

# E L D E R B E R R I E S



Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers and Partners Association



Volume 35

Number 2

SPRING, 2019



## *Celebrating the Rainbow* HISTORY MADE AND IN THE MAKING

*By Jaco B. ten Hove*



On February 17–20 we gathered at the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch near San Antonio, Texas—almost 60 UURMaPAns (including a few not-yet-retired special guests)—for the first of this year’s two conferences honoring the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in 1969. (See pages 13-15 for info about the next event, October 7–10, in Litchfield, CT.)

Our stalwart program planning team (led by **Phyllis Hubbell**) arranged activities to engage us in celebratory reflection on the past five decades of UUs making Rainbow History, as we shared memories, honored departed players and recorded perspectives for posterity. The event itself unfolded in an envelope of historical power.

Our regular UURMaPA conference atmosphere (ably guided by organizer **Ginger Luke**) was a fruitful container for such meaningful endeavors, and we took full advantage of the many opportunities to chat and relax, not to mention eat together at this Australian-themed retreat center tucked into the deep suburban Texas countryside. There were indeed various earnest gaggles of tennis players scurrying about here and there, as we lingered in and around the Billabong Bar and Crocodile Concourse.

Opening evening worship led by **Dorothy Emerson** (coordinator of the UU Rainbow History Project) helped us let go and be fully present, inviting us to note the variety of all our Coming Out stories and ending with a semi-circle of **a dozen enthusiastic singers leading Cris Williamson’s anthem, “Song of the Soul.”**

*[Continued in centerfold, page 8...]*

2019

WINTER

CONFERENCE

REPORT



L-R: Amanda Aikman, Dee Graham, Teresa Novak, Anne Spatola, Dorothy Emerson, Donna Clifford, Charlotte Cowtan, Meg Riley, Marni Harmony, Gretchen Woods, Judy Finholm, Ann Tyndall



## UURMaPA Board

- Judy Welles (2019)**  
PRESIDENT
- Diane Miller (2021)**  
VICE-PRESIDENT
- Barbara Child (2020)**  
SECRETARY
- Dave Hunter (2020)**  
TREASURER
- Jaco B. ten Hove (2020)**  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
- Art Severance (2021)**  
CONNECTIONS CHAIR
- Marni Harmony (2019)**  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- Ginger Luke (2020)**  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- Cathie Severance (2021)**  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE
- OTHER OFFICERS
- Richard Speck**  
MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
- Dick Gilbert (2019)**  
NOMCOM CHAIR
- Duane Fickeisen**  
WEBMASTER
- Susan Lamar**  
HISTORIAN
- Jay Atkinson and  
Roger Rochester**  
OBITUARY EDITORS

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

## EDITORIAL NOTES

It was an enlightening treat to gather with the entire UURMaPA Board in Texas in February, ahead of our Winter Conference. (We anointed Ginger with a nice set of yucca wings, as shown below.) After addressing an active



Back row: **Diane, Marni, Jaco, Art.** Middle row: **Judy, Barbara.** Front row: **David, Ginger, Cathie.**

agenda the first day, our entire second day was an in-person consultation with **Annette Marquis, Diversity and Leadership Consultant**, as we continue our efforts to be ever more welcoming and inclusive.

*Read on, friends!*



### Court Declares Clergy Housing Allowance Constitutional

The US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Chicago, **ruled in March** that clergy housing allowance is a permissible tax benefit, reversing a 2017 decision by a federal district judge in Wisconsin. Read about it **HERE**. (Or key word search the [www.churchlawandtax.com](http://www.churchlawandtax.com) site.) *“This news comes as a relief to churches and clergy across America,”* said CPA Michael Batts, advisor for Church Law & Tax. *“Of course, given the possibility of further consideration and appeals, we’re not quite to the point in the story where we can say ‘and they all lived happily ever after.’”* Good news, nonetheless...



**NOTE TO ONLINE READERS:** You'll see some words or titles in **bold, red italics**, which indicate that they contain web links. I avoid standard underlining of links in respect for print readers, since the links do not translate into that medium and can distract instead.

## President's Column

JUDY WELLES

By the time you read this, my service as UURMaPA President will be nearly over. I know that I am leaving the Presidency in capable hands (**Diane Miller's**) and that the Board will continue to serve you and each other well. In part, I will be glad to be done with this obligation (and I'm looking forward to serving on the UURMaPA Nominating Committee, so you might still be hearing from me).

But in this column, I want to emphasize what I have really enjoyed about the responsibilities of being UURMaPA President. Yes, it's a big job, but I have found it also to be a delightful role that I have 95% loved and only 5% grumbled about. Here are some things that fall into the former category:

I write letters of welcome to every retiring minister that the UUA tells us about. (And by the way, UURMaPA has a very cooperative relationship with the UUA Dept. of Ministries and Faith Development, which has been tremendously helpful to the smooth functioning of our organization.) So I get to see who's retiring (a preview of GA), and write personal notes to friends encouraging them to try out UURMaPA.

I write condolence notes to the survivors of UURMaPA members (both ministers and partners) who have recently died. This is a continuation of one of the most important aspects of ministry—consoling the bereaved. I take this responsibility very seriously, and I feel very good about the outreach of UURMaPA in times of grief. (I'm also surprised and grateful for the occasional thank you note that I receive from survivors.)

As one of the “voices” for UURMaPA, I also interact with the UUMA, which keeps me in touch with our still-working colleagues and gives me a view into the activities of ministers today and a valuable connection to younger ministers.

