



Elderberries

SUMMER, 2020

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Volume 36

Number 3

Virtual Ingathering of New UURMaPans Draws a Crowd

By *JACO TEN HOVE*

With the UUA General Assembly unfolding online during this tumultuous year, the concomitant UURMaPA annual meeting and welcome luncheon for newly retired ministers and partners also shifted gears and occurred on screens a week prior to GA, on June 18. It zoomed in almost a hundred participants, twice as many as ever before, and also featured our latest Creative Sageing Award—presented to two honorees this year. (See more about awardees **ESTHER HOPKINS & DAVID POHL** on page 9.)

Artistic use of music and singing was nicely interspersed with notable faces providing bountiful content. UURMaPA Vice President **PHYLLIS HUBBELL** (right, who deserves credit for pioneering most of the complicated arrangements) emceed the event. First up was President **DIANE MILLER**, offering an update on UURMaPA activities and acknowledging the new retirees (see more, page 8), as well as thanking outgoing Board members and welcoming recently elected ones. (See more, page 4.)



Then we heard helpful comments from **Linda Rose** and **Richard Nugent** (leaders at the UUA's Office of Church Staff Finances) about the Retirement Fund and financial relief opportunities. (See related article by **DAVID POHL**, page 8.)

Sarah Lammert, UUA Co-director of Ministries and Faith Development, brought greetings and some updates, such as how the Fellowship Committee is now functioning virtually.

Meanwhile, on the sidebar Chat column, many exchanges were being warmly made and received. It was quite lovely to connect with longtime friends and put some faces to names.

Continued on page 8...



UURMaPA

Board



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President's Column

A MINISTRY OF THE GARDEN

When I moved to Kansas I was eager to garden with the free time gained by retiring. I decided not to use any herbicides since the grandkids would be playing on the lawn. After wrecking my wrist trying to dig through gravel and hard dirt, I thought raised beds would be the ticket. Then it got hot—

so, so hot. The plants I had put in were overrun by volunteers that seemed pretty at first, honeysuckle and morning glories, before revealing themselves as ruthless and aggressive destroyers of my tender chosen plants.

My gardening ambitions were forgotten in favor of staying in air-conditioned comfort, and my plants were abandoned to the killer weeds. My skills were suited to moist shade and rich soil, and days about 20 degrees cooler.

When Paul “Buzz” Hull and I picked out a larger house this past winter, we noted the spacious dormant yard. Only when spring came around did we discover the beautiful perennials that emerged everywhere. Since I don’t know much about Kansas gardening, I decided to apply some of my knowledge from ministry. Even when a stuck gate was repaired, I mused on ways we ministers worked to welcome newcomers and send people forth.

I remembered the principle of “adding to” rather than subtracting. The sellers, Kansas Republicans, left a large flagpole with the national and state flags in a flower bed. While our vision of America is very different, the flags stayed, and now represent *our* patriotism. Buzz also hung a large rainbow peace flag by our front door, adding to the symbolic show and the color spectrum.

And here and now I see the cycle of life in the flora and in my own decision to hire out the lawn mowing to a much younger person. I grieve the losses, like the young boulevard tree that was snapped off at the base. (I assume it was an accidental hit by a vehicle, although it could have been a response to the Black Lives Matter sign on the lawn. I try to assume good intention).

In this time of coronavirus risks, we are extraordinarily lucky to have the garden to enjoy, even now that hot days keep me indoors much of the time. As with all of life, I drink from wells I did not dig. I am grateful for the ministry of the garden—my labors there, and its ministry to me.

— Diane

Some Lessons for Ministry-Infused Gardening

- * First year, observe and appreciate.
- * Pull the big obvious weeds that couldn't be tolerated, but don't assume what is unfamiliar is no good. (What I might have yanked out in April are now beautiful plants.)
- * Keep an open imagination about what might come.
- * Don't step in to help without making sure the intervention won't cause harm.
- * Trust that the congregation of plants has its own wisdom about how to thrive.

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).

EDITOR'S 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 such links, since they do not translate into a print medium and can be distracting for readers. —JTH

Waking Up to New Realities

UURMaPA VIRTUAL Fall Conference

October 12-14, 2020

Last January when we (BARBRO HANSSON, ALISON STEPHENS and CHARLES STEPHENS) were asked to form the planning team for this year's UURMaPA fall conference, we enthusiastically accepted. *Climate Justice* was suggested as a timely theme and we went to work lining up a top-notch presenter. Even though Covid-19 had begun to make its viral presence known in early March, we had no idea that the world around us was about to turn upside-down and inside-out.

Who could have ever predicted that so much could change so rapidly? We certainly didn't. When the UURMaPA Board decided to have the event online, we thought about stepping down, but two things convinced us to stay on. First, the Board hired a tech professional, Tanner Linden, to work with us, and second, with a *Climate Justice* theme, it made good sense to offer a virtual conference. What better way to minimize our carbon footprint and still be together?

Though we do not know precisely how the future will unfold, we are working on plans for an inspiring and engaging experience in October. The vision for our virtual fall conference is to address the NEW REALITIES we are now confronting while also nourishing our souls and strengthening our spirits. It will be good to come together, even if only online, for fellowship and renewal with old and new colleagues and friends. And, actually, more of us may be able to participate than at an in-person event that involved traveling. (*Remember traveling?!*)

The new reality of offering a virtual conference means that we will be together while separated. We will not eat meals together, hang out in a retreat setting, socialize over a beverage and snacks or go on a field trip to a nearby place of UU interest. *However*, there will be a good variety of programming, including a Remembrance Service, an Odyssey, UURMaPA Business Meeting, different topics of interest for small group engagement, time to reconnect with friends virtually and a Theme Presentation.

We are fortunate to have the Reverend **Fred Small** as our Theme Presenter. On Tuesday, **Fred** invites us to join him in his newly developed program, tentatively titled "**Breakdown/Breakthrough**." He will link together the pandemic, white supremacy and the climate crisis. *Whether we are grappling with Coronavirus, climate disruption or systemic racism, it is easy to become disheartened. How do we maintain equanimity and compassion for ourselves and others while sustaining effective activism?* Through guided meditation, reflection, conversation and song, Fred will help us fortify our spirits and deepen our resolve to continue the vital work for environmental justice.



