

Elderberries



Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers and Partners Association



Volume 35

Number 3

SUMMER, 2019

Creative Sageing Award Honors *Carolyn Owen-Towle*

By Diane Miller & Jaco ten Hove

It was time to get down and “damngorgeous.” At the annual UURMaPA Luncheon (on Friday, June 21 at the UUA General Assembly in Spokane, WA), our longtime colleague **Carolyn Owen-Towle** received the 2019 Creative Sageing Award, which recognizes great application of post-career energy toward artistry and imagination.

Upon retirement 17 years ago, Carolyn resumed engagement with the art world in which she was raised, and which she studied in college, to pursue an ongoing exploration of the value and centrality of beauty. In particular, she wrote *Damngorgeous: A Daughter’s Memoir of Millard Owen Sheets*, published by Oceanside Museum of Art in 2009. The title comes from a favorite expression coined by her late father, whom she quotes in a letter saying he once had “two months to paint a real honest-to-gosh show, or in stronger language, a damngorgeous, supermaligorical pile of canvases.”



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GOODBYE TO LASALETTE IN ATTLEBORO *By Susan LaMar, UURMaPA Historian*

The 2019 UURMaPA New England fall conference marks the first time in 25 years that members will gather for this beloved seasonal event anywhere but LaSalette Retreat Center in Attleboro, MA. It is a poignant time, with memories that connect individual colleagues to what became sacred space for all that was learned and shared during those years.

The place will be missed, even as there is joy (and perhaps a little incredulity!) that we have outgrown LaSalette’s ability to accommodate us. As we move to another lovely but more spacious spot (see Page 3 for details), it is fitting to reflect back on our history in Attleboro.

Although for generations there had been recognition that retired ministers and their partners in the UUA were an

unmet responsibility, not much was done until **Max Kapp** began publishing, in the 1960s, a journal for retired ministers called *The Elder Churchman*. This continued for nine years, but the effort faltered, and then ceased in the 70s. At the 1983 General Assembly in Vancouver, a group of eight retired ministers met and began promoting concern for and about retirees. A first conference took place in 1985 in

CONTINUED, PAGE 4...

Notice of 1st event held in Attleboro, MA, 1994

October 4-6 1994

9th Annual Northeast UURMA Conference

Lasalette Center for Christian Living
947 Park Street (Route 18)
Attleboro, Massachusetts

Theme: **Aspects of Aging**

Speakers: **Dennis Garvey:** TV Producer; Founder of the Center for Successful Aging; Director, Adult Health Services, Falmouth, Massachusetts, Hospital.
John Buehrens: President, UUA
David Cole: Conference Preacher (From *Elderberries*, Summer '94, Gordon McKeeman, ed.)
Don Lothrop: Worship Leader
Farley Wheelwright: Worship Leader



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President's Column

BASIC QUESTIONS



Basic questions are often so useful. “*What is of ultimate concern?*” “*What is our purpose?*” We have woven theological lace and built up strong ministries with such questions. As a minister who retired three years ago, I’ve reflected on the ministries I was called to, in wonder at the all-consuming intensity of it, at the sheer quantity of my life (four decades) spent in service of congregations and this faith tradition.

As those years fade to background in my retirement, I want to believe they mattered, even though not much of it seems

lasting. These days I have chosen to be a caregiver for my two grandchildren and for my mother. Family is the warm pulse and pace of my life these days. And to my surprise, falling in love at 70 and now sharing my life with a retired colleague, **Paul Hull**, widens the web of tenderness and loving care. These are my ultimate concerns, and purpose.

I have chosen to be part of UURMaPA because one of our central purposes is connection. *How do we connect?* Voluntarily, for one thing. There are over 900 retired ministers and spouses, many of whom choose to participate in UURMaPA. *How do we connect?* Through gatherings such as Conferences and the Annual GA luncheon. We have Zoom Peer Groups and Zoom shared interest groups. We have small local gatherings and our regionally based Caring Connection Network. We connect through Elderberries, our Website, and Facebook pages. We connect by volunteering and doing the organizational work that keeps us going. We call to chat, and write notes, and reach out.

Why do we connect? We have shared experiences in ministries and partnerships, and we often “get it,” even when we have come from very different types of ministries and experiences. We hold dear a heritage of lives and work and stories. We connect as partners—those who were deeply engaged with ministry, those who were involved with their partner’s ministry, those who shared the ministry as clergy. This makes us distinct from most professional organizations. We have fun when we get together.