I've learned a new skill—grant writing (with *a lot* of help from others)—which reminds me that this old brain is still functioning well and can learn some new tricks. And I've taken great satisfaction from the results: two grants in support of the UU Rainbow History Project from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism, one for \$8,000 and the other for \$10,000.

I also enjoy the random interactions with members or non-member UUs who contact me for information or with an interesting idea. And often these ideas come to fruition, reminding me what a creative group we are. (Book giveaway, anyone? Caregiver support group, anyone?)

The opportunity to serve UURMaPA gives me (and, potentially, everyone reading this column) the opportunity to continue with those aspects of ministry that I was good at (for me: administration, details, leadership, visioning). Perhaps you were good at pastoral care (not one of my better skills) and would like to be part of our Connections Network; perhaps you extroverts excelled at making connections, which would make you an excellent member of the Nominating Committee. Perhaps you served on the Program Committee for your UUMA chapter — that would translate well into serving on a conference planning committee.

If you are grieving the loss of your ministry, or if you are glad to be done with it but want to continue using the skills you developed there, serving UURMaPA might be just the right thing for you to do in retirement. I've found it a joyful opportunity for service, and one that I will miss after June 30. (Well, 95% of it, anyway.)

*Love, Judy*



*Introducing guest theme speaker Keith Kron at our Winter Conference in Texas*

or, The Department of  
Ministry Deals with an Old  
Problem in a New Way

not long ago these grand  
grey-maned gargantuans  
ruled the theological plain  
Oratorus Rex!  
the rest of us jumping up and down  
like toy poodles  
at the neck of great danes  
but in the mucky discourse  
that followed dinner last night  
the dinosaur  
came to the end of its reign

there  
mired in a tar pit  
of yesterday's thinking,  
unable to free themselves  
from too much Chardonnay  
they bellowed and raged  
thrashing about  
sawing the charged air  
with their teeth  
bewildered  
wounded – feeling betrayed  
no longer able  
to throw their weight around  
they went down  
slowly  
glaring directly into our eyes

today  
their reputation is all that remains  
left like petrified footprints  
to be measured and intellectualized  
by smaller  
more maneuverable creatures  
unable to fully comprehend  
the enormous size and majesty  
these giants once had

there is always something about  
a change for the better  
that is terribly  
terribly  
sad

— Ric Masten, 1991



## LOOK FOR UURMAPA IN SPOKANE!

At Ministry Days (June 17–19) and General Assembly (June 19–23)

### • Tuesday, June 18

>> MEET-UP at Lunch with **Dorothy Emerson** about the UURMAPA program, *UU Rainbow History Project* ([uurainbowhistory.net](http://uurainbowhistory.net))

>> Collegial Conversation (2:00 in the Davenport Grand Hotel):

*"The Great Beyond — Thinking About Retirement"*

Leaders: **Judy Welles & Diane Miller**, UURMaPA leaders

*A third of the members of the UUMA are retired. Are you curious? What do you need to know as you prepare for retirement? What do you need to do? What is your time-frame? Can you afford it? Who else will participate in your decision? And, after ministry, What Lies Beyond? Bring your thoughts and questions to this sharing of resources and open conversation.*



### •• Thursday afternoon, June 20 (1:30–2:30, CC-111A)

GA Workshop sponsored by UURMaPA

>> *"We've Come Too Far to Turn Back Now"*

>> With **Dorothy Emerson, Michael Crumpler, Sean Parker Dennison & Diane Miller**

*In 1967, only 12% of UUs thought "Homosexuality should not be discouraged by law or education." From silence, denial, and closets of every type, we have become activist, welcoming communities. But who is still left out? Bring your stories, challenges and visions for a truly inclusive future!*



### ••• Thursday evening, June 20

*Service of the Living Tradition*

UURMaPA President **Judy Welles** will welcome a new class of retiring ministers.



### ••• Friday, June 21 – UURMaPA Luncheon [see immediately below]

## Our Annual UURMaPA Luncheon during General Assembly

Friday, June 21, Noon–2:00

Terrace Room West of the Davenport Grand Hotel

*This yearly gathering is a great time to:*

- connect with retired colleagues and partners,
- hear what's shakin' from our esteemed President, **Judy Welles**, and
- celebrate the 2019 recipient of the UURMaPA *Creative Sageing Award*.

*We especially welcome our newest retirees who were honored at the Service of the Living Tradition the previous evening. (They attend the lunch as our guests.)*

The menu will be a soup and salad buffet, with fresh fruit, Davenport brownies, cookies, coffee and tea. **The cost is \$32 per person.** Every effort will be made to meet our various dietary needs and accessibility, so if there is something you need to make it work for you, please include a note with your registration.

### **Registrations and payment are due by May 30.**

Sooner is fine! *There will be no registration or payment at the door.* So don't delay! Get yourself a seat at the table right now.

Send name(s), contact info, \$32 *per person* by check (to UURMaPA) to:

**Diane Miller, 646 Rockview Road, Salina KS 67401**

*Mobile number is 617-851-8222.*



## THE NEWEST UURMAPA NOMCOM MEMBERS

### Judy Gibson (2021)

**Judy Gibson** retired as Director of Continuing Education at Michigan's Glen Oaks Community College in 2001, four years before her minister spouse, **Gordon Gibson**, retired and became Minister Emeritus with the UU Fellowship of Elkhart, IN.

In 2004, they together began organizing and leading spring pilgrimages to southern civil rights sites. This program has grown to become the Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Project, and Judy continues involvement as a Founder. They have helped lead many pilgrimages across the south to date.

