



Elderberries

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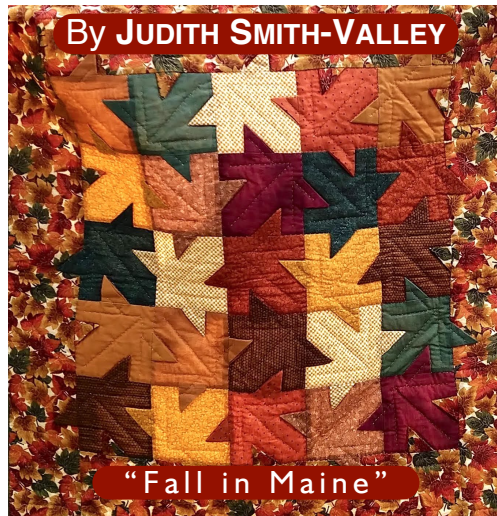
Four Creative

Responses to Pandemic Demands

For many, if not most of us, the struggles we face in this challenging era call forth both coping skills and creative outlets (sometimes bundled together). Here are a quartet of testimonials from UURMaPans who share expressions of what they've been pursuing to ground and expand themselves during These Daze.

1. Quilting is My Happy Place

Quilting has been a joy for me for some time. I love *piecing* (stitching fabrics together) and *hand quilting* (sewing a quilt sandwich together). My grandmother taught me to sew at age five. I usually made all our family Christmas presents, too. My



husband said, "Every minister needs a trade, in case..." So quilting became a spiritual practice. Creative opportunities and actual work with the needle sustain my sanity and focus.

I moved to Hampden, ME, in 2019, having retired in 2016 and widowed in 2017. I found a two-bedroom apartment and the larger one became *My Happy Place*, with a fine stash of fabrics and my Singer Treadle (Grandma's 1923 model). I adjusted easily to retirement with many hours of quilting and reading after I moved. And by March when COVID-19 struck with a vengeance, I was just starting to make some friends.

At first, I felt guilty because I continued to read and sew as I had been doing before restrictions set in. But it has been lonelier than I expected. So I am finding myself challenged and growing.

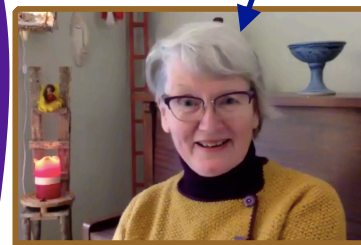
See more from **JUDITH**, plus **SARAH VOSS**, **KERRY MUELLER** & **ARTHUR BERMAN** on pages 4-5...

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Our second large virtual gathering—five months after a fulfilling mid-June Ingathering ahead of the UUA General Assembly—drew even more participants (nearly 140!) and covered lots of excellent bases with strong leadership and programing. Planning Team chief **BARBRO HANSSON** and her UURMaPAN



neighbors **DAVID** and **JEAN ROBINS** opened the first of three mid-day sessions by welcoming us from the

gorgeously hued New Hampshire grounds of the Barbara C. Harris Conf. Center (see photo above), where we would have been meeting in person (and hope to next Fall).

Continued on page 3...

UURMaPA
Board



Editor's Note:

The next Issue of *Elderberries* will feature our rewarding and ongoing online **Support Groups** and ways to conjure up more of them for more of us!

- Diane Miller (2021)**
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- Susan LaMar**
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Johanna Nichols
and Roger Rochester
OBITUARY EDITORS

President's Message

The volunteer UURMaPA Board has never had an explicit covenant until this year, when members **MARNI HARMONY** and **RICHARD SPECK** took the initiative and presented one—similar to the UUMA's, with a few language changes. (See the text nearby.) This covenant was enthusiastically adopted by the Board.

Ours is a covenantal faith—theologically, historically, and in our polity—built on mutual agreements. I decided not to write “politically” there, but that’s what our polity is.

The volunteer Board has made decisions for the good of this body with the best of intentions, as have those before it. It feels good to now have an explicit statement of the guiding agreements which draw forth our efforts, our commitment, and our mutual regard.

Likewise, it feels good to adopt a covenant when the organization is doing well. It is not corrective to fix problems; it is descriptive of our aspirations.

— *Diane*

UURMaPA Board Covenant

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE UURMAPA BOARD, COVENANT WITH ONE ANOTHER:

- To conduct ourselves with integrity and communicate responsibly*
- To embody in our lives the values that we proclaim on behalf of our faith*
- To support one another in respect and care, understanding and honoring the diversity among us and practicing inclusion and accessibility*
- To willingly accept responsibility for our decisions and choices*
- To demonstrate justice and right relations according to our evolving collective wisdom*
- To use our power constructively and with intention, mindful of our potential to unconsciously perpetuate systems of oppression; to challenge ourselves to become more aware and confront discriminatory attitudes and practices*
- To cultivate practices of deepening awareness, understanding, humility, and commitment to our ideals and this covenant*

We recognize that none of us is perfect and all are works in progress. We hold one another in love as we aspire to grow in wholeness and bring hope and healing to the world.

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

...continued from cover page 1

Our chalice was lit on New England granite outdoors by the rest of the hard-working conference Planning Team, **CHARLES** and **ALISON STEPHENS**. and then a small but nonetheless mellifluous virtual choir, organized by **RICHARD SPECK** the Tech, sang through “May Nothing Evil.” UURMaPA President **DIANE MILLER** introduced each of the Board members and then we were randomly apportioned into numerous small check-in groups of 6-7 folks each for a satisfying period of touching base and catching up.

The first of three evening programs featured our traditional Service of Remembrance, led by **TOM** and **CAROLYN OWEN-TOWLE**, who named and honored a long list of departed ministers and partners. *Sigh*. An active chat box vibrated with many short, fond comments about the losses we’ve seen this past year. After the service, many lingered to continue remembering our compatriots and the ways our lives—professional and personal—often meaningfully intertwined.

The middle day of programming centered on an interactive presentation by **Fred Small**, called “**Breakdown/Breakthrough**,” which is covered separately on **PAGE 8**, and then numerous well-received small groups, listed below.

Most of the sessions began with a creative and delightful slide show with photo greetings from many of us in our home settings.

Our third day first offered an unusual and engaging **Odyssey**

from a longtime influential clergy couple, married 50 years come December.



In a passionate telling of their shared journey “From a Salt and Pepper Beginning to an Allspice Blend,” Mel and Rose conversed about merging heritages and families, pivotal moments in their individual and joint ministerial formations, roads taken and not taken, and their common theme of always striving to help communities work together—“widening the circle.”

Our final evening session together provided numerous short and helpful touches by leaders of UURMaPA, UUMA and UUA, some excellent idea generation by participants, another virtual choir selection (“Amazing Grace”), and a closing worship service by **RICHARD SPECK** and **ART SEVERANCE**.

