

The 2018 Creative Saging Award recipients were George Kimmich “Kim” Beach (minister, writer, preacher, teacher, justice-seeker, theologian) and Barbara Kres Beach (educator, artist, dancer, business executive, writer, non-profit leader). They were honored by the Awards Committee and the UURMaPA Board at the UURMaPA Luncheon in Kansas City on June 22, 2018.

Here’s the scoop, reported in the Summer 2018 issue of Elderberries:

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 5th 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.”



Photograph by Leighton Brown

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 60th anniversary!