

Elderberries

www.uurmapa.org



Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association



Volume 36

Number 1

WINTER, 2020

Nationally Known UU Authors Step Out

TWO RETIRED COLLEAGUES' NEW ISSUES STIR READERSHIP

Mystery and ministry: a natural evolution of the power of the word?

JUDITH CAMPBELL, UU community minister, talked to *Elderberries* about her longtime (12 books) *Olympia Brown* and newer (2018, right) *Viridienne Greene* mysteries, her career(s), and the ongoing ministry of her writing.

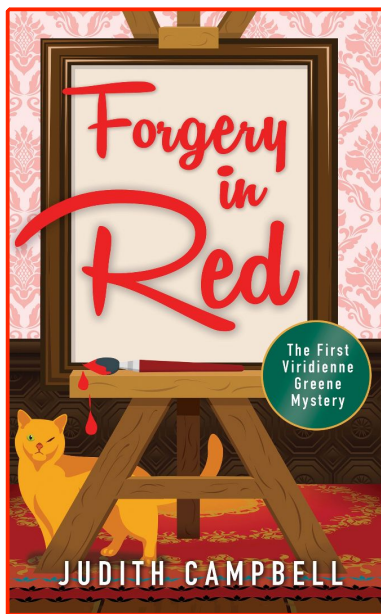
Judith also presents writing workshops and "Writing as Spiritual Practice" sessions both nationally & internationally. When she's not traveling and teaching, she makes her home in Plymouth, MA.

JUDITH: "Write what you know" is time-honored advice for writers. It is the only way to speak in an authentic voice. So, what do I know?

From 30 years of college professing, I know people. And from 20+ years in active ministry, I know the ins and outs and ups and downs of this curious craft, including the darker side of human nature. I am also painfully familiar with the sometimes unholy intrigues of organizational politics that seem to accompany hands-on ministry.

Put that together with a vivid imagination, a little dark humor, plus an unstoppable urge to write, and here I am, 78 years old, with 14 mysteries in print, another on the way. (And that's the short-list.)

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"Ministry and murder are unlikely bedfellows," said Judith (in a Boston Globe interview). "But put them together and they make for a good story and a good teaching tool." Her self-given nicknames include sinister minister, irreverent reverend, and perspicacious parson.

Insightful, compassionate slices of life

A new Skinner House book (Oct., 2019) *In Time's Shadow: Stories About Impermanence*, offers a collection of **MARILYN SEWELL's** very short fiction (each about a page or less) on themes of loss and change.

Marilyn is Minister Emerita of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR, where she served as Senior Minister for 17 years before she retired.

Through these compelling readings Marilyn reveals the cultural incongruities and inanities that crowd our lives. We love, we lose, we die, and we might ask, "What's it all about?"

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ALSO FEATURED INSIDE THIS ELDERBERRIES:

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Roger Rochester**
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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).

UURMaPA CONFERENCE(S) UPDATE(S)

As this issue went to press the UURMaPA clan was preparing to gather in Scottsdale, AZ, at the beautiful Franciscan Renewal Center (February 18–21, 2020) to reconnect with each other and remember meaningful evolutions in our ministries since 1970 (“A 50-Year Retrospect of Our Soul”), focusing on four arenas:

- changes in technology;
- our understanding and misunderstanding of race;
- the inclusion of more and more women in our ministry; and
- the impact of the Viet Nam war on our lives and ministries.

Advance thanks to reflection leaders: **DUANE FICKEISEN**, **GORDON GIBSON**, **DIANE MILLER** and **BARBARA CHILD**, respectively.

Thanks also to worship leaders: **STEPHEN PAPA**, **ART SEVERANCE**, **PATT HERDKLOTZ** and **JAY ATKINSON**; plus **JUDY WELLES** for her odyssey. And congratulations to (???), the latest Unsung UURMaPAn. Look for more actual reporting about the event in the next *Elderberries*.

*2x yearly we gather to see old friends & make new ones. It is good to get together!
And so...*



The **UURMaPA 2020 FALL CONFERENCE** is scheduled for **Oct. 12–15**, at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center (Episcopal) in Greenfield, New Hampshire. It looks like a beautiful place (see pic below) with good spaces and accessibility.

Search www.bchcenter.org if you would like more info about this new (for us) site.

The next issue of *Elderberries* will have details and a registration form, *but make plans now to join us in New Hahmpshah!*



NOTE: ELDERBERRIES COPY DEADLINES

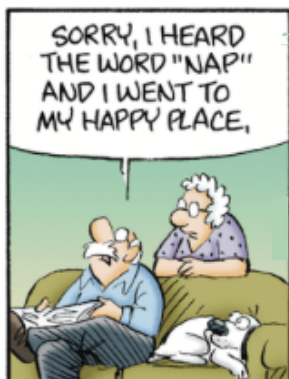
Submissions are welcome by each quarterly deadline: the 15th of January, April, July & October.

elderberries@uurmapa.org

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 be distracting. —JTH



Celebrating at last year's Feb. (2019) conference, near San Antonio, TX. Photo by DIANE MILLER.



— PRESIDENT’S COLUMN —



By
DIANE
MILLER

I jumped from ministry into retirement having a few things clearly decided. As for the rest, I had no idea what I was getting into. I decided the basics: when; where I would live (midwestern Kansas prairie); and what to do (in-person caregiver for two young grandchildren and as much as possible for my mother in Minnesota). Meanwhile, big gaps in my planning, preparation and expectations went into the “I’ll deal with that later” bin.

What I’ve found is that much of my retirement life hasn’t unfolded according to a plan, anyway. I was settled into living alone, yet—surprise!—I became partners with a colleague (PAUL “BUZZ” HULL; we were UUMA Chapter officers in Massachusetts). I declared I would never move again but currently am in the throes of finding a shared abode. I went to a UURMaPA Conference in California to smell the flowers and ended up volunteering for the Board of this valuable organization.

I expected to do wedding and memorial services, but no requests came to me as a newcomer in town. I imagined I would travel, but find I prefer to be home. Serendipity and satisfactions have graced my new life. I am acutely aware of how quickly health changes can upend life, and how soon it will end, so I am grateful for each unfolding day.

The metaphors of retirement are pretty apt: a rear-view mirror, passing the torch, fading to oblivion. As someone said, “It was time to hand things off to someone less experienced and competent.” Just joking, because from what I can see, the ministers carrying on are spectacularly skilled.