You might have additional answers to why this organization matters. I’d be glad to hear them. You might have ideas about what we can be, and do, and ways we can give purpose and meaning to each other in retirement.

I look forward to connecting with you!

— *Diane*

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

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.

Fall UURMaPA Conference: Mon.-Thurs. Oct. 7-10

Wisdom House Retreat Center in Litchfield, Connecticut

“Celebrating the Rainbow — the UU Journey toward LGBTQIA Rights”

Registration is **STILL OPEN** —
Deadline: September 7

Detailed information can be found on our website at www.uurmapa.org (under Activities). There you'll find two links: a **tentative event schedule** and a **printable registration form**.

The program will feature two different panels of ministers & partners, including:

- **KIM CRAWFORD HARVIE**, who served the UU Church of Provincetown, MA, in the 1980s and is currently serving Arlington Street Church in Boston;
- **CARLTON ELLIOTT SMITH**, who has served a variety of UU congregations and is now on leave from the Southern Regional staff while he runs for state office in Mississippi;
- **BRENDAN HADASH**, who served congregations in Vermont and Canada for 31 years and retired in 2013;
- **TONY LARSEN**, who served the Olympia Brown UU Church in Racine, WI, for 42 years and retired in 2018;
- **CRAIG MATHEUS**, who is Tony's longtime partner, and **PAT SULLIVAN**, the late **Kay Greenleaf's** partner & spouse for 31 years.

Reminder: Any ministers or partners of retirement age—active UURMaPA members or not—are invited to register for the full conference. Other younger UUMA members, aspirants, and partners may attend as one-day commuters by registering to come on Tuesday, October 8. **Pass the word!**

Wisdom House (about 30 miles west of Hartford, CT) has lots of meeting and lodging space, currently offering many rooms with shared bathrooms close by. If it is necessary for you to have a room with a private bath, contact Registrar

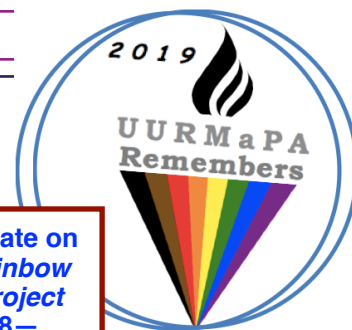
Lois Wesener (loisw99@hotmail.com) or by phone—Landline: 414-963-9590 or Mobile: 414-514-2375) to discuss available options before mailing in a registration form with payment. (See online at www.uurmapa.org under Activities.)



The **UU Rainbow History Project** is supported in part by grants from the UU Funding Program.

* **LGBTQIA** is an acronym that may translate as lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual or allies.

See an update on
the **UU Rainbow
History Project**
—Page 8—



A remarkable group of presenters will lead the program:

- **KEITH KRON**, current Director of the Transitions Office for the UUA, will offer the Keynote address. Keith was previously Director of the Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns, wrote *Living the Welcoming Congregation* curriculum that over 550 UU societies have used to become Welcoming Congregations, and is co-editor for the Skinner House book *Coming Out in Faith*.
- **MEG RILEY**, Senior Minister of the Church of the Larger Fellowship, earlier served as Director of the UUA's (then named) Office of LGB Concerns. Meg was responsible for launching a broad interfaith advocacy initiative now known as “Side with Love.” She will offer her Reflections and lead closing worship.
- **MARK BELLETINI** will offer a personal Odyssey. As an “out” minister in the late 1970s, Mark struggled at first to find a called ministry. He later served long ministries with Starr King UU Church in Hayward, CA, and First UU Church of Columbus, OH. Mark also chaired the *Singing the Living Tradition* Hymnbook Commission.

GOODBYE TO LASALETTE IN ATTLEBORO

By Susan LaMar, UURMaPA Historian

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Petersham, MA. Though the organizers expected that mainly retirees from New England would attend, in fact folks also came from Florida, California and the Midwest.

