

# Elderberries



Unitarian Universalist  
Retired Ministers and Partners Association

[www.UURMaPA.org](http://www.UURMaPA.org)



Volume 36

Number 2

SPRING, 2020

## Winter Conference “50-year Retrospect” Gets In Under the Wire

By JACO TEN HOVE

Over 60 UURMaPAns, most of them over 60 themselves, gathered for a pleasantly warm midweek together in Scottsdale, Arizona, in the latter half of February—entirely and innocently unaware that this Winter conference would likely be one of the last large events they would attend for some time. We were lucky to have such a precious opportunity to convene before the harsh global virus veil was lowered.

Program and camaraderie were outstanding, and the facility was excellent. A number of us even got to visit nearby sites of note, particularly the stunning *Musical Instrument Museum* and the fascinating Arizona home of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, *Taliesin West*.

It was also intriguing to have the Board of Trustees for the UU Ministers Association meeting concurrently in the same place, so we got to interact with them in meaningful ways.

Conference coordinator GINGER LUKE identified the ambitious theme—*A 50-Year Retrospect of Our Soul*—and recruited four strong presenters, who in turn assembled panels and material in diverse and stimulating ways to portray the half-century evolution of these angles:

**Vietnam War,  
Women in Ministry,  
Race, and  
Technology.**

CONTINUED  
ON PAGES  
7–9.



PAT HERDKLOTZ,  
exulting in the  
warm Arizona  
sunshine  
at the Franciscan  
Renewal Center.

(Photos on this  
page by ART  
SEVERANCE.)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

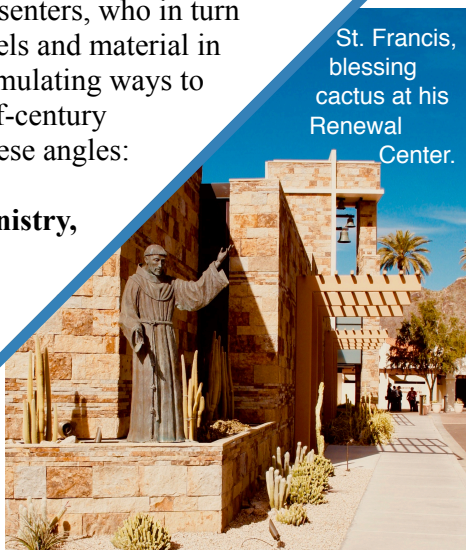
### *How Covid-19 has impacted UURMaPA activities (so far):*

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St. Francis,  
blessing  
cactus at his  
Renewal  
Center.





## UURMaPA Board

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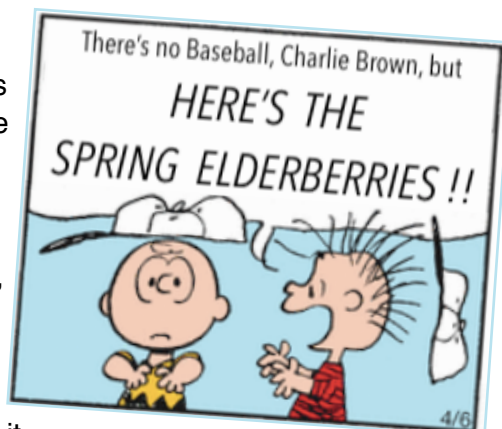
Contact info for most of the folks above can be found in the most current online Directory under **Publications** at [www.uurmapa.org](http://www.uurmapa.org) (password: WISDOM).

## Hey—Color vs. Black-and White?

If you're at all savvy online, why not reduce paper use and mailing costs (plus our carbon footprint) by signing up for the e-version of **Elderberries**, which gives you a full color rendition of These Magical Pages. (The printed black-and-white copies are nice enough, I suppose, but sniff the color spice and you might not go back.)

Thanks to our eminent and dedicated webmaster, **DUANE FICKEISEN**, it even comes onto your phone well enough, if a bit smaller. You just expand and it's still quite readable. But on a computer screen, it's the best. Then, if you want, you can save it to a certain file and you always know where to go for future reference, whereas a printed copy might get easily lost into the recycling whirlwind. The current and archived issues are also posted online as PDFs ([uurmapa.org](http://uurmapa.org), under Publications).

To opt out of receiving a black-and-white mailed copy, just say so to the Membership Coordinator ([membership@uurmapa.org](mailto:membership@uurmapa.org)). An email



## UURMaPA Fall 2020 Conference Goes Virtual

Our autumn gathering, scheduled for Oct. 12–15 in New Hampshire, with the theme, *Come Into the Peace of Nature and Speak of the Future: Community–Ecojustice–Renewal* (featuring presenter **FRED SMALL**) is now to be a different experience as the UURMaPA Board creatively explores how best to reconfigure it into a virtual event. *Save the date(s) nonetheless.*

Facing such unprecedented times, we hold your well-being and safety paramount in our decisions. You will be notified by our email Announce list (and Summer *Elderberries*) as soon as details have been arranged. *Stay safe, friends!*

—GINGER LUKE  
UURMaPA Board Member, *Conferences*

Announcement goes out to the full UURMaPA list when each issue is available online, to remind you to download **Elderberries** in the glorious full-color edition, which you can do **EVEN IF** you get the printed copy (perhaps just to experience what color does to the same material).

Unless told otherwise, as above, **Elderberries** is automatically snail-mailed to members four times a year, full of quarterly news, information and hopefully uplifting images.

Submissions are welcome (by each quarterly deadline: the 15th of January, April, July & October) to: [elderberries@uurmapa.org](mailto:elderberries@uurmapa.org).

Play Ball !

—Jaco★

**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



By DIANE MILLER

*Dear friends,*

Do you remember the *Parable of the Persistent Neighbor*? It was included in a book of parables of Jesus (by Tomie dePaola) that I gave my grandkids. Also called the *Parable of the Friend in Need*, it tells how the late arrival of guests causes the surprised host, who has nothing on hand, to go to his neighbor in the middle of the night and ask for bread to feed the untimely visitors.

Everyone in the neighbor's household has gone to bed, the food has been put away, yet the awakened neighbor gets up and provides the bread. *Because he has been asked.*

Well, I'm coming to you as a persistent neighbor, asking you to help support UURMaPA with a contribution. To give some bread, so to speak. Our organization is entirely volunteer, run by a rotating corps of dedicated ministers and partners. Our budget is modest, covering communications, programs, conferences, and an annual in-person Board meeting. Our purpose is to serve the interests and enhance the well-being of our members, to foster and strengthen connections among us. All income is from contributions, as we charge no dues. So here I am—knock! knock! knock!—in the middle of the night.

I certainly realize this is not an ideal time. The pandemic is causing economic upheaval everywhere, including for retired clergy and partners, our extended families, and the non-profits and congregations many of us care about. But if you are able, a contribution would be greatly appreciated, and enable us to continue.

