



Elderberries



Peer Support Groups Thrive Among Us

By Susan V. Rak

Numerous small groups exist under the wide UURMaPA umbrella, perhaps out of sight but not out of mind and heart. They meet regularly online to build connections, deepen relationships and share resources. These small, engaging confabs have taken on increased significance over the past year, to help ward off isolation, at the least. This is the story of how they came to be and how others might join in...

When our colleague **JIM ELLER** served his second term as vice-president of UURMaPA (2013–15), he initiated a pilot program of “peer groups for newly retired UU ministers.” He and others were inspired by the book *From Aging to Sageing* (by the late Zalman Schachter-Shalomi), which suggested a then-new approach to retirement: a shift in focus from *doing* to *being*.

But cultivating an inward contemplative approach to aging is not easy. So Jim organized the first “peer group” of recently retired ministers, where participants could more easily share their adventurous adjustment to a new kind of lifestyle. This and subsequent similar groups were meant to last for a year, but some continued on, adapting to participants’ needs and interests.

The groups themselves were structured much like the “small” or “covenant” group ministries established in many congregations. Participants committed to connecting once a month, usually on Zoom. Two volunteers in each group served as conveners, who managed schedules and facilitated sessions. This initial design worked well and has also diversified as more and various other kinds of groups emerged.

Continued, page 6...



Our Precious Writings: ARCHIVED OR NOT?

JACO TEN HOVE, editor

Many of us have crafted quite a collection of articulate (maybe even timeless!) writings that perhaps linger in files and folders, awaiting further exposure to eager eyeballs.

Seminary archives are notable repositories for such documents, and **the centerfold of this issue** begins a glimpse into that curated world, with testimonials and info

Photo above from Andover-Harvard Theological Library website

on ways both to contribute our own material and to learn about other intriguing history and history-makers.

See pages 8-10...

ALSO FEATURED INSIDE THIS ELDERBERRIES:

- 3 — Online “Spring Renaissance” Conference (April 26–28)
- 3 — Latest “Intent to Retire” colleagues
- 4 — 3 Inquiries; Rainbow History Book update **DIANA MCLEAN**
- 5 — What’s Up With... **JOYCE GILBERT & JANET TILLMAN**
- 11 — What Brings You Joy? **JOHN BURCIAGA** 13–15 — Obits

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& Partners
Association**

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**President's
Message**

My Bright Abyss

I have a plan for where I'll be buried. I love the place, that particular spot on this beautiful Earth, and when I drive by the road that leads there, I wave and think, "One day I will be taken there. Not this day, but one day."

Perhaps I'm a bit too enthusiastic. I am lucky to live in a community in central Kansas with a green cemetery, Heart Land Prairie Cemetery. The land is a tree-lined field—stream on one boundary, wooded path on another, perpetual sky in all its guises. It was donated to the Land Institute, a visionary local outfit breeding perennial grains, but since it didn't fit their criteria for a research plot, they agreed to donate it to become a Green Cemetery.

Burials there support the restoration of prairie. So far they have been in a plain wooden casket, or ashes after cremation, or in simple shrouds. The graves are about three feet deep, so the burials benefit the living level of the soil.

This is one way I hope to reduce the carbon footprint of my final step. No embalming, wood, cement, polished stones. No perpetual care of a green lawn monoculture. "RIP" here stands for Rest in Perennials. Wrap me in a shroud, lay my body down, cover with oak leaves, then replace the soil. It can be done by hand, with shovels. It puts my soul at ease.

It delights me, really, my bright abyss. By the way, pick up Christian Wiman's book of meditations by that title, "My Bright Abyss." It is an elegant wrestling with Deity and Mortality and Poetry.

Yes, of course it is hard to imagine my own end, and the world going on without my being part of it. But knowing that my end will not further deplete the Earth, and will give something back, is satisfying. Being part of the ancient tradition of returning to our source is the final Ash Wednesday ritual: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Heart Land Prairie Cemetery is my Memento Mori (Latin for "remember that you must die"). *Must* is pretty strong language, as in "you *must* die." I've had ample choices throughout my life, more paths than I could follow. Perhaps as much as any woman in human history. But why bother to quantify and compare, when life has offered more than I could ever put into a single lifetime?