This first conference was received so enthusiastically that it turned out to be the seed not only of a series of conferences in New England and across the country, but of the organization of UURMaPA itself. Said **Albert Perry**, editor of the newly created *ElderBerries*, about the gathering which drew nearly 80 people: “Perhaps the greatest attraction was a chance to meet again with old friends or to feel involved in the movement to which, in most cases, a lifetime of effort had been given; but in the process the needs and hurts of retired folk came to the surface and made evident the need for some representative and serving organization” [*UU ElderBerries*, Vol. 1:3, Fall 1985].

At first the New England fall conference moved among various retreat centers, but in 1994 it settled at LaSalette. Exactly why was unclear when this writer began her research; it seemed likely it was a combination of adequate accommodations, price, and accessibility to airports. Yes, yes, and yes. *But perhaps the real scoop for why it remained at Attleboro? You’ll have to wait until the end of this 2-part article to find out!*

A review of the themes from 25 years of conferences yields a picture of a vibrant and interested group of colleagues continuing to learn, grow, and share as they engage with the world and one another. Notable is the variety of topics, from a focus on retirement itself (1998, 2013, 2018) to portrayals of a wide world of activity within and outside the UUA.

For instance, **Dorothy Emerson** presented on the UU Women’s Heritage Society and **Ken McLean** on his overseas work (1996); **Nick Cardell** on his ordeal with School of the Americas (2000); **Jack Mendelsohn** on his UU Epiphany at Selma (2001). There were celebrations of and engagement with diversity of many kinds,


cultural and theological, such as **Peter Richardson’s** *Four Spiritualities* (2002), **Fred Campbell’s** *Four Faiths* (2003), **Earl Holt** on Theological Diversity (2006), **Andy and Chris Backus** on Creativity (2016), to name just a few.

Yet in addition to the formal programming, every conference had lots of time for other activities. Indeed, at one point the conference was extended for an extra day to ensure there was plenty of time to be together without feeling rushed. Being in New England led to field trips, such as visits to the new UUA headquarters in Boston’s Seaport District; to Concord and its rich historical sites; to explore art and music in nearby Providence, RI. These all added a special dimension to the conference, and in great company.

What is very clear is that the opportunity to be together as old friends and colleagues, to share worship, music, odysseys, current experiences and activities, and the frustrations and joys of a new life stage are what has driven the annual conference’s success. As with that first gathering in Petersham, deep personal relationships have been nurtured, renewed, and even begun each year. Stories of ministry are shared in ways that only other ministers and those close in their circle truly appreciate.

I spoke with 10 individuals—both ministers and partners—to get a sense of their impressions of LaSalette over the years. Those I spoke with have been coming for varied lengths of time, from three years to all

25. So I created some categories of favorite—well, maybe vivid!—event memories with quotes, the attributions of which shall remain anonymous, to protect the innocent. My conversations with these folks were delightful, as people opened up and shared what I have come to think of as “the bonds of loving, begrudging, exasperating affection.”

Let’s listen to their experiences, in their own voices. See next page... 



**REFLECTIONS
ON 25 YEARS
OF FALL
GATHERINGS AT**



**ATTLEBORO, MA
1994–2018**

THE PLACE:

“Catholic retreat center ways are very good.”
“A common and enduring space does wonders for community. (It’s) a familiar environment that comforts and eases anxieties about where to find things and what to do.”
“The imagery provided an opportunity for deep theological reflection.”
“Loved seeing some of the old humanists get freaked by the cross.”
“I hated the imagery of Jesus holding a sledge hammer and blacksmith tongs.”
“The grounds are great for companionably walking about.”

SOCIALIZING:

“Loved watching some of the old stags locking horns, but turn into lamb chops as time went on.”
“Particularly liked connecting with the old time Universalists.”
“As time went on, there was less jostling for status.”
“Over the years it has become very different: more women and generational changes.”
“I liked the lack of hierarchy & the egalitarian spirit.”
“A chance to meet people you have heard about but never met; famous, but still interesting.”
“A place to be collegial, not for business but for pleasure and enjoyment.”
“You can participate as much or as little as you want.”
“Chance to meet new people and familiar people in new ways.”
“Catching up with partner colleagues was what kept me coming back.”
“I came year after year to see old friends... because when I retired from ministry I stopped engaging in ministerial activities and turned to other things.”
“Loved learning the quirky sides of people I’ve known for years in a particular setting; quirkiness balances their academic side.”