In Luke (11:5-8) the parable is placed in a section on prayer and seems to teach that God will provide if we but ask, persistently. It's more likely the story came originally from the strong ethic of hospitality and providing for strangers and those in need that shaped the interdependent culture of the time. Our own culture is being reshaped by this viral pandemic. In our isolation and separation we are paradoxically made more aware of our interdependence and the need for mutual support. Please give, if you can, to support UURMaPA in these challenging times.

How? Donate via Paypal, credit, or debit card on [UURMaPA.org](http://UURMaPA.org) (scroll down the welcome page to the yellow donate button). Or mail a check to treasurer Dave Hunter, 535 Gradyville Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

*Your help is deeply appreciated.*

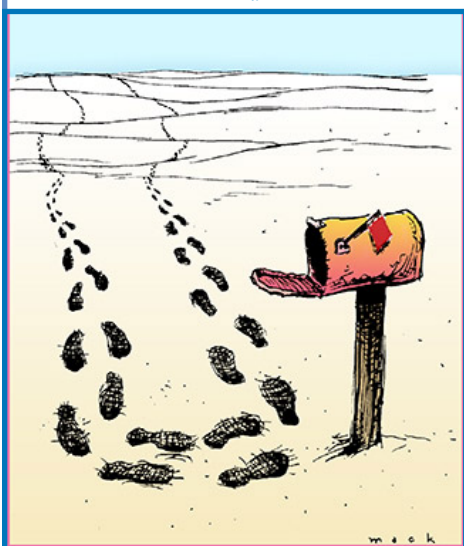
— Diane

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



**UURMaPA Board:** *Front:* Diane Miller, Cathie Severance, Barbara Child, Phyllis Hubbell; *Back:* Jaco ten Hove, Art Severance, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Susan Rak.

## RETIRING In the Era of COVID-19...



...is a different sort of culmination for ministers and partners. The same is true for anyone changing lanes, such as colleagues leaving for new ministries, departing from community roles or wrapping up as an interim.

For ministers retiring, though, it usually represents leaving more than the current position; it is retiring from a career, however long that has been, and from ministry as a vocation.

But the formal, ceremonial goodbyes are now virtual. Partners may experience a silent departure. Final sermons are recorded or delivered via ZOOM. *What!*—no actual “walk” at 2020’s Service of the Living Tradition?!

A few colleagues retiring this year have already done their virtual farewells. ***Do you have ideas for rituals and celebrations that can fit this new reality? What works?***

Please share your thoughts to the UURMaPA Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/UURMaPA/](https://www.facebook.com/UURMaPA/) (See more about Facebook on page 5.)

## Unsung No More! — LOIS WESENER

BARBARA CHILD announced at our Winter Conference that the **Unsung UURMaPA**n for 2020 is **LOIS WESENER**, who lives in Milwaukee, WI, with spouse Rev. Drew Kennedy:

*Lois loves Unitarian Universalism and has reliably served as registrar for five UURMaPA conferences over almost three years—even events she did not attend.*

*All of us at any of the conferences where she was registrar have more reasons than we can count to say to her, "Thank you!"*

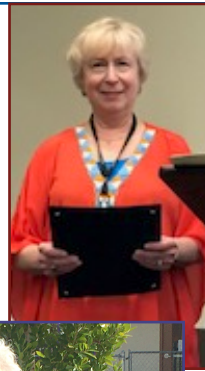
*And so we honor **LOIS WESENER** for her vital contributions to UURMaPA. As a token of our esteem, we present(ed) her with a citation and a check for \$500. Congratulations, Lois!*

Some comments from those who know her work up close:

"Lois has contributed professionally and with wisdom. On the conference planning team, she never missed a meeting. She takes the initiative and doesn't let details—or people—slip through the cracks. Her patience with questions is unlimited, and so is her willingness to track down endless sources of confusion and ambiguities. Her anticipation of possible questions and problems is remarkable. Lois even understands the limitations of other human beings. She is patient with people who are confused—or who don't read their mail."

"Lois continually comes up with new ideas to improve processes and make things go more smoothly. She applies herself relentlessly and takes pride in her work. She goes the extra mile. And it is Lois who gets credit for lobbying for more free time at conferences!"

Says her partner, Rev. **DREW KENNEDY**: "She has noticed that ministers are often better at delegating and facilitating and trouble-shooting the tasks at hand than actually doing them. It is abundantly clear that Lois is a doer, one who values being useful, especially to UU causes." ☆☆



**LOIS WESENER**, above & left, with friends  
**JAN CHRISTIAN** and **BARBARA CHILD**

Photos by **DIANE MILLER** (TOP)  
AND **ART SEVERANCE** (LOWER)

## Changes to UURMaPa's Annual Gathering at "G.A." 2020

By **PHYLLIS HUBBELL**,  
UURMaPA Vice President

With General Assembly to be held virtually this year, what does that mean for UURMaPA's Annual Gathering? At press time, we are tentatively planning to do likewise and hold an online "event" on the same day the luncheon was scheduled—**Friday, June 26** (time TBA). We will be rethinking at least some of the usual format, hoping for not just one but two *Creative Sageing* awards, plus a heartfelt ingathering of new retirees, and perhaps some time to share in small groups.

*If you are interested in helping to plan this event or have ideas about what you would like included, please contact me at [phubbell@uuma.org](mailto:phubbell@uuma.org). The really good news is that now those of you who weren't planning on going to G.A. can join us! So do put the above date on your calendar.*

Keep your eye out for an update on the emerging details, via an Announce email as well as on our Facebook page and website. We look forward to seeing many of you in June.

*(See particulars about Facebook next page. ☆☆)*

## Tele-chaplaincy, Anyone?

A message from executives of

APC: Association of Professional Chaplains  
ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education  
NACC: National Association of Catholic Chaplains  
NAJC: Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains

The need for spiritual care in this unprecedented time is critical and healthcare institutions need additional spiritual care provider assistance. If you are a retired professional searching for ways to help, we would be very grateful for your support to our colleagues and those they serve during this crisis.

If you would like to be considered for tele-chaplaincy support, please complete the form available here: [form.jotform.com/clarkacpe/telechaplaincy-volunteer-form](https://form.jotform.com/clarkacpe/telechaplaincy-volunteer-form).

If you have questions or need more information, please email [COVID-19@acpe.edu](mailto:COVID-19@acpe.edu).  
Thank you for your dedication to our shared work. ☆☆

"The form to volunteer (for **tele-chaplaincy**) is simple, and you can indicate whether you would be available for telephone, video chaplaincy, or both."

—**DIANE MILLER**

"Our UU chaplains in hospitals describe overwhelming needs."

—**SARAH LAMMERT**



Many of us have taken steps to support others (and ourselves) during the current time of global struggle. For instance, in the early wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, UURMaPA **BARBARA TEN HOVE** sent out word that new online groups could be started for those needing a little extra support during this challenging time. Soon thereafter, **JUDY WELLES** and **ART SEVERANCE** joined in to help organize three Zoom groups of about six each that began meeting weekly for at least a handful of sessions.

The groups have provided a place to grieve, laugh, vent, and share meaningful moments with a circle of caring UURMaPA members. It is uncertain whether they will continue past the initial period, but if you are interested in joining one, let Barbara know at [revbabs10@gmail.com](mailto:revbabs10@gmail.com). Groups may re-form or new groups emerge if there's enough interest.