The cost for attending the virtual Zoom conference is \$40 for a single individual and \$60.00 for a couple. (See below and page 15.) To make sure all who want to attend can do so, we offer scholarships. Requests are easily made to Treasurer **RICHARD SPECK** at rgspeck@comcast.net or 302-239-6286 or 302-528-3762.

Questions about registration? Contact **ALISON STEPHENS** at astephensme@gmail.com or 207-812-5323. **Deadline: September 12.**

For more information regarding the conference, contact **BARBRO HANSSON** at BarbroMHansson@gmail.com or 603-213-2130.

A UU parish minister for nearly two decades, **Fred Small** currently serves as Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington St. Church in Boston. Educated at Yale (B.A., 1974) and the Univ. of Michigan (J.D. and M.S. in Natural Resources, 1978), he served as a staff attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation until 1980 when he left to tour internationally as a folksinger and songwriter. In 1996 Fred entered Harvard Divinity School, where he designed the Green Sanctuary program.

Fred is currently co-chair of *Religious Witness for the Earth*, a national interfaith network dedicated to public witness on environmental issues, especially global climate change. He recently became Executive Director of *Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light*, one of 40 state affiliates with the objective to mobilize "a religious response to global warming."

Registration deadline is September 12
but we strongly encourage you to register early.

A registration form is included

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to be snail-mailed in, but you can choose to pay online via PayPal (see links below) if you don't want to send a pesky check with your registration form.

\$40 Single - <https://py.pl/1wnkYL>
\$60 Couples - <https://py.pl/1nTlvov6LoN>



Your **BOARD** eagerly tends to the ongoing ministrations of this active organization, and embraces a changing of the guard each year, as terms end and begin.

On July 1, we bid fond and appreciative adieu to these loyal players:

GINGER LUKE, at-large, conferences

DAVE HUNTER, treasurer

PHYLLIS HUBBELL, vice-president

BARBARA CHILD, secretary

Shifting portfolio: **SUSAN RAK**, from wider UU liaison to vice-president

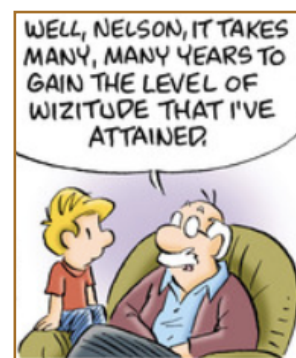
And we welcomed these new board members:

MARNI HARMONY, at-large, wider UU liaison

ANNE SPATOLA, at-large, conferences

GLORIA PEREZ, secretary

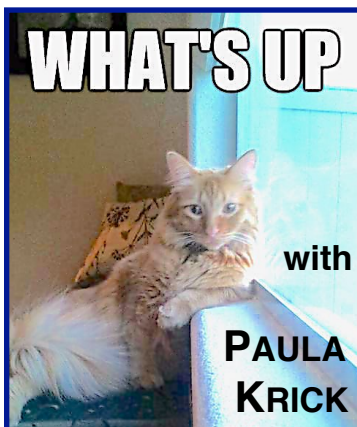
RICHARD SPECK, treasurer



Richard also finished a long term as Membership Coordinator, passing that baton to **PATT HERDKLOTZ**.

Huzzah for all who have served and will serve UURMaPA!

(Interested yourself? Contact **BARBARA WELLS TEN HOVE**, NomCom chair: revbabs10@gmail.com.)



...Periodic Particulars from our People...

Following his retirement from ministry in 1998, my husband **GERRY KRICK** loved getting together with UURMaPA friends for programs and conferences. I continued working as a hospice nurse. After many years of struggling with Crohn's disease, he died of cancer in 2002. A few months after Gerry died, I started volunteering at a weekly dinner for homeless people at Arlington Street Church. Unable to return to hospice work, I worked as a nurse with Boston Health Care for the Homeless until late 2012.

After many years of remodeling the house and cleaning out all the *stuff* that families seem to accumulate over the years, I sold our house in Newton, MA, and moved to Portland, OR, to help my daughter, a single parent with two young children. Now, my daughter and granddaughters live with me. Gerry's older daughter, my stepdaughter, also moved to Portland and I really appreciate them all being nearby.

In the last several months of Covid-19 lockdown, I have gone from being the family cook, chauffeur, and handy person to an additional new role as co-teacher with my daughter. I'm helping one child finish 5th grade online and helping the younger one get ready for kindergarten. That has been my focus and takes up much of my time and energy. We are doing a strict lockdown at home, and we are wondering if virtual schooling will be an option in September, as my daughter and I both have risk factors.

Several years ago I joined the First Unitarian Church in Portland, OR (as soon as I could get through singing *Spirit of Life* without crying). My granddaughters really enjoyed Sunday school. In lockdown, we continue to appreciate **BILL SINKFORD**'s Sunday services and other church programs online. First Unitarian Portland is a wonderful community and we are very grateful to be part of it.

Just a few more thoughts... I always enjoy reading every single word of the *Elderberries* newsletter. I especially appreciate hearing news about Gerry's friends, former interns, and other ministers and partners I have known over the years. UURMaPA is a wonderful and inspiring group! I very much appreciate your interest in the lives of widowed partners, as our experiences are probably different from those who are able to be together as a couple in retirement.

Blessings, —*Paula* (June, 2020)



In Memory of Bets: *What Was Her Message?*

By PETER HASLUND, *partner to BETS WIENECKE (d.2017)*

We had been together for 41 years, and though she was ready to end a lengthy struggle that no longer provided anything close to a positive quality of life, the finality of her death was still devastating. We had been a team. Now, there was only grief. Though I thought I understood what grief was all about, I really didn't. I had much to learn!

Much of our teamwork had been dedicated to the building of a new congregation—Live Oak UU of Goleta, CA, and because of her dedication and leadership, this tiny enclave of religious liberals grew from acorn size to a respectable congregation, complete with its own campus. But now, this wonderful partnership was ended.

Getting to “acceptance” of her departure was – and continues to be—no easy matter, in part because we had worked together over time to achieve a common dream. But now what? In between moments of grief, I found myself wanting to do something that would memorialize her special gifts, those unique elements of leadership that enabled others to take a leap of faith, to buy property, to build a worship facility and commit to being an ongoing liberal religious community.