THE FOOD:

“Food was horrible, but Brother Roger [the chef for many years] was a great guy.”
Hors d’oeuvres were terrible; so we began to bring our own. Much better!”

PROGRAMMING:

“Loved the speakers on issues, and learned you didn’t have to leave ministry, but could find new and unusual opportunities.”
“I was hooked when I was invited to do a program.”
“Uplifting programming! Enjoyed by both myself and my partner (who is particularly interested in history).”
“As we have gotten older, caregiver workshops are particularly appreciated.”

PARTNERS:

“Some of my fondest memories include times we assembled just groups of partners.”
“[Partners] need to be clear about what and how you would like to contribute to the organization, or the ministers will do it for you.

WORSHIP:

“Excellent worship. (Who goes in front of colleagues without bringing their best?)”
“Wonderful music; talented musicians among us!”
“Music was terrible; glad we hired a musician.”
“Wonderful tradition of honoring those who had died in the last year.”

ODYSSEYS:

“I loved the odysseys, and remember every detail of what was said and not said.”
“I especially loved hearing from partners—a different perspective on a minister’s odyssey.”
“[One person] used to bring along a directory, calling it the ‘ultimate lie detector.’”
“Revealed pieces of these folks I hadn’t heard before.”

AND FINALLY, ANY ADVICE TO NEW RETIREES?

“It is in your self-interest to maintain contacts—long haul connections to the denomination and the tradition.”
“You are part of an ongoing story.”
“Come and enjoy a relaxed session with colleagues.”
“It’s a way to let go of ministry and explore together a new phase.”
“Don’t go it alone. Your colleagues are your greatest resource. Join UURMaPA now.”

.....
So why did the conference remain at Attleboro for so many years?

—Bathrooms! After much research of other locations, all were nixed by the membership because they had gang bathrooms. No one wanted to walk down the hall in the middle of the night. Semi-private bathrooms between the bedrooms won the day. —SL

2019 Creative Sageing Award Honors

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CAROLYN OWEN-TOWLE

Carolyn has shared her passion for art with organizations devoted to it. She has been on the board of the Mingei International Folk Art & Design Museum in San Diego for some sixteen years, including a term as president of that vital institution. She also sits on the board for two artist foundations: that of Sam Maloof and of James Hubbell.

In 2017, Carolyn was named Distinguished Alumna of Scripps College, on the occasion of her 60th class reunion. In her acceptance speech she noted the tectonic shifts in expectations and opportunities for women in the span of her education and career.

She is currently chair of “HEResies,” a project created in recent years at Meadville Lombard for women clergy, religious educators and women leaders in our movement. She is working with archivists there to invite women, a few at a time, to submit their papers, which over time will be digitized and made easily accessible.

Carolyn has been a path-breaking minister throughout her years of distinguished service among us. She was co-minister with her husband, **Tom Owen-Towle**, at the First UU Church of San Diego, 1978–2002, and while serving that large congregation she was also asked to take on a series of wider leadership roles, such as president of first the UU Service Committee, and then the UU Ministers Association.

She was a strong candidate for president of the UUA in 1993, an election she lost only narrowly. Her commitments to social justice, collegial strengthening, and denominational leadership were integrated into her preaching and pastoral roles in ministry and she was named Minister Emerita by the San Diego congregation.

She has been a partner par excellence with spouse Tom, and a devoted grandmother to their seven grandchildren. *UURMaPA is proud to honor **The Rev. Dr. Carolyn S. Owen-Towle** with the 2019 Creative Sageing Award!*

[Adapted from a citation presented at the Annual UURMaPA Luncheon, June 21, 2019, Spokane, WA]



Carolyn & spouse/co-minister Tom

Join us at the 2020
UUA General Assembly in
Providence (June 24-28)!

Just a few other
cherished moments
during the 2019
UURMaPA G.A.
Luncheon

UUMA Director of Collegial Practices
Melissa Carvill Ziemer with Treasurer
(and UURMaAn) Richard Speck,
informatively addressing the luncheon



Mark Morrison-Reed with
Barbara Wells ten Hove,
plus a bonus: Jim Hobart
in the background



Millie & Roger Rochester with Wendy Fish



We've Come Too Far To Turn Back Now

General Assembly Workshop sponsored by UURMaPA—June 20, 2019, Spokane, WA



Judy Welles, center, introduces the panel of Michael J. Crumpler, Christopher Long, Sean P. Dennison and Jonalu Johnstone.

