

**Unitarian
Universalist
Retired
Ministers
Association**

February 1995

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

Volume X

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1994-1995

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ELDERBERRIES

Number 2

ON THE INSIDE

Munson's Musings	p. 2
In Appreciation of J. Harold Hadley	p. 2
Nominations Requested	p. 2
How to make Elderberry Jam or Jelly	p. 3
Southeast UURMA Conference	p. 4
Service Gratuity Items	p. 5
Pacific Coast UURMAPA Retreat	p. 6
Response to Suggested Amendments to UUMA Code of Professional Practice and Guidelines	p. 6
The Wheel of Life.	p. 7
Caring Network News	p. 7
Thoughts to Ponder	p. 8

MUNSON'S MUSINGS ----

Retirement can be a fearful prospect as one approaches three score years plus five. Some have been heard to say, "I'll never retire as long as I can mount the pulpits and pontificate with the aid of a PA system. Then there are those who can't wait, hoping that their savings will meet the ever increasing cost of living, that Social Security will not be cut, even though the Service Gratuity from the UUA keeps spiraling down.

Another approach is to realize the many opportunities and salubrious changes that can come from silencing the bell, closing the book and extinguishing the candle. I have heard some very inspiring and creative sermons during the past ten years and have occasionally remarked to myself and the preacher, "I wish I had said that." And I probably will for there are opportunities to "hold forth." Peggy and I are on St. Croix for two months this winter, preaching and leading discussion groups here and alternatively on St. John/St. Thomas.

Another dimension that changes with retirement is reading emphasis. Before, I always read, listened and watched with a constant thought of gleaning sermon material. Now there's time to read just for pleasure. This winter it's James Herriot, Tim Severin, Michener, Lionel Casson. You choose your long neglected authors.

So it is in many other facets of life. In retirement, one can hold on to many of the positive aspects of ministry while reviving and cultivating dimensions postponed.

May you, in this last half of the last decade in this century, experience interests, activities, and endeavors too long postponed, as long as it's not bungee-jumping off the Golden Gate.

Keith

IN APPRECIATION --

J. HAROLD HADLEY

The death of the first President of the UURMA reminds us of how rich a legacy Harold Hadley has left us. He seemed indefatigable in his efforts to create this organization, dogged in his insistence that it had an important role to play in the Unitarian Universalist world and in the lives of its members, effective in enlisting others and marshalling resources to insure its continuation and an enthusiastic participant in its activities.

A proud native of Alaska and beloved pastor to the people of the churches he served, his life for us is a reminder of how much can be accomplished by gentle perseverance, and an abundance of faith in human possibilities. We are grateful to have known him as a colleague, as mentor, and friend.

We continue to cherish the presence and participation of his longtime faithful and talented partner, Shirley.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is still open (until March 1, 1995) to receiving nominations for the following UURMA offices for two year terms:

President
Board Member
Board Member
Nominating Committee Member

Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Nominating Committee:

Rev. Theodore Webb
2212 Ralston Road
Sacramento, California 95821

DEADLINE
for the
MAY 1995
ELDERBERRIES
is

APRIL 15, 1995
Send items to the Editor
Gordon McKeeman
24 Lake Forest Drive
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

HOW TO MAKE ELDERBERRY JAM OR JELLY

The elderberry (*sambucus canadensis*) is a member of the honeysuckle family, though it grows on a bush rather than as a vine. It is tall, usually 15 to 20 feet with some varieties growing as high as 50 feet. The berries are excellent sources for wine and pie filling as well as for jelly and jam.

The first step is to locate elderberry bushes. This requires a scouting trip early in the growing season, so crop progress can be monitored and the berries picked at their peak. A drive in the country with a special look out for old, infrequently used railroad tracks is the strategy to use. If the bushes are on private property, you may have to get permission to pick, but along the railroad right of way, the picking is usually first-come first-served. Elderberry bushes can most easily be identified when they are in bloom. The blossoms look like large Queen Anne's lace blossoms. The fruit is small, deep purple-red berries on a sort of "umbrella-shaped" stem. Harvest by cutting the entire stem complex. Berries will be removed from the stems later.

Wash the berry clusters in cool water and let drain. Remove the berries from the cluster stems. You will have purple fingers for several weeks after finishing this task..

If you are making jam, measure the fruit at this point. Put the berries in an enamel or stainless steel pot. Crush the first layer of berries to provide moisture until more is drawn in the cooking. Slowly bring the pot to a boil, adding water, not more than 1/2 cup, only if absolutely necessary to keep the berries from burning or sticking. Simmer the fruit until it is quite soft. Add three cups of warm sugar for every four cups of fruit. Simmer the fruit and sugar until a small amount dropped on a plate will stay in place. Pack into hot sterilized jelly jars. Seal with paraffin and cover.

