

# E LDERBERRIES



Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers and Partners Association



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## Creative Sageing 2018 Award Goes to Barbara & Kim Beach

*Awards Committee: DIANE MILLER,  
ELLEN BRANDENBURG, and MAKANAH MORRIS*



Retirement has been a fruitful time for our latest *Creative Sageing Award* recipients: **GEORGE KIMMICH BEACH** (known to all as **Kim**; minister, writer, preacher, teacher, justice-seeker, theologian) and **BARBARA KRES BEACH** (educator, artist, dancer, business executive, writer, non-profit leader). Our Awards Committee and Board honored them at the Annual UURMaPA Luncheon at General Assembly in Kansas City, June 22, 2018. *See more on page 4...*

## Targeted Ministry Program (TMP) in Gear

*by KEITH KRON, UUA Transition Director*

The first TMP training, in Fall 2017, put nine retired UU ministers in line for short-term, “targeted” congregational work, as and where needed. At least two settings and colleagues have already benefited from this and a **SECOND TRAINING** is on the docket for February 2019, prior to the Winter UURMAPA gathering in Texas.

The Targeted Ministry Program supports congregational program development, growth, and health by utilizing the expertise of retired colleagues to provide more flexible ministry options for congregations and ministers. *See more on page 6...*



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## Editorial Message(s)

*ADIEU (from NANCEE CAMPBELL)*

One of the things I've always appreciated about UURMaPA is that I can experience the aging process with my colleagues. This came in very handy last May when I suffered a serious heart incident just one week after sending the latest *Elderberries* to the printer.

The good news is that, following a rigorous rehabilitation routine and reducing my obligations considerably, I'm well on the road to recovery. And many thanks to the UURMaPA Board who stepped right in and found a new editor, for which I'm deeply grateful.

I've appreciated being able to be of service to UURMaPA for the past year and hope to see many of you in Attleboro in October!

Fondly, —NANCEE

*AND GREETINGS...*

...from Bellingham, WA, which has a strong UU congregation in this pretty cool college town, where there is a small gaggle of friendly colleagues lurking about (some even retired), as we also enjoy the Pacific Northwest's tall trees, big mountains, deep water, and nearby Vancouver/Victoria (as in Canada).

For the better part of the past decade I've helped edit the monthly *Quest* magazine for the Church of the Larger Fellowship, which duty I relinquished to step into this role. (MEG RILEY and LYNN UNGAR deserve accolades for their stalwart attention to this noble CLF enterprise.) I also edited the UU Men's Network quarterly newsletter for some years before that.

My spouse (BARBARA WELLS TEN HOVE) and I retired after 30+ years (the last 20 in co-ministry) in January, 2017, followed almost immediately by my welcoming a new hip (an operation that kicked my butt for some months but has turned out fine).

Not long after the hip gig we moved into Bellingham Cohousing, a 17-year-old consensus community of 33 households, where I've found all kinds of productive opportunities to contribute (amid folks who are *not* paying my salary). We sing in the church choir and I've also gotten trained as a Master Composter and Recycler, with a new ministry in waste diversion (thinking globally, acting locally).

*So now onward into Elderberryiness—  
Enjoy! (Check it out in color online!)*



*Jaco*

Contact info for all the folks above can be found in the most current online Directory under **PUBLICATIONS** at [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) [password: WISDOM].

**DIRECTORY UPDATES NEEDED!** Please send any changes in your address, phone or e-mail to: RICHARD SPECK at [membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org) or 4721 Mermaid Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19808-1803.

## President's Column

### “THE DEEP POWER OF BEING IN ALL”

I remember a quotation from the book, *Preaching* (by Fred Craddock), that I used often when training our Worship Associates. It was the closing sentence of the book, and the gist was that when the sermon is being delivered, you can count on the fact that, at the very least, one person in the room is listening—and that person is the preacher.

Said another way (I'm sure we've all heard this), a preacher preaches about the topics that she or he needs to hear about.

Recently I was thinking about a sermon series I offered to the congregation I served, Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley (PA), early in my ministry there. Its title was “The Four Rules of Life” and the rules were *Show Up, Pay Attention, Tell the Truth, and Detach from the Outcome*. (Credit for the original concept goes to Angeles Arrien, who called these “The Four Ways.”)

These days, for deeply personal *and* practical reasons, I find myself needing and wanting to listen to my own preaching and live as much as I can in the present moment. I've been especially leaning on the second rule, as I *Pay Attention* to how my senses inform me about the world. “Here!” they say to me. “Feast on this. Isn't it delicious? Look at that. How splendid! Notice what's over there. How marvelous!”

As you may be, I'm reminded of the familiar hymn lines, ‘Wake now my senses and hear the earth call/Feel the deep power of being in all.’ This is what happens in soul work, in spiritual development—we feel in a most intimate way, directly through our senses, the deep power of being that moves through all things, that animates our life and the lives of all beings in the cosmos.

Several summers ago Duane and I were on vacation in the southwest when I had such a vivid experience of the senses and “the deep power of being in all” that it is etched into my memory forever. We were on our way to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, upriver from the canyon itself, heading for a campground just below Glen Canyon Dam. It was late, probably around 8 pm, very hot, and the sun was low in the sky, casting its vivid hues over everything in sight.

As we headed up Marble Canyon, the scene exploded with such beauty that it took my breath away—soaring canyon walls on both sides of us, the striated rock faces reflecting every imaginable shade of



JUDY WELLES

pink, rose, copper, coral, crimson, salmon, melon, flame. Duane offered to stop so that I could take pictures, but I knew that if I photographed it, my memories of this moment would be limited to what could fit on a 3x5” piece of paper—and this was too enormous an experience to confine in such a small memory.