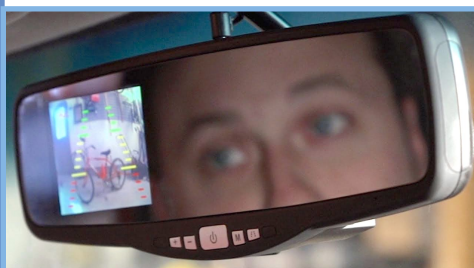
My retirement image is the fun-house mirror. At the children’s area of a local museum my grandkids love to stand in front of the wavy mirror where they are, by turn, squat and wide, or stretched like Gumby. In retirement my identity shifts its

shape, with some aspects receding while others come to the fore. I am stretched in new ways, in new directions.

There is time for thinking back over years of ministry, seeing in hindsight, noting things that might have been, cherishing what was, reliving old blunders. Most of my labors and accomplishments are no longer relevant and have been replaced, improved upon, forgotten. This is shocking to note, considering how I poured out my life into Unitarian Universalism.

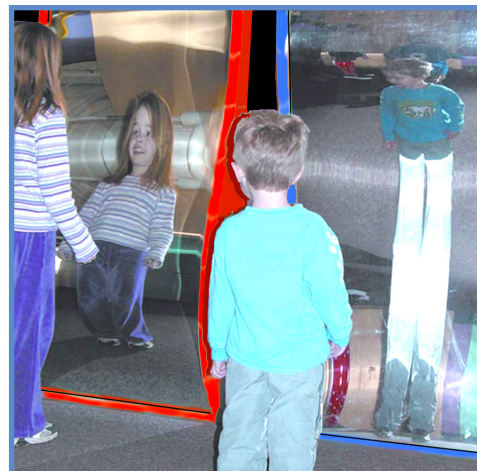
Yet as we know from systems theory, our work still exists in the layers that make up communities, institutions, and lives. For all we did well, let us be thankful.

— Diane



We look at the present through a rear view mirror. We march backwards into the future.

— Marshall McLuhan —



The Latest Newly Retired UU Clergy!
The folks listed here have filed UUA “Intent to Retire” forms, as of January 27, 2020.

- GABRIELE PARKS
- HARVEY M. JOYNER JR.
- JAMES A. VANDERWEELE
- EARL W. KOTEEN
- JACQUELINE DUHART
- PALLAS STANFORD

- LESLIE A. WESTBROOK
- MARTI KELLER
- NED WIGHT
- F. JAY DEACON
- PAULA A. MAIORANO
- BECKY EDMISTON-LANGE
- ROBERT L. ELLER-ISAACS

- DAN KING
- STEPHEN D. EDINGTON
- JACQUELINE ZIEGLER
- GARY S. JAMES
- GAIL S. SEAVEY
- WILLIAM F. SCHULZ
- JANNE E. ELLER-ISAACS

What Do You Do With Your Books Now? *(Are They Retired, Too?)*

By JACO TEN HOVE

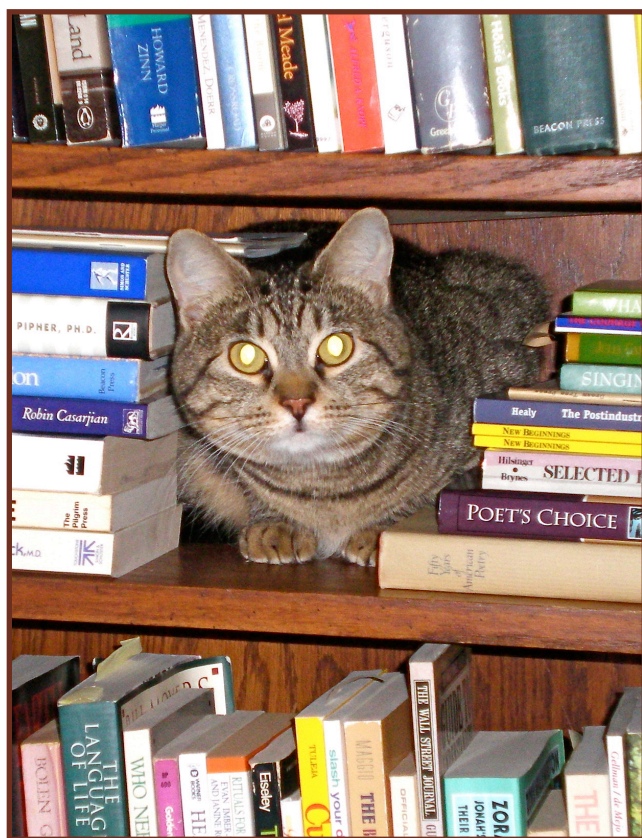
The UURMaPA Board was queried recently by our retired colleague **PETER LANZILLOTTA** (in South Carolina), who asked for suggestions about how to repurpose some of his accumulated professional materials, notably books. It was not a subject that we had considered, per se, yet it certainly does surface as a dynamic for many of us. Thanks to Peter for spurring this hopefully fruitful conversation. (We had a chat about it at the Fall gathering.)

When one downsizes living accommodations (and likely no longer has a church office) reducing bookshelf acreage can often be a necessity. That was the case when my spouse and co-minister Barbara and I retired and moved to a smaller space in 2017.

So we went through our (double!) library and used a vague “lens of meaning” to determine which books we could release into the wider universe. We kept the ones we felt strongly attached to or might even reread (one copy only) and anything with ties less meaningful we donated to our local library or released in specifically relevant directions, such as to local UU seminarians and at local UUMA chapter retreats.

DIANE MILLER offers these helpful options:

- Note your items on a social media platform and invite people to claim what they want.
- Have things taken to a seminary in your vicinity.
- Hold a “library open house” and have regional colleagues in (especially any nearby intern or new minister) to take what they might want.
- Access the UU seminarian group on Facebook (or email); a student could post a notice there for you. (I’ve seen notices describing the type and size of a robe that will be mailed to the first taker.)
- We host book giveaways at UURMAPA conferences (IF whoever brings them will take home what’s left).
- I donated a framed item to Meadville Lombard School.
- I left a robe at my final church for guest preachers, etc.
- I had multiple copies of an out-of-print book that was on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee **Reading List**. So I mailed them to the coordinator of the UU Aspirant group with a note inside asking that they be handed along to students. (Search for the current **MFC Reading List** in full, if you dare.)
- There is a FaceBook group called "Free Books for UU Professionals" where people post a book and the whoever claims it pays postage. I think they use money mechanisms like Venmo, as necessary.