If you are making jelly, strain the cooked fruit through a cloth. Measure the amount of juice and add three cups of warm sugar for every four cups of juice. Cook juice and sugar until the jelly "sheets" from a spoon. To determine this, dip up a small amount of jelly and let it cook slightly. Pour the jelly slowly from the side of the spoon. In the beginning, the jelly will drop in two drops from the side of the spoon. As it reaches the "jelly" stage, the two drops will come together and form a "sheet." When the "sheeting" stage is reached, pour the jelly into hot, sterilized jars. Seal with paraffin and cover.

As an additional note on the value and importance of elderberries, I should say that elderberry wine warmed and taken at bedtime is better than any modern sleeping tablet. As a testimony to its effectiveness, let me remind you that the dear old aunts in *Arsenic and Old Lace* used elderberry wine (liberally laced with arsenic) to put their "guests" to sleep permanently.

- Dorothy Boroush

(..... and thanks, Al Niles, for the "Smuckers Elderberry Jam" for each of us at the NE Conference!)

DEADLINE
MAY 1995 ELDERBERRIES
APRIL 15, 1995

SOUTHEAST UURMA CONFERENCE

March 3-5, 1995 St. Augustine, Florida

PROGRAM:

- Friday, 3/3 at the Ramada Inn Oceanfront
- 6:30 p.m. - Optional dinner at a nearby restaurant
- 7:30 p.m. - (at the Ramada) Check-In ...
("Where ya' been? What ya' doin'?)
- 9:00 p.m. - Socializing - Snacks
- Saturday, 3/ 4 at the UU Fellowship, 2487 State Road 3, St. Augustine
- 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. - Rev Dr. Kenneth T. MacLean, UUA International
Programs
- 12:00 noon - Luncheon
- 1:15 p.m. - Dr. Patricia Griffin, Professor of Anthropology,
speaking on the History of St. Augustine
- 2:45 p.m. - Tour of St. Augustine
- Evening - Optional (extra cost)
dinner arrangements "on your own"
- Sunday, 3/5 - Breakfast on your own (There is a continental breakfast for
Ramada guests)
- 11:00 a.m. - Service at UU Fellowship, St. Augustine
Rev. Dr. Max Gaebler, speaker
- Light lunch following the morning service

- ACCOMMODATIONS:** - The Ramada Inn Oceanfront
594 A1A Beach Boulevard
St. Augustine Beach
(904) 471-1440

DIRECTIONS:

From the North: Exit I-95 South at Rt.16 East; follow signs "To the Beach"; continue on US 1 South; turn left on RT.312 (Pizza Hut). Over the bridge, Rt.312 becomes A1A. Continue South past Holiday Inn; Ramada is three properties down the same side.

From the South: From I-95 North to US1, exit 92; bear right. Continue North on Rt.1; at first traffic light, turn right on Rt.206; go to end of A1A; turn left and proceed North beyond Publix Market; note Comfort Inn; Ramada Inn is directly opposite.

- REGISTRAR:** Rev. Albert D'Orlando
3630 White Oak Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana 70131
or call (504) 394-7009

Registration DEADLINE is February 23

Use the form on the next page to reserve at the Ramada and to register for the Conference.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE:

\$115.00 per person covers

Room for two nights at the Ramada (double occupancy -- add \$60.00 for single occupancy)
Meals (except Friday and Saturday dinners), Tour of St. Augustine and all program expenses

UURMA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE March 3-5, 1995

St. Augustine, Florida

Please register me/us. Enclosed is \$_____ for room/meals/program
(Refundable in emergency)

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Special Needs _____

SERVICE GRATUITY ITEMS

FROM KENNETH HAWKES:

I enclose copies of pages 114 and 115 of The Report of the Organization Meeting of the UUA in Boston, May 11-13, 1961, regarding the Service Pension Plan which comprises the essence of what I had taken for granted since I served on the Board of Trustees of the Universalist Church of America at the time just prior to consolidation: "...it is recommended that: 1.) No minister now on either the Unitarian or the Universalist Pension List or who might qualify for a Service Pension (now Service Gratuity) during the next twenty years should receive less than he would have received in pension if the consolidation had not occurred."