So, what were these elements? What made her special?

I won't pretend to be objective, but I think most of her congregants would agree that the Rev. Bets Wienecke was the most authentic person they had ever encountered. Her favorite sermon illustration was generally herself. In wrestling with the very real issues of being conscious in a way that gave life meaning, she was always comfortable using her own foibles as examples of how she was human. Her efforts in this regard would often generate laughter that allowed everyone in the room to recognize that it was really OK to screw up, that we all—without exception—do so on a regular basis. Without really trying, Bets set the example for us all to be authentically imperfect beings.

There is irony here. Her valiant efforts to be “just human”—to be ordinary—is what made her so very extraordinary. I began to wonder how one might pass such a valuable example of real life on to succeeding generations. There seems to be this strange sense that we need permission to be real in order to reach a much-needed comfort zone that encourages us to move on to a higher level of authenticity. Bets was able to provide that permission.

So, I approached the congregation's Board of Trustees with the idea of establishing a memorial fund in her honor, with revenues dedicated to help offset the costs of hosting future Intern Ministers. Bets loved the process of helping a young minister-in-training find their footing on a path toward becoming more grounded, more authentic, and hence a more effective minister. I set what I thought was a reasonable goal of \$10,000 for the first year and was happily surprised when my goal was achieved and doubled by year's end.

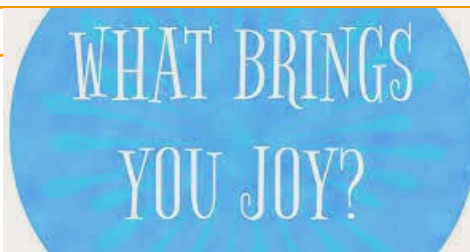
Bets had 18 years of sermons packed away so I thought a book of her best, illustrating this core element of her spiritual conviction, might be easily

assembled and published, with proceeds going to support the fund. What I discovered was the obvious. Every printed sermon got amplified and nuanced during delivery. In a way, it was the delivery that made it so authentic, and capturing significant components of that added ingredient would be a challenge! It is still a work in progress, but I am determined to complete the project.

Some might ask, does this help? Is grief diminished in this process? I think I would frame it a little differently. Time does tend to reduce the grief, but translating that grief into something purposeful, something lasting, helps put it in perspective. The grief is likely to remain, but as C.S. Lewis once put it when reflecting on his own experience of loss, “...if we are honest with ourselves, would we have it any other way?”

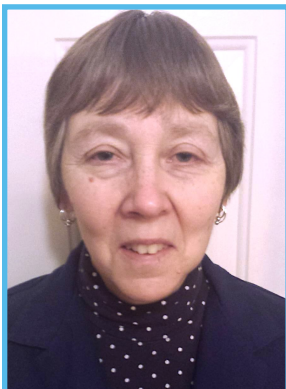
I would not. ☆☆





Journey into Retirement—or Not

By COLLEEN MCDONALD



Although I became a member of UURMaPA 12 years ago, viewing the *Elderberries* pages has always felt more like experiencing a travelogue than seeing life in my own country. My viewpoint may even be that of an alien on a distant planet; I am that rare creature who, after retiring from the church, continued professional life, though in a different field.

My husband and I still reside in the same community as the congregation I served, and I have kept my membership there. However, shortly after I “retired,” the two of us settled into a UCC church. I still read *The World* and *Quest* (Church of the Larger Fellowship newsletter, always a gem), but I find myself increasingly ignorant about what is going on in the larger UU movement and what it’s like to be a UU religious educator or parish minister these days.

This newsletter, then, is like an “alternate universe,” giving me glimpses of the life I might be living now, if I had left my congregation when I was of retirement age. Then again, perhaps it is a preview of what may be in store for me in the no longer distant future.

I have always been clear that I have remained engaged in “active ministry,” despite the fact that my public school employer does not see it that way! As an occupational therapist, I have many opportunities to minister to my special education students (and sometimes their families) as well as my staff colleagues.

Public schools in Rockford, IL, are struggling to be relevant and effective in the 21st century, and there are many students whose demands and needs are overwhelming. Teachers, social workers, and principals have it far more difficult than I do. I make it my job to listen, acknowledge, affirm, encourage, and thank. I remember to ask about family members, send sympathy cards (and have attended a couple of funerals), and reach out to people who have been let go. I see myself as an unofficial chaplain, and I think others do, too (though most of the people I work with don’t know I am a bona fide “pastor”).

The joy I wish to write about is the empowerment I have felt during COVID-19. As I write, the whole world needs ministry; *and* the whole world needs occupational therapy, a profession that helps people cope with loss and change, confront barriers that threaten their ability to do the things they want and need to do, and call upon resources from within and without to live in the here and now with a sense of meaning, purpose, and creativity.

With my dual qualifications, I feel as though I have been granted a blank check allowing me access to unlimited opportunities to make a difference. The occupational therapy I am doing is enriched by the experiences, knowledge, and skills I gained as a minister, and the ministry I am doing is enriched by the experiences, knowledge, and skills I have gained as an occupational therapist.

In addition to fulfilling my job description in new and creative ways, I have written an op ed piece for the local paper, offered my support to local not-for-profits I very much want to thrive during this time, and facilitated an email “ministry” in my church.

Truth be told, with my “true” retirement a couple of years away (maybe a couple more years, now!), I had begun to wonder whether life without a “day job” could be as fulfilling as the wonderful career(s) I have enjoyed over the decades. No such worries now! It’s become clear I can continue to pursue active ministry... ☆☆

Don't hide your light—or life—under a bushel!
Submit to Elderberries!
 Write a short piece about “What Brings You Joy” or the “Turning of Your Life” or any kind of an update on your doings. *People care!*
 Send to elderberries@uurmapa.org.



“Jim! Long time. Are you still making your own granola?”

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION:

250 YEARS OF UNIVERSALISM — AN ONLINE CELEBRATION, OCTOBER 2–4

You're invited—*virtually!*—to meet John Murray, Judith Sargent Murray and others from our Universalist history!