The Gibsons moved to Knoxville, TN, in 2006, and are active members in the Tennessee Valley UU Church. Judy has served two terms as Secretary to the UURMaPA Board, and has worked as a volunteer naturalist at the local nature center. She enjoys reading, exercise, dancing, and living close enough to the Smokies for day programs and hikes—as aging joints allow.

The Gibsons have two daughters and three grandchildren, with whom they visit annually in Muncie, IN and San Francisco, CA.



**UURMAPA Nominating Committee —**  
*Continuing members:*  
**Barbara Wells ten Hove (2020), chair**  
**Wayne Arnason (2020)**

### Barry Andrews (2021)

Rev. Dr. **Barry Andrews** is Minister Emeritus of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (NY) where he served as Minister of Religious Education for 18 years. Prior to that he served congregations in Spokane (WA), Manhattan (NYC) and San Diego (CA). His service to the denomination includes terms as president of LREDA, chair of the UUA Panel on Theological Education, chair of the UUA Emerson Bicentennial Committee and chair of the UUA Curriculum Development Committee, which produced the Tapestry of Faith curriculum. He is a recipient of the Angus MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education and the UU District of Metropolitan New York award for Excellence in Religious Education.



In 2004 Barry was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard. He has been a Merrill Fellow at Harvard Divinity School and Writer in Residence at the Thoreau Institute. He is author of *Thoreau as Spiritual Guide* and *Emerson as Spiritual*

*Guide* and editor of anthologies of Emerson, Thoreau and Margaret Fuller, published by Skinner House Press. His latest book, published in 2017 by University of Massachusetts Press, is *Transcendentalism and the Cultivation of the Soul*.

He has taught courses at Meadville Lombard and Starr King. He is a member of The Emerson Society, The Thoreau Society and The Margaret Fuller Society. Once retired, he and spouse **Linda Andrews** moved to Bainbridge Island, WA, where they are members of Cedars UU Church. He does occasional preaching in the Puget Sound area and has led a number of workshops on various aspects of Transcendentalist spirituality.

Barry and Linda enjoy traveling and spending time with their children and grandchildren in the US and Mexico. In retirement, Barry has found joy in cooking and great satisfaction in writing. He is currently writing a book on the spirituality of Ralph Waldo Emerson. His website and blog is [transcendentalistspirituality.com](http://transcendentalistspirituality.com)

### Judy Welles (2021)

**Judy Welles** retired in 2011 from a 14-year co-ministry with spouse **Duane Fickeisen** at UUs of the Cumberland Valley, PA. She grew up in the UU Society of Wellesley Hills, MA. Before entering Starr King at age 47, she was an administrator for Planned Parenthood. Judy has two children, three stepchildren and nine grand-children. She loves to knit, garden, and walk.

She is a member of First Unitarian Church in Portland, OR. She was on the Board of Trustees of Starr King for nine years and also served on the Western Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee—not to mention on the UURMaPA Board since 2013 as newsletter editor and then president (until this summer).



## *Unitarian Beginnings and Heritage in Poland*

A HISTORICAL STUDY TOUR WITH  
THE REV'D DR. JAY ATKINSON

July 27–August 1, 2019

You can still JOIN US on a visit this summer to the 16th century's Unitarian "heartland" where early religious dissenters—who called themselves the Polish Brethren—first established congregations in the 1560s that openly challenged the doctrine of the trinity, rejected infant baptism, and debated the morality of military service from their pacifist

devotion to the life of Jesus.



J  
A  
Y  
A.

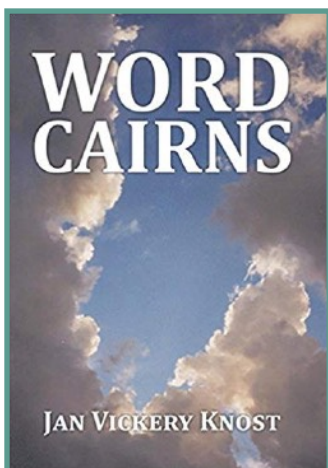
In 1569 many of them moved to the newly founded "unitarian town" of Raków, whose **450th anniversary** we will celebrate as part of our tour. After 1580, under the leadership of Fausto Sozzini, the Brethren became known (and reviled) across Europe as "Socinians." They established over 200 congregations in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, flourished into the 1630s, and persevered until 1660, when they were forced into exile or re-conversion under resurgent Roman Catholic oppression.

You can find fuller information about the study tour **HERE**. Please note that we've been able to *reduce* the tour cost from what is stated in the flyer. It's now about \$570, with a \$120 supplement for single occupancy. And *don't worry* about the stated March 30 deadline. At press time we still had some spaces available and can accept your registration—as long as someone else doesn't beat you out, so please act soon if this interests you. For questions or to register, contact Jay: [jayatk40@gmail.com](mailto:jayatk40@gmail.com).



Kraków old town – Central Square

## UURMaPAn Culls "Word Cairns"



In this 2015 book (publ. by AuthorHouse) **Jan Vickery Knost** portrays his personal journey of life, faith, service, and love through memoirs, poetry, creative prose, and selected sermons from a remarkable career in the UU ministry.

His writings are moments of humor and tenderness as well as personal challenges he sustained or overcame with the deepest regard and respect for our common humanity. "Maybe some of my collegial brothers and sisters might want to check it out if anyone happens to remember me."

For the past 50 years Jan has served congregations in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas, Florida and New Mexico, with a passion for people and the task of assisting them to find peace and love in their lives. Currently he and spouse **Lorna** are enjoying retirement on the Rhode Island coast.