Somewhere, from this plenitude of options I will encounter a *must* that ends all choosing, all branching paths, all unfolding and deepening and exploring. Ironically, that point might come when I'm away from here, and can't conveniently be brought back to this beautiful place. But the Earth will take me in, one way or another.

For now, the life I experience is full and enticing and beautiful, despite the restrictions of the pandemic and what is happening in this troubled world. Those precious moments I squander, as well as the many I cherish, are all worthy of living.

— *Diane*



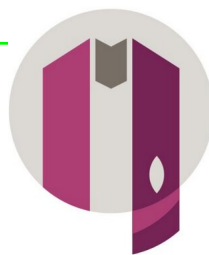
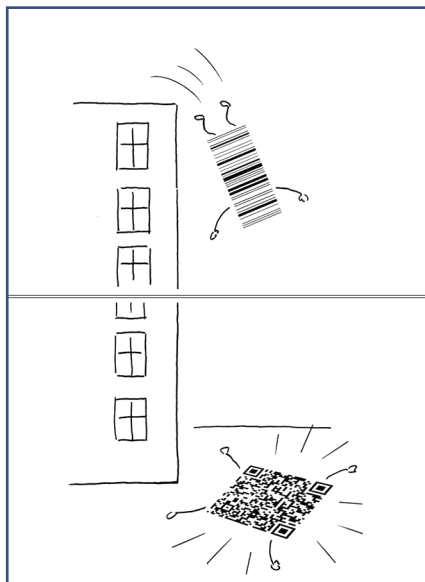
Contact info for most of the folks above can be found in the most current online Directory under **Publications** at www.uurmapa.org (password: WISDOM).

EDITOR'S NOTE TO ONLINE READERS: You'll see some lines in **bold, red type**, which indicate that they are or contain web links. I avoid standard underlining of such links, since they do not translate live into a print medium and the added line can be distracting for readers. —JTH

The Latest Newly Retired UU Clergy!

ELIZA BLANCHARD
 PAUL BOOTHBY
 RALPH T. CLARKE
 HEATHER COLLINS
 WENDY VON COURTER
 CHARLIE DIETERICH
 DEBRA FAULK
 KATHLEEN C FOWLER
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 ALEX L RICHARDSON
 KIMI RIEGEL
 MEG RILEY
 TERRANCE LEE SIMS
 LESLIE F. WOODWARD

The folks listed here have filed UUA "Intent to Retire" forms, as of Nov. 12, 2020.



UUMA Sustainability Project Launched

The UUMA Sustainability Project is a two-fold response to these challenging times. You can see more and sign up at uuma.org.

- ◆ The **Virtual Guest in the Pulpit** is a database to make connections between ministers who are looking for people to preach and provide rites of passage, and those who would like to be called upon.
- ◆ **Sustainability Funding** offers small grants for self-care and spirit tending. Funds are available to UUMA members who are impacted by COVID-19, racism and oppression, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, Trans/Non-Binary and Disabled members, members who are actively caregiving children or elders, and community ministers.



URMaPA's Springtime 2021 Conference—"Renaissance in Retirement"

Keynote theme inspiration by **FRED MUIR** — *SAVE THE DATES:*

Mon., April 26, 12:30 pm (ET) to Wed., April 28, 8:30 pm (ET)

(As with last October's online event, realistic portions of each day will be devoted to conference activities.)

Our **Zoom** gatherings will **virtually** and creatively place our program and conversations at the beloved Asilomar Conference Center on beautiful Monterey Bay, and will provide opportunities for personal, deeply caring connection and reconnection across the years and miles.

Planning committee member **DENNIS HAMILTON** led us to consider "**Renaissance in Retirement**" when he reminded us that "*we have lived long and gained wisdom in this happy faith.*"

And here we are. We already have shared so much. We have devoted years to preparing, loving, risking, searching, and accompanying one another in our UU traditions, institutions, churches and communities. Yet, the recent election and its aftermath have presented us with frightening challenges to our democracy; we suffer isolation, sorrow and the loss of so many persons—strangers, colleagues and loved ones—during this still lingering pandemic; and many of us struggle to discover renewed purpose and maintain equilibrium.