Despite some understandable, if still frustrating technical stumbles, the three days were impressively orchestrated and fulfilling, as testified to by this small sampling of the many post-conference comments:

- Fun, inspiring, tender-hearted.
- A powerful experience. I have been missing my colleagues and now feel reconnected!
- Well done! Who said you can't teach old UUs new tricks?
- I was right in the groove with Fred and hung on his words & presence.
- A nice way to meet folks I never knew and see an old friend. The music was integrated beautifully..
- So much thoughtfulness!

Watch the [uurmapa-announce](#) email list for notice when **video recordings** of much of this conference will be available. And look ahead to our **next event** (Spring 2021), notice of which is on Page 7...



Check out this set of topics for Small Breakout Groups!

- ✦ Bereavement: Its Many Dimensions and Patterns — **CAROL TAYLOR**
- ✦ Caregivers Support Group — **SYLVIA HOWE**
- ✦ Maintaining Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Wellbeing during the Pandemic/Black-Lives-Matter/ Global Climate Crises — **CHARLES STEPHENS**
- ✦ Retired Ministers’ Voices in the UUA — **WAYNE ARNASON**
- ✦ How Do We Care For Our Soul? — **GABRIELE PARKS**
- ✦ In the Wake of George Floyd — **GORDON GIBSON**
- ✦ Voter Suppression and the November 3rd Election — **DAVID HUNTER**
- ✦ So what can I do about climate change? — **ROBERTA HASKIN**
- ✦ The Legacy of the Polish Brethren — **JAY ATKINSON**
- ✦ Ritual of Retirement & Memoir Writing — **RICHARD GILBERT**
- ✦ Exploring Retirement as Spiritual Practice — **CAROL HEPOKOSKI**
- ✦ Woman’s Right to Vote—Commemorate the Passage of the 19th Amendment — **ROSEMARIE SMURZYNSKI**



Gollywood Squares — Some of the 140 registrants for our online Fall Conference

...**QUILTING...** By JUDITH SMITH-VALLEY*Continued from cover page 1*

So I am finding myself challenged *and* growing. As I sew, I try new color combinations, pattern difficulties, and spontaneous changes of design. I am bolder, patient, skillful. I have continued to learn to quietly “unsew seams,” to adjust and compensate better. It is all part of the flow.

Maine has done better with the pandemic than other places. My new quilting friends in Belfast and Bangor are meeting on Zoom or distanced apart in the beautiful outdoors or with masks. (Technology has helped us to connect through this time, but face-to-face is so much better!) The Bear Paws in Bangor invited me to do a Trunk Show of my quilts in September in a large backyard. It was quite an honor and humbling to



offer from my many years of stitching. I imagine it felt like giving a ministerial odyssey for colleagues. It was awesome to see my work together out in the light.

Quilting has purpose: Those of celebration are best, as in the eleven quilts I made for high school graduations of grandchildren. Gifts and donation quilts are great for family and friends and good causes like Linus Quilts for hospitalized kids. Lastly, those of challenge and inspiration engage me alone. Quilting gives me joy. It is my spiritual practice.



2. “Naked Ladies and our Real Estate Project: a COVID-19 Transformation”

By SARAH VOSS, Nebraska

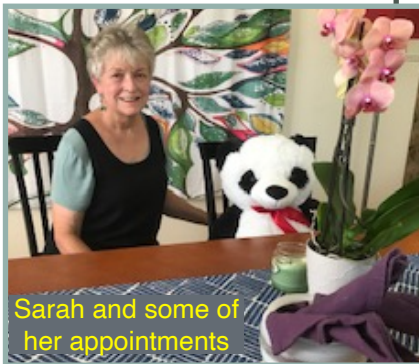
That’s the title of my photo journal that went online in August as part of the University of Nebraska’s “Documenting COVID-19 in Omaha” project. With 53 photos and text, it describes the creative renovation of a newly-purchased house that has gotten me and my spouse Dan through this much of the pandemic. The journal ends with the title poem (right sidebar). You can find it all at <https://tinyurl.com/y3e9sdbq>. (Scroll down to “Files” and click on the text.)

This house renovation was the perfect pandemic project for the two of us, although in hindsight we might have chosen one that didn’t require quite so much sweat equity. Still, it’s been fun and has kept us from being bored.

Plus, we’ve gotten a huge amount of exercise, which, I think, goes against the general path people follow when they are forced to stay in. And most of all, it gave us an opportunity to do something useful and meaningful and unusual during a time of tremendous uncertainty and chaos.

I had fun decorating the place on the proverbial shoestring. I recycled, reclaimed, and used what I had found by shopping sales and second-hand stores (pre-pandemic). The one firm rule I had was that I wanted to be able to carry everything in (and out) by myself if I had to.

And to be honest, I also completed another project during this same time period: I pulled together the “family” poems that I have written over the years. I sorted through, organized and revised until I had a collection of 124 poems, which I titled “*The Seasons of My Life*.” The last of the six sections in this collection is called “Fifth Seasoner,” a term I first heard at a UU ministers’ workshop. I love this term—it says SOoo much about what’s important in life.



Sarah and some of her appointments

The Naked Ladies Sarah Voss

They grew in two spots, and not many – in the large planter under the bedroom window and somewhat smothered under the peonies west side of the front lawn.

They were old, remnants of an earlier time, of earlier owners young, vigorous, hopeful, but they were still beautiful, poking straight up, a delicate pink bloom on the barest of stems.

I wanted them in my own yard, so I dug them just when there was only green foliage, with no hint of their eventual emergence, probably the wrong time to transplant them,

yet I was game anyway, and circumstances were I didn’t need anyone’s permission so my spouse and I, together, planted them in a horseshoe ‘round the flagpole by the street

in front of our retirement house, then we went on doing our various projects, living our pandemic-limited lives, trying not to worry about age, money, COVID19, dying

losing hope, interest, insight, desire and memory until one afternoon when I’d nearly forgotten all about those strange naked ladies, I walked

out to get the mail and there they were – six of them, long stems rising, dancing.

READERS! Please do consider sending in your own such story for future issues!
Mail to: elderberries@uurmapa.org.

3. Altered Booking

By **KERRY MUELLER**, Pennsylvania

These pandemic months have come at a time when I finally have the inner and outer resources to develop my artistic self, after a lifetime of being a non-artist, and after some years of making pottery (because it doesn't have to look like anything). Sheltering at home, with a room of my own, a whole closet of art supplies, and a Zoom class from Pendle Hill, I have been making an **altered book**.