## REAL TALK: Protect Your Finances

By Linda Rose [irose@uua.org](mailto:irose@uua.org) 617-948-4265

Director, UU Organizations Retirement Plan, UUA Office of Church Staff Finances

In the previous, Winter 2019, issue of *Elderberries* readers were urged to consider some ways in which abuse can alter the lives of older adults.

Here I will speak specifically of **FINANCIAL ABUSE**, for which we often use the term “exploitation.” Some high-profile cases of suspected unfair treatment may have drawn your attention in recent years, such as allegations in 2018 over the estate of artist Robert Indiana, who famously created a “LOVE” sculpture with the tilted “O.” A federal lawsuit alleged that his trusted caretaker had exploited him for financial gain. Speculation regarding potential abuse or manipulation of author Harper Lee was also in the news a few years ago.

Any of us can be targeted, regardless of our relative wealth, ethnic background, social status, gender identity, cognitive capacity, computer skills, age, or other strengths and personal qualities. It is also true that none of us is entirely alone; help is available.

As we age, we are not so much easily “victimized” as we are *intentionally targeted* by people who undertake nefarious actions that can result in real harm. Tragically, those who commit these abusive acts can include family members, friends, and other trusted persons, including caregivers or professionals upon whom one has long relied.

Nonetheless, knowing how financial crimes are attempted against us as elders, we can become equipped to better protect against potential assaults. **Consider the following important approaches:**

- **Take action on your paperwork:** Ensure that legal instruments, including a will, durable power of attorney and healthcare power of attorney, are in place well before changes in cognition, memory, energy might impact functioning.
- **Increase your awareness of ways in which one can become compromised:** Telemarketing fraud, bill-pay scams, and requests for funds from fake charities are all in the news. Online hackers perpetrate email “phishing” scams and other types of attacks. Those which leverage data collected about you, including from your online presence, are employed regularly these days by sophisticated hackers. Their aim is to trick us into clicking on links or attachments we do not expect, and which can result in bad outcomes.
- **Be vigilant with your information.** Never click on links in emails that you don’t trust or didn’t expect. Never convey personal or financial information or passwords through unsecure email. Trust your instincts, and if you suspect something is wrong, do not respond to an email you have received, but *instead, initiate a telephone call separately.*
- **Conduct ongoing conversations with trusted loved ones** to help ensure that they are aware of your wishes and boundaries.
- **Don’t allow embarrassment to prevent you from reaching out for assistance.** Know that in cases of suspected fraud-related theft, prompt reporting is of the essence. Adult Protective Service, the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA: <https://ncea.acl.gov/>) and other recognized entities such as AARP can provide additional information or services to help prevent mistreatment as we age.
- **Engage the robust information from our Retirement Fund record-keeper (TIAA)** regarding how to prevent, recognize and resolve security issues, fraud, and identity theft. *See sidebar for specifics.*

I encourage *Elderberries* readers to find ways to shine a spotlight on the potential for any and all kinds of elder abuse, sharing this material to help identify and address incidents.

**TIAA** (UUA Retirement Fund record-keeper) has several items in place to identify and attempt to mitigate elder financial exploitation:

1. TIAA trains its client-facing personnel to recognize possible instances of Diminished Capacity or Elder Abuse and then recommend solutions.
2. Plan participants may designate a **Trusted Contact**: someone over the age of 18 whom the client knows and allows to serve as a point of contact for TIAA should any questions arise concerning the client’s overall well-being, whereabouts, or, in extreme situations, possible victimization.
3. TIAA can refer incidents to a case worker, who will investigate incidents and work with the client and their Trusted Advisor to determine the legitimacy of any requests.

### Plan participants can visit

<https://www.tiaa.org/public/>

and before you even log in, notice the words “Get Help” in the upper right portion of the screen. Click there to find “visit the security center.” Click there and scroll down a bit to engage information such as “How We Know It Is You” (authentication) and “How to Protect your Information” (tips for staying safe online).

**Reach out to TIAA by phone (800-842-2829) in order to:**



- a) ask how to designate a Trusted Contact
- b) inquire about TIAA’s documentation requirements in order to establish financial power of attorney if desired
- c) ask general questions about your account, update beneficiaries, etc.
- d) report suspected fraudulent activity related to your UU Retirement Plan account

Be prepared to identify yourself to TIAA by providing your social security number or account number; ask directly to be put in touch with a representative *familiar with our UU plan, (Plan # 404921.)*

Because you are clergy, it is nearly always best if you speak with call center professionals who are aware of the unique tax treatment afforded clergy; this is one reason the UU Plan has a dedicated line (above).

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Remember, it is recommended that **YOU INITIATE** a phone call to a KNOWN number with ANY service provider—rather than directly responding to telephone or email outreach from any unknown or unverified entity, including those that claim to be your bank, insurance agent, doctor’s office... the list goes on.

[from Page 1]

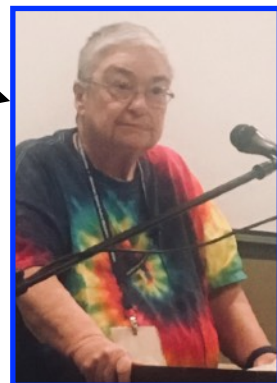
The first day was gloriously packed. Monday morning worship led by **Barbara ten Hove** noted our arriving “out of many singular rooms” (drawing on the familiar Kenneth Patton reading) to find solace in the names and faces of companions on the journey.

**Keith Kron**’s keynote cogently rehearsed the flow of people and events that shaped our UU Rainbow History, especially lifting up how much painful struggle was involved even as we patted ourselves on the back for being ahead of other groups. “The work is never done,” he reminded us. (Keith is currently Director of the UUA Transitions Office, and for 14 earlier years he directed the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns.)



