

**Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers
and Partners
Association**

May 1996

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

Volume X1

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ELDERBERRIES

Number 3

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M AX EDIA

When I retired, in the summer of 1987, I had the good fortune to go as Interim Minister for a year to the Unitarian Church in Adelaide, South Australia. This year, Carolyn and I made a return visit. Our ten weeks flashed by all too quickly, but we are still aglow with the rich satisfaction of seeing old friends again. As is so often the case, it was almost as if there had been no interval; we picked up right where we had left off.

At our age there is little realistic chance that we shall pass that way again, though we surely hope to see some of our dear Australian friends here in North America. As we were leaving from the Adelaide airport, one of the little group who had come down to see us off - a remarkable man who is several years older than I and still crosses the Pacific to go skiing in Utah - said, "Who knows whether we shall see each other again? But whether we do or not, the time we have been together cannot be taken away. It will always remain as a source of great pleasure, and I shall always be grateful for it."

This simple but profound wisdom means more and more as one grows older - as I am sure readers of *Elderberries* will appreciate. I speak of it here because it suggests what, for me, is the major source of the richness I have found in our own organization. I am more grateful than I can well say for the friendships, the associations, the memories with which every one of our conferences, our Board meetings and our sharing in the pages of this publication is replete. May it be so for each and every one of you.

Max

UUA

General

Assembly

Indianapolis, Indiana
June 20-25, 1996

Of special interest to UURMAPA is the ANNUAL LUNCHEON honoring the newly retired ministers and their partners. This year's luncheon will be held in WESTIN CAPITOL III at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, June 23, 1996, immediately following the Service of the Living Tradition.

The cost for non-guests is \$19.00, tax and gratuity included. The menu will be chicken or vegetarian (your choice). Last year's luncheon was somewhat discommoded because it was not clear that advance registration was required. If you plan to attend the UURMAPA luncheon, kindly send your reservations with check payable to:

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

The UURMAPA will try to make arrangements for inexpensive housing facilities for the 1997 General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. Attendance at General Assembly is now precluded to many of our members because of its cost, and we hope that the reduced registration fees, and less costly accommodations might encourage more participation from the retired.

DEADLINE
for the next
ELDERBERRIES
July 15, 1996

MONEY MATTERS

The results of a survey of our retired ministers and surviving partners have been announced. Responses were received from over 150 from the 500+ sent out. Important statistics gleaned from the responses:

1. Surviving partners have fewer resources and less annual income than retired ministers.
2. 53% of surviving partners and 25% of retired ministers have less than \$100,000 in capital available to them.
3. 78% of surviving partners and 57% of retired ministers have no UUA pension.
4. 46% of surviving partners and 26% of retired ministers have no equity in their own home.
5. 41% of surviving partners and 26% of retired ministers report expenses in excess of income.
6. Only 34% of surviving partners and only 13% of retired ministers receive Aid Funds from the UUA.
7. Only 78% of surviving partners receive Social Security benefits while more than 97% of retired ministers receive Social Security.
8. Those who have been retired longer tend to have less income than more recent retirees.

The Ministerial Aid Funds are many and varied in the conditions specified for their use. Often, when particular needs arise it does not occur to a minister or surviving partner to inquire whether or not income from one or another of the funds might meet the need. Hearing aid purchases, dental care (including dentures), attendance at conferences, and other life-quality enhancers are possibly eligible for one-time grants. In addition, there are a number of non-UUA organizations that do make gifts to Unitarian Universalist ministers and surviving spouses. Among them are the Unitarian Service Pension Society, the Society for Ministerial Relief, the Massachusetts Charitable Society and the UU Womens Federation. For Further information, contact:

The Rev. Harry C. Green
Church Staff Finances Director
25 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Phone: (617) 742-2100
Fax: (617) 367-3237

MORE MONEY MATTERS

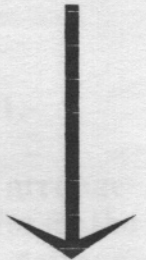
The Ministerial Aid Funds Committee has now submitted its report to the UUA Board. The survey results reported above were a part of its report.