Meanwhile, on Florida's Gulf Coast, **ROBERT MURPHY** (Minister Emeritus, Tarpon Springs) uses his emergency services training and a masters degree in public health to offer consulting ministry to three UU congregations that asked for help. "Because of the ongoing impact of climate change here, there are many clergy who have experience responding to large emergencies. In Florida, this is the new normal."

**BARBARA CHILD**, with extensive experience in teaching how small group ministry works and why it's so valuable, is helping to coordinate Chalice Circles, a small group ministry program at the UU Church of Bloomington, IN, as they keep meeting on Zoom. "It is a labor of love when this old Luddite can be the one to assure some much younger person that the technology is not all that daunting and that in this unprecedented perilous time, a real sense of caring community truly can happen virtually."

**MELANIE MOREL-ENSMINGER**, retired since 2017 but serving as Consulting Minister to a small rural historic Universalist congregation in Ellisville, Mississippi, now provides even more long-distance counseling and pastoral care, helping to link people in need with those able to run necessary errands. "Strangely, our online worship services have been slightly better attended than in-person worship has been of late, possibly because people feel the need more, and because now nobody needs to get dressed and drive to church." ☆☆

An UURMaPA online **CAREGIVERS** group emerged several years ago, inspired by a Fall conference and organized by **MAKANAH MORRIS**, **DUANE FICKEISEN** and **SYLVIA HOWE**. It continues meeting and has been very worthwhile for sharing the reality of caregiving amid varied responsibilities as spouses, parents, siblings, etc., and now with the pandemic upon us.

The group of around eight currently meets monthly on the first Friday of the month at 3pm Boston time and welcomes other caregivers to join, via [caregivers@uurmapa.org](mailto:caregivers@uurmapa.org).

Other ongoing UURMaPA Support Groups also welcome additional participants. To learn more and request to be part of a forming group, contact [support-groups@uurmapa.org](mailto:support-groups@uurmapa.org).

## Area Connections Among Us, or Pastoral Care for Pastors Put Out to Pasture

by **ART SEVERANCE**

For ministers and partners in retirement, there are often changes in location and relationships, and perhaps even more importantly, in health and financial situations. We all know the value of staying connected with colleagues and friends as well as family, especially for those of us ministers and partners who tend to be treated somewhat differently by people when they find out who we are. (Inform someone that you're a minister or a minister's partner and you never quite know what the reaction will be!)

My portfolio on the UURMaPA Board as Area Connections Chair (aka Caring Network Chair) is to recruit and coordinate Area Coordinators, who reach out to UURMaPA members in a given geo-zone. At our recent Board meeting in Scottsdale, we voted to merge some of the Areas. (You can find all the Area Listings and Coordinators at [uurmapa.org](http://uurmapa.org) under Publications, Directories; Password is WISDOM. *It can be nice to at least see who else is in your zone!*)

We are currently in need of willing volunteers to be Area Coordinators (ACs) for three (out of 33) regions: Eastern Canada, Heartland North (mostly Michigan), and Joseph Priestley South (mostly Maryland).

Especially in these current "safe at home" times we often dearly relish any contact with one another, and *you can help* by being an AC—with your partner, if you wish! (My spouse Cathie and I are ACs for the SouthWest.) UURMaPA is trying to find different ways to help us all connect with and support each other by starting small support groups (see boxed info, upper left) as well as encouraging Area social groups.

The official AC "job description" called "Notes for Area Coordinators" can also be found at [uurmapa.org](http://uurmapa.org) (under Resources, Local Area Connections).

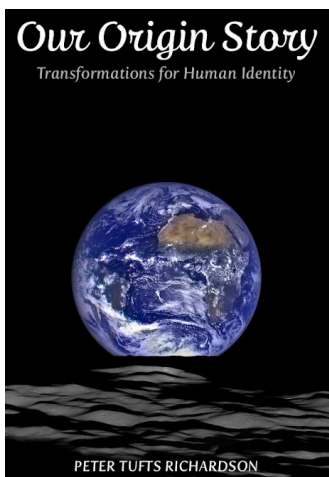
We're encouraging all ACs to contact their folks during these trying times. And if you've been thinking about getting more involved and connected, this is a good moment! Just let me know, at [connections@uurmapa.org](mailto:connections@uurmapa.org) ☆☆

Check out UURMaPA on FaceBook:

Like our page: [www.facebook.com/UURMaPA/](https://www.facebook.com/UURMaPA/)

Join our discussion group: **UURMaPA (Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers & Partners Assoc.)**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2003125769981908/>)





**PETER RICHARDSON** sees this as his last and crowning work, after eight earlier titles of history, poetry, psychology and religious philosophy. Featured at the center of *Our Origin Story* is a more than 100-page tour of the world's religious scriptures from a humanist-naturalist perspective. And theist scriptures have a human face, as the gods/God reflect

our human nature. In illuminating our self-understanding, we need them all. All of this is placed into context of our human emergence on planet Earth.

***Our Origin Story: Transformations for Human Identity*** is a quality paperback, 333 pp., with notes, resources for further reading, and full index. To order, email [ptemr@aol.com](mailto:ptemr@aol.com) or write Red Barn Publishing, 22 Mechanic St., Rockland, ME 04841.

**BARRY ANDREWS** acknowledges that American

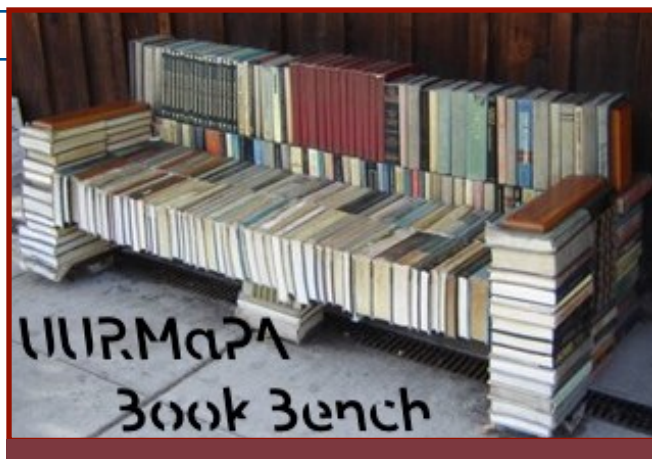


TRANSCENDENTALISM  
AND THE  
CULTIVATION  
OF THE SOUL

BARRY M. ANDREWS

Transcendentalism is often seen as a literary movement -- a flowering of works written by New England intellectuals who retreated from society and lived in nature. ***Transcendentalism and the Cultivation of the Soul*** focuses on a neglected aspect of this well-known group, showing how American Transcendentalists developed rich spiritual practices to nurture their souls and discover the divine. (Paperback, Amazon)