From PETER LANZILLOTTA:

- My best resource so far has been the Charleston City library, which has generously taken many of my UU history, theology, and biographical books. When there, I saw that there was very little material available that might help to balance out all the more conservative and evangelical information on the shelves! So, as I see it, mine was a good donation for advancing the sake of religious liberalism and literacy in my city.
- I also gave some books to a local UCC minister and progressive Christian, who was very appreciative. (There’s only one UCC church in the state!)
- Another local donation channel is to various reading and poetry circles or philosophy groups. The Senior Center also looks like a promising place for book donations, with an active educational component that promotes lifelong learning.
- I called my local Clinical Pastoral Ed. training centers in two hospitals and they gladly accepted books covering psychotherapy, religion/health, congregational programs, pastoral care, etc. ☆☆

Each year, the UURMaPA Nominating Committee works hard to find good candidates to serve on the Board and the Nominating Committee itself. Our latest task was to recruit for eight positions and we have accomplished much of this:

- *Secretary*—finishing: **BARBARA CHILD**; incoming: **GLORIA PEREZ (new, below)**
- *Vice-President*—finishing early: **PHYLLIS HUBBELL**; assuming role: **SUSAN RAK**
- *At-Large, Conferences*—finishing: **GINGER LUKE**; incoming: **ANNE SPATOLA (new)**
- *Elderberries Editor*—continuing: **JACO TEN HOVE**
- *Nominating Committee (2)*—continuing: **WAYNE ARNASON** and **BARBARA TEN HOVE**
Terms begin July 1, for two years (with potential to be re-elected in that role once).

AND we are still in need of a couple more stalwart UURMaPA members to step forward to serve in these important Board roles:

- **Treasurer** (*maintains all financial records for UURMaPA; experience with spreadsheets and some financial savvy are important skills*)
- **At-Large, UU liaison, one-year term** (*keeps UURMaPA connected to the wider UU world, maintaining important relationships with the UUA and the UUMA*)

More complete job descriptions are available on the UURMaPA website:

uurmapa.org/leadership-position-descriptions/.

If you or someone you know within our organization might be interested in serving in one of these open positions, please contact us at Nominations@UURMAPA.org.

—*Your Nom Com:* **WAYNE ARNASON, JUDY WELLES, JUDY GIBSON, BARRY ANDREWS, BARBARA TEN HOVE (chair)**

BIO: GLORIA PEREZ, incoming Board Secretary

Almost 20 years ago, on our first date, after talking about our spiritual lives, my minister-not-yet wife (**MARLENE WALKER**) told me I was a Unitarian Universalist. I knew nothing about it, but since then I have learned much. In only a few years of attending church & GAs, I have embraced UUism.

Singing in choirs—in several UU congregations, at General Assemblies and at UUMA Center Institutes—is the highlight of my UU life. The music has been foundational in my growing involvement with the world around me. I felt called to become a spiritual director while singing during an Institute worship service.

I have had experience as a co-convenor for a women’s spirituality group, board member of a center against sexual assault, staff member at a LGBT center through AmeriCorp, and board member of a PFLAG chapter. I am a retired massage therapist.



BIO: ANNE SPATOLA

incoming Board member, Conferences portfolio

I am originally, from New York City, but California has been my home since I was 19. In 1970, I left college, my friends and family, hitched across the



country and found a new home. With the exception of seven years in Utah and one year in Maryland, the San Francisco Bay Area has been home.

(Rev.) **THERESA NOVAK** and I have been together for 45 years, and legally married for six. We have three children, —a son, age 35, and twins age 31.

I have a Master’s degree in Public Administration and retired in 2006 from the CA Dept. of Social Services as Bureau Chief in the Disability Program. I worked there for 25 years.

Since my teen years, I have protested wars; campaigned for presidential candidates; and been an activist for the environment, LGBT and voting rights.

Currently, I am involved in my UU Congregation of Marin in San Rafael, CA, chairing both the Worship and Social Justice committees.

In the wider community, I work for immigrant rights, work with groups to ensure election integrity and volunteer in a public school with English learners.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR UURMAPA AWARDS

Who might be ready for an **UURMaPA award**?

Anyone can nominate a colleague or spouse for either of our two special awards. Send an email—right now, while you’re thinking about it—to Vice President **PHYLLIS HUBBELL** (phubbell@uuma.org) or call her at **571-223-6604**. Include why you think one of our members might be a worthy recipient of either of these.

UURMaPA’s **CREATIVE SAGEING AWARD**

recognizes a minister or a partner for outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement. The winner will be announced and feted at our annual luncheon at GA and awarded a cash prize.

The **UNSUNG UURMaPA AWARD**

goes to someone whose service has been important to UURMaPA but who has not been already recognized. This award is generally presented at a conference and includes a cash prize plus laud & honor.

FROM THE UUA OFFICE OF CHURCH STAFF

FINANCES (OCSF)



Struggling with Your Fuel Bill? Other Bills? Widowed/Widower?

Are you struggling to pay your winter heating or summer cooling bills? Could you use a bit of help? Each year, the UUA Office of Church Staff Finances provides a stipend to retirees to help pay for high fuel costs. If a stipend from the UUA would be helpful to your budget, please drop my administrator, Alex Sherman-Cross (ocsf@uua.org) a note with your name, address, and contact information.

Also, my office works closely with the **Society for Ministerial Relief**, the **Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society**, and the **Ryder Fund** to provide assistance to ministers and/or their survivors who are struggling with their day-to-day finances. Perhaps you're living primarily on Social Security? Perhaps your out-of-pocket prescription costs are getting prohibitively high? Are you facing an unplanned home repair? *Grants are available for ongoing expenses.* Our goal is to smooth out the rough edges of retirement, and my office has funds to help with extraordinary expenses that arise from time-to-time.

If you would like to be considered for a grant, or if you know someone else who might benefit, please let me know a few details. Depending upon circumstances, we may require submission of an income and expense form. ☆☆☆

By RICHARD NUGENT
Director, OCSF
(617) 948-6456
rnugent@uua.org

Tax-time Prep...Yay!

Another trip around the sun, and it's already "that time"—to review your records and have things in order to file your tax return.

For retired clergyfolk who took a distribution from the denominational plan in 2019, TIAA will produce the 1099-R. It will reflect the total amount distributed and will also note "taxable amount not determinable."

(If, by Jan. 31, 2020, you cannot access your 1099-R online or do not receive it in the mail, please contact TIAA at **800-842-2829**.)

Our office will mail the UUA's annual memo to you by the end of January. You may use the memo and the brief worksheet with it when filing your tax return.

Remember that the retired clergy taxpayer must ensure that they claim an exclusion on their taxes of no more than **the lesser** of two amounts: either their actual qualifying housing expenses **or** the Fair Rental Value. ☆☆☆



By Linda Rose, Dir.
UU Organizations
Retirement Plan
(617) 948-4265
lrose@uua.org

RMD and the SECURE Act—Law Change!