An altered book is one which, having honorably completed its life as a reading object, becomes a canvass for many sorts of art—collage, painting, drawing, poetry, even sculpture. You tear out half the pages, glue the rest together in sections to get “spreads” and add content.

My current project (unfinished as of August, 2020) is based on ceramic fruits I had made before Covid 19. Each fruit gets two pages with a photo, other images, a device of some sort (a window or door or pocket or pop-up or moveable part), with one or more exactly six-word stories, and a surprising or subversive backstory. (See two examples below.) I'm enjoying the challenges of the six-word process (which is a thing in itself), learning to make the different devices, developing the use of color, and figuring out how to translate ideas into imagery.

Plus, an altered book fits nicely on the bookshelf—no doubt a relief to spouse **DAVE HUNTER** who has been living with pottery all over the place.



For my Apple pages (left), the photo shows a raku* apple, surrounded by fig leaves, with a tiny replica of the New England Primer that features a pop-up snake, an apple, and the line:

“In Adam’s fall, we sinned all.”

(I didn't write that, but it too is a 6-word story.)

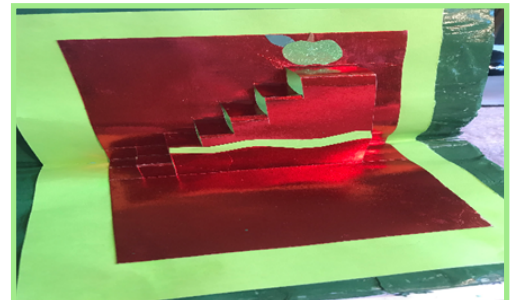
My caption will read:

The Colonial primer assumes Original Sin (6 words)

As a Universalist, I offer this... (6 words)

(Please turn page and rotate book) (6 words)

*American **Raku** is a special low fire glazing process that yields shimmer, often metallic looking, and unpredictable results.



Another page (above) features a kirigami* staircase (and it took me the better part of two weeks to get that right) with an apple at the top. Caption:

In Eve’s climb, a new paradigm.

*A form of paper art, like origami (folded paper), but in **kirigami**, you fold and cut paper.

4. Radio Rodeo

By **ARTHUR BERMAN**, British Columbia

The Lovely Andrea and I are lucky because we can still produce—albeit from home—our radio show, **Pacific Pickin'** (primarily bluegrass with some classic country, cajun, rockabilly and western swing). We had to learn a couple very cranky programs, plus how to assemble, edit and record the show ourselves rather than engineer it live on the air in the studio.

One challenge has been to sound spontaneous as we put in verbal content. We also deal with weekly glitches as well as how to creatively maintain our on-air enthusiasm over the many hours of production the two-hour broadcast now requires.

But with all the other restrictions on our daily existence, it enhances our lives to be able to still share with our audience the music and culture we love. The show airs from Vancouver on Tuesdays 6-8 AM (Pacific Time)—alas no longer live until the studio opens up again. Many years of podcasts are available on the website: www.citr.ca/radio/pacific-pickin/.



Arthur and Andrea broadcasting from the studio in happier times.

...Periodic Particulars from our People...



Usually my spouse (the Rev. **PETER RICHARDSON**) and I leave our place in Florida for Rockland, ME, about May 1. But this year, we decided to stay put. As our neighbors in Naples took in their doormats and farmed out their food, we continued to isolate in our tiny condo. It's lucky we like each other! Pandemic statistics are alarming here, but there would be too many points of contact along the road north.

We are 2,000 miles from most offspring and my 101-year-old mother, but now see them (virtually) more often than ever before. I have bought a little stock in Zoom! We were surprised when Peter's daughter and family who live in Kennebunk, ME, decided that since they were working and schooling remotely, they would rent a house for two months on nearby Sanibel Island. So a potential conflict of interest has arisen! We are delighted to have family locally, but must

remember that they are "strangers" medically! We expected them to quarantine for two weeks, for starters.

Meanwhile, I have painted a huge mural on the living room wall, studied Spanish via TV, chatting with gardeners and construction workers, and am knitting a sweater. I have read *Outlander* on my Kindle, which must have a million pages. I walk empty streets at 7:00 am, picking up litter with tongs, and we swim in the afternoons. I wrote 10 weekly columns for the Rockland paper about being trapped here in Florida. We both spend a lot of time on *Ancestry.com*.

And we attend church to center ourselves. *Where shall we go today?* The UU Church of Greater Naples, FL, led by Rev. Tony Fisher? Or "home" to Rockland, ME, in an intimate Zoom format where we can talk with friends and interim minister Rev. Susan Milnor. Rockland Music Director Claire Helene Bevan emails us accompaniments and we sing hymns into our cell phones ahead of time. I put on a dress, we light our chalice, and have coffee hour afterwards! Peter sometimes attends in his pajamas. Once I went behind the scenes, singing a solo to an empty church, recorded for Sunday with just the minister and the worship leader. Unforgettable. Great resonance.



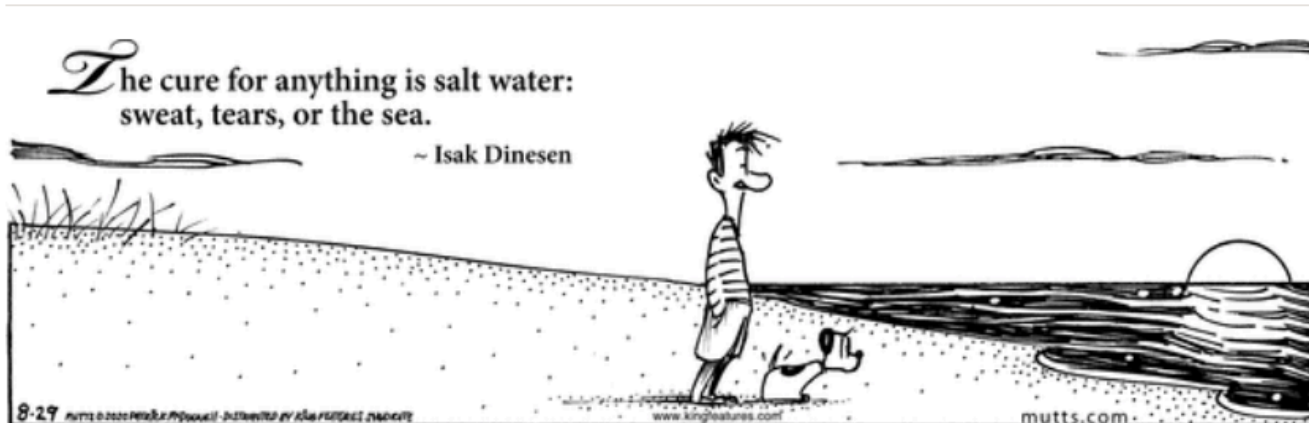
Eleanor and Peter in beach mode.