So he drove and I hung out the window and drank in the scene: the colors, the warm wind in my hair, the dry scent of the desert herbs and bushes growing alongside the road, flashes of the Colorado River through the silver-branched cottonwood trees. I don't know if Duane slowed down or not, but the moment seemed to last forever and I tried to soak in the experience with every particle of my being.

I have never regretted that I have no photographs of that scene, because I have a much more accurate and fuller rendition of it right here in my heart, and nothing will ever cause me to lose it.

May it be so. —Judy



### GREAT GRATITUDE FOR SUPER SERVICE, READILY RENDERED

We note and honor three departures from the UURMaPA Board, with fond appreciation for contributions made to the Common Good.

- **JUDY GIBSON & JOEL WEAVER** finished terms as Secretary & Treasurer, respectively, with grace and their usual effective attention to detail, so essential in those roles.
- **NANCEE CAMPBELL** had to depart early as Elderberries editor, due to health (see Editors' column, previous page). *All will be missed, and enduringly valued!*



## ***UURMaPA 2018 Creative Sageing Award***, *continued from page 1*

Adapted from the Award Citation presented at UUA General Assembly in Kansas City, June 22, 2018:

**GEORGE KIMMICH BEACH**'s retirement since 2001 has been a productive time of publishing three books, delivering lectures and sermons, and serving as a roving intellectual and theologian. The books:

- *Transforming Liberalism: The Theology of James Luther Adams* (2004)
- *Feribacsi in His Own Words: Into Segesvar, in the Heart of Transylvania* (2009, with Nagy Ferenc)
- *The Seminal Gospel: Forty Days with Mark* (2013, designed to answer Kim's question, "Why have I been a UU Christian all these years?")



A colleague to others, Kim is active with VACUUM, a Virginia cluster of religious professionals. Recently he was elected president of the James Luther Adams Foundation. Theologically, his ministry has drawn from the deep springs of justice and compassion that trace back to the Reformation roots of our tradition.

A committed activist, he has long worked for Justice in the Middle East. In retirement he's rekindled his passion for Palestinian human rights and brought the issue of divestment to the UUA.

Acting locally, Kim has served on the County Planning Commission in their mostly rural area and chaired the five-county Community Services Board, which provides help for all ages, from infant and toddler to aging and disability needs. During his time as Chair, the group opened an area-wide residential drug recovery center.

Kim has worked creatively in ceramics, sung in a Bel Canto ensemble—and he farms the land!

**BARBARA KRES BEACH**'s retirement has drawn on the skills and experiences of her career and has brought her into new ventures. As President and CEO of the Madison County Education Foundation, she advocates for public K-12 education, awards scholarships to high school grads, & funds grants that support teachers and further classroom learning. She initiated a reading program for elementary students that has grown from nine to over thirty volunteers.



Barbara's passion for women's empowerment around the world has been expressed in her role as Founding President of the Int'l. Women's Convocation (IWC), and by developing projects in Transylvania, Romania, Northeast India, the Philippines, Bolivia, and Uganda. In recognition of this work, the IWC launched a 2017 Global Initiative for Women's Leadership in her honor.

The UU Partner Church Council gave her the Louis B. Cornish "Living the Mission" award in 2012 for her international labors of love. Locally, she's worked for Leslie Cockburn, the Democrat who won the outrageously gerrymandered 5<sup>th</sup> District Caucus and who will run in the mid-term Congressional election.

Barbara's active with Arts Fairfax since her presidency in the '90s and was recently elected to serve on the Board of Virginians for the Arts.

***Together, Barbara and Kim*** have settled into life in Madison County, Virginia, on land overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains where they have renovated their home to "age in place."

They are reclaiming woodlands from invasive species and making wine from their own organically grown Norton grapes. They have welcomed international visitors to their home and gather their family there every August, with an invitation to UURMaPANs to come visit!

They jointly led worship at the Winter UURMaPA Conference in Florida this past January. They have traveled with purpose to Bolivia, Peru, the Netherlands, and the American South. They are members of the Thomas Jefferson Church, UU, in Charlottesville, reviving international UU partnerships. They pursue interfaith understanding and are both current members of the Board of the US Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

They frequently travel to Washington, DC, museums, the National Opera, and Shakespeare Theater Company. They began their partnership on the solstice, June 21, of 1958, making this year their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



Photograph by Leighton Brown

## A New Perspective on UUA General Assembly

by JUDY WELLES, UURMaPA President

This was the first year I attended General Assembly as UURMaPA President. I spent probably a total of 90 minutes in plenary and 45 minutes in the Display Area (and much of that was conducting UURMaPA business). I attended all of one worship service and half of one workshop. The rest of my time was spent in off-program events—busy! Quite different from my previous GAs as a parish minister, but very rewarding.

**DIANE MILLER** and I led a Collegial Conversation at Ministry Days for those thinking about retirement. Despite a phenomenal downpour at the time, about a dozen people came with a breadth of questions and concerns, ranging from “How can I afford to do this?” (and related financial issues) to “How do I decide where to live, and how can I build community outside of my congregation?” Much of our time together was spent in offering resources where people could get fuller answers to their questions and their wonderings.



Both speakers at the 25/50-year worship service were brilliant: **KATHLEEN ROLENZ** for the 25-year class and **OLAV NIEUWEJAAR** for the 50-year. Kathleen, describing the mature practice of ministry, hoped that in the next 25 years our zeal for justice would also morph into mercy, and that we would see a renewed spirit of humility in our ministries. Reflecting on what is hope and what is “false hope,” Olav described his **UURMaPA peer support group**, which has become a covenantal community and a place of love and caring. “That’s the work of hope,” he declared.