A large U.S. spending package, signed into law 12/20/19, included provisions from the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act.

Before the SECURE Act, our plan participants had to take the **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** after attaining age 70½ or retiring, whichever was later. *Under the new rule*, plan participants who will reach age 70½ after 2019 *can wait until they are 72* or retired, whichever is later, to take their first RMD from our plan.

However, plan participants who reached age 70½ **before** 2020 still must **take their RMDs** if they are retired.

While the IRS doesn't define retirement, if you're a W-2 employee of a UU employer that administers the denominational retirement plan, and you are therefore receiving that employer's retirement contributions into our plan, you may not have to take the RMD until you retire, even if you have attained the age that is designated in the rule.

Individual circumstances can be complicated by "retiring" and then returning to paid employment. We in the OCSF are not qualified tax or financial advisors, and therefore cannot provide advice. We do strive to point you to the UUA plan rules plus other sources of info (www.irs.gov), and to raise your awareness of important considerations.

If you have questions about whether and when to take the RMD, we urge you to consult a qualified professional to review your situation. If you have other retirement savings plans, be sure to check their rules as well. ☆☆☆

The amount the IRS requires people to withdraw is basically determined by dividing the balance of each qualifying account by your life expectancy—as defined by the IRS. To discover the amount of your RMD for our plan, contact TIAA at **800-842-2829**.

Learning How to Worship

I thought when I retired that I could go back to being a parishioner in the pews. Wrong, of course. But it was not quite for the reason you'd expect. Sure, I tend to critique what's going on. ("I would have done it this way...") That interferes, for sure. But there is another challenge. The person up there leading me is not my minister. They are a colleague.

Why should that make a difference? It somehow matters, I think, that I am not in unequal relationship with that person. I do not have the luxury of knowing that when I am with that person (even afar) that our interactions will always be about me and not them. (Ministry is, indeed, a good deal for the recipients.)

So sitting in the pews I am not freed by that magically powerful presence of my minister. It is more difficult to be open to transformation, to be led in prayer.

All this may simply be my failing, of course. I know that. I certainly can learn to worship in this new environment, can't I?



This takes me back to divinity school. We put on worship for one another, worship among colleagues all. We were learning how to create congregational worship, and we practiced on each other: that is, showing our new found skills to each other. It didn't work very well. I was impressed by what my fellow students could do, but it wasn't like being back in church. For the same reasons, I guess.

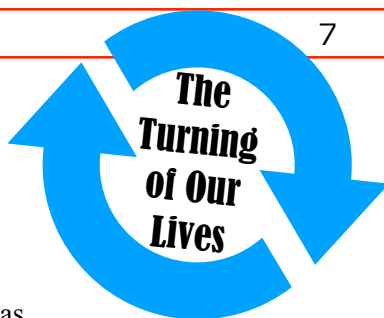
How could we have done better for one another? Naming the challenge might have helped. Emulating monks in a monastery might have offered a clue—they do not enjoy unequal relationships. Perhaps, when leading worship, it would have helped to not imagine a ministerial relationship that was not there.

I do not know the answers. But I thought it might help to start with some evident facts about the situation, to highlight the special challenges.

—ANDY BACKUS, *novitiate*, Bellingham, WA



SAD NOTE: On Jan. 22, due to complications from lung cancer, Andy died at home with spouse Chris (and their minister, Paul Beckel) at his bedside. Memorial service on Sat., Feb. 15, 2 pm, at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship. —JTH



It never occurred to me that I could...

By LIZ BENJAMIN

Minister of Religious Education, 1987-2002, First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa; now Minister Emerita

I moved from Ottawa to Vermont in 2014 to be closer to my brother and his family, and that is a great joy. I love the beauty of Vermont and the simplicity of my life—renting a small apartment (with great mountain views) and leasing a car. I took a poetry class for a few years and enjoy writing, so I still do that occasionally.



But my creative focus now is music. I am taking finger-picking guitar lessons—very challenging, but I'm making good progress; I love to practice.

I was married to Tom Benjamin (a well-known UU musician and composer) for many years, and it never occurred to me that I could compose. But I can, and this is very exciting. I have been studying with local composer Erik Nielsen. I have also attended the Creative Musicians Retreat at the Walden School in New Hampshire twice, and I now want to go there every June.

Recently I have written a string quartet and am now almost finished a set of songs for chorus with oboe and flute. So that's my joyful story of creativity!

☆☆☆

Hey, Non-Clergy Partners of Clergy!

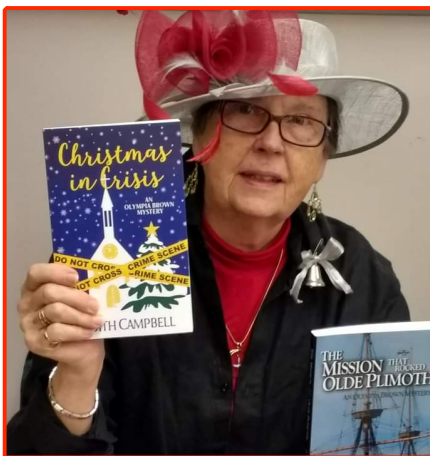
Have you and your partner remained—at least for a while and maybe still—living in a local community where your partner formerly served a congregation?

If so, **BARBARA CHILD** would welcome an opportunity to be in touch with you about the needs and concerns you have experienced.

As the partner of a minister (and not clergy yourself) *perhaps you could share your reflections with Barbara* as she creates an informal guidebook about this dynamic to present to the UUMA in the near future. If you are interested in contributing in such a way, please send an email to revbchild@aol.com to express your willingness.

Stirring UU Authors (from page 1)

JUDITH CAMPBELL



So, when/how did I get started? It is not a lie to say I have been writing all of my life; it's a natural outlet for me. I published my first article (for money) in Yankee Magazine, in 1971. Later came books on watercolor painting, books for children, and a couple of collections of poetry. But it wasn't until almost the end of my active ministry that I took pen in hand and decided to cross one more thing off my bucket-list: write a whodunit.

I always loved reading mysteries, and I have since learned that writing them is even better fun.

But there's more.

In the beginning, when I was writing the first one, *A Deadly*

Mission, I wrote what I knew. It is a story about a college student who is recruited by a religious cult whose members will stop at nothing to keep hold of their prey. But what happened, right from the beginning, was, that as the stories and the characters began to unfold, I realized what I was doing was asking the basic questions.

I was asking about what it is that drives us... and what is the nature of good and evil. I was doing this through my stories and my characters. And typical of UU practice, I hold up the questions but I leave it to the reader to decide for themselves how to view and understand and interpret my conclusions.