I also "attended" a memorial service for a UU cousin in Colorado, where 250 people were present on Zoom from all over the world. It had many of the elements of a regular memorial service, and lasted more than an hour. I felt the same uplift as with any celebration of life.

The best was our Family Reunion, held every August for 153 years. Peter has attended since he was four; would the record be broken? No! Instead, it became an opportunity, held via Zoom. There were 47 attending from all over the country, several saying, "I've always wanted to attend a Reunion, but it was just too far to come to Maine."

In some ways, we will never go back, virus or no. Virtual attendance has become a part of life, a real benefit to elders, to far-flung families, and to people in rural areas. . . . And my Zoom stock is doing well.

—Eleanor, September, 2020



UURMaPA FRIENDS, LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO BEING TOGETHER AGAIN—
Get ready for **“Renaissance in Retirement”!**

Imagine yourself joining our next conference:

UURMaPA Springtime 2021

***Still virtually, but always personally, deeply, caringly
connecting and reconnecting across the years and miles.***

(More info, including registration and dates, coming in the Winter Elderberries and on the UURMaPA-Announce list.)



HEY! Why not take advantage of the incredible good will and energy that many of us have just experienced during the recent October days of our online togetherness. Even though we have only just ended that Fall Conference, some of us are already planting seeds for another fulfilling event to arise in the spring!

Think: **“Renaissance in Retirement”**—

As retired UU ministers and partners we have experienced (and may well have preached and written about) the ways our spiritual lives often mirror nature’s seasons. To date, we have witnessed a tumultuous year of pandemic isolation and loss, emotional and economic upheavals, unsettling electioneering, and more.

As we enter into the long dark of winter, our spiritual and personal lives may feel a need for regeneration. We may be, like seeds resting in fertile Earth, waiting for the springtime sun’s warmth to lure us toward new emergence.

We have, as our colleague **DENNIS HAMILTON** says, “lived long and gained wisdom in this happy faith.” And we’ve long been told that retirement provides an *opportunity for regenerative personal, religious, and spiritual growth.*

So please look ahead to a **“Renaissance in Retirement”**—our 2021 UURMaPA Spring Conference theme, still taking shape but with at least this line-up of online activities:

- We will gather for worship that sustains us
- We will learn from lifetime tales of colleague(s) in personal Odyssey mode
- We will share our own stories, and listen while others offer wisdom and friendly commentary
- We will remember and reflect upon the lives and contributions of those who have passed from among us

With affection, —Your UURMaPA Spring Conference Planning Team:
LYN STANGLAND CAMERON
and **DENNIS HAMILTON**,
plus Board liaison **ANNE SPATOLA**

UURMaPA Nominating Committee News

We are tasked with finding good people to fill positions on the UURMaPA board and Nominating Committee. New terms begin each July 1, so each fall we play the long game and ask you to consider making time to serve among us in this dynamic and important organization.

The positions we need to fill soon are: President; Vice President; Connections Chair; At-Large (as Connections Assistant); At-Large (as Wider UU liaison); and three NomCom positions.

Happily, three of these slots have already been filled: our current Vice President, **SUSAN RAK**, has agreed to be nominated for President; **MILLIE ROCHESTER** will stand for Connections Chair; and **JUDY GIBSON** has agreed to serve another term on the NomCom.

But we still need to fill these other very important positions: Vice President; At-Large Connections Assistant; At-Large Wider UU liaison; and two Nominating Committee positions. If you or someone you know, minister or partner, is interested in serving, please contact us at **Nominations@uurmapa.org**. You can also look at the UURMaPA website to get detailed job descriptions of each position.

At in-person conferences, I would usually be able to have informal conversations about this important work. Since we’re meeting virtually, please feel free to contact me with questions. *Thanks!*

—**BARBARA W. TEN HOVE**, chair, for the rest of the NomCom—**WAYNE ARNASON**, **JUDY GIBSON**, **BARRY ANDREWS**, and, until her death on September 28, **JUDY WELLES** (See more on Judy, page 10.)

Breakdown Breakthrough

“The task is mighty, and so are we!”

A Report on Fred Small's Theme Presentation at the UURMaPA Fall Conference

(October 12, 2020) by JACO TEN HOVE



Our theme speaker, climate activist Fred Small, began his interactive presentation with a stirring video of “The Tide is Rising (and so are we),” a sing-along played and sung by him and Rabbi Shoshana Meira Friedman, the song’s composer, at First Parish in Cambridge, MA. He also offered a prayer that affirmed, “We were born for this moment...We shall not falter.”

Fred then engaged upwards of 100 participants with a fierce and honest yet humane portrayal of current realities largely beyond most of our comfort zones. He noted how more and more people are seeing the fatal connections that weave together white supremacy, the pandemic and pollution.

For instance, after admitting that he took a privileged path toward environmentalism (one that could generally avoid encounters with racism), he noted how race—not income—was the largest factor in the siting of toxic waste. People of color have been pollution’s first victims, accentuating linkages between inequality and ecological crises. In the devastation inflicted upon low income communities during this Covid-19 era, the pandemic looks a lot like the climate crisis compressed from decades into weeks.

Fred lifted up the message of Black essayist Mary Annaisa Heglar, that climate change takes any problem you already have—any threat you are already under—and *multiplies it*. Her biggest fear is “not how will we treat each other. It’s how white people will treat people who look like me.”

Fred declared that now is a time of reckoning and opportunity: whether this Breakdown becomes a Breakthrough is up to each of us. And where do we begin? He suggested grounding ourselves in Joanna Macy’s advice to “Feel it all... The greatest danger is the deadening of our response. Feel everything in order to think creatively and act effectively.”

Four exercises and sharing helped us probe deeper into this realm:

1. A strong place to begin is with gratitude. So Fred led a guided meditation to help us invoke, honor and converse with a favored place in nature. Then pairs of participants reflected and shared about those natural places of meaning. Back in the full group, comments expressed how “Water is Life”; a sense of oneness on island rocks; and the unforgettable experience of witnessing a moose apparently meditating in a stream.

2. Another exercise (again via Joanna Macy) invited us to visit with one of our own descendants two centuries from now, someone from 2220.

Comments after this often powerful internal conversation were about how ancestry.com can get one thinking of all the generations; what inspiration there is among great-grandmothers and granddaughters; the dilemmas around having/not having children. One person was thrilled to just imagine that we will even have descendants in 2220. More reflections: through all previous hard times, the babies kept coming; “In the Hard Times there will always be singing”; Gratitude for the power and value of UU Green Sanctuary program (which Fred originated while at Harvard Divinity School).