I was so proud of UURMaPA in that moment! [See more on Peer Groups below.]



Of course, there were other Big Events. At the Service of the Living Tradition I was honored to read the names of 39 distinguished retiring colleagues, and to welcome most of them and their partners to the UURMaPA luncheon the next day, superbly organized by our Vice President, **DIANE MILLER**. Diane and I were able to describe enthusiastically the various activities of UURMaPA and encourage them to get involved, and I have a hunch they will. [See related article for the presentation of the *Creative Sageing Award* to **KIM and BARBARA BEACH**.]



I’ve always enjoyed General Assembly, and this year was no exception. Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility and the joy of representing all of *you* at this annual gathering.

—Judy

## PEER GROUP(S)

Are you a recently retired minister interested in connecting with colleagues using **ZOOM VIDEO MEETING** technology?



## FORMING

[When **OLAV NIEUWEJAAR** gave his outstanding reflections as the 50-year speaker during Ministry Days, he spoke about how important his UURMaPA peer group has been in his retirement.]

**Peer Groups** of about eight meet for 90 minutes once a month for a year. (Some continue beyond that.) Format is simple: check-in & conversation about a topic chosen by group.

One group of 2018 retirees has filled up.

**A second one is taking shape, for second Wednesdays at 4 pm Eastern. Does this work for you?**

Do you want to be in an online group but need a different time?

Are you interested in a group for colleagues who have been retired for a while? Another type?

Contact: **DIANE MILLER**, [vice-president@uurmapa.org](mailto:vice-president@uurmapa.org)

## Targeted Ministry Program (TMP): *Next Training*

...Continued from page 1, by **KEITH KRON**

The Targeted Ministry Program supports congregational program development, growth, and health by utilizing the expertise of retired colleagues to provide more flexible ministry options for congregations and ministers.

This joint project of UURMaPa and the UUA is managed by the Transitions Office in conjunction with Congregational Life staff (because regional leaders are likely to be key contacts for congregations). The Transitions Office will continue to process applications for interested retired ministers. A second round of training is now scheduled for February, 2019 (see Timeline sidebar). The shared goal is for high quality support plus good matching of ministerial skills and temperament to congregational needs.

Those short-term needs often include a little extra help during movement toward a first ministry or a ministerial sabbatical. A brief, outside, experienced voice can be valuable during an interim (or settled) ministry, or for a group looking at some targeted development (which might also fit a retired minister's expertise).

But congregations often have limited resources, which can complicate getting the help they need. I see congregations with negotiated resignations having to do without clergy for months; new ministers stuck struggling with complex systems questions; colleagues going on sabbatical worried that the congregation they serve may destabilize; an interim minister whose effectiveness could be strengthened by having an esteemed colleague repeat in a different way an important idea the lay leadership resists.

All of these situations are examples where a short-term, targeted ministry could benefit both the congregation and retired colleague(s) who can serve well but for a short period, as desired. The Transitions Office and Regional Staff will assure that a developmental covenant is reached between the TMP minister and the congregation. (Each region now has a person who has Transitions as a portfolio, known as Regional Transitions Managers). Congregations will be expected to compensate at recommended UUMA rates.

Good matches for this program are ministers with skill in non-anxious behavior, plus positive and hopeful messages, fine preaching and pastoral skills, and specific abilities around leadership development. Interested colleagues should contact the Transitions Office for an application (and more information):

[transitions@uua.org](mailto:transitions@uua.org)

### TMP TIMELINE

*November 1, 2018:*

**Application deadline**

**for interested ministers**

*November 15, 2018:*

**Notifications sent**

**to accepted ministers**

*February, 2019: Second training*

**in Texas, just prior to**

**UURMaPA Winter conference**

*(see pages 14+15)*

### 2019 CALENDAR ALERT: *The UU Journey Toward LGBTQ Rights*

**TWO CONFERENCES** sponsored by and for members of UURMaPa in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. Theme speaker at both will be **KEITH KRON**, former Dir., UUA Office of LGBTQ Concerns.

**February 17-20, 2019**

Newcomb Tennis Ranch, New Braunfels, TX  
Odyssey: **THERESA NOVAK** (*Fellowship 2007*)

**Each conference will**

**feature a unique  
panel of colleagues**

**and partners telling their stories,**

**and other opportunities to share our experiences of this important history.**

**October 7-10, 2019**

Espousal Retreat House, Waltham, MA  
Odyssey: **MARK BELLETINI** (*Fellowship 1977*)

For more information: [conferences@uurmapa.org](mailto:conferences@uurmapa.org) AND Pages 14+15 in this issue of Elderberries.



## Clergy Housing Allowance: Court Challenge Update

by **RICHARD NUGENT**, Director  
 UUA Church Staff Finances  
 RNugent@uua.org

As attention turns to the confirmation battle over Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the US Supreme Court, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals (based in Chicago) has on its docket the constitutionality of the clergy housing allowance. Whatever its ruling, the future of the housing allowance will likely be determined by the Supreme Court of the US (SCOTUS). Given the financial importance of the housing allowance to retirees, the Unitarian Universalist Association is participating in this case with an amicus brief filed by the Church Alliance.

### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In November 2013, Federal District Court Judge Barbara Crabbe concluded that the ministerial housing allowance is unconstitutional. The case was brought by the Freedom from Religion Foundation based in Madison, Wisconsin. Upon appeal to the 7th Circuit, the ruling was reversed upon a technicality; the plaintiffs did not have standing to file the lawsuit. Following a roadmap provided by the 7th Circuit, the co-presidents of the Freedom from Religion Foundation amended their previously submitted 2013 tax return and claimed the clergy housing allowance. They received a partial refund. They proceeded to amend their 2012 return, and in doing so stated that they were "not clergy" and that their employer is not a church. In July 2015, the IRS denied the refund.