I have tackled such issues as the right to die (in *An Unholy Mission*), and the abortion question from the Roman Catholic point of view (in *A Singular Mission*). In the **Olympia Brown Mysteries**, my protagonist is a lady UU minister with an English husband, two cats, and whose best friend, confidante and sleuthing sounding board is a gay Catholic priest.

The parallels to my own life are unmistakable. I named my protagonist Olympia Brown because I wanted to honor the real one. The mysteries are not historical mysteries, but address contemporary issues.

In my new second series, the **Viridienne Greene Mysteries**, the protagonist, Viridienne, is a 6' tall, atheist fiber artist with a much less tall Irish Catholic detective and closet poet as both a love interest and partner in sleuthing. I needed/wanted a different voice. She is tall, skinny, an atheist, a cult escapee, and fiercely independent...and loyal. I am a fiber artist, but other than that, we are totally different, and as such, I suspect she has a lot to teach me.

In conclusion, I want/need to say that my writing is a way I can continue my active ministry, and for this I am profoundly grateful. Being "retired" has given me more time to write, and out of my writing I have grown a writing retreat ministry that has taken me around the country and across the pond to the UK where I work with English Unitarians who have something to say.

But is there a Unitarian, or a Unitarian Universalist that does NOT have something to say? (Rhetorical question!)

If you are interested, you can get my books in digital, print and audible editions on Amazon, or ask for them at your library or local bookstore. If that fails, email me: revdocmom@comcast.net and/or visit my website: www.judithcampbell-holymysteries.com. ☆☆☆

MARILYN SEWELL

She invites us to ponder with her and perhaps come to trust our common humanity and our most noble instincts. She reflects on the everyday, such as the places we live and work, the thoughts we all have but hardly ever share—even though these musings may carry profound human concerns.

Using a variety of short literary forms (ranging from dramatic monologues, vignettes, and letters, to prose poems, fantasy, and more), Marilyn's fiction portrays insightful, compassionate slices of life that will bring laughter and, at the same time, take you deeper into the mysteries of life: a lonely woman is distressed because her plant has stopped blooming; marriage partners talk past each other in a therapy session; a man comes across a ragtag street band in New Orleans and reconsiders his life choices.

In Time's Shadow: Stories About Impermanence is available through the UU Book & Gift Shop in Spirit: www.uabookstore.org.



In Time's Shadow

MARILYN SEWELL has edited or authored 10 books, her latest work a memoir, *Raw Faith: Following the Thread*. ☆☆☆

UU Rainbow History Project **UPDATE**

By **JUDY WELLES**, *outgoing Coordinator*

What a joy it has been to shepherd this project through its next phase! I have enjoyed being in touch with so many contributors, reviewing (and re-experiencing) the speakers and panelists from both conferences, and *learning*. Oh my, I have learned a lot—both about people’s personal experiences in working on LGBTQ+ issues, and about what I can do on the computer to bring this vision to life.

The project isn’t done yet—far from it! Colleague **DIANA MCLEAN** will be working on the book during her sabbatical next Fall, and she is already collecting materials and thinking about how it will be organized. See the Fall 2019 Elderberries, page 6, for an introduction to Diana.

Thanks to generosity bestowed upon us from many sides, the project is in good financial shape. We have received \$18,000 from the UU Funding Program; \$2700 in donations in remembrance of **DOROTHY EMERSON** (our project coordinator until her death last May), specific donations for the project; and nearly \$3K through a Faithify campaign last summer. These contributions have been used to pay our web weaver and videographers, for publicity we generated to use at G.A., and for payment to Dorothy. We were able to offer generous travel vouchers to our panelists at both conferences, and to meet their registration fees. We will be putting the remaining monies to further use for transcriptions of all the videos generated at both of our 2019 conferences, further payments to the videographers and web weaver, and for incidental costs related to the book.

We had expected this project to be “over” (whatever that means...) at the end of the calendar year, but it continues to gain momentum, and contributions to the web site (and possibly the book) keep coming in. I agreed shortly after Dorothy’s death that I would coordinate the project until the end of 2019, and I’m sticking to that agreement... sort of. I have invited **ANNE SPATOLA** (see her piece in the Fall *Elderberries* on page 5) to take over from me as the Coordinator of the project, and I am in the process of slowly handing the project over to her. If you send a message to coordinator@uurainbowhistory.net, Anne will receive it now.

This project continues to be in good hands, and it has generated a remarkable energy of its own. We continue to hope that the book will end up on the MFC required reading list, and that the web site will serve researchers, sermonators, wedding officiants, and the merely curious for years to come.

As I step aside, I will hold on to uplifting pronouncements by (our conference theme speakers)

MEG RILEY & JAY DEACON

who noted that the cultural changes undergone in this country since Stonewall would not have happened without Unitarian Universalists.

“This spiritual movement is about the evolution of consciousness and therefore of culture...The ground is moving beneath us; everything is in motion...The future is in our hands.”

“We did this. We can do it again. It’s possible we can do it about other things we care about. People really can change. And life really can change.”

MEG RILEY


JAY DEACON

☆☆☆



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

IN MEMORIAM


**CHARLES PATRICK
 (“CHUCK”) CAMPBELL**
 (1937–2019)

Chuck Campbell, spouse of Reverend Dr. Sue Redfern Campbell, died 10 March 2019. He was born 21 October 1937 in Tacoma, Washington. His family moved to Los Alamos, NM, after World War II, and later to Colorado.

Chuck graduated from Boulder High in 1955, and eventually received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from U of CO, Boulder, with a major in English literature. His studies were interrupted, however, by a two-year stint in the Navy.

While at University, Chuck met and married his first wife, Mary Lou. Friends introduced them to the Unitarian Church of Boulder and Chuck remained UU for 59 years.

Chuck began a Ph.D. program in Boston in 1964. But his fellowship wouldn’t cover living expenses, and so he sought other lines of work. He taught literature part-time at two local colleges, and worked for Arthur D. Little, a consulting firm. During this period, he and Mary Lou divorced.

Chuck married Tamara (“Tommi”) Wadsworth in 1968, and he became an unofficial Dad to her three children. They were active in Boston’s Arlington Street Church. They befriended a young lawyer named Sue Spencer, who remained friends with them through the years, and who eventually became a UU minister.



In 1979, the Campbells moved to Albuquerque, NM, to be closer to Chuck’s parents. He went to work for Mayflower and drove moving vans all over the country. In 1982, Chuck and Tommi began teaching at the University of Albuquerque. He earned his doctorate from the U of NM at age 51, and taught at NM Tech in Socorro for 12 years, retiring in 1999.