Another significant recommendation concerned the future of the Service Gratuity program. An actuarial study of the program revealed that "annual benefit payments would remain between \$300,000 and \$400,000 until around the year 2020, after which the payment amounts will decrease due to mortality. ... The actuarial study established that funds currently dedicated to the Service Gratuity are adequate to pay gratuities at substantively their current levels to all ministers and surviving spouses eligible for participation."

Other recommendations suggest a review of the funds available for the Service Gratuity, including restrictions and agreements that affect the distribution of the funds; a consideration of the future of the Service Gratuity and a consideration of making surplus funds available to retired and needy ministers and surviving spouses in forms other than the Service Gratuity; and work with the Department of the Ministry to establish guidelines for the use of ministerial aid funds, including a formalization of the participation of UURMAPA in the Department's work by adding a UURMAPA representative to the Ministerial Aid fund Committee.

Copies of relevant reports may be obtained from the Department of the Ministry.

More Miscellany



NOT-SO-SHAGGY DOG STORY:

CHARLES and CLAUDINE GRADY and Guide Dog MAX took part in a 10K fund- raising walk for Southeastern Guide Dogs. They raised nearly \$3,000, entitling them to name another Guide Dog puppy -- their third.

CORRECTION:

HELEN GORDON was erroneously named Helen Morgan and was identified (correctly) as the author of *The Voice of the Vanquished* and *First Captured, Last Freed*, in the November *Elderberries*. She and husband CLIFTON now reside in Santa Barbara.

CARING CONTACTS:

EARLE MCKINNEY and MAURICE COBB suggest the gathering of names of UURMAPA members who have reached the age of 90. They submit the names of the following:

LAURA HERSEY	DONALD LOTHROP
ELIZABETH SILLIMAN	DOROTHY SPOERL

Surely there are more. We'd be happy to add other names to the list. Let us know!

- Miscellany -

BOOKS:

ERWIN GAEDE has published *The Disease Connection*, which he originally delivered as the Minns Lectures in 1987, examining the notions that declare mental illness, alcoholism, and drug addiction to be diseases. Copies may be obtained from the publisher:

University Editions, Inc.
59 Oak Lane
Spring Valley
Huntington, West Virginia 25704.

BILL HAMMOND's book, *The Ecology of the Human Spirit*, discourses in reverential naturalism, will be published by Rising Press, the publishing arm of Minneapolis' First Universalist Church. It is promised in time for the General Assembly in June. It is the 1996 volume of the *Voices of Liberal Religion* series.

VIOLET KOCHENDOERFER's new volume, *A Modern Pioneer*, telling of her experiences as the first women graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and her subsequent years as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Skinner House (UUA) is the publisher.

HONORS:

Former UURMA Treasurer WILLIAM E. GARDNER has been named "Minister Emeritus" by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, Massachusetts.

E-MAIL:

BILL HAMMOND and KEITH MUNSON are intrigued by the possibility of setting up a "chat line" for UURMAPA members. A requisite first step is the gathering of E-Mail addresses from UURMAPA members. If you have such and are interested in pursuing the matter, let them know:

Keith: KCM@customnet.com
Bill: wdhamnd@ultranet.com

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

UURMAPA TREASURY is now almost comfortably solvent. Member contributions through 3/31/96 stand at \$8774.53, the largest ever in our history. Many thanks for your generosity.

Election YEAR: You will soon be receiving a ballot from the Nominating Committee. Since the Nominating Committee is presenting a multiple slate, your exercise of the franchise is especially important.