**JOHN BUEHRENS** presents a dramatic retelling of the story of the Transcendentalists, revealing them not as isolated authors but as a community of social activists who shaped progressive American values. ***Conflagration*** illuminates the connections between key members of the Transcendentalist circle, who created a community dedicated to radical social activism. These authors and activists laid the groundwork for democratic and progressive religion in America. (Hardcover, Amazon)

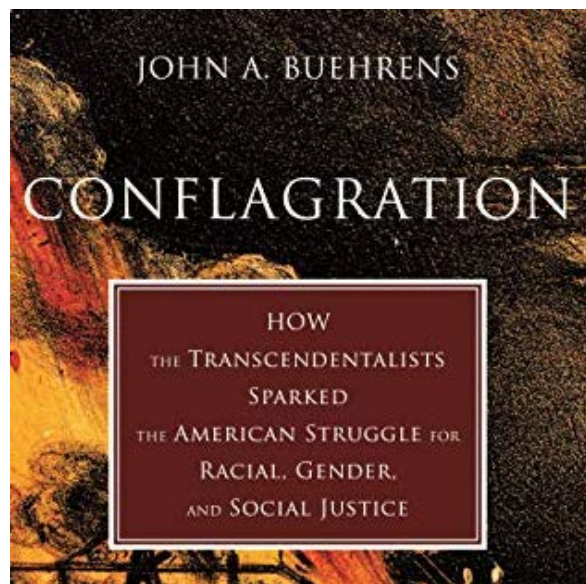
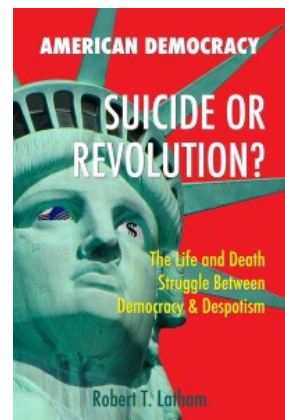


**ROBERT LATHAM** declares that America faces a crisis as critical as the Civil War—a battle between the same enemies: social equality and economic slavery. Using ballots rather than bullets, we voters will decide. The potential outcome is expressed in his book title—

***American Democracy: Suicide or Revolution*** and subtitle—"The Life and Death Struggle of Democracy and Despotism."

Latham comments, "There are many new vital books describing the symptoms of America's democratic decline. This book deals with the causes of this decline and how the people can regain control of the nation's destiny."

Order from [www.mythinglink.com](http://www.mythinglink.com).







**JUDY CLYMER WELLES**  
delivers her Odyssey.

(photo by DIANE MILLER)

## ...Winter Conference Report

Continued from page 1 ...

On the first evening **STEPHAN PAPA** and **CATHIE SEVERANCE** led a moving *In Memoriam* service, and we settled in. The next morning **ART SEVERANCE** —→ and his 12-string guitar (right) sang us through an opening “Worship in Song: Love and Change.”

Following the first theme panel (see page 9), most of us attended a very informative session with **RICHARD NUGENT**, director of the UUA’s Office of Church Staff Finances. After lunch and the next panel we had some welcome free time, and the day capped off with a stirring evening Odyssey from **JUDY WELLES** (left). *Continued on next page* —→



## RAINBOW HISTORY STILL UNFOLDING

### Publication Update — Great News!

Skinner House Books announced in February that it will publish a book based on UURMaPA’s **Rainbow History Project**, which has pivoted on two thematic conferences in 2019: February in Texas and October in Connecticut. (See *Project updates*, right.)

Those gatherings provided impactful personal testimonies within important historical content, and a website ([www.uurainbowhistory.net](http://www.uurainbowhistory.net)) continues to display the transcripts as well as many more statements. The Project was supported by the UU Funding Panel, with generous contributions from individuals, as well as a Faithify campaign.

Book editor **DIANA MCLEAN** —→ (settled minister at the Peterborough, NH, UU Church) issued a Call for Submissions of History and Current Stories from LGBTQ+ UUs. Her deadline for abstracts was in late April, but if you still want to contribute, you might contact her at [dianakmclean@gmail.com](mailto:dianakmclean@gmail.com) to learn more about submission guidelines, etc. (She acknowledges that “This timeline may shift as we all adapt our lives and work to what is needed in the era of COVID-19.”)



This book grew out of UURMaPA’s wish to celebrate and honor the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, but it is not limited to history. The intent is to include the present reality of LGBTQ+ folks in our movement as well, centering on first-hand accounts (and limited to stories from LGBTQ+ people rather than allies, who experienced events from a different perspective). These portrayals will hopefully help move us toward a more complete welcome and support of LGBTQ+ folks, including transgender and gender non-binary folk. ☆☆

### More Updates from ANNE SPATOLA

*Project Coordinator*

The UURMAPA Rainbow History Project\* is progressing well despite the current difficult and challenging times we are all facing.

Editing of written transcripts from UURMaPA’s two historic 2019 conferences has been completed. They were all forwarded to the Project webmaster as well as to the archivist at Andover-Harvard Theological Library. Editing and design of the videos is ongoing.

I continue to pursue and seek out new possibilities for adding to the Project. This has understandably become a bit problematic as our attention is turned to immediate needs or handling unusual circumstances in this new reality and changed environment.

Nonetheless, we have collected stirring essays, sermons, and reflections from various LGBTQ+ ministers and lay members of UU congregations. These different experiences and perspectives bring an added flavor to the website ([uurainbowhistory.net](http://uurainbowhistory.net)).

Working on this Project has been fascinating, enlightening and definitely rewarding. I have really enjoyed the connections I have made in the short time of my involvement (since January, 2020). I look forward to finding more ways to enhance and enrich the Project and will enjoy the relationships that emerge.

Please contact me with ideas, contributions, etc., at [coordinator@uurainbowhistory.net](mailto:coordinator@uurainbowhistory.net). ☆☆

\*Honoring the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising by “*Celebrating the UU Journey toward LGBTQIA Rights*.” (See *Elderberries*, Spring and Autumn, 2019.)



## A 50-Year Retrospect of Our Soul Winter Conference Report

...Continued from page 7...

The third day was also packed with another panel, then a report on the Rainbow History Project (from **PHYLLIS HUBBELL** and **JUDY WELLES**, with new coordinator **ANNE SPATOLA**). After lunch, the Unsung UURMaPan Award presentation to **LOIS WESENER** (see story on page 4) was sandwiched between two special environmental programs. One was an informative slide show on *Plastic Pollution and the Path to Solutions*, the other a brainstorming session on how UURMaPA and its activities might reduce our collective carbon footprint (both led by your editor).

All this prepared us for the latest Wide Variety Show in the evening, emceed again by **BARBARA TEN HOVE**. This rewarding event featured, strangely enough, a wide variety of a dozen acts, from profound poetry readings and meaningful magic to a twisted rendition of Cinderella and (very!) improvised death scenes, plus songs galore, including a lightly rehearsed rendition of the classic Arizona tale of ole Yavapai Pete by Brother Buzz and the Holy Coyotes.

Our final morning together was rich, too. Following the final theme program we had sessions with the UURMaPA Board and then with three members of the nearby UUMA Board. **MELISSA CARVILL-ZIEMER** (Director of Collegial Practices) let us know that UUMA Continuing Education standards were emerging, such as a requirement of 20 CE hours per year (including reading), but minus an enforcement mechanism.