Although Chuck had been a “band geek” in high school, his love of the tuba blossomed after he came to Albuquerque. He played with several bands, but developed a passion for New Orleans jazz. For 17 years he held the Tuba position with the *Route 66 Revelers*.

After Tommi died in 2011, Chuck’s long friendship with Sue Spencer blossomed into “something more,” and they married in 2012. When Sue became the Developmental Minister in Las Cruces, NM, Chuck became the best clergy spouse anyone could ask for.

Chuck had been diagnosed in 2007 with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL). For many years he was active despite this life-threatening illness—traveling, playing music, enjoying the out of doors, going to church, and generally finding joy in life. In the last 10 days of his life, he played three Mardi Gras gigs and one concert band practice, before the disease process finally caught up with him. —RR

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

Continuing gratitude to **JAY ATKINSON** (JA) and **ROGER ROCHESTER** (RR) for their careful researching and composing of obituaries for ministers and partners, respectively. With this issue, **JOHANNA NICHOLS** (JN) joins **JAY** in creating clergy obits.

**“In the end, only three things matter.
 How much you loved, how gently you lived,
 and how gracefully you let go of things
 not meant for you.” ~ Jack Kornfield**

Retired, Coming to the 2020 Providence GA? Don’t miss the UURMaPA Annual Lunch!

We don’t yet have a confirmed date for our Annual Meeting of UURMaPA at **General Assembly 2020** in Providence (most likely on Friday, June 26). But never fear, we will have a luncheon, complete with our annual Creative Sageing Award presentation. Watch for details in the Spring issue of *Elderberries*. We encourage everyone to attend, mingle with friends and celebrate our guests: the newest retirees and partners! —PHYLLIS HUBBELL, UURMaPA Vice President

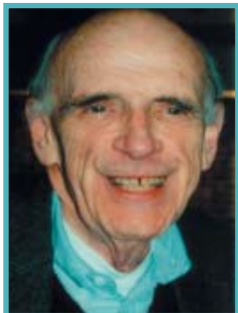
IN MEMORIAM

DONALD W. MCKINNEY (1927–2017)

The Reverend Don McKinney—longtime parish minister, lifelong advocate for civil rights, humanitarian causes, death with dignity, and racial justice—died on 1 October 2017, aged 90.

In the late 1960s the Rev'd Mr. McKinney served as co-chair (with David Parke) of FULLBAC (Full Recognition and Funding of the Black Affairs Council) and his Brooklyn church housed the FULLBAC headquarters.

He recalled the vote of the 1968 Cleveland General Assembly to fund BAC at \$1 million as “the single most wonderful moment in my professional life.” After that funding was reduced, Don led his Brooklyn church as the first of six UU congregations to withhold their contributions to the UUA in protest, saying, “If we hope to save our denomination from destroying itself and its historic new thrust in the racial crisis we must act, and act now.”



Donald William McKinney was born 9 June 1927 in Manchester, New Hampshire, to Victoria R. and William L. McKinney. He grew up active in religious education and youth groups at the First Congregational Society, Unitarian (now UU), of Bridgewater, MA, during his father's long pastorate there (1927–57). After a year in the U.S. Army, Don earned a B.A. in Social Relations at Harvard College in 1949 and an S.T.B. from Harvard Divinity School in 1952, and was forthwith ordained by his home congregation on 8 June 1952.

The Rev'd Mr. McKinney served the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, NY, for 40 years (1952–92). On retirement the congregation named him Minister Emeritus. A smaller worship and social space, adjacent to the church's main sanctuary, is now named the Donald W. McKinney Chapel.

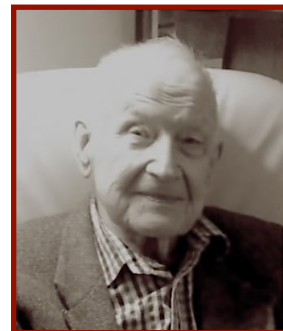
At the time of Don's death, survivors included his spouse of over 60 years, Julie L. McKinney, children Bruce B. McKinney of San Francisco and Barbara McKinney Sow of Yaoundé, Cameroon (grandchildren Omar and Adama Sow). —JA

**EUGENE W. KREVES (1921–2017)**

The Reverend Gene Kreves—greatly admired for passionate preaching on humanistic liberalism and social justice and remembered by his daughter Joy for his “impish sense of humor”—died on 11 December 2017, at the age of 96.

Eugene William Kreves was born on 24 May 1921 in Cleveland, Ohio, to Mary and Joseph Kreves. While at Ohio Wesleyan University he met fellow student Corrine Strong, to whom he was married in 1942. He earned a B.A. in English in 1945 and a B.D. from Hartford Theological Seminary in 1949, and was ordained in the United Church of Christ.

During his service to the First Congregational Church in Lisle, IL, the church became riven by debates over “Freedom of Conscience” and its records report “disunity becoming rampant in the church.” In early 1955 the Rev'd Mr. Kreves resigned, having meanwhile been admitted to American Unitarian Association ministerial fellowship. He took with him a substantial number of “followers” who chartered a Unitarian congregation (now the DuPage UU Church) in the nearby town of Naperville. Gene served that church for 24 years, was active in both the local ACLU and the DuPage Valley Peace Center, and was a proud signer of the second Humanist Manifesto (1973). On retirement he was named Minister Emeritus; in 1994 the church dedicated its new Kreves Hall in his honor.



At the time of Gene's death, survivors included children Tim, Dawn, and Joy, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Spouse Corinne died in 2000. Memorial donations are encouraged to the **Lakota People's Law Project** (www.lakotalaw.org) and **Americans United for Separation of Church and State** (www.au.org). —JA

IN MEMORIAM

REBECCA BLODGETT (1933–2017)

The Reverend Becky Blodgett—who lived a life of service to others, within and outside the parish, as layperson and then minister—died on 12 August 2017, at the age of 84.

The Rev'd Karen Lewis Foley, a Harvard Divinity School classmate, recalls: *“Becky’s ministry was pastoral and she had a strong focus on the elderly, working with aging groups and with pastoral care groups providing care for congregants... She had immense respect for the rich lives and unique wisdom of older people... I’ll never forget her saying, “Old age is almost like another country.”*



Rebecca Morton Driscoll was born on 16 April 1933 in St. Paul, Minnesota, to John and Helen Driscoll. After graduation in 1955 from Vassar College (NY) with a B.A. in Geology and Conservation, she settled with her new spouse, Timothy Blodgett, in Concord, MA. As a young mother, Becky was a dedicated volunteer with several organizations. Eventually discerning a call to ministry, she earned her M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1989.