COMMENT BY GORDON MCKEEMAN:

The Ministerial Aid Funds Committee is currently struggling with a plethora of information and a paucity of resources regarding the Service Gratuity Program. What was a Service Pension program has now become a "Gratuity" and a declining one at that. The UUA seems to consider its role to be the investment of designated funds and distribution of the income therefrom.

The increase in the number of recipients, we are told, makes a decrease in the amount given to recipients "inevitable;" as though it were not the result of decisions not to augment the Fund itself or its income. This is current practice. It may seem a desirable practice; but it is hardly inevitable.

The upcoming "Miracle Sunday" for support of the UU ministry contains no provision for the sustaining of the Service Gratuity. Sadly, the good intentions and declarations of the past seem to have been forgotten or ignored. The Ministerial Aid Funds Committee is now seeking suggestions. Let it hear from you.

PACIFIC COAST UURMAPA RETREAT

March 20-23, 1995 Marianist Center, Cupertino, California

PROGRAM

Two will share their life journeys - A look at the Book of J - How women are changing the UUA - What to do with personal papers on retirement - The art and religion of the Marianist Center - and **more** for renewal of mind and heart, soul and body in a comfortable setting.

COST

\$210 for three overnights and all meals, pool, jacuzzi, tennis, program and travel subsidies.

REGISTRAR

Virginia Stephens
1051 Haviland Terrace
Seaside, California 94555
(408) 394-0771

PLANNING CHAIR

Felix D. Lion
3310 Ocean Boulevard
Victoria, British Columbia V9C 1W6
Canada
(604) 478-3752

REACTIONS to the PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to the UUMA CODE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE and the GUIDELINES of the UUMA

Jefferson Selth: "I have just one thought to add to those embodied in the insertion, since the first and third proposals on the second page may not go far enough. I suggest that the phrases "supportive of the incumbent" and "avoid public or private criticism" should yield priority to the sentence already in the *Code*: in any private conversation critical of a colleague, I will speak responsibly and temperately."

"Pete" Peterson expressed mixed feelings about the proposals, endorsing some and rejecting others. He did propose an addition to the paragraph suggesting means for resolving conflicts between the incumbent minister and an emeritus/a minister: "Should the problems remain irreconcilable, the Emeritus/a minister should sever all ties to the church."

David Van Strien: "I think whoever created (the UURMA proposed amendments) did their job well. There is nothing there that I would take exception to that I can think of at this time."

NOTE

More comments are encouraged prior to the UURMA Board Meeting in April

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

EDITH VESSEY

- **July 24, 1994**

at Wesley Palm Retirement Home, San Diego, California

J. HAROLD HADLEY

- **November 10, 1994**

Surviving: wife Shirley Hadley
464 Main Street, Apartment 208
Port Washington, New York 11050
son J. Ronald, Seacliff, New York
daughter Martha, Brooklyn, New York

James L. Stoll

- **December 8, 1994**

Surviving: sister Jean S.F. Ehinger, Green Valley, Arizona
brother Fred Stoll, Green Valley, Arizona
son David, Hilton, New York

Kenneth Patton

- **December 25, 1994**

Surviving: daughter Clarice
sons Reuben, Jonathan, Michael,
Max, Dag, Channing

Leonard H. Mason

- **December 26, 1994**

Surviving: wife Joan Mary Mason
521-32 Clarissa Drive
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 9R7
Canada
sons Roger, Hughe, Philip

CARING NETWORK

A BIG THANK YOU to Charles Howe and Leon Fay who have been attentive contact persons in Joseph Priestley (Southern Section) and Mountain Desert Districts respectively. It is a pleasure to announce that replacements are:

Muriel Davies (JP Southern Section)
25 Observation Court
Germantown, Maryland 20876-6416

Walter Royal Jones (MD)
2004 Valley Forge Avenue
Fort Collins, Colorado 80526-1651
(303) 493-6548

Still needed is a contact person to cover Ohio Valley.

Happy New Year

Helen Dick
[16 Bird Street, Foxboro, Massachusetts 12035 (508) 543-8656]

THOUGHTS TO PONDER - -**THE YEARS COME AND GO
OF GROWTH AND FAITH**

" ... We are much clearer about our desire to attract more people than we are about what it is we want to attract them to. In short, it is easier to embrace diversity as a goal than to define what we are and what we are about. We are busy trying to craft a message which will attract and hold an audience, and paying little attention to the message we are called to proclaim by our traditions, by our values, by the directive in our own history and by the times in which we live"

David Bumbaugh
Minister Unitarian Church
Summit, NJ

INAUGURATION STORY about Mayor Marion Barry

" ... sometimes belief in the improbable is the only rational option."

Joel Achenbach
Washington Post

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

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