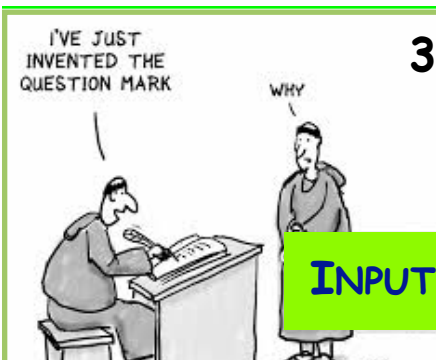
So, as we emerge from this long winter, we may feel a deep need for regeneration. We may be like seeds resting in fertile Earth, waiting for the springtime sun's warmth to lure us toward new emergence. *During this conference...*

- ◆ We will gather for worship that sustains us.
- ◆ We will remember and reflect upon the lives and contributions of those who have passed from among us.
- ◆ We will enjoy lifetime tales from colleagues sharing their personal Odysseys: **MARNI HARMONY & JIM ELLER**
- ◆ We will have opportunities to offer our own stories, and to listen while others share theirs.

More details—including online registration information—will be available through our UURMaPA-announce email list and on the UURMaPA website in coming weeks.

—Your Spring Conference Planning Team: **LYN STANGLAND CAMERON, DENNIS HAMILTON, ROGER ROCHESTER**, Board liaison **ANNE SPATOLA**

Advance Notice for our Fall '21 Conference! Save the Dates: Oct. 18–21: a virtual event AND on location in N.H.!



3 Inquiries of Elderberries Readers

INPUT REQUESTED!

For a featured piece in the next issue:

- ◆ **How has the pandemic/ COVID most affected you?**
- ◆ What are major ways in which it has altered or transformed your life or thinking?
- ◆ Have you taken up long deferred pursuits, in, say, art or music? Been vaccinated? "First Place I Plan to Visit When I Can"? Etc.

Send to elderberries@uurmapa.org - THANKS!

For a ritual anthology (incl. retirement):

UU colleagues **Allison Palm** (Nashua, NH) and **Heather Concannon** (Roslindale, MA) are assembling an anthology of rituals and would like to include one for retirement.

Do you know anyone who has one or would like to write one? Please use this link for submissions:

<https://forms.gle/3Uw7xAKJqSVTTb6L7>

For a collegial research project:

From UU colleagues **Mira Mickiewicz & Karen G. Johnston**

(Reply ASAP to Karen: kjohnston@uuma.org)

Do you have knowledge of stories about the use of "psychedelic" substances within UU settings?

In the past decade, there has been an emergence of officially sanctioned clinical trials using "psychedelics" including psilocybin ("magic mushrooms"), MDMA, ketamine, and others. These trials are exploring the efficacy in situations of intractable depression, PTSD, addiction, and even the fear of death in those who have a terminal diagnosis. Positive, promising outcomes are being reported.

We are interested in collecting histories of use (and misuse) of these substances. Depending on our findings, we hope to write up a relatively comprehensive history that will help clear the air so that our faith movement is in a position to approach the topic of psychedelics without residue of hidden history as a barrier.

We believe it is wise for religious professionals to be aware not only of these current trends, but the history of use within our Association, ripples from which may linger, creating a barrier and cause for anxiety or misplaced judgement.

UU Rainbow History BOOK UPDATE

Visit UURMaPA's **UU Rainbow History Project** website
<https://uurainbowhistory.net/>

profiling the UUA's changing understanding & welcome of LGBTQIA+ colleagues in the 50 years since Stonewall.

by **Diana McLean**, book editor

The first complete book draft is well underway.

I've received many great abstracts (and some complete essays) from potential contributors in addition to what's already on the Rainbow History website (above), and I've worked to get access to archival material at the Andover-Harvard Library.