After Ms. Blodgett was ordained 17 March 1991 by her home congregation, she worked as a hospice chaplain at several Boston-area nursing homes and hospitals, including Mass. General Hospital. For a year (1996–97) she served as interim assistant minister to Concord’s First Parish and then resumed her wider chaplaincy work. She remained active in the parish as an affiliate minister, conducting weddings and memorial services, training lay leaders, preaching from time to time, and offering pastoral counseling. She retired in 2002.

At time of death, survivors included her spouse of 61 years Tim Blodgett, brothers Frederick and Andrew, children Sarah, Amy, Jeffrey, and Katherine, and eight grandchildren. —JA

**BOB MACPHERSON (1925–2018)**

The Reverend Bob MacPherson—parish minister turned medical professional, advocate for criminal justice and women’s reproductive health, world traveller, thespian, singer, patron of the arts—died on 20 January 2018, aged 92.

A fifth generation Universalist, Bob was dedicated to UU institutions. He was president of the Universalist Youth Fellowship (1946–48) and as a young minister helped guide it toward merger with the American Unitarian Youth to form the Liberal Religious Youth, later recalling that “the youth led the way” to AUA and UCA consolidation (in 1961).

Robert Harold MacPherson was born on 9 February 1925 in Boston to Doris Hicks and Harold S. MacPherson and grew up in the West Somerville (MA) Universalist Church. Bob and his older brother David both studied at Tufts University and became ministers. Bob was ordained at his home church on 27 June 1948, but entered ministerial fellowship as a Unitarian minister and, until 1966, served parish ministries in Ohio, Maine, Mass. and NY.

Following a career turn, Bob earned a Ph.D. at Syracuse University, specializing in speech pathology. He started an audiology program at a Veterans Administration hospital in Asheville, NC, and eventually retired as Chief of Audiology and Speech Pathology there in 1993. All the while, Bob maintained associate fellowship with the UUA and would occasionally preach and conduct special services at UU churches.

Outside of his work in ministry and medicine, Bob was active with the Western Carolinians for Criminal justice, Planned Parenthood, Pisgah Legal Services, and as a singer and actor with the Asheville Community Theater. He also served on the Social Responsibility Committee of the UU congregation in Asheville.

At the time of Bob’s death, survivors included his son Ralph MacPherson, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and his brother David MacPherson. His spouse, Ann Marie Haggerty MacPherson, died in 2015 and his son Robert Owen MacPherson in 2005. —JN



IN MEMORIAM

GRETCHEN LOOMIS MANKER (1929–2019)

Gretchen Loomis Manker, surviving spouse of Reverend Dr. Raymond George Manker, died 30 August 2019, at the age of 90. She was born Margaret Brammer Loomis on 28 March 1929 in Houston, Texas, and attended Rice University there before marrying Ray in 1949. Gretchen was very active in social justice issues and the UU Congregation of Phoenix, AZ (UUCP), which her husband served as minister for 27 years. They had five children and served congregations in Toledo, OH, Wayland, MA, and Riverside, CA, before settling in Phoenix.



She pursued her interest in Social/Cultural Anthropology through Arizona State Univ., and received her B.A., M.A. and a partially completed Ph.D. Through the years, Gretchen held true to a passion for women's rights around the world. She also had a passion for travel. Two of her favorite places were close by: SAWUURA, a UU camp near Young, AZ, and Rocky Point, Mexico.

Gretchen is survived by four of her children: Kathy Manker (Bruce Gardner); Ray Manker (Patti Atchley); Susan Manker (Curtiss Seale); and David Manker (Larry Purifory); plus four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. One son, Wendell Manker, died in 1974.

Memorial gifts can be sent to UUCP, 4027 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley, AZ, 85253, or to SAWUURA (Sierra Ancha Wilderness UU Religious Association) through UUCP. Cards and condolences on behalf of the family can be sent to Rev. Susan Manker, 7601 N. Village Ave., Tucson, AZ 85704. —RR

**RUTH HELEN LANGHINRICHS (1922–2019)**

Ruth Langhinrichs, widow of Reverend Richard Alan Langhinrichs, died peacefully on 16 April 2019.

Born 30 October 1922 in Chicago, Illinois, Ruth was the first in her family to graduate from college, receiving a Bachelor of Science in English from Northwestern University in 1944.

Upon graduation, Ruth set out for New York City. She was successful as a writer and editor, working for several magazines. Eventually, she moved to Philadelphia to become an Associate Editor of the Ladies Home Journal. Here she wrote a teen-focused advice column called “Dear Gay Head” that had an estimated 6 million readers in the 1950s.

Ruth was a poet, published author, and playwright. She wrote and produced several plays. At the time of her death, she was working on her memoir, titled, “An Intricate Life: Almost One Hundred Years in the Making.”

After coming to Fort Wayne, IN, in 1965 with her spouse and two daughters, Ruth worked tirelessly to promote art, music, movies, drama, and writing. She worked as an Instructor of English on the Purdue Campus and as a writing consultant at the Writing Center.

Ruth was also a feminist and advocate for women. She was a board member for the Women's Center, and she was a proud delegate to the International Women's Conference in Beijing, China. She participated actively on many other boards and never shied away from new challenges. She enrolled and graduated from clown school when she was in her 70s, bringing “Lottie” to life. Poetry, cinema, theatre, drawing, and contemporary literature were among her favorite pastimes.

Additionally, she was deeply engaged with UUism for more than 50 years, and she regularly attended the UU Congregation of Fort Wayne (IN), serving in many capacities.

Ruth was the mother of two daughters, Julie (Ben) Langhinrichs of Cleveland, OH, and Jenny (Marty) Langhinrichsen-Rohling of Mobile, AL. She was blessed with six grandchildren. Her surviving friends, biological family, and family-by-choice members were abundant and essential to the full life she led.

Memorial gifts may be made to the UU Congregation of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Cinema Center, or to the Women's Center. —RR



IN MEMORIAM

PETER LEE SCOTT (1933–2017)

The Reverend Dr. Peter Lee Scott—long-time parish minister, singer and musician, student of UU history, and charter member of the Charles Street Meeting House in Boston—died on 20 December 2017, at the age of 84.

Peter loved table tennis and model railroading, and was also a “very cautious” sailor, claiming that his sailboat, *Chicken of the Sea*, described him as a skipper. He maintained a near life-long relationship with the Ferry Beach Association and, following his Universalist minister father, regularly celebrated Groundhog Day with sermons, liturgies, and carols.