Two afternoon panels shared moving accounts from perspectives of ministers and

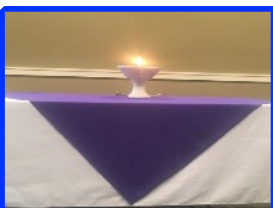
partners. Then, after dinner, **Teresa Novak** offered a stirring Odyssey.



Panelists together: Anne Spatola, Judy Finholm, Gretchen Woods, Barbara Pescan, Donna Clifford (hidden), Ann Tyndall, Meg Riley and Jay Deacon.

The second equally full day began with a regular and potent feature of our conferences, an *In Memoriam* Service, led by **Chris Lilly Backus & Andy Backus**, who reminded us in his homily that “We write on the pages of history with indelible ink ... It’s not our fingerprints we leave everywhere we go; it’s our soul prints.” Thirty-eight of our colleagues and partners who died recently were

acknowledged, including *Phillip Hewett, Til Evans, Rudy Gelsey, Victor Carpenter, Will Saunders, Alan Seaburg, Max Gaebler, Scotty Meek, Ray Manker* and *Clark Olsen*.



But wait, there’s more! We then shifted into a compelling program of *Remembering Our Ancestors in UU Rainbow History*, with profiles of 10 key and sometimes less visible pioneers, who advanced the rights of their communities in years past: *Dick Nash, Jim Stoll, Deane Starr, Kay Greenleaf, Rosemarie Carnarius, Mark Mosher DeWolfe,*

*Bob Hadley, Bob Wheatley, Gene Navias, and Frank Robertson*. UURMaPA board members read brief life summaries they had prepared (supported by diligent researcher **Marni Harmony**). By the end of this session there was an intensely palpable spirit in the room; it felt very meaningful. And that was all before lunch!

The afternoon featured a couple of optional workshop possibilities: *Movement and Improv* with **Mary Kay** and **Dennis Hamilton**; and *Advocacy* pointers with **Craig Roshaven**, both of which were well received.



Improv’ers (Dave Hunter, Barbara ten Hove and Anne Spatola with leaders Mary Kay and Dennis Hamilton) acting out at the *Wide Variety Show*.

Concurrently, the professional videographer, who also captured all the major presentations, was filming recollections by a few small groups, including male and female allies, all well moderated by **Dee Graham**. (These and most of the recorded sessions will eventually be edited and added to the **UU Rainbow History website** — [www.uurainbowhistory.net](http://www.uurainbowhistory.net).)

That evening saw a spirited “Wide Variety Show,” emceed by **Jim Eller** in fine form, with sketches from the Improv workshop, songs, readings and general good humor. *Continued, next page...*



And throughout the days, a Timeline Team (**Dorothy Emerson, Donna Clifford and Dee Graham**, assisted ahead of conference by UURMaPA Historian **Susan Lamar**)



Lining up by years as a UU; segment juxtaposed in front of the Timeline:  
**Diane Miller, Jon Montgomery, Sue Redfern-Campbell, Gretchen Woods, Jay Atkinson, Ginger Luke**

created an inviting and interactive 50-year chronicle on three walls of the main meeting room, onto which we could add our own memories and comments. See the results online at [www.uurainbowhistory.net](http://www.uurainbowhistory.net). There was also a table of intriguing memorabilia, such as



**SMUUGLe Hat:**  
1991 Southeast Massachusetts UU Gays, Lesbians, etc.

The farewell morning's worship service was led by guest **Meg Riley** (who's not retired yet, serving well as senior minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, but who also had earlier tenure as director of the UUA's Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns).

After a few days of sitting in rows, Meg made us gather in a circle, wouldn't you know, and it thoroughly suited our closing mood.

**EVALUATIONS** were helpfully focused on some aspects

that went less smoothly (especially with the sometimes quite awkward site terrain), but overall the event was rewarding to most if not all attendees.

It was "...a delightful, welcoming adventure. How refreshing to see colleagues now, absent the burden of denominational politics, when we can be ourselves and be whole together."

**Winter 2019 Conference**  
"This was a wonderful perspective on LGBTQ history—a breathtaking journey—and very uplifting. We have come so far. And I am so proud of the pioneers who lived in the disdain of society and bore such a burden."

The journey continues, especially on the **UU Rainbow History website**, and at our Fall UURMaPA Conference: October 7–10, in Litchfield, CT. (See pages 13-15 for info about this event.)



**Keith Kron speaks!**

(Note the roomful of soft, tilting office chairs...)



(Conference pix by *Diane Miller and Jaco ten Hove.*)

**Allies Panel:**

**Marie Brown, Judy Welles, Carol Taylor, Millie Rochester, Lyn S. Cameron**



**Don Chery** makes a point with **Paul Hull**, as **Joel Weaver** and **Carol Taylor** relax in the background.



**Gretchen Woods & Judy Finholm**



**Marni Harmony**

If you learn about the death of a minister or partner, PLEASE let us know at [board@uurmapa.org](mailto:board@uurmapa.org).

Longer versions of all obituaries can eventually be found on the UURMaPA web site (no password needed) at <https://uurmapa.org/obituaries/>.

## IN MEMORIAM

Continuing gratitude to **JAY ATKINSON & ROGER ROCHESTER** for their careful researching and writing of ministers and partners obituaries, respectively.