Mary Benard (at *Skinner House Books*) and I decided to extend the timeline, even though we're pleased with our progress, and we'll talk again in March. I'm also submitting a book-related workshop proposal for this year's General Assembly.

I happily received a box of materials from Pat Sullivan at the October 2019 UURMaPA conference on this subject. It is a rich treasure trove of archival material, including all kinds of things, such as newspaper articles and political cartoons, photographs, court paperwork, a timeline, some videos, notes and cards of support, and even a t-shirt!

When I am done with the materials, I will send them on to the archives at Harvard. (See page 10.) It is an honor to be trusted with these materials, to hold pieces of history in my hands. ☆ ☆

Mira Mickiewicz, currently serving a chaplain residency at Providence Portland Medical Center in Portland, OR, is especially interested in how psychedelics may bring healing to people suffering from mental health concerns, and in being trained to facilitate psilocybin treatments under a new Oregon law.

Karen G. Johnston, currently serving The Unitarian Society in East Brunswick, NJ, is especially interested in the benefits of psilocybin in the accompaniment of those who are dying, aware that end-of-life doulas are regularly talking about the possible use of such substances by their clients.

Joyce
& Janet

...Periodic Particulars from our People...

By JOYCE T. GILBERT

Winter 2021.

Staring at screens attached to computers—or TVs—or handheld devices. Listening to music on those devices and/or radios. Maybe even singing along. But *not* singing with people standing near me, all of us following a conductor (usually an experienced professional or a graduate conducting student at the Eastman School of Music here in Rochester, NY.)—It ain't the same!!

I'm confident at least several people reading this issue of *Elderberries* are nodding their heads. Maybe we know our vocal range isn't what it was for many years. Perhaps we've sung a particular work so many times that we wish the Eastman student had chosen something else to research and demonstrate. I know I do. Then I get realistic—at least I can be helpful to the students, hoping they will earn the degrees and realize the professional dreams for which they've worked so hard and long.

And memories. I have satisfying music-connected memories: singing with the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus conducted by Robert Shaw—who was also the music director at the First Unitarian Church of Shaker Heights in those years. Many of us from the COC performed in the Festival Casals (Puerto Rico), in Carnegie Hall, and at the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations. I can almost see the venues and hear the music from those concerts. I'd love to sing that music with those musicians again.

But this is a different century and we are "doing" other things. Some of those things challenge my creativity. Some exhaust me. The politics and health issues swirling around us animate me, on many levels. I drop off donated food, circulate clever emails, phone shut-ins, write checks to helping organizations.

And here's hoping I'll be back in a good chorus — soon! In the interim, let's lift an imaginary glass of a pleasant beverage to a world we'd choose for the next generations.



Joyce at Carnegie Hall:
"National Historic Landmark"

By
JANET
TILLMAN

For the last ten months my partner, Rev. **RICHARD SPECK**, and I have stayed home in Wilmington, DE (the home of President Biden, in case you had not noticed) with our two cats, Vincent and Molly. *What have I been up to?* Some of my activities are listed below. (You might notice that housecleaning is not mentioned since it does not occur often enough to warrant listing.)

1. **Digital photos** — I organized hundreds of them and completed Shutterfly photo books of our pre-pandemic travels and visits with friends. (I should buy stock in Shutterfly.)
2. **Mah Jongg** — I played online, and discovered <https://realmahjongg.com/>, which is indeed the real game, not the matching pairs. (FYI, for any players out there, the annual subscription is \$60 and you can play with people across the world, three computers, or your friends who also subscribe.)
3. **"Lunch and Learns"** — Most days, Richard and I watch Great Courses during our lunch. We're currently watching our 7th course, *Food: A Cultural and Culinary History*. We may ultimately have additional post-pandemic degrees in history, the arts and literature!
4. **Monthly Zoom book group** — Last book read was *Before We Were Yours* (Lisa Wingate). Currently reading *How to Be An Antiracist* (Ibram X. Kendi).
5. **Zoom happy hours** with friends — a lifesaver!
6. **TV** — Murdoch Mysteries, Schitt's Creek, and The Crown, just to name a few, plus multiple Netflix movies. (We should all buy stock in Netflix.)
7. **Trying new recipes**; however, after the first four months, we had to stop baking bread and desserts.
8. **Books**, books, and more books, especially cookbooks. Did you know reading cookbooks is a real hobby?
9. **Church** — Regular attendance at virtual Sunday services, not always in my pajamas.
10. **Political action** — Wrote hundreds of post cards to people in North Carolina, Georgia and Texas to get the vote out for the general election.
11. **Yoga** — On YouTube and sometimes with my yoga class via Zoom. (Did I mention that we all should buy stock in Zoom.)
12. **Walks** — We walk cart paths on a nearby defunct golf course! Being in nature has helped keep us both relatively sane and a little trimmer. (See #7.)