As the story goes, the Rev. John Murray—a founder of American Universalism—arrived at Good Luck Point, New Jersey, 250 years ago. He came ashore and met a simple farmer, Thomas Potter, who had optimistically built a chapel where, on September 30, 1770, he encouraged Murray to preach what became an historic sermon on universal salvation.

That seminal event—sometimes called ‘the moment Love caught Fire’—has kindled the flame of Universalism ever since and will be celebrated for three days over the weekend of October 2–4 in the annual Homecoming Celebration, usually held at the site of that consequential meeting, *Murray Grove Retreat & Renewal Center* on the southern coast of NJ. But this year it'll be **online**, themed as:

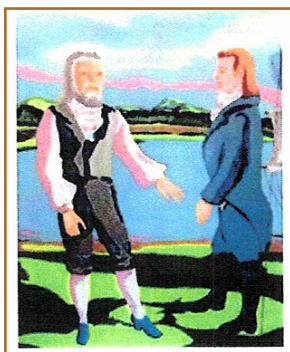
“Love with No Exceptions: 1770–2020~~Faith, Hope, Love.”

You can call it a *sestercentennial* or the clunkier *semiquincentennial*, but either way, 250 years is a big round number to honor! Give a look at the line-up of event highlights below, which will wrap up with a commemorative Sunday worship service from the historic chapel.

Registration opens August 10 and all three days of programming are available for \$149.

All major presentations will be available live and on demand at the Murray Grove website.

For more information and to register go to www.murraygrove.org.



FEATURED ATTRACTIONS

- **Love Notes** — a dramatic presentation of the correspondence between John Murray and Judith Sargent Murray, noted author and women's rights activist
- **21st Century Expressions of Universalism** — a videoprogram coordinated by **Mark Hicks**, Angus H. MacLean Professor of Religious Education at Meadville/Lombard Theological School
- **John Murray Meets Thomas Potter** — an interchange between Murray (via **RICHARD SPECK**, retired UU minister and UURMAPA Secretary) and Thomas Potter (via **McKinley Sims**, minister of UU Church of the Restoration, Philadelphia, PA)
- **Workshops** on subjects such as: Universal Worship, Lydia Jenkins (the very first ordained woman preacher), extemporaneous preaching, Universalist musical heritage, and more
- Plus, a **Virtual Heritage Hunt!**

LOVE WITH NO EXCEPTIONS



250 YEARS OF UNIVERSALISM



Keynote speaker is the Rev. Nancy McDonald Ladd, Senior Minister of River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda, MD, where she lives with her spouse, two kids and one badly behaved cat.

She is on the faculty of Meadville Lombard Theological School and serves as a local and national leader in congregation-based community organizing. Skinner House recently published her first book, *After the Good News: Progressive Faith Beyond Optimism*.

Of her keynote topic—“My Theology Is Not About Me: Universalism's Vertical Dimension in a Pluralistic Age”—**Nancy McDonald Ladd** says,

Over the course of the 20th century and beyond, American Unitarian Universalists have increasingly framed the Universalist message as a testament to the fundamental goodness of people rather than the fundamental goodness of God. Father Ballou and so many others over our 250 year history certainly had it the other way around—it is the infinite goodness of God that saves us, not the infinite potential of our own capacities.

For years, I've been writing about modern Unitarian Universalism's high theological anthropology. With this comes an often problematic assumption that people are already basically good and as such, more in need of affirmation than of transformation in our congregational contexts. In this talk, I'd like to explore those challenges, such that even those of us who do not affirm an overly theistic vertical dimension in our theology can assert a robust call for transformation, atonement, reconciliation and restoration in our faith tradition. ☆☆

Virtual Ingathering of New UURMaPAns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

After stirring presentations to and comments from both our 2020 Creative Sages, we subdivided, if a bit clumsily, into breakout groups for some valued social time. All in all, as **DAVID JOHNSON** commented, “While some settings on Zoom are less fulfilling, this was a compelling virtual event.” **LOIS WESENER** added, “This went far beyond my expectations.”

Feedback on this first-ever UURMaPA online event was overwhelmingly positive, even given a few technical glitches. Some expressed a longing for when we can return to in-person gatherings. A slightly larger number mentioned wanting to continue in this format (or at least a hybrid) because of the convenience, accessibility and reduced fees. Several mentioned wanting more small breakout group time.

Going forward, the UURMaPA Board will absorb this experience and our upcoming virtual fall conference (*see page 3*), along with wider developments in online conferencing, to create plans that take advantage of emerging platforms and keeps our health and wellbeing in the forefront.

The positive environmental benefits of not traveling by plane are also a worthy consideration, so regional gatherings will be a possibility to explore. But effectively connecting us over time and space will remain a UURMaPA priority. ☆☆

The Latest Newly Retired Clergy!

Those listed below have filed UUA “Intent to Retire” forms, as of July 21, 2020.

Welcome to UURMaPA!

Ben Bortin
Roger Fritts
Mark P. Ward
Carol S. Haag
Lyssa Jenkins
Pamela Gehrke
Charles Ortman
Debra Garfinkel
Steven Epperson
Suzanne Wasilczuk
Gwendolyn Howard
Sydney Amara Morris
Jacqueline R. Clement
Rosemary Suozzi Lloyd
Nadine Ann Swahnberg
Alison Wilbur Eskildsen
Anita Farber-Robertson
Kirk Loadman-Copeland
Floyd Vernon Chandler III

A Reminder about the

UU SOCIETY FOR MINISTERIAL RELIEF

By **DAVID C. POHL**



We live in perilous and contentious times defined by “social distancing” due to the coronavirus pandemic, and by antisocial forces that seek to dismantle the connections that make us one. In such times it is especially important that we are there for one another. But in all times, we can never know when the sheer randomness of life may strike our loved ones or us, whether by illness, accident, mindless violence or financial exigency.

I write as president of the 170-year-old *Unitarian Universalist Society for Ministerial Relief*, a major source of financial aid for our retired UU ministers and their survivors. With an endowment of over \$14 million, we have been providing some \$400,000 in annual and special grants to recipients in North America, Transylvania and the Philippines.