### DOROTHY HAGQUIST VETTER (1928 – 2019)

Dorothy Hagquist Vetter, widow of the Reverend Dr. Herbert F. Vetter, died 2 February 2019 in Cambridge Massachusetts, at the age of 90. Dorothy was proud of her Swedish heritage and of her parents' connection to China. She was a skilled gardener and cook, and had a deep love of nature and science.

Dorothy was a creative, talented teacher at Martin Luther King and Grover Cleveland middle schools in Dorchester, MA. A tirelessly supportive spouse and caring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she was a committed volunteer, continuing after retirement with her work with the Tuesday Meals Program at First Parish in Cambridge, and with the Cambridge Senior Volunteer Clearinghouse.

She is survived by her twin sisters Esther Sachtleben & Grace Eicholtz; her children Kathleen Vetter (John Zurich) and Jim Vetter; son-in-law Rev. Tim Kutzmark; grandchildren Lyra Burch (Jesse Beecher), Larsson Burch (Maggie Boissard); and great-grandchildren Elsa & Faye Beecher. She was predeceased by her son John Vetter.

Memorial donations may be made in Dorothy's name to the Tuesday Meals Program at [tuesdaymeals.org/donate](https://tuesdaymeals.org/donate).



### CHARLES S. STEPHEN, JR. (1932 – 2017)

The Reverend Dr. Charles Stephen—beloved parish minister, eloquent and literate preacher, omnivorous reader, and dedicated civil rights activist—died at home in hospice care on 29 May 2017, aged 85.



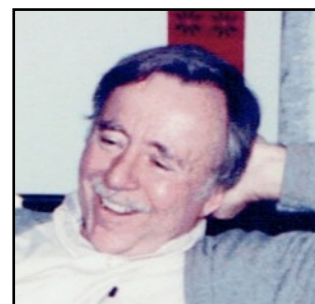
Mr. Stephen was a founder of local chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood. He hosted the show *All About Books* for Nebraska public radio and reviewed books for the Lincoln Star Journal. On the afterlife, Charles liked to quote Jorge Luis Borges: “I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.” The local newspaper called him “a connoisseur of words and ideas.”

Charles Stedman Stephen, Jr., was born on 5 February 1932 in Melrose, MA, to Charles Stedman Stephen and Barbara Hill Stephen, and grew up in the Greenwood neighborhood of Wakefield, MA. He was graduated with a B.A. by Northeastern University (MA, 1955) and earned a B.D. from Crane Theological School (MA, 1958). Starr King School awarded him an S.T.D. *honoris causa* in 1982.

Mr. Stephen was ordained on 15 June 1958 by the Melrose Unitarian Church. After settlement at the First Parish Church of Billerica, MA (1958–61) he accepted a call to the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, Nebraska, where he served for 35 years and was named minister emeritus on retiring in 1996.

His daughter Susan described her father as a “man of letters, man of the Red Sox, hiker of mountains, canoe paddler of oceans, tickler of children, crossword puzzler, lover of opera.”

He is survived by his spouse of 63 years Patricia; children Debra, Susan, David, Karl, and Bruce, plus ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and brothers Sanders and Mark.



## ROBERT C. KIMBALL (1928 – 2017)

### IN MEMORIAM



The Reverend Dr. Robert Kimball—Tillich scholar, seminary president, deeply thoughtful and visionary educator, and beloved mentor to a generation of UU ministerial students—died at age 88 on 29 May 2017.

Early in his career, Bob Kimball became a close student of the work of theologian Paul Tillich, who appointed him, at age 31, to be his literary executor, a role Bob filled for nearly thirty years.

Robert Charles Kimball was born on 6 June 1928 in Rochester, NY, to parents Frederick Booth Kimball and Marguerite Steinmiller Kimball. He earned a B.A. in psychology from Oberlin College (OH, 1951), an M.A. in philosophy from Oberlin Graduate School (1953), a B.D. from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology (1955), and a Ph.D. in the history and philosophy of religion from Harvard Univ. (MA, 1960).

After service as a religious educator to United Church of Christ congregations while still a student, the Rev'd Dr. Kimball began nearly four transformative decades of teaching theology (but really a formational counselor) on the Starr King faculty (1959–98), including many years as the school's president (1968–83) and dean (1983–97).



His profound personal influence is legendary in the memory of students. Michelle Tonozzi recalls “the radical *YES* [that he spoke] to each student for their most authentic self.”

Roy Reynolds describes Kimball's “wonderful gift of presence... rather like a Zen master, who brought his full attention—mind, heart, and body—to each moment we were together.”

In individual student conferences, recalls Keith Kron, “Bob often saw two layers below the [surface] problem or question.” And Barbara Pescan adds, “He cut out the extraneous. He saw through lies, even when they were self-effacing, or denying some sadness: ‘Do you always laugh when you mean to cry?’”

Robert Kimball is survived by children Seth, Jeanette, Amy, and Paul, plus six grandchildren, and is revered by scores of Starr King School graduates.



## PHYLLIS M. MCKEEMAN (1923 – 2017)

Phyllis M. McKeeman, widow of the Reverend Dr. Gordon B. McKeeman, passed away peacefully on 7 January 2017 at the age of 93. She was born on 7 August 1923 in Swampscott, Massachusetts, to Charles F. and Edith (Pedrick) Bradstreet. Phyllis was a fourth-generation Universalist and met her future spouse Gordon at the Universalist Church youth group in Lynn, MA. She and Gordon were married in Lynn on 5 Nov 1944 and together they served four churches in Massachusetts and Ohio. From 1983–88 they lived in California as Gordon served as President of Starr King School for the Ministry.