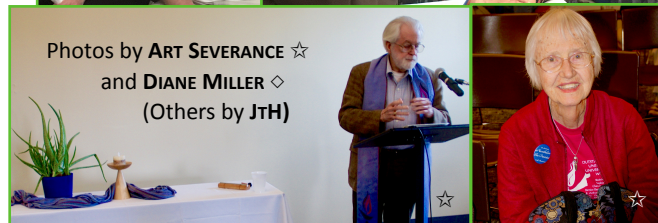
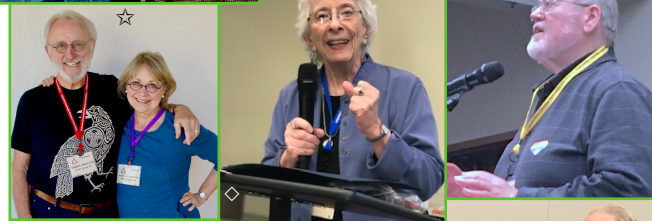
**JANETTE LALLIER** (Director of Operations) clued us in about changes in the UUMA annual meeting ahead of General Assembly (both of which will now be done electronically).

**ELIZABETH STEVENS** then spoke about censure misconceptions. ("The UUMA is not censoring anyone.") The flap from a "gadfly" book passed around at the last G.A. was not about ideas, but behaviors, i.e., publishing names without permission, then refusing to engage about it. Censure (not censoring) was issued only after the author's refusal to respond to multiple overtures.

Also, and as an example of a more collaborative feedback loop, Elizabeth described how the most recent 25-year honoree's talk, which contained unintended microaggressions, has undergone a collaborative process that will result in a video showing healing and reconciliation.

Our closing worship, led by **JAY ATKINSON** ("Weaving... in the Fifth Season"), sent us off into the Arizona sun with fond feelings and upbeat energy, which may be helpful in sustaining us through the unhappy historical era that began to unfold shortly thereafter. It is unclear when we will be able to regather again, alas. (See *Fall Conference update*, page 2).

Find Program notes  
on next page!



Photos by **ART SEVERANCE** ☆  
and **DIANE MILLER** ◇  
(Others by JtH)



**VIETNAM WAR** — **BARBARA CHILD**, author of “Memories of a Vietnam Veteran” (see Elderberries, Winter 2019), introduced her panelists, who covered a spectrum of 1970 experiences of the war.

For **STEPHAN PAPA**, the draft provided formative lessons and motivations toward ministry. **DAVE HUNTER** told a stirring story about his steady draft resistance, describing his attitude as “a general lack of cooperation” with the Selective Service.

**ROBERT LATHAM** offered distressing memories of the Tet Offensive as a chaplain and witness to the willful ignorance, deceit and arrogance of officials, likening it to a version of manifest destiny.

**JAN CHRISTIAN** spoke evocatively of her brother’s death in Vietnam, her evolution of awareness, and a gradual resolution of her pain. She noted that the war is still a raw wound in America and UUs often have low skills around conflict related to that era.



**RACE** — **GORDON GIBSON** presented a timeline, beginning with his ministry in Mississippi and presence in 1965 Selma up to his leadership of recent tours of southern civil rights sites. He had to sadly acknowledge that his primary co-presenter, **MEL HOOVER**, was unable to attend because of a last minute back injury, so he arranged to have longtime civil rights activist **JIM HOBART** join him on the dais, along with **DARRICK JACKSON**, who stepped away from the nearby UUMA meetings to be with us. Darrick read a

message from **BILL SINKFORD**, including this: “My ministry has not been all about race, *and* race has never been absent from my ministry.”

Jim honored his father Al’s ministry in the south, noting the formative contrast between *de jure* segregation and more progressive attitudes in their Unitarian setting. He referred to the late 1960s controversy around the General Assembly vote for \$1 million to support the Black Caucus and how the 1992 GA (Calgary) returned racial issues to the table, toward a growing awareness of white supremacy culture.



**UU WOMEN IN MINISTRY** — **DIANE MILLER**, who began her ministry in 1976, explained that UURMaPA holds huge resources of memory and experiences; she offered some key statistics about women in ministry and introduced four very important testimonies and accountings of dramatic but challenging evolution toward our current culture.

**JOY ATKINSON**, ordained in 1974 (“arriving like a first robin in spring”) spoke of her early experiences as often the first woman minister in many of her settings.

**LESLIE WESTBROOK**, ordained in 1973, was unable to attend in person, but provided her own excellent and important video history of women in ministry during the years 1977-82.

**CHRISTINE ROBINSON**, ordained in 1980, articulated the dramatic roller coaster of her parish leadership experience, always striving toward the growth of healthy systems.

**DEBORAH POPE-LANCE**, ordained in 1978, described how dangerous it was in the 1980s to speak out about clergy sexual abuse that was very prevalent, pervasive and permitted. There were huge positive changes in the 90s, although patriarchal structures persisted and women were often acculturated into them.

Overall themes portrayed by this panel included hurts, resistance, microaggressions, struggles, courage, peer bonding, pioneering spirit, confusion, bullying, and vicious power dynamics.



**TECHNOLOGY: From Snail Mail to ZOOM** — **DUANE FICKEISEN** presented an entertaining and appropriately visual chronicle of the 1970 context, featuring events personal, national and global. He took us down a vivid memory lane of devices and made helpful connections about the impacts of technology on our lives today. Duane invited us into intriguing inquiries:

Where were you 50 years ago?

How did you communicate?

How did you get around?

How did you get news?

What was entertainment for you?

How do you use technology now?

How does it impact you?

How might you improve your relationship with it?

## AHOY! INCOMING BOARDERS... Report from the UURMaPA Nominating Committee

Following an in-person meeting at the wonderful spring conference in Scottsdale, AZ, your Nominating Committee is pleased to have completed our latest work. While it is the board's job to replace positions after a resignation, we were delighted to recommend (and have the board accept) that current At-Large board member **SUSAN VERONICA RAK** will step into the second year of early-departing Vice-President **PHYLLIS HUBBELL**. *Thanks, Susan!*

And moving into the At-Large position thus vacated, recent former board member **MARNI HARMONY** will complete Susan's final year term. *Thanks, Marni!* Happily, the last position remaining unfilled has been claimed. **RICHARD SPECK**, currently completing his term as Treasurer of the UUMA board, will be coming over to UURMaPA in a similar role. We are delighted he's agreed to take on this important position!

Marni and Richard (see bios and photos below) join previously announced new board members **ANNE SPATOLA** and **GLORIA PEREZ** (who were each profiled in the Winter Elderberries). All begin their terms in July, 2020, and we appreciate their willingness to serve. And we especially want to honor outgoing board members—**PHYLLIS HUBBELL**, **DAVE HUNTER**, **BARBARA CHILD & GINGER LUKE**—for their stalwart work on behalf of our beloved organization.