You can learn more about our Society, its officers/directors, mission and resources, and how to contact us by checking out our website at uuministerialrelief.org. Or you may contact our Secretary, **SUSAN SUCHOCKI BROWN**, 42 Country Lane, Leominster, MA 01453, revsusanuul@verizon.net.

Some may feel reluctant to seek financial counsel and/or aid. Some will assume there are others who are more deserving or more in need. If you find yourself, or know of other colleagues or survivors, in such a situation, please contact us.

The founders of Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital proclaimed over 200 years ago: “When in distress, everyone becomes our neighbor.” Our Society is *your* neighbor. *Be in touch if we can help.* ☆☆

“ Thank you for being there and pro-actively reaching out to us (retirees). It is holy work that you do.”

“ I can't tell you how much I appreciate all that you have given me over the years. It has allowed me to live a comfortable life rather than a marginal one.”

2020 Creative Sageing Award — *Double Your Pleasure!* By PHYLLIS HUBBELL

UURMaPA usually gives out a Creative Sageing award each June in recognition of outstanding service and creativity in pursuing new ventures after retirement and building on one's experience in imaginative ways. This might involve mentoring, public service, fostering spiritual growth, writing/publishing, creating/participating in community and denominational service projects and organizations, etc. All UURMaPA members are eligible. The awardee receives a \$500 honorarium.

This year, **CAROLYN OWEN-TOWLE** and **RUSS SAVAGE** joined me on a selection task force and we reviewed nine nominees. But two people stood out so much that we decided to give the award to both, as below. Presentations were made during our June 18 Ingathering event online. (See cover story about that occasion.)

Dr. **ESTHER A. H. HOPKINS** and the Rev. Dr. **DAVID C. POHL** are both an inspiration to us all. There is so much more to their stories than can be told here. But read on for a brief portrayal of these honored recipients!

ESTHER HOPKINS, *widow of the Rev. Ewell Hopkins*

Dr. Hopkins is perhaps best known for her influential work as a biophysicist, research chemist and Patent Attorney. She earned her Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry at Yale (New Haven, CT) and then a juris doctor degree from Suffolk University Law School (Boston, MA). She was an active member of her professional society, as a National Councilor of the American Chemical Society (ACS) for more than 30 years, recognized by them as a Fellow. (Only 1000 of ACS's 160,000 members achieve that status.)



But over the years, Esther has always been thirsty for knowledge. It will surprise no one, therefore, to learn that after taking early retirement at 63, she began a whole new career in law, plus became very active in local politics and at her church. It is for these latter, varied and diverse activities that UURMaPA awarded her a 2020 Creative Sageing certificate.

After first retiring from the Polaroid Corporation, Esther became a Deputy General Counsel in the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Meanwhile, she was a 22-year Trustee of her alma mater, Boston University, serving 10 more years as an Overseer. She also gave a Century Scholarship to the University.

Then, after retiring from the DEP, Esther went into politics in Framingham, MA, becoming the only African-American ever elected to a public office in the 317 years of Framingham's history as a town. She was a member of the Board of Selectmen and served a term as its chair. She was also on the Finance Committee and the Tercentennial Commission, and was elected to the Representative Town Meeting as well as the Regional Vocational School Committee.

Esther was an important member of First Parish in Framingham and now, at 93, is active with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, where she was on the Intern, Installation and Worship Committees. She represented the families of deceased ministers at a UUA Service of the Living Tradition, served on the Committee to Select the Hymnbook Commission, and endowed the UUA's T. Ewell Hopkins Ministerial Aid Fund. ☆☆

DAVID POHL

The Rev. Pohl served this faith long and well during his years of active service, beginning in 1954 first in congregations and later in positions at the Unitarian Universalist Association, as Director of Ministerial Settlement and then Director of Ministry. When he thought to retire in 1993, David's commitment to his colleagues and this faith called him into a new ministry as two-year Interim Executive of the UUA's Ballou Channing District.

But his résumé does not address the influential impact David has had on so many people's lives, both before and after retirement. If he hasn't already gotten an award for his lifetime of devotion to this faith, he surely should. It is for his later years that UURMaPA awarded him a 2020 Creative Sageing Award.

David has served in two major roles following his official 1997 retirement. From 2003–2016 he was First Vice President of the Unitarian Service Pension



Society, which provides Service Gratuities to approximately 350 retired UU ministers. And he continues to serve, since 2003, as President of the UU Society for Ministerial Relief, which provides needed financial support to retired ministers. (See nearby article on this fund, page 8.)

His dedication to our faith has led David to many other activities over the years, including membership on the Board of Trustees for both Meadville Lombard Theological School and the Church of the Larger Fellowship. He was a presenter for the UUMA's Center program, leading programs on "This Ministerial Life" at several chapters across the continent, and he has offered numerous ordination/installation addresses and conducted services or given eulogies for many colleagues and their partners.

He is a minister's minister. ☆☆



RAINBOW HISTORY UPDATE

Please check out UURMaPA's **UU Rainbow History** website:

<https://uurainbowhistory.net/>

which focuses on the UUA's changing understanding and welcome of LGBTQIA+ colleagues over the 50 years since Stonewall. To contribute your stories and other materials, please send them to our Coordinator, **ANNE SPATOLA**, at coordinator@uurainbowhistory.net and to the editor of a book on the subject, **Diana McLean**, at <https://uurainbowhistory.net/>.

This is our living history, rich and varied, of a period that still has challenges for us today. We welcome you to turn to this material to draw on the stories and information for sermons, research projects and your own personal interest. We encourage you to publicize this resource among other interested Unitarian Universalists. The website is open to all. The materials we gather will also be shared with the Andover/Harvard Seminary library (when they are able to accept new materials).

Music Play On

—A. SEVERANCE

Music play on in my soul forever
 the notes of every day
 creating melody
 friends the harmony
 events the song
 a life the theme
 the family the instruments

oh, what a tune
 beautiful,
 haunting,
 melodious,

now discordant,
 screeching, crying, sobbing,
 now a rest
 and laughter,
 love,
 breathing new life,
 passion,
 raising the spirit,
 flying the mind to new heights.

remembering the past,
 holding tight to this roller coaster
 repeating constantly—
 don't worry,
 it will all be over soon;

you can do this;
 you'll survive...
 Then you fall asleep.