Phyllis fulfilled a variety of church roles wherever they happened to be living. She served on the merger committee for the Universalist and Unitarian Women's organizations and on the first Board of the UU Women's Federation. She was office secretary and then coordinator of the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA from 1965–1983. Part of that time she was also Chair of Region II for the UUA Annual Program Fund. Phyllis was awarded the UU Unsung Award by Ohio-Meadville District in 1976. She and Gordon were presented the UUA Award for Distinguished Service in 1993.

Although they raised three boys, Phyllis had grown up in Girl Scouting and became an active leader and trainer/consultant in the Girl Scouts and received the Thanks Badge award. She loved the outdoors and spent many years camping with the family. She also enjoyed knitting and playing cribbage.

She and Gordon retired to Charlottesville, VA in 1988 and moved to Rochester, MN in 2010. They were married for 69 years at the time of Gordon's death in 2013. Phyllis is survived by three sons: Bruce, Glenn, and Randall; four grandchildren: Jennifer (Colin) Clark, Neil McKeeman, Alanna McKeeman, and Leland McKeeman; a great-grandchild, Sean Clark; and sister-in law, Gloria King.

Memorials are suggested to the Unitarian Universalist Association, Girl Scouts of America, or the Alzheimer's Association. Notes of condolence may be sent to Randall at his email address: [rsmckeeman@hotmail.com](mailto:rsmckeeman@hotmail.com).

## CYNTHIA J. WARD (1928 – 2017)

The Reverend Cynthia Ward—religious educator, parish minister, lover of arts and learning, and mother of five, three of whom are themselves UU ministers—died at the Brooks-Howell retirement home in Asheville, North Carolina, on 9 May 2017 at the age of 88.

She wrote of her commitment to “enabling persons to the challenge of creating a community of faith, hope, justice, and love,” and is remembered as a mentor to many women called to ministry at a time when so many were still meeting resistance,

Cynthia’s daughter, the Rev’d Lisa Ward, recalls that her mother “drank in poetry, and wrote it well. She loved art and deeply engaging conversations. Ever searching spiritually, she expressed her findings to the delight of others.”

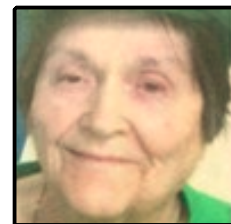


Cynthia Johnson was born to Charles and Alice Libby Johnson on 11 August 1928 in Auburndale, MA. She reported feeling a call to ministry even as a five-year-old child. After college she worked as a journalist and editor (1950–53), and with spouse Jack Ward found a religious home for their growing family in UU churches. Cynthia then became active in religious education, eventually earning an M.Div. in 1984 and being ordained the next year by the UU Princeton (NJ) congregation.

Over the next 15 years, the Rev’d Ms. Ward served several parish and RE ministries in the greater New York area—Westchester, Brooklyn, and Orange (NJ). After retirement in 2000, she remained active with UU church membership in Florida, New Jersey, and lastly at the UU Congregation of Asheville, NC.

Cynthia’s spouse, psychiatrist Jack Ward, died in 2005. She is survived by children Mark, Keith, Terry, Lisa, and Scott, as well as by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM



## ALAN LESLIE SEABURG (1932 – 2018)

The Reverend Dr. Alan Seaburg—sometime parish minister, poet, and historiographer, whose archival and bibliographic knowledge assisted hundreds of researchers at the Harvard Divinity Library over the years—died on 22 July 2018 at the age of 86.

Alan Leslie Seaburg was born on 28 February 1932 in Medford, MA to Nils Henry and Eva (Gerrard) Seaburg. From Tufts University (MA) he received a B.A. in 1954 and a B.D. in 1957. He was ordained on September 15 of that year by the First Universalist Church in Medford (MA), where he served an interim ministry (1958–59) while studying for an M.S. at Simmons College (MA, 1959).

The Rev’d Mr. Seaburg worked as a librarian at the Crane Theological School of Tufts University (1959–65) before returning to the parish in a shared ministry with Kenneth Patton at the Charles Street Meeting House in Boston (1965–68).

Then, after two years at the UUA (1968–70), he moved on to what would become his most significant vocation as Curator of Manuscripts at Harvard Divinity School’s Andover-Harvard Theological Library (1970–95). At retirement he was named Curator of Manuscripts, Emeritus, and in 1999 Meadville Lombard Theological School awarded him a D.D. *honoris causa*.

Alan was a prolific writer, with pieces appearing in *The New York Times*, *Amherst Review*, *Hawaii Review*, and *Commonweal*. He published five books of poetry and was for many years poetry editor of the nature journal *Snowy Egret*. He also authored or co-authored more than half a dozen small histories, mostly on New England subjects.

Alan is survived by daughters Carolyn Joy Bell and Ann Leslie Seaburg, two granddaughters, and two nephews. Memorial contributions are encouraged in honor of Alan’s brother, to the “Carl G. Seaburg Scholarship Fund” at Meadville Lombard Theological School, Development Office: 610 South Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605 (<https://www.meadville.edu/donate>).



## UURMaPA's Fall Rainbow Conference: *LGBTQIA\* and Intersecting Issues*

**October 7–10 — Wisdom House in Litchfield, CT**



Our next conference continues a yearlong recognition of 50 years of UU Rainbow history since the 1969 Stonewall Uprising. The Fall gathering will include many successful elements of the event held last February in Texas, broadened by explorations of diverse issues that intersect with LGBTQIA\*.