UURMaPA President **Judy Welles** convened a powerful panel of four in front of about 50 participants on the first full day of GA 2019.

G.A. PROGRAM BLURB: *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!*

Jonalu Johnstone opened with a personal recounting of her engagement with a series of supportive UU organizations, such as Interweave. She expressed gratitude for UUA Extension Department Director from 1990-95, **Chuck Gaines**, who assisted her into extension ministry during that period.

Sean P. Dennison then acknowledged that although some people call him the first transgender minister, he is more rightly the longest employed. He honored five who started before him: **Leslie Phillips, Erinn Melby, Laurie Affaunt, Gwendolyn Howard** (all clergy) and **Mr. Barb Greve**.

Christopher Long spoke of his early personal journey and offered to debunk a familiar fallacy that black families are more homophobic than white families. He also named three out black clergy as significant influences of his: **Ibrahim Farajaje, Chester McCall III, and Alma Faith Crawford**.

Michael J. Crumpler (LGBTQ & Intercultural Programs Manager at the UUA) testified at the intersection of queer liberation and dismantling white supremacy, with a call to rebuild and renew our Welcoming Congregation programs. He suggested that many black and brown UU congregants are queer and with us for our theology.

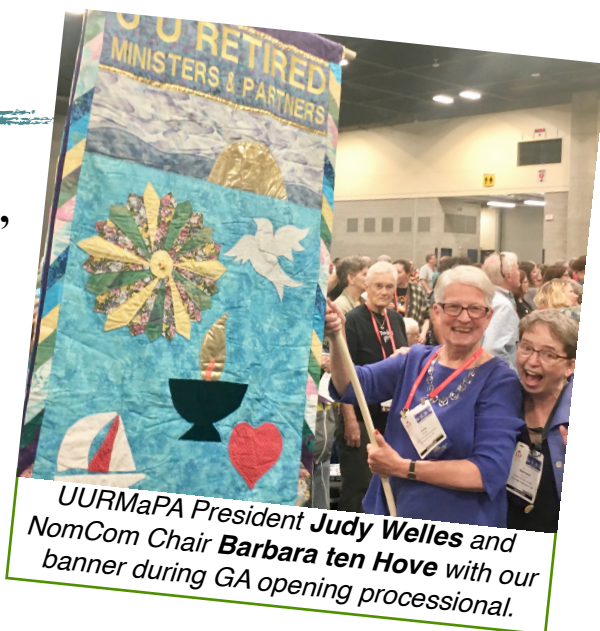
Following the panel talks, a number of comments from the floor microphone included moving, heartfelt stories. After the event ended, many participants lingered and made personal connections. One overheard comment called the workshop "heavy, deep and real."

At the 2019 Service of the Living Tradition (SLT),

30 colleagues were acknowledged as "Completing Full-Time Service," with another 24 named and honored *In Memoriam*. Our retired colleague **Susan Manker** (with spouse **Curtiss Seale**) lit the SLT chalice in blessed memory of **Ray Manker**. Video of the SLT is available here:

<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2019/worship/slt>

Board member **Ginger Luke** represented UURMaPA with survivors of deceased ministers at GA, sitting among them at both their luncheon together and during the SLT. Ginger commented: *There was music during the honoring of ministers who had died in the last year. The spouse of a deceased minister sitting next to me said, with tears in her eyes, "They sang that song at our wedding." I knew why a representative of UURMaPA was invited to escort these survivors. For a few minutes again I functioned as a chaplain and felt glad I was there.*



UURMaPA President **Judy Welles** and NomCom Chair **Barbara ten Hove** with our banner during GA opening processional.



UU Rainbow History Project *UPDATE*

By Judy Welles

I'm sure most everyone reading this joins the UURMaPA Board in shock and grief at the sudden and unexpected death on May 13 of **Dorothy Emerson**, who had been the coordinator of the UU Rainbow History Project. As one Board member said at our May meeting, just two days after she died, "Dorothy Emerson was an institution in our ministry." We miss her energy and focus, and we extend our deepest sympathies to Dorothy's wife, **Donna Clifford**.