Finally, a big thank you to the rest of the excellent Nominating Committee: **JUDY WELLES**, **JUDY GIBSON**, **BARRY ANDREWS & WAYNE ARNASON**. —Your chair, **BARBARA WELLS TEN HOVE**

### RICHARD SPECK *Incoming Board Treasurer*

Richard was District Executive for the UUA's Joseph Priestley District (JPD) from 2000 until retiring in 2014, and was named Minister Emeritus in 2019.

Previously, he served nine years as minister to the UU Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL, adding the music director role for the last two years. He graduated from Meadville/Lombard with a D.Min. in 1990.

Richard is active in social justice programs (Black Lives Matter and Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow in Delaware), conducts rites of passage, and preaches in area congregations. He has served as Treasurer of the UUMA twice, now finishing his second three year term. He also served as Treasurer for the Priestley Kingsbury UUMA chapter for the last four years.

Richard became UU as a layperson in Springfield, IL, in 1974. He was an active lay member of the UU Church of Birmingham, AL, before going into the ministry.

Richard's career before the ministry was as a respiratory therapist for 18 years. His decade before seminary was in Birmingham as director of a respiratory care department in a large hospital. He earned a 1976 M.A. in health care administration as part of this career.

He and spouse **JANET TILLMAN** live in Wilmington, DE, with two cats. Richard enjoys making music, flying his airplane, and creating stained glass art.



### MARNI HARMONY

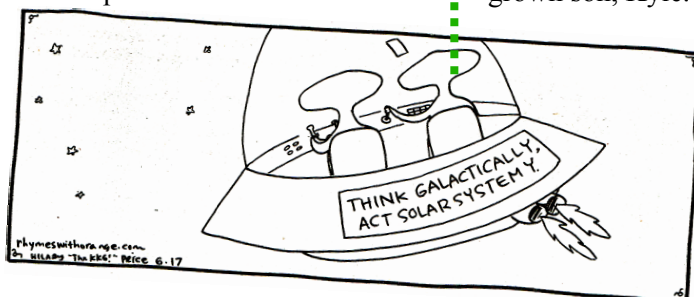
*Incoming Board Member, UU Liaison*

Ordained in 1974, Marni served churches in State College, PA, and Brookfield, WI, before a call to Orlando, FL, where she served for 20 years, followed by two interim ministries in Marietta, GA, and Tarpon Springs, FL.

UU since age seven (when her parents were in the founding generation at Mt. Vernon UU Church in Alexandria, VA), Marni received a B.A. from Tufts University; a Th.M. from Boston University School of Theology; an M.S.W. from the University of Wisconsin; and a D.Min. from Columbia Seminary (with a dissertation titled, "The Challenge of Nontraditional Families to the Church").

She has worked as a hospital chaplain, a college chaplain, and a psychotherapist as well as being a VISTA volunteer. Marni currently serves as a Regional Transitions Coach for the UUA's Southern Region.

She calls Orlando, FL, home, with spouse **NANCY BAUER** and their pups Finn and Wilson. She also has a grown son, Kyle. "I begin my day with a cup of tea and a walk, eat lots of vegetables, love the Irish whistle, and am known to have a penchant for pie and chocolate. I am honored and excited to be able to serve my colleagues and their partners in this interesting phase of life we call retirement."





## GIVE YOUR LOVED ONES A “LIFE HUG”!

*A what?*

When **ED LYNN** retired after completing 33 “very rewarding” years at the Northshore UU Church in Danvers, MA, he self-published a small, artfully crafted booklet, called “Gratitude,” as a surprise gift to the many congregants he had ministered to and with.

The 24-page booklet included lots of meaningful photos and a few of his own poetic words and passages from services shared, plus he wrote personal notes by hand to each recipient on the inside cover. Featured among the 24 pages was the reprint of a sermon (which won a prestigious Borden Sermon Award) about “Spiritual Gratitude,” one of his “life passions.”

Ed opened that talk by describing the heart-pounding experience he had when a large tree crashed down on the back seat of the car he was driving. He was quite shaken but walked away relatively unscathed. In relating the harrowing moment, he drew on an excerpt from a poem by Jane Kenyon (sidebar) to reflect how “it might have been otherwise.”

“If it had fallen one second earlier,” Ed noted, “it would have landed on the front seat, and my head... I sustained what I call a near-life experience—a deeper understanding of how sacred life is and that it is not to be taken for granted... I felt a profound sense of gratitude.”

Yet Ed also acknowledged that for many of us such a dramatically awakened appreciation for life can eventually diminish, or just fade over time and be “no longer at the core of (our) being, (but move to) the edge of (our) emotions.” So he accepted a “spiritual challenge” to counter that tendency and find “ways that help me remember and appreciate my life.”

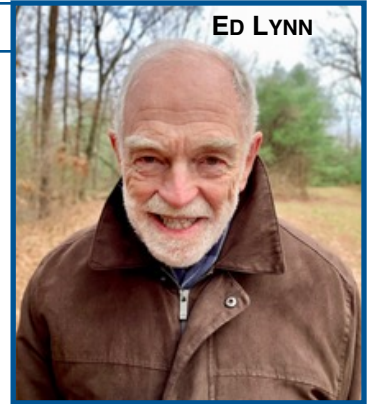


One practice he adopted is a short prayer upon awakening each morning, using the words of 19th c. American painter Winslow Homer: “The sun will not rise or set without my notice and thanks.”

Ed also instituted with his spouse, Marj, a “life hug—a great big bear hug that I give her to express not just my love, but also how deeply I appreciate her and our life together. When one of us shouts, ‘Life hug!’ we embrace appreciation, as well as each other.”

He reminds himself and others to regularly express love to friends and family, a too-frequently neglected act that can ground us in gratitude. “Too often we say, ‘Goodbye’ when we really mean, ‘I love you.’”

*Huzzah for Life Hugs! —JtH*



### Otherwise

by **Jane Kenyon**, excerpt  
(1947-1995. former Poet Laureate of N. Hampshire)

*I got out of bed  
on two strong legs.  
It might have been  
otherwise. I ate  
cereal, sweet  
milk, ripe, flawless  
peach. It might  
have been otherwise.  
I took the dog uphill  
to the birch wood.  
All morning I did  
the work I love...  
But one day, I know,  
it will be otherwise.*

**Spiritual Practices** — The first panel from “Gratitude” (2005) by **EDWIN CHARLES LYNN**

FAITH....in possibilities amidst the mystery of experience.

BEAUTY....as a source of pleasure and inspiration.

GRATITUDE....for our life on earth.

JOY....in the glory of each day.

KINDNESS....as a daily value.

FORGIVENESS....of others and ourselves.

LOVE....of our neighbor.

## NEWS FLASH: 2020 Retirement Fund Minimum Distributions **NOT** Required

For retirees, the **CARES Act**\*—signed into law March 27—waives the 2020 stipulation to take **Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)**. Had government not waived the requirement, certain account holders of tax-deferred 401(k)s, like the UU Retirement Plan, and IRAs, would have had to take a minimum distribution.