3. Fred asked, ***“If you were not afraid, what is one thing you, as yourself, would do for the healing of our world?”*** Responses included: put affirming posters on my car; speak around more to educate people; deeply listen to those who disagree; lobby to reconsider hydro-electric power; go totally solar electric; do something dramatic (even self-immolation?) to draw attention to the changes needed; call companies to advocate against undue plastic packaging.

4. And finally, this inquiry: ***“As we contemplate the interconnected crises we face, what gives you hope?”*** Participant comments included: the number of people in the street in June and the presence of hummingbirds; “Blessed Unrest” (Paul Hawkins’ book title), featuring voluntary organizations as the immune system of the planet, which echoes James Luther Adams’ work—knowing that I’m not alone; Judy Welles’ work to get out the vote, even on her deathbed; a clean-up project in Indonesia to “harvest” plastic in the ocean; redefining the biblical sense of dominion to support animal rights; Thomas Berry’s influence; resources for resilience amid trauma.

Fred closed with a moving a cappella rendition of a song by Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory: ***“Ain’t ya got a right to the tree of life!”***

“Hope is an orientation of the heart.” — Václav Havel, Czech statesman

“The racial inequality crisis is intertwined with our climate crisis; if we don’t work at both we will succeed at neither.”

—Iyana Elizabeth Johnson, Marine Biologist, policy expert, writer

“Climate change is theft.”
“Pollution is a resource out of place.” —from Fred



A UU parish minister for nearly two decades, **Fred Small** currently serves as Minister for Climate Justice at Arlington St. Church in Boston and as Executive Director of *MA Interfaith Power and Light*, one of 40 state affiliates with the objective to mobilize “a religious response to global warming.”



Citizen’s Climate Lobby: An Effective Approach for UUs

By BOB & MAKANAH MORRIS

We have been involved, since 2013, with Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization founded in 2007 and focused on a national policy response to climate change. Its aims, method and process are especially congruent with our values and approach as UUs. We helped found a CCL chapter in Lynchburg, VA, and there are hundreds of UUs involved with CCL in chapters all across the country.

An excellent and quick introduction to CCL can be found in a video created for the UUA General Assembly, found here: www.bit.ly/CCLUUvid.

In CCL’s work with local, state and national officials, our volunteers take the most generous approach possible to other people: respect, gratitude and appreciation. We listen, we work to find common values and we endeavor to understand our own biases. CCL’s approach is to work to build nonpartisan consensus because that’s what will bring enduring change on both sides of the aisle in Congress. [See boxes immediately below.]

There is a wealth of information on CCL’s web site (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org>) as well as numerous links to short seminars on how to become an effective climate advocate even with those with a very different perspective.

We hope you will visit CCL.org and see what you think. In all likelihood there is a CCL chapter near you. You will find like-minded souls in these chapters (and probably quite a few UUs). Monthly meetings (now on Zoom) always include an informative, short (20 min.) presentation by a knowledgeable leader, scientist, organizer.

Please be in touch with us, revs2uu@aol.com with any questions or comments.



BOB & MAKANAH “wearing our CCL regalia in front of the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy sign that indicates we have put our 54-acre farm in land conservation easement to protect it in perpetuity.”

CCL is focused on what we see as the most impactful solutions to climate change: a national **carbon fee** and a **dividend** returned to every citizen:

1. **Carbon Fee** — This policy puts a fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. It starts low and grows over time. It will drive down carbon pollution because energy companies, industries, and consumers will move toward cleaner, cheaper options.
2. **Carbon Dividend**—The money collected from the carbon fee is allocated in equal shares every month to the American people to spend as they see fit. Program costs are paid from the fees collected. The government does not keep any of the money from the carbon fee.

CCL offers UUs the opportunity to be involved in an organization which:

- ◆ values science and data driven solutions that are just and equitable for all
- ◆ promotes a process that invites effective advocacy across party lines
- ◆ offers education about climate change and solutions to local communities
- ◆ provides a supportive, empowering and encouraging connection with like-minded climate concerned citizens across the country (many UUs!) and around the globe



PAT HOERTDOERFER, holding far right end of the banner, writes:

This gathering at the 2014 Peoples Climate March in NYC solidified our commitment as elders to be activists, to join a non-partisan effort to end the Climate Crisis and build a just and sustainable future for our children, our grandchildren, and all children.

For the past five years my spirit and action for climate justice has been with elder organizations, such as *Elders Climate Action/Elders Action Network** (see platform) and *Sage-ing International*.

* <https://eldersaction.org/elders-climate-action/>

Elders Climate Action (ECA) statement:

WE ELDERS....

...**REMEMBER A HEALTHIER, LESS DANGEROUS CLIMATE** and we will defend this planet against further harm.

...**UNDERSTAND THAT TIME IS SHORT** and that today is the best day for taking an action.

...**HAVE HEARD THE VOICES OF THE YOUTH ACTIVISTS** who say, “Our house is burning” and we believe we are duty-bound to fight for their future.

...**BRING UNIQUE POWER TO THIS GLOBAL EFFORT** by using our wisdom to transform anxiety into organizing and action.

...**INTEND TO BE AMONG THE ONES WHO GET THIS DONE.** It will be our legacy that our work helped turn the tide toward love, a habitable planet, and justice and equity for all.

UU Rainbow History Project *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.

by **ANNE SPATOLA**, Coordinator

For several months, there was a lull in receiving new material for the Project. The onset of the pandemic probably had an effect as we were all trying to navigate new realities. For some parts of the country, the changes were more extreme than in other areas. However, for many of us, the dust has settled and there has been an influx of essays coming in. Staying at home may have meant more clean up took place and files were resurrected, inspiring some to bravely share their experiences with the Project.

To read about unusual times in our denomination with a fair sprinkling of homophobia, please visit the Rainbow site (above). The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising was the impetus for the theme of UURMaPa conferences in 2019. These event videos and transcripts have been compiled and added to the Project. Besides conference material, there are many other items to arouse your interest.

Finally, there are many to thank for the vision to conceive this Project. You can certainly learn about those folks by visiting the website. However, my personal gratitude goes to **JUDY WELLES**, who coordinated the Project (after founding leader **DOROTHY EMERSON** died) until January, 2020.

During the first part of this year Judy very patiently trained me on various elements, such as transcribing conference videos, working with outside vendors and answering so many, many questions. Her dedication and commitment for the Project were astounding. She left nothing amiss and assured that everything in her files received the appropriate attention. An email from Judy was not to be ignored. Needless to say, she was a rare individual.

I will miss you, Judy! [See box below.]