In April 2016, the co-presidents of the Freedom from Religion Foundation filed another lawsuit challenging the clergy housing allowance. The core argument advanced by the plaintiffs is that the housing allowance is a benefit granted ministers and not available to employees of other nonprofit organizations. Last December, Judge Crabbe issued a final ruling, again, that Section 107(2) pertaining to the ministerial housing allowance is unconstitutional. (The parsonage allowance, provided ministers residing in a church-owned parsonage, is not at issue in this lawsuit.) In doing so, Judge Crabbe found the housing allowance violates the Establishment Clause.

### WATERMELON

by LYNN UNGAR

*You know  
 what summer  
 tastes like—the pink flesh  
 of a generous earth,  
 this rounded life  
 fully ripe, fully flavored.  
 How could you be ashamed  
 at the tug of desire?  
 The world has opened itself to you,  
 season after season.  
 What is summer's sweetness  
 but an invitation to respond?  
 There is only one way  
 to eat a watermelon.  
 Bury your face  
 in the wetness  
 of that rosy slab  
 and bite.*



The case has been appealed by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. The parties have filed their briefs, and had until July 2 to file reply briefs. The UUA, as part of the Church Alliance, filed an amicus brief arguing for the constitutionality of the housing allowance. The Church Alliance is a coalition of nearly 40 religious denominations. The Appeals Court is expected to schedule oral arguments for the fall with a decision in early 2019. If the 7th Circuit finds for the plaintiffs, the decision will likely be stayed pending appeal to the SCOTUS.

There is no guarantee that the Supreme Court will accept the case, but if it does, then oral arguments are not likely until the fall of 2019, at the earliest, with a decision in 2020. It's impossible to predict what the Court will look like in 2019/20, but SCOTUS has recently issued rulings perceived as favorable to religion, albeit faiths embracing a more conservative theology. *The UUA will continue to closely monitor this court case.*

# Turning of Our Lives

*Aging seems to be the only available way to live a long life.* — Composer Daniel-François-Esprit Auber



**ED LYNN** (now in his 12<sup>th</sup> year of retirement) and spouse Marj continue to enjoy the ocean and life in and around the North Shore seaside town of Ipswich, MA, where they have lived for 45 years.

They are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year with a trip to Lake Como in Italy—to stay in the same hotel they visited for their 30<sup>th</sup>! (And they are hoping to go back again for their 90<sup>th</sup>.)

In addition to tennis and drawing, Ed has embarked on a social media project. His description:

“In the early 90s, Marj and I published a small booklet with reflections about appreciating every day. Since then, I have continued to collect thoughts about gratitude and have assembled hundreds. To share them, I have begun a daily **Instagram** posting using a sunrise background to post a new thought about gratitude under the title *Daysalive*.”

**BILL GRAVES** recently stepped toward retirement when he bid farewell to a fulfilling three-year part-time ministry with the Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (Ellensburg, Central WA). In his honor there were five days of events including a poetry slam, sing-a-long, concert, board retreat, final service and picnic (attended also by the local interfaith alliance that he helped start). In reflecting on this passage Bill wrote:

*Except for a few odd assignments, this will be it as a professional minister. (I have already declined another opportunity.)*

*I have been doing this now for 11 years and it's time. I entered into this second career with a great deal of uncertainty, but I now know the decision to go for it was the best I ever made. In no other way could I have been so challenged to go deeper and be so blessed by the love of literally hundreds of people whose lives I hopefully had a positive impact upon.*

In departing he offered—as for what will become of me—this closing from T.S. Eliot's “East Coker” [2nd of “Four Quartets”]:

**Old men ought to be explorers  
Here or there does not matter  
We must be still and still moving  
Into another intensity  
For a further union, a deeper  
communion  
Through the dark cold  
and the empty desolation,  
The wave cry, the wind cry,  
the vast waters  
Of the petrel and the porpoise.  
In my end is my beginning.**



## BARBARA CHILD'S *Two-Part Summer Manual Labor Project*

*But wait. This is not just any manual labor project. This is a two-part course in Buddhist teaching. (“Two-part” equals “for slow learners.”)*

### 1st Buddhist teaching:

When you are painting a deck, **PAINT THE DECK**. Do not be counting the months the publisher has had your manuscript. Do not be untangling an editing knot. Do not be interpreting last night's dream.

Do not be composing your next social media post. *Paint the deck*. If you fail to heed this teaching, you are likely to learn once again the consequences of your tendency to drag the nearly full paint can across the boards instead of lifting it up and putting it back down again. If you persist in not attending to this fact, the can will inevitably tip. And then you will encounter the...

### ...2nd Buddhist teaching:

When you are cleaning up a mess, **CLEAN UP THE MESS**.

### And one other teaching:

*The Parable of the Crows*. Very large, very loud crows laugh at you throughout this two-part course.

Caw caw, haw haw! You have begun each day's class with a bucket of vinegar water and a scrubber to remove crow shit so you won't be making it part of the deck. No matter. When you have finished the second coat, and every day thereafter, the crows will shit on the deck. Get used to it. They live here, too.

*I never have been much of a Buddhist. A two-part remedial course is not nearly enough for me. No matter what I'm doing, I'm likely to be doing something else at the same time. I'm pretty much used to it. I live here, too.*



## IN MEMORIAM

Longer and more detailed versions of all obituaries can eventually be found on the UURMaPA website:

[www.uurmapa.org/obituaries](http://www.uurmapa.org/obituaries)

*(No password is necessary for access to the page.)*

## PAUL W. RATZLAFF (1945 – 2016)

The Reverend Paul Ratzlaff, beloved parish minister and activist for justice, died on 28 February 2016, aged 70.