Have a happy and healthy 2021!

Peer Support Groups *...continued from page 1*

The first groups were usually organized by Board members after our annual GA luncheon, when newly retired ministers were welcomed in. Other groups have been organized to suit members' needs, at their request. The Board assists in getting the news out and communicating interest, then collecting names of interested parties and selecting conveners/facilitators who survey participants about the best days and times for the new group to meet.

Meetings typically open with a brief check-in, a reading related to the announced topic for the session, an opportunity for each member to speak from their heart to the topic, a closing reading, and a brief checkout, including choice of a topic for the next session.

The current Peer Support Groups provide opportunities to find companionship, encouragement, reflection and inspiration as we navigate transitions from active service and then find our way further forward. Whether you (and your partner) have stayed in the same town as esteemed elders, or if you've settled into a new geographic area or moved to a planned living community, the need for peer connection may still be strong.

Hence, these groups. Since Jim organized that first one, groups have been created with each new "crop" of retired ministers and partners. But with GA being virtual this past summer, there was no luncheon and we missed the opportunity to collect names of interested ministers for a 2019 Peer Support Group.



- ◆ **If you have retired in the past year or so** and are interested in a group, please contact us: support-groups@uurmapa.org.
- ◆ There is also an ongoing **Caregivers Support Group** that you can join (*see a related testimonial, next page*): caregivers@uurmapa.org.
- ◆ As the shutdowns began last March, we organized a few **check-in groups** to help people get through this distressing experience. *More can be started.*
- ◆ **DUANE FICKEISEN** is interested in creating a **Grief Group**. *See his article, next page.*
- ◆ The UURMaPA Board has also suggested **peer support groups for our members who identify as BIPoC** (Black, Indigenous, People of Color):
 - BIPoC Partners*, please contact convener **GLORIA PEREZ: gjp68@me.com**.
 - BIPoC Clergy*, please contact convener **MEL HOOVER: melhoover164@gmail.com**.

If you have any other suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me! We expect to be organizing new groups during 2021. We're here for you, especially in these challenging days.

— **SUSAN VERONICA RAK**, UURMaPA Vice-President — vice-president@uurmapa.org —

Online Writers Workshop Also a Success

by ART SEVERANCE

Eight UURMaPA members (7 ministers and 1 partner) were fortunate to experience the support of a 5-session **Memoir/Short Fiction** program this past fall, led on Zoom by retired UU minister **JUDITH CAMPBELL**, who has not only taught creative writing at the college level, but is also the author of two different series of mysteries. (Her "Olympia Brown" novels feature a UU minister by that name as the protagonist, and is not only a great mystery series, it also has some great advice for interim ministers.)

The class used free-write prompts, focused in-class exercises and lots of feedback. We each had an opportunity to share our writing, which was fun and meaningful. Judy was very positive and helpful, and gave us resources to look into for further growth.

All of us who participated enjoyed the class enormously. We were particularly grateful for the ways Judy made her experience relevant to our own work. And we learned a lot from each other's different styles and insights. I found myself inspired to continue writing after the course was done, and promptly signed up for the next one offered.

It's possible more classes will become available. If interested, contact either Judith at jrevdocmom@comcast.net or convener **BARBARA W. TEN HOVE** at revbabs10@gmail.com.