Oh, there's more to life, I know,
 because you don't see the roller coaster ride
 when you just pull into the park.
 You think more
 of going on the merry-go-round,
 music, gentle, pretty horses,
 colored lights, slightly dizzy,
 but oh so pleasant.
 But eventually,
 maybe it's one of your kids

they somehow
 get you on the biggest roller coaster in the world,

and after barely surviving it,
 this poem comes to mind,
 as you're preparing
 yet another memorial service,
 realizing,
 that someday,
 and everyday it is one day sooner,
 it will be YOUR memorial service
 and you wonder
 what someone will say about you.
 Tell them I believed in life and love
 and am deeply grateful
 for the family and friends
 who rode the rollercoaster with me
 making the trip,
 oh, so worthwhile.

Tell them I'm sorry
 for the many mistakes
 I made along the way
 and wish
 I had done a lot of things differently;
 that I have lots of regrets,
 but more satisfactions
 because of the people
 who have enriched my life.

That I tried
 to make the world
 a better, more loving and just place
 for my having lived in it,
 and that my family
 is such an important part
 of the reason for living and love
 itself.

May love live on
 and be the answer
 to the question of why.
 Love is the answer to everything;
 let it guide us
 to a harmony of all the voices

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

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

IN MEMORIAM

CAROLYN COLBERT (1934–2019)

The Reverend Carolyn Wood Colbert—artist, teacher, poet, parish minister, community organizer, justice activist, and lover of nature—died on 4 June 2019, at the age of 85.

Carolyn lived with beauty, artistry, and passion. Whenever there was a protest for peace, for reproductive rights, or a task force on domestic violence, she was there, planning, organizing, or speaking. Her sarcastic wit was an ever-present delight. During a “question box” sermon, when a congregant boldly asked about her love life, she answered demurely, “I don’t like to speak of small electric appliances in public.”

Carolyn Helen Colbert was born on 24 May 1934, in Oakland, California, to Horton Richard Colbert, a Universalist minister, and Lynette Wood Colbert. (She later adopted her mother’s birth name in place of Helen.) Married at age 19 to Paul Sawyer, and then divorced at age 33, she undertook extensive training and then teaching and leadership in awareness techniques, group process, Gestalt therapy, and human development theory, both in private practice and on Starr King School’s adjunct faculty. In 1978 the teacher became the student, and she was graduated from Starr King with her M.Div. in 1982.

Ordained on 10 June 1984 by the Unitarian Church of Davis, CA, the Rev’d Ms. Colbert served as an extension minister at the Community UU Church, Kennewick, WA. She then took calls to the UUs of San Luis Obispo, CA, and to the UU Church in Eugene, OR, with a number of interim ministries in between. On formal retirement in 2006, she was elected minister emerita by the Eugene church. After retirement, she served additional interim ministries in Los Gatos, CA, Livermore, CA and Rogue Valley, OR.

In final retirement, Carolyn lived for several years in El Cerrito, CA, where, to her delight, deer came to visit the creek that ran through her backyard. She is survived by daughters Charlin, Shanda, and Katherine Sawyer, her beloved black cat Layla, and innumerable friends and colleagues.

~JN & JA



PRISCILLA MURDOCK (1931–2018)

The Reverend Peri Murdock—Peace Corps volunteer and world traveler, who discovered Unitarian Universalism and its ministry only in her 50s but managed to serve for another 20 years—died quietly on 29 May 2018, aged 86.

Priscilla Traunstein was born on 17 December 1931 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to William and Ethel V. (Murdock) Traunstein. She was graduated by Suffolk University (MA) in 1954 with a B.A. in English and history and worked as a newspaper reporter, feature writer, and manuscript cataloguer. In 1962 Peri joined the Peace Corps and went to Manizales, Colombia. Back in the U.S. she earned an M.A. in English and American Literature in 1966 at Ohio Wesleyan Univ.

Over the years, Peri traveled to nearly 50 countries on five continents. She taught English and Spanish at international schools in Brussels, Belgium, and in Lahore, Pakistan, and in her spare time, she enjoyed drama, music, reading, history and travel.

By the early 1980s, she had moved to Wakefield, MA. She found her way to the local UU church and quickly became actively involved. Church members recognized ministerial qualities in her, and after encouragement from the Rev’d Nina Grey, Peri answered the call. She earned her M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School in 1985. Around that time, she adopted her mother’s family name as her own, becoming Peri Murdock.

Ms. Murdock was ordained by her home church on 9 June 1985, and was first settled at the UU Meeting House of Pittsfield, ME (1985–90). After interim service at the UU Church in Reston, VA (1991–92), she went on to settlements at the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati, OH (1992–1997), the UU Church of Stockton, IL (1997–2003), and St Paul’s Church (UU) in Palmer, MA (2003–2008).

Peri is survived by nieces Leslie Garner and Debra Gerlach, nephew Russ Traunstein, and many grand-nieces, nephews and cousins.

~JA

LORNA JEAN THOMAS KIMBALL (1929–2017)**IN MEMORIAM**

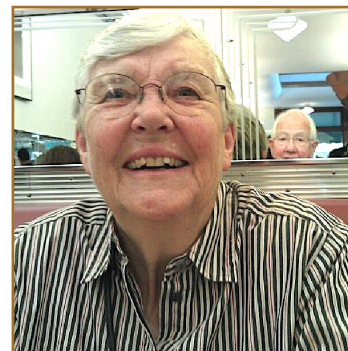
Lorna Jean Kimball, spouse of Reverend Dr. Bob Kimball, died 26 May 2017. She was born 8 December 1929 in Bombay, India, and spent most of her childhood in India. Her father was a missionary and her mother taught in a school for the deaf. Lorna came to the U.S. as a young woman to attend Oberlin College in Ohio.

While attending college, she met Robert Kimball, and they were married 25 August 1951. They had four children, who kept her very busy while Bob completed his education, became ordained, and began his career. When his career took him to Starr King School for the Ministry and the family was established in California, she returned to university and earned her credentials to teach special needs students. That became her career, which she pursued for many years.

Lorna had many interests which sustained her, aside from her work and family. She loved to play music and for most of their lives together always had a piano or keyboard nearby. Another passion was bird watching. Lorna also loved growing things, and had a special gift for growing orchids and getting them to bloom.