We lost a strong and dedicated UURMaPA leader on September 28 when **JUDY WELLES**, age 77, died of a rare appendiceal cancer in her home in Portland, OR, held by spouse **DUANE FICKEISEN** and family. Our hearts are heavy. Find the beautiful and moving October 10 service for her at First Unitarian Portland at: <http://tinyurl.com/judywmemberserv>

Latest Wellspring Program Starts Soon

By **Linnea Nelson**, Executive Director

As you seek to continue your spiritual journey during challenging times, **UU Wellspring** offers an online yearlong spiritual deepening program based on spiritual practices, meeting with a spiritual director, and reflecting with your group twice monthly.

Each session ends with an opportunity to see how the experience is encouraging you to embrace life with renewed understandings of your own spiritual light, which often leads to a sense of renewed inspiration and purpose.

UU Wellspring invites retired ministers to join our UU Wellspring program, which is beginning its fourth year of online programming for religious professionals. The registration is meant to be inclusive with a \$100–\$400 sliding scale. **There is a new session for UU ministers beginning in January 2021.**

UU Wellspring leads to more joyful living, increased leadership and faithful justice-making that will sustain and strengthen UU identity through these five essential components:

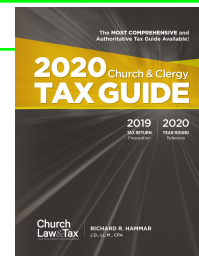
- ✓ Small group connections
- ✓ Daily spiritual practices
- ✓ Spiritual direction
- ✓ Deeper knowledge of UU history & theology
- ✓ Putting UU faith into action

You can learn more about “Programs for Individuals” and how to register on the **UU Wellspring** website: www.uuwellspring.org/ or contact Executive Director, **Linnea Nelson** (Master Level Credentialed Religious Educator) at director@uuwellspring.org.

We hope this is the year that you make the time to deepen your spiritual life to sustain, inspire and connect you with colleagues.

- ◆ Watch this **five-minute video** of **UU Wellspring** participants talking about their transformative experiences in the program: <https://tinyurl.com/yxc579x7>
- ◆ Watch a **UU Wellspring Worship Service** at First Unitarian Orlando, FL. The homily (at 20 minutes in) features testimonials from **UU Wellspring** participants: <https://tinyurl.com/yxusz3j6>





PRIMER: Tips on Selecting a Tax Preparer

From Linda Rose, UUA Office of Church Staff Finances

(Adapted from Chapter 1 of the *Church & Clergy Tax Guide* by Richard R. Hammar)

Let's assume you've decided to have your tax return prepared by a professional. The next step is to find someone experienced and competent in ministers' tax returns. *Here are some tips to help you find such a person:*

- ◆ If possible, stick with a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or tax attorney. And try to use someone local.
- ◆ Find other ministers in your community who have their tax returns prepared by a professional, and ask questions. Who do they use? Are they pleased? What is the cost? How many ministers' tax returns does the person prepare?
- ◆ Call CPAs listed in your phone directory; ask if they prepare ministers' tax returns and, if so, ask how many.
- ◆ An Enrolled Agent is another option to consider. Find out what some experts have to say.

When you find possible candidates, consider asking a few simple questions that should be answered easily..

1. **Are ministers employees or self-employed for Social Security purposes?**
Ministers always are self-employed for Social Security purposes with respect to their ministerial income.
2. **Can I claim my housing allowance exclusion in computing my self-employment taxes?** *No.*
3. **If I report my church wages as an employee, are my wages subject to FICA taxes?**
No. Ministers pay the self-employment tax rather than FICA taxes on their ministerial income.
4. **If I report my church wages as an employee, are my wages subject to income tax withholding?**
No, unless a minister elects voluntary withholding.
5. **What is the minister's housing allowance?** *The portion of a minister's salary designated in advance by an employing church for housing expenses. This amount is not taxable in computing a minister's income taxes to the extent it is used to pay housing expenses and does not exceed the home's fair rental value.*



DID YOU KNOW ...

...that UURMaPA is funded by our members?

We get a small contribution from the UUMA each year and we write grants to fund major projects. But all of you make up the backbone of our annual budget. We plan on conferences to break even. We raise funds for scholarships to encourage members to attend. Our annual budget is about \$50,000. Well over half comes from contributions from you.

Someone recently started a donation of \$5 a month to UURMaPA. You might consider something like that—or even more. Or, at the end of the year, you might send a gift to lower your taxes. However you wish to give, each gift supports the work of UURMaPA on your behalf and is gratefully received!

At press time we were short of our goal for 2020 to the tune of about \$25,000. We have small reserves which will not cover the gap. Our last in-person conference lost \$9,000 due to lower attendance and high expenses. So your gift this fall will definitely make a difference regardless of size.

Watch your recent mail for a letter inviting you to contribute. We depend on your voluntary donations to fund our all-volunteer programs. You can do this on the UURMaPA.org website, or mail a check to:

RICHARD SPECK, Treasurer

4721 Mermaid Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19808-1803.

Thank you for your contributions!



LFineck

DID YOU KNOW ...

...that we UUs have a



Yes, we do!—on the grounds of *Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center* in Lanoka Harbor, NJ. Founded August 18, 1924, it is almost as old as Murray Grove itself. There was a time when Murray Grove was barely surviving and the cemetery got very overgrown and forgotten. But during her tenure in the 1990s, Executive Director Ellen Chulak cleared the brambles and brought it back to life.

There are some significant Universalists buried there:

- Rev. Edwin C. & Mary Sweetser (1847–1949), (1853–1931)
- Rev. Frederick A. & Matty Gally Bisbee (1855–1923), (1857–1921)
- Harry Greenwood & Vanessa F. Grover (1881–1976), (1886–1970)
- And more recently: Rev. Clinton Lee Scott (1887–1985).

There are 64 plots, some of which are yet to be used. Ashes must be buried with either a ground level plaque or a standup stone. The cemetery is very near the Potter Chapel where Rev. John Murray preached his first sermon on our American shores (and then went on to build our Universalist faith in America).

If you are planning on cremation, you may want to consider having your ashes buried in our **Universalist National Cemetery**. I'm considering it myself. Think about it. *Fondly,* —CAROL TAYLOR www.murraygrove.org

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.

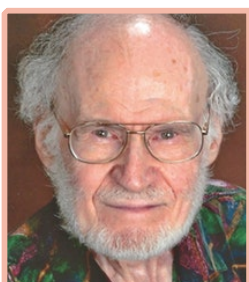
IN MEMORIAM

**ARNOLD THAW** (1931 – 2018)

The Reverend Dr. Arnold Thaw—whose parish ministry career became turbulent and led him to a second career in gestalt therapy—died peacefully on 15 July 2018, aged 87.