This waiver for 2020 provides relief to those who would otherwise be required to withdraw funds from their retirement accounts during current stock market volatility. And unlike other retirement plan provisions in the **CARES Act**, the 2020 **RMD** suspension is *not* limited to participants affected by COVID-19.

*For retired UU Clergy in the denominational plan, be aware that when you request a distribution you can also get **suppression of federal taxes** due to your retired clergy status and the Internal Revenue Code's treatment related to the clergy housing allowance in retirement.*

*UUA staff are required to authorize all distributions that are not CRD's (a new defined term meaning distributions for certain qualifying "Coronavirus-Related" reasons). Thus, we may contact you if your requested distribution isn't marked to indicate to us whether you wish to suppress the taxes or not.*



### SOME PARTICULARS OF NOTE:

#### 1. *If you already have an **RMD** payment scheduled for 2020:*

You have the flexibility to cancel it, and TIAA will auto-restart it in 2021. Call TIAA **800-842-2829** if you wish to cancel for 2020.

#### 2. *If you have already started receiving your **RMD** this year:*

You are permitted to receive it, and monthly payments will continue unless you call to cancel.

#### 3. *If you have not set up your **RMD** this year:*

TIAA cannot set up new **RMD** payments. If you need the money that would have been provided by the **RMD**, you can take a withdrawal (a.k.a. "distribution"). The quickest way to request that is through the TIAA website, but you can call TIAA instead if you prefer to speak with someone: **800-842-2829**.

*In general, take a strategic approach to your financial situation.* Determine whether you need to trim expenses. Don't be afraid to ask about assistance programs for rent, utilities, loan payments and credit card bills. Contact companies to ask about the ability to temporarily reduce or defer payments. Many companies are seeking to assist customers as we all weather this era of uncertainty.

Before taking money from your retirement account, it may be wise to explore other actions. Consider discussing your particular situation with your financial consultant and tax and legal advisors. When considering selling stocks you may have in your accounts right now, ask about the current market volatility and whether you could be selling at a loss.

As Reverend **SUSAN FREDERICK-GRAY** has been known to say, "*Now is no time to go it alone.*" Do you know a particularly relevant thrifty tip, or need to talk with a peer about a particular need?

Please share information and begin or nurture relationships through communication while remaining safely physically distant during this time. Get and stay connected through phone calls and other media. If you feel a bit wobbly from time to time, seek connection, and help remind one another that this, too, shall pass.

*With love, Linda Rose*

UUA Retirement Plan Director  
617-948-4265 [lrose@uua.org](mailto:lrose@uua.org)

\*Find more helpful links and info about **CARES Act** ramifications, see the UUA website: [www.uua.org/finance/compensation/retirement](http://www.uua.org/finance/compensation/retirement)

## The Moment Love Caught Fire!

From **DICK GILBERT**:

2020 features the **250th anniversary of John Murray's** arrival on these shores to preach universal salvation in Thomas Potter's chapel on September 30, 1770, at what is now our **UU Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center** (Lanoka Harbor, Lacey Township, NJ).

That seminal event in our history will be celebrated this fall with a program—"Love with No Exceptions, 1770-2020: Faith, Hope, Love"—that may be held on site or virtually. Look for a further update in the Summer issue of *Elderberries* and wherever Universalism is loved and honored.



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

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

Continuing gratitude to **JAY ATKINSON** (JA) and **JOHANNA NICHOLS** (JN) for their careful researching and composing of obituaries for ministers. **ROGER ROCHESTER** does a similarly fine job for partners.

## IN MEMORIAM

### BERKLEY L. MOORE (1932–2018)

The Reverend Berkley Moore—environmental engineer, musical scholar and hymnodist, settled and peripatetic preacher, and versatile polymath—died in Springfield, Illinois, on 4 January 2018, aged 85. Berkley was known for his scholarly curiosity and broad knowledge, from history to genetics to religion, and particularly music. He composed hymns and was an active member of the Illinois shape note singing community.



Berkley Leroy Moore was born on 7 August 1932 in Youngstown, Ohio, to James Berkley Moore and Lillian V.B. Moore. He earned a B.S. from Grove City College (PA) in 1954. After three years in chemical engineering research, he enrolled at Harvard Divinity School, earning an S.T.M. in 1960.

Mr. Moore was ordained by the All Souls Unitarian Church in Windsor, VT, on 14 April 1961. He continued serving that church along with the nearby First Universalist Church of Hartland until 1965, when he took another yoked call to Minnesota UU congregations in Virginia and Duluth.

Leaving full-time settled ministry, Berkley moved to Springfield, IL, in 1970, and began working as an engineer for the state's Environmental Protection Agency. But he joined Springfield's Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation and soon informally assumed many ministerial roles—preacher, pastor, and priest—until the church formally settled a new minister in 1981. The church remembers the Rev'd Mr. Moore's arrival as a "turning point" in its history. After 25 years of such membership and service, the congregation named him Minister Emeritus.

At his death, Berkley was survived by his former wife Kathryn VanBuskirk, their sons James and Erik, his former wife and longtime friend Barbara Moore, and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held on 10 February 2018 at the Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation. —JA



### JACK D. ZOERHEIDE (1924–2018)

The Reverend Jack Zoerheide—parish minister and social justice activist—died on 2 March 2018, aged 93.

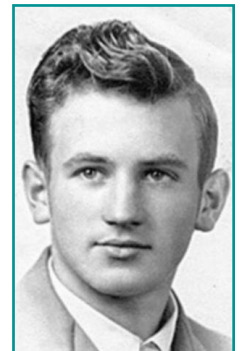
Throughout his ministry the Rev'd Mr. Zoerheide was a staunch civil rights advocate. In 1964 he traveled to Williamstown, NC, to join in protests and wrote about his experience of 48 hours in jail after being arrested for attempting to be served at a segregated restaurant with a group of people of color.

Jack Daniel Zoerheide was born on 27 June 1924 in Kent City, Michigan, to Grace and Frank Zoerheide, and grew up on a subsistence farm near Grand Rapids. After enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1942, Jack saw active service (1943–44) as a lieutenant in the Asian Pacific Theatre. The GI Bill supported his study at Harvard Divinity School, where he earned his ministerial degree in 1950.

Mr. Zoerheide was ordained on 22 April 1951 by the Arlington Street Church in Boston. Over the next 37 years his parish career took him to Second Parish in Hingham, MA (1952–57), First Parish in Needham, MA (1957–69), Winchester, MA, Unitarian Society (1969–79), Keene, NH, UU Church (1979–81), All Souls Church in Braintree, MA (1981–82), UU Church of Fort Myers, FL (1982–84), and finally UU Church of Tarpon Springs, FL (1984–89).

While in his first settlement, on 22 Aug 1953, he married Marie Annette Sandberg, an artist and model, who remained his life partner until her death on 24 June 2010. At his death, Jack was survived by children Laina, Dean, Brian, Greg and Julie, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

—JA



## PHILLIP HEWETT (1925–2018)

## IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Philip Hewett—as passionate about Unitarian history in both modern Canada and 16<sup>th</sup>-century Poland as he was dedicated to hiking, skiing, and mountain climbing—died on 24 February 2018, at age 93, vigorous in mind and body to the end. His refined demeanor, thoughtful intelligence, and sly wit were the marks of a gentleman and a scholar.