But the Project continues and is building momentum, now in honor of Dorothy. With Donna's help, we're recovering files and documents that Dorothy had gathered, and doing our best to continue in her footsteps. Dorothy had a clear vision of how the Rainbow History project would proceed, which has been extremely helpful in picking up where she left off.

We publicized the project at General Assembly in Spokane in various ways, including a workshop that invited people to share their stories. (See a report on page 7.) And we continue to collect those stories for our website (<https://uurainbowhistory.net/>) and for the book that will ensue. If you haven't already done so, please send your materials (sermons, personal reflections, poetry, meditations, etc.) to coordinator@uurainbowhistory.net for inclusion on the site and (perhaps) in the book.

We're currently circulating a **Request for Proposal** (RFP) in our search for just the right editor for the book. The RFP is being widely disseminated, and is also online at uurmapa.org/rainbow-history-project-book-proposal/. If you know anyone who might be interested in editing or compiling the book, please encourage them to send us a proposal for consideration. The Board has decided to require that the editor have actual lived experience of LGBTQ+ identities; ideally, this person would also attend the UURMaPA Fall Conference on this topic. (See Page 3 for conference info.)

We're also in the midst of a **Faithify** campaign (which ends August 15) to raise additional funds for this project. **Please** talk this up among your friends who might like to support this effort. The money will go toward underwriting the cost of travel and registration for our excellent panelists at the October conference, for videography, and for other costs related to the project and the book. You can read more about this important campaign here: <https://faithify.org/projects/uu-rainbow-history/>. We're very grateful to the UU Funding Panel for its support—AND we need more resources to help make this the project of our dreams. *Thanks for all consideration, collaboration & contributions.*



Dorothy Emerson
1943 – 2019

LOOKING AHEAD to UURMaPA's 2020 Winter Conference

A 50-YEAR RETROSPECT OF OUR SOUL

We will gather to remember and reflect on some of the most dynamic changes in ministry that we in UURMaPA have experienced since 1970, including:

- *the Vietnam War* — how it affected our congregations and our own personal lives;
- *the Internet from Snail Mail to Zoom* — how it connected some of us and excluded some of us;
- *Women in the UU Ministry* — how this shaped the evolution of our theology, our spirituality, and more.

Each reflection on the topic (presented by one of our members) will be followed by other memories and responses. The body of this fall conference will be the shared stories of our ministries over the last five decades. We will also have space to sit with each other amid several hours of free time on the first full day and an unscheduled afternoon on the second.

Ongoing traditions of a Remembrance Service for those we have lost in the last year and a moving Odyssey will again grace us.

And our latest retreat site, **Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ**, promises just that renewal in February, when it should be warm and sunny, to enjoy good times with some of our oldest friends. *Mark your calendars now!*



Franciscan Renewal Center
("Casa") — Scottsdale, AZ

February 18-21

Registration info will appear in the next (Autumn) *Elderberries*. Stay tuned, but plan ahead!

UURMaPAns in Priestley-Kingsbury Chapter Get It Together

Last April 30, White Horse Village in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, was the site for a gathering of a dozen UURMaPAns from the UUMA Priestley-Kingsbury Chapter, who so enjoyed their catered lunch, check-ins, and lively discussion around the table (not to mention boxes with leftovers to take home), that they agreed to do it again in September. *Photo below by Kerry Mueller.*

Back: Mary Higgins, Janet Tillman, Elizabeth Ellis, Dave Hunter, Art Hover, John Gilmore, Joel Weaver

Front: Richard Speck, Kate Rohde, Carol Taylor, Paula Maiorano



The Latest Generation of Newly Retired Colleagues

The folks BELOW filed UUA “Intent to Retire” forms...



...in 2018 (in this order):

Lynn Ashley	Mykel Johnson	Patience Stoddard
Suzanne Redfern-Campbell	Fredric Muir	Richelle Russell
Fred Rabidoux	Mark Morrison-Reed	Marion Visel
Steve Crump	Donald Robinson	Daniel Budd
Jack Bryant	Elwood Sturtevant	Michael Leduc
Harlan Limpert	Karla Brockie	Laura Cavicchio
Mark Christian	Tom Rhodes	Holly Horn
Frederick Klimowicz	Bruce Southworth	Peggy Meeker
Philip Zwerling	Madeline Lyn Oglesby	Maureen Killoran
Peter Morales	Barbara Liscord	Ron Hersom
Fritz Hudson	Bruce Bode	Marcia Marino
Stanley Sears	Lyn Stangland Cameron	Julie Forest
Michael Schuler	Fred Rabidoux	Rod Debs
Tony Larsen	Benjamin Maucere	Mary Ganz
Peggy S. Block		Jade (JD) Benson
Thomas Wintle		John Burciaga
		Donald Southworth