After she left her school and Bob retired from Starr King, they moved to Alameda, CA, and settled into a quiet life. They took frequent walks and often had meals in local establishments. They were a team and attended to each other. This became more difficult when she developed Alzheimer's and struggled with dementia. Her final months were hard, but their children and Bob cared for her. (He died less than a week later.)

Lorna is survived by her children; Seth, Jeanette, Amy, and Paul; six grandchildren; her brother, Owen Thomas; and sister, Patricia Becker. ~RR

**TIL EVANS (1923–2018)**

The Reverend Dr. Til Evans—wise and compassionate counselor, consummate teacher and religious educator, professor, and sometime parish minister—died at age 95 in the early hours of 19 April 2018.

Til's death announcement brought forth a stream of tributes, steadily praising her wisdom and recalling moments of deep personal connection, especially from Starr King School graduates. She was poetically described by Mark Belletini as one "who lives a teaching life with laughter, love and rage, [and] proclaims incarnate soul within this soulless age."

Myrtle Joan Ferryman was born on 5 February 1923 in Bristol, England. She never liked "Myrtle" and shortened it to "Til" early on. On her 17th birthday, Til began training as a nurse, later specializing in midwifery, during which short career she proudly delivered 105 healthy babies. At a USO dance in 1944 she met Bill Evans, a US Army Air Force GI. They were married in 1945 and settled in Bill's home area of Los Angeles, eventually adding five children to their family.

Seeking religious grounding for her children, Til was invited to a local UU church. Her involvement grew over time, directing religious education programs at nearby churches and eventually taking a part-time faculty position at Starr King School in the 1970s plus religious education positions in the UUA district and then at the Walnut Creek, CA, Mt. Diablo UU Church.

Her marriage to Bill Evans having ended by extended separation and then divorce, Til and the Rev'd Bob Forbes were wedded in 1982, but the marriage was sadly cut short by Bob's untimely death from cancer in 1984. Continuing her service on the Starr King faculty, she eventually guided the school as acting president (1988-90), and in 1992 was awarded an S.T.D. *honoris causa* on retirement from her professorship.

At the time of her death, Til Evans was survived by sons Chris (later deceased in the fall of 2018) and Marc, daughter Rebecca, four grandchildren, one great grandchild, sister Jasmine in Great Britain, numerous nieces and nephews, and not least, by her beloved cat Gigi. She outlived also a sister, a brother, and two other children, Jane and David. ~JA

JOHANNA MARGARETHA GODBEY (1932–2020)**IN MEMORIAM**

Johanna Margaretha (Greta) Godbey, widow of the Reverend Dr. John Godbey, died 30 June 2020. She was born 4 Feb 1932, on the island of Java, Indonesia, to Bernard and Elisabeth Gratama. In 1942 the family was separated in Japanese concentration camps, but were reunited when the war ended.

Johanna, known as Greta, wanted to work for KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), and found work near Casablanca, Morocco, where she could improve her French language skills. It was there that she met John Godbey, and after a whirlwind courtship, they were married on 26 May 1954, in Casablanca.

In 1955 they moved to the United States, where Greta took up life as the wife of a graduate student. While John finished his doctorate at the University of Chicago's Divinity School, she raised three sons and a daughter. She was a loving and involved mother who was active in her children's lives, sewing unique Halloween costumes, plus serving as a Cub Scout den mother and a Camp Fire Girls group leader.

Greta earned a B.S. and completed all course-work for an M.A. in Mathematics from Chicago State University. She taught math in the Chicago public high schools for several years and then became Assistant to the Graduate Dean of Humanities at the University of Chicago. She excelled in guiding students through the required paperwork. She also became a self-taught medievalist, focused on Viking sagas and the writings of medieval women.

Greta and John were active members of the First Unitarian Church in Chicago's Hyde Park for over 40 years. Greta regularly opened their home to members of the faculty, staff, and graduate students of Meadville Lombard Theological School, where John served. As a couple, they celebrated 45 years of marriage and never lacked for stimulating and invigorating conversations. She spoke her mind; he listened, valued, and challenged her opinions.

They enjoyed camping, tennis, and travel throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Greta was an avid naturalist, a bird-watcher, and a friend to all dogs. Music was an important part of her life. She enjoyed concerts and operas, chamber music and recitals, vocal and orchestral music of all kinds. No matter where she was, Greta sought a choir to join.

Following John's death from Parkinson's in 1999, Greta moved to Ardmore, PA, to be near daughter Margaret. She enjoyed the proximity to musical events in Philadelphia and fellowship at the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon, PA, where she served in a variety of capacities including choir member and book store manager. She again followed Margaret to South Carolina in 2015, making new friends in her remaining years.

Greta is survived by her sister, Mrs. Lucie Alberti of Colombier, Switzerland; son Charles (Helenna) of Chicago, IL; son Nicholas (Alice) of Grapevine, TX; daughter Margaret (David Hellen) of Hartsville, SC; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren: Greta's ashes will be interred with John's at the First Unitarian Church in Chicago, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to organizations Greta supported:

- Best Friends Animal Society, Kanab, Utah— <https://bestfriends.org/>
- Darlington County Humane Society, Darlington, SC— darlingtonhumane.org/
- The Nature Conservancy— <https://www.nature.org/en-us/> ~RR

**GAYNELL BRADLEY FREEMAN (1922–2019)**

Gaynell Bradley Freeman—widow of the Rev. Sidney Freeman and a native of Charlotte, NC—died 30 September 2019. She was born 24 October 1922 to Cleo Hutchins Bradley and Mack Charles Bradley Sr. Mrs. Freeman attended Huntersville High School and Kings Business College, both near or in Charlotte.

She opened Gaynell's Beauty Salon in 1956 and operated the business for over a decade. In 1967, she married the Rev. Dr. Sidney L. Freeman (who served the UU Church of Charlotte, NC, for 32 years, and became minister emeritus). Together they would enjoy 45 years of marriage until his death in 2012. Gaynell enjoyed traveling extensively with her husband as well as time at Lake Norman and playing bridge with friends.