Paul Wilmer Ratzlaff was born to Leslie and Nina Ratzlaff in Kingston, Jamaica, on 24 July 1945. He earned a B.A. from Warner Pacific College in 1966, an M.A. from Colgate University in 1968, and a Certificate from the Stevens Gesner Project to Train Men and Women for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry in 1973.

Paul was ordained by the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick, NJ, in 1974, and served there for the next six years. In 1980 he was called to the Morristown (NJ) Unitarian Fellowship, where he served for over twenty years until 2002. After a year of interim ministry with the South Nassau UU Congregation of Freeport, NY, he was subsequently called to the UU Fellowship of Huntington, NY, where he was settled for eight years until his retirement in 2012. During these ministries, Paul was a steady presence in service to the UUA, UUMA, and many local community groups.

Of her father, Hannah Ratzlaff writes: “He dedicated his life to social justice and caring for others. He . . . truly taught me the value of hard work and commitment. He had an amazing balance of kindness, wit, and empathy that allowed him to see many sides of an issue, often acting as the voice of reason for me.”

Paul is survived by his spouse Barbara, brother Dale, children Hannah and Ian, and other beloved family and friends.



***All is pattern, all life,  
but we can't always  
see the pattern when  
we are part of it.***

**—Writer Belva Plain**

## KENNETH R. WARREN (1923 – 2016)



The Reverend Kenneth Warren, parish minister and civil rights champion, died on 16 April 2016, aged 93.

Kenneth Roland Warren was born on 21 January 1923 in Oklahoma City to Chester Llewellyn and Marguerite (Packham) Warren. After service in the Merchant Marine (1942-45), he earned a B.A. from Oklahoma City University in 1949, an S.T.B. from Harvard in 1952, and a D.D. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1979.

Kenneth was ordained in 1952 by the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City and then called to the Unitarian Church of Barnstable (MA) in 1953, where he served for 38 years and was named Minister Emeritus on retirement in 1991. He went on to interim ministries in Canton, Sharon, Dorchester, Hanover, and Norwell (Assinippi Universalist Church), where in 2001 he was also named Minister Emeritus.

Mary-Elizabeth Brague writes that her father “was a model for us all in standing up for what he believed in, even if his beliefs were unpopular. He expressed his thoughts respectfully and worked to achieve harmony and understanding . . . He was unfailingly modest, turning the conversation to others, instead of himself. Even at the end of his life . . . he was described by his caregivers as ‘always a gentleman.’”

Kenneth is survived by daughter Mary-Elizabeth Brague and two grandchildren. His beloved spouse of 53 years, Claire (Loring) Warren, died in 2006.

Donations are encouraged to the Social Justice Committee at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable, P.O. Box 285, 3330 Main Street, Barnstable, MA. Condolences may be sent to Mary-Elizabeth Brague, 31 Kerry Drive, Mansfield, MA 02048.



**ROBERT S. SLATER (1928 - 2017)**

The Reverend Bob Slater—parish minister, beloved husband and father, student of psychic phenomena—died on 28 April 2017, aged 89.

As a college student, pleasure and skill in ballroom dancing led Bob to support himself with part-time teaching at an Arthur Murray Dance Studio, where he met fellow dance teacher Robin Holzbach. In 1950 Bob took what he deemed “the most important and wonderful step” of his life by marrying Robin. They continued dancing through 65 years of marriage until her death in 2015. (See below.)

Bob pursued a near-lifelong interest in paranormal and psychic phenomena. He was active in the Edgar Cayce Association and was a founding member of the UU Psi Symposium.

Robert Stephen Slater was born on 16 January 1928 in Pasadena, Maryland. After high school, Coast Guard service, and a college degree in 1951, he went on to earn an S.T.B at Harvard Divinity School in 1955. Shorter ministries in Pittsburgh (PA) and Westford (MA) were followed by a call in 1968 to the UU Church of Greater Lynn (MA), where served for 22 years and was named Minister Emeritus in 1990.

For his own obituary, Bob wrote that “all experiences in life offer opportunities for growth in the ways of love of all people and things, that the selfless example of Jesus is the way, and that life is continuous, not ending with the death of the physical body.”

Memorial donations are encouraged to the UU Church of Greater Lynn ([uucgl.org](http://uucgl.org)), earmarked for the restoration and maintenance of their courtyard garden.

**ROBIN H. SLATER (1925 – 2015)**

Robin Holzbach Slater, spouse of Reverend Robert S. Slater, died peacefully at home on 21 August 2015. She was born 7 October 1925 in Newport News, Virginia, into a family long associated with the Newport News Shipping and Drydock Company.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Syracuse University and taking graduate courses at William and Mary, Robin taught in both public and private elementary and middle schools. She was also an instructor at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Baltimore, where Bob Slater was another teacher. They discovered that they shared common interests not only in music and dancing but also in parapsychology, including telepathy and reincarnation. They were married on 2 November 1950.

After Bob became a UU minister, Robin became and remained an active partner in that ministry—teaching Sunday school, working at church fairs, and even preaching a sermon on one occasion.

Robin greatly loved her family, fellow church members, and her students; and was a wonderful friend—both to people and animals. She especially sought to reach out to others who, like her, had suffered from mental illness. She worked to make her family’s home a place that was beautiful, artistic and filled with love, and many attest to her success. With Bob to help her, she courageously endured over 20 years of Alzheimer’s disease and continued to be both a part of her community and the light of her family’s life.