During his long ministry (1956–91) at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver (Canada), the Rev'd Mr. Hewett helped to start three new local congregations, wrote multiple books on Unitarian theology and history, including *Unitarians in Canada*. All the while he advocated for reproductive rights, sheltered Vietnam War draft resisters, promoted LGBT rights, and helped to found the BC Memorial Society and the BC Civil Liberties Association. For his final book, *Racovia*, he acquired respectable competence in Polish.

Phillip's physical stamina was legendary. The Rev'd James Kubal-Komoto recalls, as a 29-year-old intern, accepting Phillip's invitation to hike up a local mountain: "I thought, 'How hard could it be with this 70-something-year-old man?' Nobody had told me that Phillip had hiked across Scotland the previous summer. Phillip practically flew up the mountain on those long lanky legs of his. Several times, huffing and puffing, I asked him if we could stop for a few minutes to admire the view, and he reluctantly agreed."

Austin Phillip Barton Hewett was born in 1925 in Dorset County, England. He earned a B.A. (1949) and M.A. (1951) from Oxford University, and an S.T.M. from Harvard Divinity School (1953). In 1951 he married Hilda Margaret Smith, with whom he raised two children, Barton and Daphne. Later honors included an honorary doctorate in Sacred Theology from Starr King (1969) and distinguished service awards from the International Association for Religious Freedom's American chapter (jointly with his wife Margaret, 1983) and from the UUA (1992).

Phillip's life was celebrated at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, on 23 March 2018. —JN



## PEGGY FRANCES OWENS-MANSFIELD (1950–2020)

Peggy Frances Owens-Mansfield, 69, the spouse of Reverend Dr. Doak Mansfield, died 24 February 2020, at her home in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. A native of Mississippi, she was born 14 June 1950 to Norris and Clara Owens. After completing high school, Peggy graduated from Jones College and from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Her public life largely revolved around her work for the American Red Cross (ARC). Beginning with her decade of service as youth director for the ARC Pensacola Chapter (1975–85,) she took a special interest in the Red Cross Youth Program. She led the highly successful annual Leadership Training Conference for 35 years. More than 1,200 youth participated over the years. She expanded Red Cross services for the elderly through annual holiday boxes of food.



Peggy served for 26 years (1985–2011) as executive director of the Pine Belt Red Cross in Laurel, MS, and was involved in many community efforts and organizations. During her tenure, the chapter responded to hundreds of small disasters such as house fires and several huge ones, topped off by Hurricane Katrina. "Lonesome Pines Bluegrass Park" in the Calhoun Community was the effort of her family. She worked with her father, mother and sister, along with dozens of family and friends to make the semi-annual event a significant celebration that featured bluegrass greats. Operated for 20 years, the last eight years it was a Pine Belt Chapter ARC fundraiser.

She was a member of Our Home UU Church Ellisville, MS. Retiring in 2011 she traveled with her husband serving UU Churches in Clinton, N.C., Tampa, FL, Pasco, WA, and Valparaiso, FL.

Peggy is survived by her husband, and by several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Gifts in her memory can be directed to St. Jude Hospital (Memphis), Glory House Food Project (Laurel), Jones College Community Service Scholarship Fund (Ellisville) and Animal Rescue League (Laurel).

—RR



## KATHERINE A. GREENLEAF (1939–2018)

## IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Kay Greenleaf—a late-career parish minister who became a fierce and widely celebrated advocate for marriage equality—died on 19 January 2018, aged 78, after a long illness.

Social justice was one of Kay’s lifelong passions. In 2004 Kay enlisted local clergy to help marry many same-sex couples, drawing widespread public attention. She and the Rev’d Dawn Sangrey were arrested for this work but the charges were later dismissed.

Katherine Anne Greenleaf was born on 23 December 1939 in Orlando, Florida, to Helen and Richard Greenleaf. At Ball State Teachers College (Muncie, IN) Kay earned a B.S. in education in 1962. Initially she taught high school drama and worked in criminology and social service but then moved to a small farm in Wooster, OH, where she renovated and lived in an 1820s log house and raised geese, chickens, and goats. During this time she began attending the UU Fellowship of Wayne County.

Kay moved to Columbus, OH, in 1987 to join her newfound life partner, Pat Sullivan. The couple became actively involved in the city’s First UU Church. With an ever-stronger call to ministry, she enrolled at the nearby Methodist Theological School and completed work for her M.Div. in 1996, meanwhile supplying many local UU pulpits.

Ms. Greenleaf was ordained on 20 April 1997 by the First UU Church of Columbus. After brief contract ministries, she was called to the UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, NY, where she served from 1998 until her retirement in 2009 and was later elected Minister Emerita.

At her death, Kay Greenleaf was survived by her wife of 31 years, Pat Sullivan, three cousins, and a sister-in-law. Of her beloved spouse, Pat wrote, “Kay took people at face value and always saw the good in them.”

—JA



## BETS WIENECKE (1936–2017)

The Reverend Bets Wienecke—deeply admired as a collegial mentor, especially to young women in ministry—died peacefully at her home in Carpinteria, California, on 28 December 2017, aged 81.

She was “a pioneer ... who inspired six of us to become ministers and counseled countless among us in her many years in the parish,” recalls the Rev’d Carolyn Price. “She modeled for us what it is not only to live, but to die with intention, beauty, courage, and most of all, with love.”

Elizabeth Wienecke was born on 22 December 1936 in Evanston, Illinois, to Eliza Maurine Rittenhouse and Robert Henry Wienecke. As an army brat, Bets attended 19 schools before graduation from George Washington High School in Alexandria VA. Moving with her family to Okinawa, Japan, shortly thereafter, she met and married William C. Gourley Jr. (1955). The couple settled in Santa Paula, CA, where they had three children: Ann Michelle (deceased), William, and Elizabeth Ann.

Bets eventually resumed her own education, earning a B.A. in law and society from UC Santa Barbara in 1975 and an M.A. in educational psychology counseling from Cal State Northridge in 1980. Her marriage ended in 1976, and in 1982 she married Peter Haslund. With growing commitment to religious life in the Santa Paula UU congregation, and inspired and mentored by the Rev’d Marjorie Leaming, Bets headed off to the Claremont School of Theology, earning her M.Div. in 1985.

Ms. Wienecke was ordained on 25 May 1986 by the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. After three years (1987–90) as extension minister to the Live Oak UU Congregation (Goleta, CA), that congregation settled her permanently in 1990. In 2004 they named her Minister Emerita.

At her death, Bets was survived by spouse Peter Haslund, sister Lynnne Wienecke, children Elizabeth and Bill, stepchildren Melitta and Christina Haslund, and five grandchildren.

—JA





**Unitarian Universalist**

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

**c/o Richard Speck**

**4721 Mermaid Blvd.**

**Wilmington, DE 19808-1803**