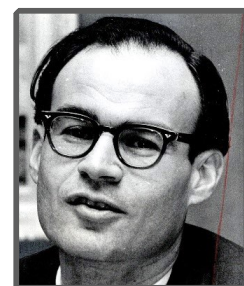
Arnold Thaw was born on 21 April 1931 in Brooklyn, New York, to Max and Hilda Thaw. He was graduated from New York University in 1952 with a B.A. in history and then earned his M.Div. from Starr King School in 1956.

Mr. Thaw was first settled at the Unitarian Church of Natick, MA (1956–62) and was ordained there on 10 February 1957. He then took a settlement at the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel (now in Mississauga), Ontario (UUCM, 1962–68), where his regular columns were quite popular in the local newspaper. The church membership “grew enormously,” and he was appreciated as a “great story teller” and a stimulating leader of adult education classes and discussions. [See UUCM history: <https://tinyurl.com/y4xwh27a>.] It was a divisive tenure, ending with Mr. Thaw’s resignation, along with 42 of his “disciples,” to form and lead the short-lived Experimental Unitarian Community of Mississauga.



Turning from ministry, the Rev’d Mr. Thaw moved across the continent to earn a Ph.D. from the California School of Professional Psychology (Los Angeles) in 1974. This new career took him first to Flagstaff, AZ, as a counselor (c.1975–78). Dr. Thaw then moved to establish the Gestalt Institute of Phoenix, where he remained in private practice until 1998.

Arnold was survived by personal ass’t. Paula Allen and loving friends in the UU Congregation of Phoenix, where a memorial service was held on 15 September 2018. Memorial donations may be made to The Arnold Thaw Memorial Water Project at <https://tinyurl.com/yyrd4oob>. ~JA



JOHN HANLY MORGAN (1918 – 2018)

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Dr. John Morgan—peace and civil rights activist, poet, tenor chorister, and lifelong learner, who combined dedicated parish service with an academic and writing career—died on 23 June 2018, aged 99.

With work for peace going back to his college years, John's community activity, wherever he lived and served, was guided by a hands-on theology of worldly engagement. He said that the church should always be answering the question, "What shall we do now with our world?" His commitment to peace and justice took him to Selma in 1965 and to the vice-presidency of the World Peace Council (1983–87), whose Joliet-Curie Gold Medal of Peace he was awarded in 1984. He had received the International Lenin Peace Prize the year before.

John Hanly Morgan was born on 28 November 1918 in New Albany, Indiana, to John Sidney and Vada Elizabeth (Dorn) Morgan. He earned his B.A. in Education from Ball State Teachers College, Muncie, IN (1943) and his ministerial degree from Harvard Divinity School (1946). He was forthwith ordained on 13 June 1946 by Waverly (MA) Unitarian Church, where he served until 1947.



Over the next 24 years, the Rev'd Mr. Morgan served churches in Charlotte (NC), Indianapolis, Flint (MI), South Bend (IN), and finally Toronto (ON), from which he took early retirement as minister emeritus in 1973. Meanwhile he taught philosophy at local colleges and, along the way, earned an M.A. in philosophy from the University of Michigan (1955). In 1979 he completed a Ph.D. dissertation in English Literature at University of South Florida. Over sixty years, starting at age 23, Mr. Morgan published eight books of poetry and prose, a history of the Toronto UU Church, and a memoir of his lifetime work for peace.

At his death, John was survived by his spouse Jeannette, children Lois Jean and David Hollis, nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. ~JA



GERTRUDE V. LINDENER-STAWSKI (1931 – 2020)

The Reverend Gertrude Lindener-Stawski—singer, pianist, scholar, and passionate gardener, whose interest in music led her to Unitarian Universalism and eventually to her calling to ministry—died peacefully on 12 June 2020 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, aged 89.

She was a longtime member of the Prairie Group of UU ministers (1974–2003). In retirement, she became known around Columbia, MO, as an "orchid guru."

Gertrude Vutz was born on 4 April 1931 in Racine, Wisconsin, to Wilhelm and Mathilde Vutz. After a family move, she grew up in Ohio, and at high school graduation was ranked as the top student in the state.

After earning her B.Mus. in piano at Oberlin Conservatory, OH, in 1952, she and her husband Arthur Lindener lived near Montréal, Canada, but divorced in 1961. She became active in the Lakeshore Unitarian Congregation (SE of Montréal), and eventually earned her ministerial degree from Crane Theological School (Medford, MA) in 1968.

After parish settlement at the United Church of Bethel, VT (1968–73), where she was ordained on 27 October 1968, the Rev'd Ms. Lindener moved to the First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI, as Minister of Education (1973–80). She was called to the UU Fellowship [now Church] of Columbia, MO, in 1980, but took early retirement in 1986, having met and married Conrad Stawski during her tenure there. Twenty years later the church elected her minister emerita.

That church's present minister, the Rev'd Molly Housh Gordon wrote, "Gertrude was a brilliant woman and a scholarly minister... a kind and welcoming colleague... [Her] legacies to our congregation and to Unitarian Universalism are profound."

Gertrude Lindener-Stawski is survived by daughter Margo Lindener, son Peter Lindener, and stepdaughter Nina Stawski.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are encouraged to the **Alzheimer's Foundation of America**, 322 Eighth Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Margo Lindener at 5908 Pine Hill Crescent, Halifax, NS Canada B3H 1E5 (indigomargo@gmail.com). ~JA



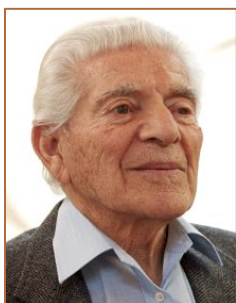
RUDOLPH C. GELSEY (1926 – 2018)

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Rudi Gelsey—Nazi refugee, thoughtful political scholar, parish minister, peacemaker, and lifelong crusader for liberty of conscience, religious diversity, and interfaith activity—died on 30 May 2018 at the age of 92.

In 56 years as a UU minister, he pursued civil rights, peace activism, environmental care, and interfaith work, with deep passion for intellectual, philosophical, and theological clarity. His belief in pluralism and openness to variety of religious expressions led him from Judaism to Catholicism and ultimately to UU ministry. Even after losing his sight in 2003, he continued to be a faithful and familiar presence at ministerial gatherings and General Assemblies.

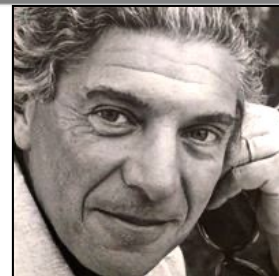
Rudolph Czuczka was born on 24 February 1926 in Vienna, Austria, to Alfred and Erika von Gelse Czuczka. His affluent Jewish family fled Nazism in 1938 when he was 12 years old. He finished high school in Switzerland, earned a degree in political science from the University of Geneva, and became an activist in European federalist movements after World War II.