Notes of condolence can be sent to Tracy Slater at 151 Tremont Street, 25G, Boston, MA 02111. The family suggests that memorial gifts could be directed to any local humane society or group that works to reduce animal suffering.



***Death is the  
wake-up call,  
the unavoidable  
mandate,  
that makes  
enlightenment  
possible, and  
helps our souls  
to grow. This is  
why Plato,  
when asked on  
his deathbed for  
one final word  
of advice,  
responded  
to his pupils,  
“PRACTICE DYING.”***

**—Ram Dass**

## IN MEMORIAM

**ROBERT R. WALSH (1937 – 2016)**

The Reverend Robert “Robbie” Walsh, parish minister, skilled banjoist, and dedicated volunteer to the UU movement, died on 19 June 2016, aged 79.

A folk musician all his life, Robbie loved playing the banjo and the guitar at the monthly Ceilidh he led at Old Ship Church (Hingham, MA). He was the author of two well-received books of essays, poems, meditations, and prayers: *Noisy Stones* and *Stone Blessings*.

Robbie served on the UUA Board of Trustees while still a layperson and then on many UU committees and boards throughout his professional ministry. Of this service, the Rev’d Kenneth Read-Brown wrote that he “didn’t simply warm a seat at the table. Robbie actively did his part . . . to further the institutional strength of Unitarian Universalism.”



Robert Rea Walsh was born on 2 March 1937 to Adeline Rea Walsh and Francis Thomas Walsh. He grew up in Kingsport, Tennessee, and was the first in his father’s family to go to college. He received a B.S. from MIT in 1958 and worked for his father’s company until the call to ministry led him to Harvard Divinity School and a Master of Divinity degree in 1980. Ordained that year by his home church, the Holston Valley Unitarian Church of Kingsport, Robbie was soon called to the Unitarian Church of Duxbury (MA), where he spent his entire parish career, retiring after 22 years and named Minister Emeritus in 2003.

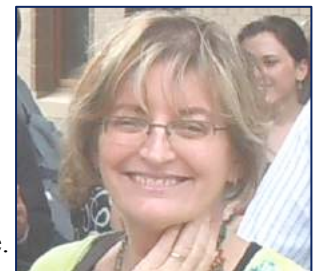
Robbie is survived by his spouse, “Kitty,” children Elizabeth Walsh, David Walsh and Nathaniel Walsh, two stepchildren, six grandchildren, and also by his former spouse, Reed Walsh.

Donations are encouraged to the UU Service Committee or to the UUA Living Tradition Fund. Notes of condolence may be sent to his widow Kathleen Ladd Ward, 121 Downer Avenue, Hingham, MA 02043 and/or his daughter, Beth Walsh, 14 Bertwell Road, Lexington, MA 02420.

**MICHAEL K. HUBNER (1940 – 2018)**

Michael K. Hubner, spouse of the Reverend Dr. David Hubner, died peacefully at home on 6 April 2018, surrounded by family and friends. She was 70.

Having grown up in New York and Albuquerque, Michael Kehoe graduated with a B.A. in French from Smith College in 1969; obtained an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School in 1974; and returned to Smith for an M.S.W. where she was elected class speaker in 1980. She also received a certificate in health care administration from Simmons College.



She tried other employment, but found her calling in social work. As an oncology social worker for more than 30 years, Michael dedicated herself to providing material and psychosocial support for cancer patients and their families through diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and end of life. She worked at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center from 1982-2001, then served as director of social work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute from 2001-2013, where an annual lecture is named in her honor.

Michael and David met at Harvard Divinity School in the fall of 1971, and were married in June of 1972. In 1974, David was called to serve the Unitarian Church in Hudson, MA, so that became their home. In Hudson, Michael was attendance officer for the local school system. They moved to First Church and Parish in Dedham, MA, in 1980, and their child Benjamin was born there in 1985. Michael participated in the life of the congregations David served, and particularly liked singing in the choir. Although her own work was quite demanding, she made time for rehearsals and Sunday services every week.

In the last three years of her life, Michael faced the challenges presented by A.L.S. with exceptional grace and courage. She found that the physical limits it imposed on her had given her the gift of time and mental space to meditate on the nature of existence, truth, goodness, and beauty. Most importantly, she wrote: “I have time to love and be loved.”

Michael deeply loved her “small but important family,” her friends and colleagues, gardening, art, music, travel, language, and thinking seriously about life and how to live it with purpose and meaning.

Memorial gifts may be sent to CompassionateCare ALS ([www.ccals.org](http://www.ccals.org)), PO Box 1052, W.Falmouth, MA 02574.



## IN MEMORIAM

## SUZANNE M. MARSH (1960 – 2016)



The Reverend Suzanne Marsh, aged 55—parish minister, social activist, community leader, and interfaith advocate—died unexpectedly on 24 June 2016 after a heart attack, fall, and head injury from which she never regained consciousness.

Suzanne walked her talk, holding numerous volunteer positions before and during professional ministry. In her last pastorate (Church of the Desert, Rancho Mirage, CA), she was quickly recognized by interfaith colleagues as bringing “a unique perspective and contagious energy.” The Rev’d Kevin Johnson, a UCC minister in Palm Springs, praised her as “an out lesbian leading a major religious body in the Coachella Valley. That’s not small potatoes.”

Suzanne M. Marsh was born on 25 October 1960 to Betty and Neil Marsh. She was graduated from Laurel (Maryland) High School in 1978, earned a B.S. in business administration in 1985, and then had a successful career of more than 20 years with major accounting firms.

In the early 2000s, Suzanne heard a call to ministry, completed work for her M.Div. at the Pacific School of Religion in 2007, and was ordained in 2009 by the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, CA. She served UU churches in Pennsylvania and Idaho before her call to Rancho Mirage.