*\*Descriptions of this ever expanding movement change as our understanding and acceptance grows. We use a recent acronym, which can translate as: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex, and asexual (or allies).*

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES:

The Rev. **Keith Kron**, former Director of the UUA Office of Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay and Transgender Concerns (and current Director of the UUA Transitions Office), will share an overview of the history of LGBT ministers in our faith. The Rev. **Meg Riley** (currently senior minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship) will then offer a response from her perspective. Prior to Keith, Meg headed what was then known as the Office of LGB Concerns.



*Meg and Keith enjoying each other as featured guest speakers at our February conference*

Other program elements will include an Odyssey by the Rev. **Mark Belletini** (left) and two diverse panels that will include ministers and partners.



The Rev. **Michael J. Crumpler** (right), LGBTQ and Intercultural Programs Manager for the UUA, will speak to us on the connection of diverse issues with LGBTQIA.



Also, the four-day, three-night conference will include a recognition of several of our UU LGBTQIA pioneers who are no longer with us, and our usual *In Memoriam* service for UURMaPAns who have died in the last year, plus worship services, workshops, a wide variety show and visiting and social time. The **UU Rainbow History Project** [[www.uurainbowhistory.net](http://www.uurainbowhistory.net)] will be collecting more personal stories from attendees to preserve in videos, social media, archives, a potential book, and the associated website. As further details are confirmed, more information and a tentative schedule will be available via UURMaPA-Announce, Summer Elderberries and our website.

Since the topic may be of special interest, any ministers or partners of retirement age—UURMaPA members or not—are invited to register for the full conference. Other UUMA members and aspirants with partners may attend as commuters, signing up for the first full day, Oct. 8 (featuring major program elements). Pass the word to any of these that you think might be interested!

Registration is now open, and you can find the form with all needed information on page 15 (inside back cover) of this Elderberries issue, or on the website, [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) under ACTIVITIES. Registration deadline is September 7, but early registrants are the most likely to get their rooming preferences.

***SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SITE...***

*About*  **Wisdom House**  
Retreat and Conference Center



This year, we've moved the fall conference from southeastern Massachusetts to northwestern Connecticut and the town of Litchfield (about 30 miles west of Hartford; a 50-minute drive from Bradley Airport). Our events outgrew the familiar La Salette Center in Attleboro, MA, so we found a new site with similar amenities plus more space for the thriving UURMaPA membership.



Wisdom House is a former Catholic convent center like La Salette, and also offers the spiritual advantage of a true retreat setting that contrasts with the slick, commercial bustle of a hotel-conference center site. The Center welcomes all those of any or no faith who value seeking and learning in a contemplative environment. They are committed to environmental

sustainability through practices such as water and energy conservation, waste management, and the conservation and improvement of wildlife habitats on their 70 acres. Food is locally sourced when possible, with vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy-free options available at each meal.

Simple lodging rooms are plentiful, offering both double and twin beds. However, rooms with attached private bathrooms are scarce, and will be assigned on a first-come basis to those of us who really need them. Shared multi-person bathrooms offering private shower and toilet facilities are not far down the hall from the majority of rooms, so plan to include a robe and portable wash-up kit in your luggage.



If you would like to know more about Wisdom House, see their website at [www.wisdomhouse.org](http://www.wisdomhouse.org). For concerns about registration and/or lodging, contact Registrar **Lois Wesener** at [loisw99@hotmail.com](mailto:loisw99@hotmail.com) — landline: 414-963-9590; mobile: 414-514-2375. And don't forget that financial assistance with registration cost is always available. Contact Treasurer **David Hunter**, [davidhunter2405@comcast.net](mailto:davidhunter2405@comcast.net). We want to make it possible for all interested UURMaPAns to attend our conferences!



**REGISTER FOR UURMaPA FALL CONFERENCE**  
**October 7-10, 2019**

**WISDOM HOUSE Retreat & Conference Center**  
**229 East Litchfield Road, Litchfield, CT 06759**



*Conference fee covers program, three nights, nine meals, social refreshments and general expenses. Commuter fees are for Oct. 8 only.*

**Name #1:** \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: **Minister** **Partner**  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Name #2:** \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: **Minister** **Partner**  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Wisdom House offers guest room options for a private room or to share with another person (double.) We will be putting no more than two people to a room. There are a limited number of bedrooms with an attached private bathroom, so getting your registration form in ASAP is important if you need this arrangement. Other rooms will share bathrooms down the hall. To view the grounds and common areas go to: [wisdomhouse.org](http://wisdomhouse.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ *If not listed above, I am sharing a bedroom with \_\_\_\_\_ who is registering separately.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am willing to share a bedroom with another person (Registrar will choose person)*

Double bedroom & shared bath at \$360/person	\$ _____
Single bedroom & shared bath at \$390	\$ _____
Double bedroom & private bath at \$445/person	\$ _____
Single bedroom & private bath at \$490	\$ _____
Commuter: Program and lunch only on 10/8 at \$60	\$ _____
Commuter: Program, lunch & dinner on 10/8 at \$80	\$ _____
Scholarship Contribution	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

*Accessibility/dietary needs:* \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and check made out to UURMaPA as soon as possible and *no later than September 7* to: **Lois Wesener**, Registrar at **1202 East Kenmore Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211**  
 Her contact info: [loisw99@hotmail.com](mailto:loisw99@hotmail.com) Landline: 414-963-9590 Mobile: 414-514-2375

*Requests for financial assistance should be addressed to: David Hunter, davidhunter2405@comcast.net*  
*535 Gradyville Road #V-211, Newtown Square, PA 19073 (479-236-1407)*



# Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

**c/o Richard Speck**

**4721 Mermaid Blvd.**

**Wilmington, DE 19808-1803**