MORE FOR READERS:

First Days Record is a monthly compendium of 1-3 page writings by Unitarian Universalist Clergy. Subscriptions for the nine issues per year are \$30.00. Some subsidized and freed subscriptions have been offered to UURMAPA. If you are interested, let the *Elderberries* editor know. Subscriptions should be sent to:

First Day Record
c/o UU Fellowship of Newark
420 Willa Road
Newark, Delaware 19711

- CONFERENCES -

NORTHEAST UURMAPA CONFERENCE

will be held October 1-3, 1996 at the La Salette Center in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

Featured will be presentations/workshop/discussions by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Heritage Society, Rev. Dorothy Emerson, Director. Rev Ken MacLean will give an overview of his overseas work for the UUA and Rev. David Hubner will bring the latest information from Beacon Street. There will be ample time for renewing old friendships and developing new ones. Worship, free time, and music will round out the program. Cost is \$100 per person. For more information contact

Dorothy Boroush

Box 142

Taunton, Massachusetts 02718

(508) 824-2953

MID-CONTENT UURMAPA CONFERENCE

will be held October 11-13, 1996 in Madison, Wisconsin.

An attractive program utilizing the resources of Madison and its University is being planned. Cost is \$100. For more information, contact

Max Gaebler

1212 Dartmouth Road

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

(609) 238-4663

WESTERN UURMAPA CONFERENCE

(Including MDD, PCD, PNWD, PSWD)

will be held March 24-27, 1997 at the Marianist Center in Cupertino, California.

Chair Carol Edwards is being assisted in planning by Maggie and Ernie Pipes and Ginney and Lex Crane



THE WHEEL OF LIFE

PAUL E. KILLINGER

Surviving: wife

January 22, 1996 Age 69

Loretta

4309 Butler Circle
Boulder, Colorado 80303

children

Melody, Marc of Boulder

RICHARD G. SECHIST

Surviving: children

January 26, 1996 Age 92

Richard G. Sechist, Jr.

Huntington Beach, California

Nancy Finlayson

Morganton, North Carolina

Lois Haskins

230 Grand Avenue

Deland Florida 32720

JEAN STARR WILLIAMS

For more information

February 13, 1996 Age 79

Peg Goodling

1220 LaLoma Avenue #7

Modesto, California 95354

WEBSTER KITCHELL HOWELL

Surviving: wife

March 22, 1996 Age 44

Laura Howell

225 North President Avenue

Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

children

Meagan and Rachel

VERNON L. CURRY

Surviving: wife

April 3, 1996 Age 71

Connie Curry

2485 West Wigwam #72

Las Vegas, Nevada 89123

children

Jon Mark

Scottsdale, Arizona

Lynn Morin

Bloomington, Minnesota

ARTHUR W. WEBSTER

Surviving: wife

April 29, 1996 Age 86

Miriam Webster

5 Lee Street

Salem, MA 02970

son

Lee M. Webster

Salem, MA

MAJORIE EDWARDS BRUSH

Surviving: niece

April, 1996 Age 95

Louise Edwards Raquello

New York, New York

CARING NETWORK NEWS

New Contact Person for Michigan:

Mary Ann Shokes 601 North Cedar Street Lansing, Michigan 48912

Mary Ann replaces Maryell Cleary who has rendered excellent service to the Caring Network in the Michigan area. Many thanks!!

The Lesson

Then Jesus took his disciples up to the mountain, and gathering them around him, taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek.

Blessed are they that mourn.

Blessed are the merciful.

Blessed are they who thirst for justice.

Blessed are you when you suffer.

Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven."

Then Simon Peter said, "Do we write this down?"

And Andrew said, "Are we supposed to know this?"

And James said, "Will this be on the test?"

And Phillip said, "I don't have any paper."

And Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"

And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."

And Matthew said, "Can I go to the bathroom?"

And Judas said, "What does this have to do with real life?"

Then, one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see lesson plan and inquired of Jesus, "Where is your anticipatory set of objectives in the cognitive domain?"

And Jesus wept.

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST RETIRED MINISTERS AND PARTNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Gordon B. McKeeman

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Charlottesville, VA 22901