She is survived by her partner and spouse of nearly 40 years, Nancy Pless, her mother Betty Gersh, and by numerous siblings, children, and others. A Celebration of Life on 27 August 2016 at her church in Rancho Mirage was led by the Rev’d Lindi Ramsden, Suzanne’s former minister.

Memorial donations are encouraged to organizations that Suzanne supported: the UU Justice Ministry of CA ([uujmca.org](http://uujmca.org)) and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention ([afsp.org](http://afsp.org)).



## J. MCREE ELROD (1932 – 2016)



The Reverend “Mac” Elrod, who pursued parallel careers in parish ministry, library science, and social activism, died on 16 June 2016, aged 84.

Jefferson McRee Elrod was born in Gainesville, Georgia, on 23 March 1932 to Angus and Lona McRee Elrod. After a B.A. *magna cum laude* in history (1952), he pursued dual studies in library science and ministry, doing fieldwork in local black churches and receiving ordination in the AME Church in 1954. Mac and his new spouse, Norma, then spent five years as educational missionaries in Korea.

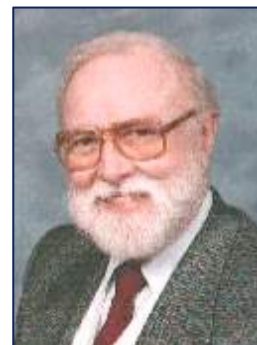
Back in the U.S., Mac served library positions in Tennessee, Missouri, and Ohio (1961-67). Active in the civil rights movement, he and Norma became more progressive politically and religiously, with mounting distress over U.S. Vietnam war policy, and thus happily moved to Vancouver, BC, where he served as head of the University of British Columbia’s library cataloguing division from 1967 to 1978.

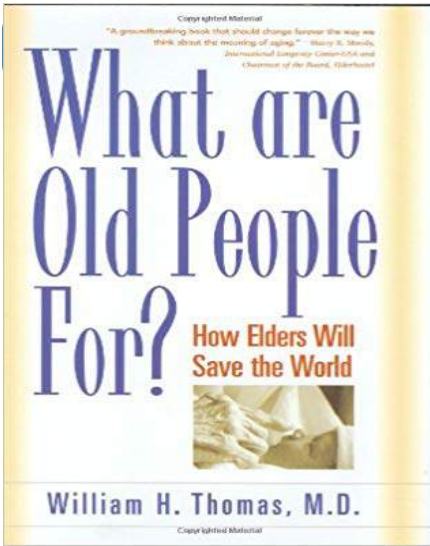
After leaving the Methodist church, Mac received UUA ministerial fellowship in 1970 and served churches in the Vancouver area for 12 years until retirement from the parish in 1982. Upon departing UBC, he founded his own company and achieved international renown in the field of library cataloguing.

While raising six children in Canada, Mac and Norma’s home became a center for anti-war activism and a stopping point for hundreds of war objectors. He came out as gay in the 1970s and personally paid for the Canadian Unitarian Council to intervene in the 2004 Canadian Supreme Court hearings on same-sex marriage.

A longtime friend remembers Mac as “an unforgettable character, a committed humanitarian, never afraid to share his opinions nor speak on behalf of social justice and the environment, a friend who made me a better person through knowing him.”

He is survived by spouse Norma, five children, many grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Memorial donations are encouraged to **Doctors Without Borders**. Condolences may be sent to Norma Cummins Elrod at [norma@elrod.ca](mailto:norma@elrod.ca) and/or their daughter Lona Manning [lonaleemanning@gmail.com](mailto:lonaleemanning@gmail.com).





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## UURMaPA Fall Conference OCTOBER 1-4, 2018

La Salette Retreat Center,  
Attleboro, MA

Theme:  
***Changing Aging***



Our keynote speaker, **Kyrié Carpenter**, lectures around the country and works with Dr. W. H. Thomas at **The Eden Alternative**, a nonprofit dedicated to creating quality of life for elders and

Our theme is inspired by the above book from Dr. William H. Thomas:  
“What Are Old People For? How Elders Will Save The World.”

*The UURMaPA Board is sending a free book to each individual or couple once you register. We are hoping everyone will read the book before attending so we are ready for in-depth discussion.*

As always, the conference will feature great workshops, worship services, a field trip, plus connecting with old and new friends. **SYLVIA HOWE** and **PAUL L'HERROU** will be presenting their Odyssey. And the National Audubon has nature trails nearby for our use.

- For more information regarding the [conference program and schedule](#) ↑ contact **CAROL TAYLOR: [catuuminr@gmail.com](mailto:catuuminr@gmail.com)** or 610-558-2323.
- For any questions regarding [registration](#) ↓ contact **ALISON STEPHENS: [astephensme@gmail.com](mailto:astephensme@gmail.com)** or 207-812-5323.

This year La Salette has 58 single bedrooms available, so **REGISTER ASAP** to make sure you get one, as desired. There are also ten RV spots with water and electrical hook-ups on the property.

Costs: **Single Room** - \$295 per person  
**RV spot w/water & electric** - \$175  
**Commuters** - \$165

(Fee includes the program, three overnights, meals, snacks & beverages. Scholarships are available.)