Peter Lee Scott was born on 6 November 1933 in Peoria, Illinois, to Mary Slaughter and the Rev’d Clinton Lee Scott. From St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY) he earned a B.D. in 1955 and an M.Div. in 1957. He would later earn an M.A. in religious education from Hartford (CT) Seminary (1962) and a D.Min. from Lexington (KY) Theological Seminary (1972).

Mr. Scott was ordained on 8 September 1957 at the First Universalist Society in New Haven, CT, where he served for five years. Parish settlements followed in Massachusetts, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Virginia. He then took a call to the First Universalist Church of Southold, NY (1987–96), followed by a one-year interim ministry at the UU Congregation of York, PA.

Finally, the Rev’d Dr. Scott was called to St. Paul’s Universalist Church in Little Falls, NY, where his spouse Faith was ordained and served with him as co-minister. After retirement in 1999, he continued with supply preaching at St. Paul’s and at the First Universalist Society in Salisbury Center, NY. In 2013, he was elected Minister Emeritus by both congregations.

At the time of Peter’s death, survivors included his spouse and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Faith Grover Scott, children Michael, Rebecca, and Steven, stepchildren Robert, Elizabeth, and Margaret, and fourteen grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. —JA

**NICK LIVINGSTON (1931–2019)**

Nick Livingston, spouse of Reverend Ellen D. Livingston, died peacefully on New Year’s Day at Oak Park Manor in Claremont, California., at 87 years old.

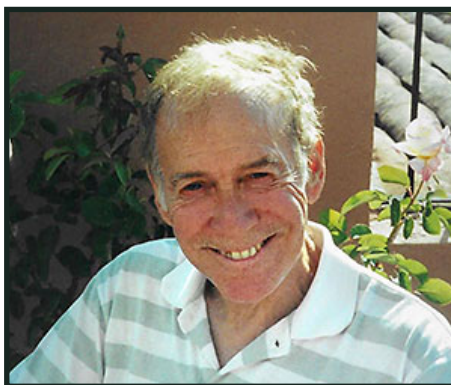
Nick was born in 1931 in Aurora, Illinois, to Olga and Burt Livingston. He graduated from Ripon College (WI) with a degree in history, and served in the US Army at the end of the Korean War. After receiving his architectural degree from the University of IL, he worked in Africa, Texas, and the Chicago suburbs, designing residential and commercial buildings.

He was truly a renaissance man—architect, artist, pianist, writer of novels, screenplays and poetry. He was also an exceptional minister’s spouse, using his skills to design and oversee the construction of UU church structures in IL and CA (including a residential building at a summer camp,) playing piano for church services and social events, and offering displays of his artwork.

Nick leaves behind his spouse, the Reverend Ellen Livingston, who was his soul mate and biggest fan; three stepchildren, Markus and Luke Dohner, and Katherine Dohner Acenas, who share with him his love of art and progressive faith; five grandchildren; his niece

Karen Jenneke, her brother David Jenneke, his spouse Sandy and their son, Nickolas.

Contributions are welcome in his honor for the programs at Monte Vista UU Congregation, 9185 Monte Vista Ave, Montclair, CA 91763 (montevistauu.org).



Messages of condolence can be sent to Ellen Livingston, Apt 9A, 630 W Bonita Ave, Claremont, CA 91711. —RR

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD L. ALLEN (1924–2017)

The Reverend Dr. Richard Allen—whose inquiring spirit was manifested in thoughtful preaching and activity in several UU study groups and conferences—died on 22 October 2017, at the age of 93.

Throughout his ministry, the Rev'd Mr. Allen showed an appreciation for life's deep questions that resist easy or black-and-white answers. He once mused, "On my tombstone, there could be my name, my dates, and the sentence, 'It is more complicated than that.'"



Richard Lovett Allen was born on 14 July 1924 in Cleveland, Ohio, to Marion Ream Allen and Clifford W. Allen, and grew up in Columbus. In 1946, after three years in the U.S. Army, he began study at Ohio State University, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in ceramic engineering in 1948 and 1949. After 15 years in that field, he discerned a call to ministry and in 1964 entered Harvard Divinity School (HDS). Dick married his beloved Lois in 1967 and the same year received his S.T.B. from HDS.

Mr. Allen was ordained on 2 May 1968 by the Palo Alto (CA) Unitarian (now UU) Church but put off ministerial service to pursue further study at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, completing his Ph.D. in 1971. He was settled at the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu (1972–80), followed by a call to the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City where he served for 14 years. On retiring in 1994, he was named Minister Emeritus, his spouse Lois was named Choir Director Emeritus, and the church named its new courtyard in their joint honor.

At the time of Richard's death, survivors included his spouse of 50 years, Lois, siblings Margaret, John, and Joseph, children Bruce Klickstein, Laura Crowder, Robin Klickstein, and Joe Allen, seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren —JA

**HOMER A. ("JERRY") GODDARD III (1929–2017)**

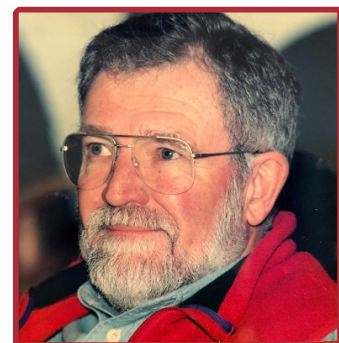
The Reverend Jerry Goddard—second-career parish minister, fierce advocate for abortion rights, child protection, human dignity, religious freedom, and civil rights, and a scholar of Western religions—died on 15 October 2017, aged 87.

Well before his career transition to professional ministry, Jerry was already active in drug counseling, pro-choice advocacy, and litigation for religious freedom. Later he sat on national committees of both Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Homer A. Goddard III was born on 29 October 1929 in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Jeannette and Homer A. Goddard Jr., and grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA. He was graduated in 1952 from Denison University (Granville, OH) with a B.A. in economics. After U.S. Army service, he worked for 17 years as a sales engineer for ALCOA. With active membership in the Main Line Unitarian Church (Devon, PA), he heard a call to ministry and earned an M.Div. in 1975 from Starr King School.

Mr. Goddard was ordained on 9 January 1976 by the First Parish of Sudbury, MA, where he served as minister until 1985, meanwhile discovering an ancestral connection to the Rev'd Israel Loring, who had served the same congregation in a near record length pastorate (1705–72). Jerry was subsequently settled at the UU Society of Greater Springfield, MA (1985–90) and then at the UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, NY (1990–96), where he was honored as Minister Emeritus. Afterward, he served interim ministries in New Zealand, England, Australia, South Africa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

At time of death, survivors included his spouse of 64 years Margaret Goddard, children Linda Goddard, Kirk Goddard, and Jan Goddard-Taylor, and five grandchildren. —JA





Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

c/o Richard Speck

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