...in 2019 (as of July 21):

Lori Staubitz	Arthur Berman
Emily Champagne	Richard Roberts
Jerome Stone	Jann Halloran
Terry Sweetser	Helen Carroll
Dawn Sangrey	Jan Carlsson-Bull
Elizabeth (Kit) Ketcham	Nancy Arnold
Lynn Strauss	Ian Evison
Gregory Chute	Mark Skrabacz
Bryan Jessup	Marlene Walker
Deborah Pope-Lance	Lee Barker
Mark Harris	Myron Andes
Michael Brown	Christine Robinson
Donna Morrison-Reed	Roberta Finkelstein
	Jan Christian

If you learn about the death of a minister or partner, PLEASE let us know at 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.



MARCIA W. SCHEKEL (1946 – 2017)

The Reverend Marcia Schekel—educator, compassionate chaplain, and lifelong religious seeker who moved from Catholic to Methodist and finally to UU affiliation—died on 18 May 2017, aged 70.



Marcia Welsh was born to Joe and Margaret Welsh on 4 June 1946 in Marion, Ohio, and grew up in nearby Dayton until age 13, when the family moved to Boulder, Colorado. She earned a B.A. in journalism at Colorado State University in 1968 and married fellow student Kurt Schekel the same year. Growing interest in feminist theology drew her from Roman Catholicism to the more liberal Methodist church, where she was active as a religious educator for 14 years.

After earning an M.A. in adult and continuing education at Washington State University (Pullman) in 1978, she stayed on to direct WSU's women's programs (1978-83) and then as manager of its continuing education program (1983-98). Meanwhile, work with Elderhostel (now Road Scholar) beginning in 1983 led Marcia to an interest in "models for aging" and in 1998 she moved to Portland (Oregon) to accept a job with Elderhostel.

Once again religiously restless, Marcia joined the First Unitarian Church of Portland.

Volunteer work with hospice programs and bereavement groups encouraged her to further study at Marylhurst University (OR). She earned an M.A. in applied theology in 2004 and then became a hospice chaplain at Providence Home and Community Services. In recognition of her gifts for this work, Ms. Schekel was ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Portland on 15 April 2007 and served there as an affiliated minister until retirement in 2013.

Marcia is survived by spouse Kurt, son Zachary, brother Mike, and four grandchildren.

DANIEL G. HIGGINS, JR. (1927 – 2017)



The Reverend Dan Higgins—military officer and chaplain, beloved parish minister, community servant and activist—died on 9 June 2017 at the age of 90.

Daniel Greeley Higgins Jr. was born in Easton, Maryland, on 27 February 1927 to parents Anna and Dan Higgins. After high school Dan served in the army (1944-46) and was graduated with a B.A. in political science by the University of Maryland in 1951. He went on to Temple University (PA), earning an S.T.B in 1954.

With what he called a "religious instinct" since childhood, Dan preached his first sermon at his family's Methodist church at age 15. After Methodist ordination in 1955, he returned to army service as a chaplain in post-war Korea (1956-59), followed by brief parish service in Methodist churches.

In the early 1960s the Rev'd Mr. Higgins sought UU affiliation, returned to Temple University for an S.T.M. in 1965, and was settled (1965-69) as associate minister to (and ordained a second time by) the First Parish in Lexington, MA. In 1969 he took a call to Lubbock, TX, but left in 1972 to work as BAWA's programming director (Black and White Alternative/Action, UU). In 1975 Dan was called to the First Parish in Malden, MA, serving there until formal retirement in 1987, when he was named Minister Emeritus. Meanwhile he completed study for a D.Min. at Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1977.

Post-retirement, Dan moved back to the Chesapeake Bay, began pulpit and pastoral work at local UU congregations in Easton and Salisbury (MD) and helped start a new congregation—UUs of the Chester River (MD). A former president of that congregation remembers him as "the most unassuming person, perhaps the most humble person I have ever known. But his presence and dignity immediately filled a room."