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: [SEPTEMBER 8, 2018.](#)**

Please use the form found in the Spring issue of *Elderberries* or on the UURMaPA website [HERE](#):  
<https://uurmapa.org/2018-fall-conference-in-attleboro-changing-aging/>

MAIL YOUR FORM & CHECK TO:  
**ALISON STEPHENS, PO Box 873, Blue Hill, Maine 04612**

**UURMaPA WINTER CONFERENCE**  
**CELEBRATING THE RAINBOW –**  
**THE UU JOURNEY TOWARD LGBTQ + RIGHTS**



UURMaPA has launched a unique project for 2019 focused on collecting and sharing stories of LGBTQ+ ministers, their partners and allies. Since the 1969 Stonewall Uprising and the birth of the gay rights movement, some UURMaPA members have struggled and worked for LGBTQ+ rights. Their memories and stories need to be preserved before they are lost. \*

On February 17-20, 2019, the first of **TWO** UURMaPA conferences honoring this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year will convene at the Newcombe Tennis Ranch in New Braunfels, TX (30 miles from San Antonio, chosen because devastating mudslides forced the closing of Casa de Maria, our previous winter site near Santa Barbara, CA).



Keynote speaker will be **KEITH KRON**  
 (current Director of the UUA Transitions Office  
 and former Director of the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay,  
 Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns, 1996-2010).  
**THERESA NOVAK** will offer a personal Odyssey.



The expanded four-day, three-night conference will also include stories from living pioneers of the LGBTQ+ movement, an *In Memoriam* worship service, workshops, and other activities. A videographer will be on site to record individual stories. \* (An extra day was added to allow time for this process.) As plans are confirmed, more information about the schedule will be shared on *UURMaPA-announce* and in *Elderberries*.

Registration is now open through the end of 2018—or until all spaces are filled. The form provided here (next page) will also be available on our website [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org). Housing for attendees will be in separate two-bedroom condos. (See sidebar below and reg form for details.)

This project's first event is supported in part by a grant from the UU Funding Program. A future grant will support a **second, similarly-focused conference**, planned for **Oct. 7-10, 2019**, in Waltham, MA (near Boston). **KEITH KRON** will again be the keynote speaker and **MARK BELLETINI** will offer the Odyssey.

Other grants will be sought for publication of a book, videos, an LGBTQ+ interactive website, social media, several archives and the assistance of an historian. The goal is to keep alive stories\* from a significant turning point in Unitarian Universalism and honor subsequent advances by the UUA for the cause of LGBTQ+ rights.

*\* Conference planner **PHYLLIS HUBBELL** wants to hear from anyone with a story to share, especially in the BTQ+ areas. Please contact her at [phubbell@uuma.org](mailto:phubbell@uuma.org) or 410-916-6680.*

### **Conference HOUSING...**

...consists of separate two-bedroom **condo units**, each **bedroom** with a private bath. Each **unit** has a shared living room, fireplace, deck and kitchen. One bedroom has two queen beds, the other either a king bed or two twin beds—you choose.

If you are sharing the **bedroom**, please indicate that (plus the bed option you want) on the registration form. If you want the Registrar to choose a roommate for you, she will put you in the bedroom with two queen beds. If you wish to be in the same **condo unit** with UURMaPA friends, do indicate that on the reg form.

Accessibility requirements for housing and meeting space will be addressed based on individual needs you list on the form.

### **Conference TRANSPORTATION:**

Newcombe Tennis Ranch is about 30 miles from the San Antonio airport. Renting a car, taking a cab or UBER and sharing costs with others are all possible. Shuttles are also available; cost depends on whether the trip is one-way or round-trip and how many are sharing. (More information will be in the next *Elderberries*.)

**Questions?** Contact LOIS WESENER, Registrar:  
 414-963-9590 (landline) or [loisw99@hotmail.com](mailto:loisw99@hotmail.com)



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**UURMaPA WINTER CONFERENCE**

**Celebrating the Rainbow – The UU Journey Toward LGBTQ+ Rights**

**February 17-20, 2019** at Newcombe Tennis Ranch  
325 Mission Valley Road, New Braunfels, TX 78132



**NOTE: Fee covers the program, three nights, nine meals, social refreshments and general expenses. Cash bar available on premises.**

Name(s) as they should appear on name tag:

NAME #1: \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE ONE: **MINISTER** **PARTNER**

NAME #2: \_\_\_\_\_ CIRCLE ONE: **MINISTER** **PARTNER**

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME #1 EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME #2 EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Our housing consists of several condos. Every CONDO UNIT has two private BEDROOMS, each with private bath. (See previous page sidebar for more information.)**

- **If not listed above, I am sharing a BEDROOM with \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **\_\_\_ I am willing to share the BEDROOM with another attendee.** (Registrar will choose person.)
- Requested bed type in room: \_\_\_\_\_ Two queens \_\_\_\_\_ Two twins \_\_\_\_\_ One king
- **I (we) want to share the CONDO UNIT with \_\_\_\_\_, who is also attending.**

Sharing **bedroom** at \$325 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Single person in **bedroom** at \$375 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution for scholarships \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to **UURMaPA**  
and mail with form to: **LOIS WESENER, Registrar:**  
**1202 E. KENMORE PLACE, MILWAUKEE, WI 53211**

**— Submit by DECEMBER 31, 2018 —**

(LOIS can be contacted at 414-963-9590 (landline) or [loisw99@hotmail.com](mailto:loisw99@hotmail.com))

*Financial assistance is available for conference costs. Please ask if you have need! Send requests to: DAVID HUNTER [davidhunter2405@comcast.net](mailto:davidhunter2405@comcast.net) or 65 Oak Knoll Drive, Berwyn, PA 19312, 479-236-1407.*

*NOTE: In case of your cancellation, UURMaPA will do our best to refund as much of the fee as possible. Some costs, however, will be nonrefundable. If your spot is filled, you will receive a full refund.*



**Unitarian Universalist**  
Retired Ministers and Partners Association

**C/O RICHARD SPECK  
4721 MERMAID BLVD.  
WILMINGTON, DE 19808-1803**