information available

CARING NETWORK NEWS

--Three Districts now have newly appointed contact persons:

- Florida Ms. Mabel Harkins
Box 337, DeLeon Springs, Florida 32130-0337
- New Hampshire Alan Deale and Kathleen Hunter
9 Old Chester Road, Box 10
East Derry, New Hampshire 03041
- Ohio Valley Robert Reed
750 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

--Special **THANKS** to Charles Barber and Marion and Arthur Jellis who were the former contact persons for Florida and NH/VT respectively.

U.U.R.M.A. AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sunday, June 18:

- 9:30 am The Service of the Living Tradition
Max Gaebler will welcome the newly retired ministers on behalf of the UURMA
- 12:00 noon UURMA Luncheon at Rock City Cucina Italiano
with newly retired ministers and partners as guests
Registration Form below: Deadline - June 1, 1995

Saturday, June 17:

- 4:30 pm Workshop
"Helping Your Minister Plan for Retirement"
Moderator: Rev. Ray Nasemann Presenter: Rev William A. DeWolfe

Wednesday, June 14:

- 1:30 pm Workshop
"How Retired Ministers Can Participate Appropriately in a Local Church"
Moderator: Rev. Dr. Gordon McKeeman Presenters: Pending

REGISTRATION--UURMA GA LUNCHEON--Sunday, June 18, 1995

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

- Menu Choices: Spaghetti with Italian Sausage _____
- Thai Chicken Pasta _____
- Meat Lasagna _____
- Vegetarian Lasagna _____

(Meal includes salad, bread, beverage) \$14.00/person, payable on site

Send REGISTRATION to:

Rev. Albert D'Orlando
3630 White Oak Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70131

Ministry is all that we do -- together.

Ministry is that quality of being in community that affirms human dignity -- beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships, and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.

Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit.
Miracles of birth and life.
Wonders of devotion and sacrifice.

Ministry is what we do together -- with one another --
in terror and torment - in grief, in misery and pain,
enabling us in the presence of death to say yes to life.

We who minister speak and live the best we know with
full knowledge that it is never quite enough.
And yet are reassured by lostness found, fragments united,
wounds healed and joys shared.

Ministry is what we all do -- together.

- Gordon B. McKeeman

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

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