Above all else, she enjoyed time with her family and will be missed by all those whose lives she touched. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Freeman was preceded in death by a son, Steven Bradley Williams. She is survived by her son T. Michael Williams and his wife, Mary Shelby Wirt; grandson, Steven Williams Saxon and his wife, Nhora Gomez Saxon; and great-grandchild, Gabriella Gomez Saxon. ~RR



SARAH BARBER-BRAUN (1925–2017)

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Sarah Barber-Braun was above all a scholar of women's history. And wherever she lived, she surrounded herself with women's art, including her own fabric art. Her stoles are worn by many colleagues.

Sarah especially devoted decades of scholarship to the life and work of early Universalist minister Phebe Ann Coffin Hanaford. Her long-time friend and colleague, the Rev'd Carol Hepokoski, said that Sarah's "heart seemed to live in the 19th century."

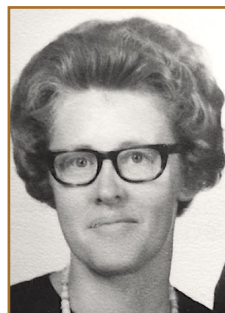
In August 2017, colleagues and area ministers gathered, with Sarah in attendance, to celebrate her life. Four months later, 17 December 2017, she died, aged 92.

Sarah Elizabeth McGrew was born in Tokyo, Japan, to Dallas Dayton Lore McGrew and Elizabeth Barber McGrew on 23 October 1925. She earned her B.A. in political theory and government from Radcliffe College, MA, in 1947.

Sarah settled with husband Harold Braun in Missoula, MT, where they eventually raised three adopted children. She worked as a religious educator at a local United Church of Christ church (1956–60), and then turned to the crafting of jewelry as an entrepreneurial artist and served also as an art consultant to the local Head Start program.



Sarah as Radcliffe senior



Sarah as young mother

After divorce in 1976, Sarah reclaimed her mother's birth name as part of a new surname. In 1978 she discovered the Humboldt UU Fellowship, and in 1981 she was on her way to Starr King School, where she completed her M.Div. in 1984. She was ordained on 17 February 1985 by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA.

The Rev'd Ms. Barber-Braun began her parish career as an extension minister at the UU Congregation of Erie, PA (1986–89), followed by a mix of contract and interim ministries at the Saltwater UU Church (Des Moines, WA, 1989–90), the First Universalist Society in New Haven, CT (1994–96), the Mattatuck UU Society in Woodbury, CT (1996–97), and finally at the First Universalist Church of Southold, NY (1997–2002).

Sarah is survived by her children, Paula Braun, Julia Roth, and Daniel Braun, grandchildren Tegan Spangrude, Carl Spangrude, David Braun, and Andrea Braun, and brother John McGrew. ~JN & JA



CHARLES L. WILSON (1931–2018)

The Reverend Charles Wilson—lifelong student, theological scholar, and amateur horticulturist, who made a dedicated and thoughtful specialty of interim ministry—died on 31 March 2018, aged 86.

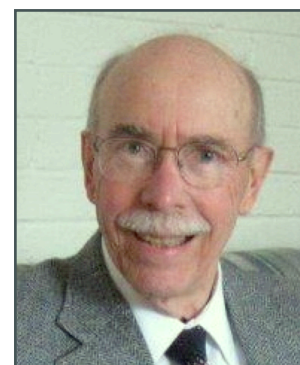
In a career spanning 34 years, parish ministry in 13 different congregations, and multiple administrative positions, the Rev'd Mr. Wilson made perhaps his most lasting impact in transitional ministries. During his own nine interim appointments, he offered steady organizational leadership to the emerging specialty of interim ministry among his UU clergy colleagues (1977–89) and served as co-leader of the ministerial start-up seminar program (1981–87).

Charles Lewis Wilson was born on 30 July 1931 in Buffalo, NY, to Charles H. and Viola (Sypher) Wilson. After graduation from the Manlius Military School (DeWitt, NY), he earned a B.A. in psychology in 1953 from University of Rochester (NY), and then an M.B.A. from Syracuse University, (NY) in 1954. After U.S. Army service in Korea and working for several years in insurance and marketing, Charles answered a call to ministry, enrolled in Harvard Divinity School, and completed his B.D. in 1964.

Mr. Wilson was ordained on 8 November 1964 by East Shore Unitarian Church in Kirtland, OH, where he remained settled until 1966. After two more brief settlements, he embarked on an interim career, broken only by two years as associate director of the UUA Dept. of Ministry. He ended his parish career with a settlement at the UU Church of Marblehead, MA (1990–98) and was elected Minister Emeritus on retirement.

Beyond the parish, The Rev'd Mr. Wilson served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (1983–84), chaired the theology section of *UU Collegium* (1980–82), and was active in the local ACLU chapter.

At the time of his death, Charles was survived by his wife of almost 64 years Hildegard Wilson (née Hemmerich), children Paul Wilson, Elizabeth Dobbins, Charles Wilson Jr., and grandchild John Wilson. ~JA





REGISTER FOR UURMaPA's **VIRTUAL FALL 2020** CONFERENCE:

WAKING UP TO NEW REALITIES

October 12-14 (Mon.-Wed.) Register Early!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 12



NAME #1 _____ Circle one: *Minister* *Partner*

Preferred pronouns ___He/Him ___She/Her ___They/Them Other:_____

Address _____ City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip _____

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Send a check with this form (to address below)
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Donations - <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=X48B6ZK6ET8HC>



Registration Amount \$ _____

Scholarship Fund Contribution \$ _____ **TOTAL : \$ _____**

Closer to the conference, we will publicize different **Small Breakout Group** options available to sign up for. If you are willing to make suggestions or volunteer to lead/facilitate, please do below.

___ I am willing to facilitate/lead a Small Breakout Group on the topic of _____ with no more than _____ participants.

I would like to suggest a Small Breakout Group on the topic of _____.

QUESTIONS about registration and **MAIL FORM TO:**

ALISON STEPHENS, Registrar: PO Box 873, Blue Hill, ME 04614-0873
 Contacts: astephensme@gmail.com ... 207-812-5323

Requests for financial assistance are welcome! Contact Treasurer **RICHARD SPECK:**
rgspeck@comcast.net ... 302-239-6286 or 302-528-3762.



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