Dan is survived by children Daniel G. Higgins III, Cynthia Westlake, Ann Spicer, and Kim Clark, four grandchildren, and a great-grandson.



IN MEMORIAM

JOAN KAHN-SCHNEIDER (1930 – 2017)



The Reverend Joan Kahn-Schneider—religious seeker, family counselor, parish minister, and organizational consultant—died on 18 June 2017 at the age of 86.

Joan Kahn was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on 13 September 1930 to Emanuel “Jerry” Kahn, Jr. and Selma Andorn Kahn. In the Cincinnati area Joan owned and ran a small book store and later took up counseling in private practice. After a mid-life phase that she called her “Madalyn Murray O’Hair Period,” she found a new spiritual home in 1971 at the Northern Hills UU Fellowship (now “The Gathering”) in Cincinnati.

Joan wrote, “My life leading to ministry and beyond came together more like a patchwork...” Studying psychology at Antioch College (OH), she found herself drawn increasingly toward theology and philosophy and enrolled at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. In earning an M.Div. in 1981, she came to “the realization that everything I had done had led me to the parish ministry.”

Ms. Kahn-Schneider was ordained in 1981 by her home congregation. She served congregations in Michigan (1981-85), Ohio (1987-89), and New York (1989-97), with a “hiatus” at the UUA during which “I discovered that I was definitely not a bureaucrat, but rather a parish minister.” With another degree (M.Ed. in organization and management) she took up a series of interim ministries in New Hampshire (1997-99), Connecticut (1999-2000), Tennessee (2000-01), and South Carolina (2001-2002), a settlement in Savannah (2004-09), and a final interim at her old home congregation (2013-14). Along the way she rendered service in multiple roles to the UUA and UUMA.

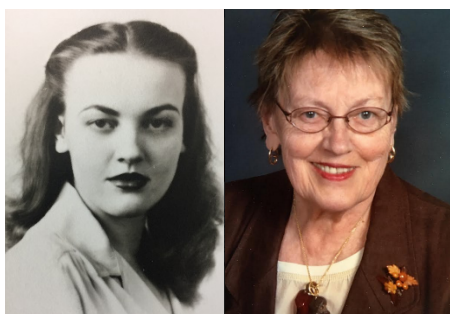
Joan’s spouse Charlie died in 2006, following a stroke. She is survived by children David Friedman, Jim Friedman, Robin Guethlein, and Jerri Menaul, eight grandchildren, and sister Lu Cohen.

A memorial service took place on 29 July 2017 at the UU Fellowship of Hendersonville, NC. Memorial donations are encouraged to the **UUA Living Tradition Fund** or to a charity of one’s own choosing. Notes of condolence may be sent to **JimFriedman@mac.com**.



CAROL BRODY (1928 – 2016)

The Reverend Carol Brody—dedicated religious educator, lover of nature, gardening, and the arts—died on 17 November 2016 at the age of 88. She is remembered by friends and colleagues for her powerful personal presence, her “take charge” attitude, and “a twinkle in her eye that could brighten up a dull meeting.”



Caroline Irene Yagello was born in Euclid, Ohio, on 20 April 1928 to Louise and John Yagello (Polish: Jagiełło). She grew up in Cleveland, and briefly attended Otterbein University, near Columbus (1946-47). She disliked her first name and from a young age shortened it to “Carol.”

After marriage to Paul Brody in 1950, moving to Columbus (Ohio) in 1958, and joining the Unitarian church there, Carol quickly found a passion for religious education. By 1965 she had become Director of RE and in 1975, while still raising four children, began classes at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, earning an M.Div. in 1984. Meanwhile, the Columbus congregation had ordained her as their Minister of Religious Education in 1981. After over three decades of service at that church, Carol retired in 1994 and was named Minister Emerita in 1999.

In the wider UU network, the Rev’d Ms. Brody served as inaugural chair of the UUA’s Women and Religion Committee as well as field service consultant (equivalent to a later era’s “district executive”) in the UUA’s Ohio-Meadville District (1985-94).

Carol’s spouse died in January 2016. She is survived by children Jill, John, Jim, and Jane, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations are encouraged to **Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio** and to **Clintonville Beechwood Community Resources Center**. A memorial service was held on 3 December 2016 at the Columbus, OH, UU Church.



Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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