In 1949, Rudi emigrated to Canada, adopting a variant of his mother's family name as being easier for English speakers. He resettled in the U.S. in 1959 and earned his B.D. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1962.

Mr. Gelsey was ordained on 1 January 1962 at the First Unitarian Church in South Bend, IN, where he served until 1964. He went on to serve a mix of called and interim ministries at Philadelphia's Universalist Church of the Restoration (1964–69), the UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester (Mount Kisco, NY, 1969–73), First UU Church of Detroit, MI (1973–1983), UU Church of Buffalo, NY (1983–84), First UU Church of Niagara, NY (1984–1990), and the UU Fellowship of the New River Valley (Blacksburg, VA, 1996–99).

At the time of his death, Rudi was survived by his children Florence Pinfield, Andy Gelsey, and Alex Gelsey, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. ~JA



GEORGE BROOKS (1922 – 2018)

The Reverend George Brooks—who combined activism in social justice and mental health with expertise in physics and astronomy and wove it all together into a career of 40 years in parish ministry—died peacefully on 18 June 2018, aged 95.

George Gordon Brooks was born on 14 December 1922 in Pleasantville, New York, to Leonard and Irene Huggins Brooks. He earned a B.A. in physics from Amherst College, MA, in 1944, an M.S. in astronomy from Mass. Inst. of Technology, MA, in 1947, and an S.T.B. from Harvard Divinity School in 1951.

After serving a student ministry at the UU Church of Danvers, MA, Mr. Brooks was ordained there on 24 June 1951. He was then settled successively at the Second Parish Unitarian Church in Saco, ME (1954–57), the Adams Memorial Unitarian Church in Dunkirk, NY (1957–61), the Lexington (KY) Unitarian Church, and in a half-time position at the UU Fellowship of Burlington, IA (1963–68).



An academic opportunity then lured him away to teach physics and astronomy at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, OH, while serving weekend ministries at two nearby congregations. He closed out his parish career with interim ministries in Chattanooga, TN, and Columbia, MO, and finally a two-year settlement at the UU Fellowship in Port Charlotte, FL, which later honored him as their minister emeritus.

Beyond the parish, Mr. Brooks took active leadership roles in a variety of district UU chapters and local community organizations, especially in the American Civil Liberties Union and in local support of human rights and mental health services.

At the time of his death, George Brooks was survived by nieces Miriam E. Coe, Katherine L. Randall, Julie Fix Graves, and Karen Fix Graves, nephews Edmund A. Jones, Carlton Parker Jones, and Leonard Brooks III, and several grand nieces, a grandnephew and a great nephew.

A memorial service was held on 2 December 2018 at the UU Fellowship of Charlotte County, FL. ~JA



ROBERT EUGENE “BOB” WILBER (1933 – 2020)**IN MEMORIAM**

Robert E Wilber, spouse of the Reverend Linda Whittenberg, died on 12 July 2020, just days after his 87th birthday. Bob was born in Texas but spent most of his youth in Indiana. Having few other children in the area, he spent a lot of time exploring by himself and learned to love the natural world. He became an avid outdoorsman.

Bob graduated from Purdue University (IN) with a degree in Forestry, then was called into the Army. He served in Germany, where he met Inge "Chris" Goerl. In 1959 she emigrated to the U.S. and they were married. Bob went to work for the Bureau of Land Management, and they had two sons as the agency stationed him in Oregon, then Washington, DC, and eventually in Wyoming. When the marriage ended in the 1970s, the boys remained with him and learned to love the outdoors, too.



After his youngest son had finished high school, Bob moved to Santa Fe, NM, then retired from his government career. He continued to be involved in environmental work, and to explore natural areas. He also enjoyed country dancing at local music venues, where he met Linda. In 1985 she received her theology degree, was ordained, and they married.

When she was called to San Luis Obispo, CA, and later to Spokane, WA, Bob took on the minister's spouse role. Besides picking up much of the domestic work, he read and critiqued her sermons and offered advice. When her active ministry ended, they returned to Santa Fe, where they soon acquired some acreage and began caring for horses and mules and dogs. They continued to explore trails in the mountains and wilderness, side by side.

Bob was a reader, keeping up with the daily news and the New Yorker magazine, and also studied poetry. He kept an open mind and would change it if warranted.

He is survived by Linda, his sons Scott and Tom and their families. Memorial gifts can be directed to the Natural Resources Defense Council. ~RR

VICTOR H. CARPENTER JR. (1929 – 2018)

The Reverend Dr. Vic Carpenter Jr.—distinguished parish minister and tireless advocate for the disadvantaged and marginalized—died on 1 June 2018, aged 88.

Throughout his ministry, Vic was always awake—in compassion, preaching, and action—to the suffering of others. In South Africa, he and spouse Cathe worked against apartheid and he was sometimes a secret courier of international messages and money for legal and social aid to apartheid victims. In the United States, the Rev'd Mr. Carpenter was active in a breathtaking number and variety of social justice causes and organizations, opposing racial, gendered, and economic discrimination, the Vietnam and Gulf Wars, the death penalty, police violence, unjust immigration restrictions, and exploitation of hotel and hospital workers.

He promoted prison reform, reproductive freedom, same sex marriage, disability rights, and full educational access. He lost track of the number of his civil disobedience arrests. In 2011 the UUA gave him the Award for Distinguished Service to the cause of Unitarian Universalism.

Victor Howard Carpenter Jr. was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on 23 October 1929 to Victor Sr. and Pauline Carpenter. After service in the U.S. Marine Corps (1951–54), including two years in Korea, he completed his undergraduate work at Boston University in 1955 with a B.A. in English, and then earned an S.T.B. in 1959 from Harvard Divinity School. In 1987, Mr. Carpenter would receive an S.T.D. *honoris causa* from Starr King School.



Mr. Carpenter was ordained on 28 September 1958 by Christ Church, Unitarian in Dorchester, MA. Parish settlements followed in Norwell, MA (1959–62), Capetown, South Africa (1962–67), Philadelphia (1968–76), Boston (Arlington Street, 1976–87), and San Francisco (1987–93). His final settlement was at the First Church in Belmont, MA, where he was elected minister emeritus on retirement in 2002.

At his death, Victor was survived by his spouse of 60+ years, Cathe, children Tyler and Melissa, grandchildren Simone and Milo, and brother John. His daughter Gracia had died earlier. ~JA





Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

c/o Patt Herdklotz
384 Clinton Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520



Check out UURMaPA on FaceBook:

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(Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers & Partners Assoc.):

<https://tinyurl.com/yyzrlam5>