Caregiving and Caregivers

by JANE DWINELL



My spouse, Sky, was diagnosed with dementia (“probable early Alzheimer’s”) in 2016 at age 66. For ten years up until that point, we had lived an odd and itinerant life after he retired from his family mediation practice. We traveled, did volunteer work, and I managed to keep working part time as a small congregation consultant. We loved our adventuresome life.

With the diagnosis we realized we needed to settle down. We purchased a duplex and Sky wanted to talk to others about living with dementia, so we began a blog (alzheimerscanyon.blogspot.com) and went on the road over the course of a year, doing our sermon and workshop, “Living with Dementia,” at 25 congregations across the country. By the time we got to the last presentation, it was clear that Sky could no longer participate.

I figured I would always be able to care for him at home, with the support of our kids and a couple of friends. (Prior to going into the ministry, I had been a Registered Nurse with experience caring for people with dementia as well as in hospice.) *How wrong I was!*

Enter UURMaPA Caregiver’s Support Group. I joined over two years ago, and the monthly Zoom check-ins became a lifesaver for me. Even though I had supportive family and friends, no one knew what I was really going through. To be able to speak my heart once a month with others who were caring for a loved one was a gift. Because we were all ministers (or have been hanging around with ministers), we understood the importance of active listening, not interrupting or giving advice, and just being fully present.

When I had to make the heart-wrenching decision to place Sky in a memory care facility, the group was there to support me. Even though my “care” for Sky is no longer hands-on, but more about coordinating with his team, the UURMaPA Caregiver’s Support Group is still there for me, and for that I am forever grateful. ☆ ☆



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP?

by DUANE FICKEISEN

There have been many deaths among us in these last few months, and staying safe during the pandemic has meant a loss of many of the ways we might be together to express and process our grief as survivors.

Streaming memorial services have meant that many could participate who might not have otherwise, even without COVID restrictions on travel and gathering. Yet grieving continues after the benedictions, particularly for those of us who have lost a partner. I miss opportunities for personal contact, ways to express my loss, memories of my life partner, my hopes and joys, and my emerging “what now?” aspirations.

Having gotten so much value from the UURMaPA Caregiver Support Group (described nearby), **I would like to explore starting a covenanted support group for UURMaPA members who are actively grieving** the loss of a partner or other close family member. I imagine meeting once a month by Zoom for up to 90 minutes for check in and mutual support in a virtual space that feels safe for memories, tears, concerns and worries, as well as for joys and celebrations. It won’t be to fix the grief (for that would not be possible nor likely desired), but to bear witness and to accompany each other on this journey.

If you have interest in participating, please contact me at dfickeisen@uuma.org. We will look for a date and time to hold a first gathering that works for all who respond. ☆ ☆

“To Voice the Stirrings of My Heart & Spirit”

By SUE REDFERN-CAMPBELL

A few weeks into the pandemic, the UURMaPA Zoom Support Group to which I belong met for the first time. With Judy Welles leading, our all-female group of retired colleagues represented seven states and four time zones.

We quickly developed a pattern for our weekly gatherings, rotating facilitation. After a chalice lighting, we devoted the first half of each meeting to checking in, and the second half to focused reflection on a text chosen by the facilitator, such as a poem, brief prose passage, or even a work of art. These reflections often touched on current events, but our January 6 conversation on “evil” was perhaps timelier than we’d imagined; the insurrection at the US Capitol was unfolding even before we’d extinguished our chalice.

Judy Welles was part of our group for half a year, and met with us faithfully until less than a week before she died. Her courageous sharing during those six months had a profound effect on the rest of us, opening us to deeper sharing. As one of us puts it, Judy’s participation “gave us a heightened sense of purpose... This is much more than an informal group that gets together to chat. We have tended to each other through other important things going on in our lives.”

Perhaps that’s why our group is still meeting (with some changes in membership), even though our initial commitment was for only five weeks. In the words of another group member, “our time together gives me an opportunity to voice the stirrings of my heart and spirit.” It has sustained us through this challenging time in history. ☆ ☆

Archiving Testimonial!

By WAYNE ARNASON

Over the years, my experience of colleagues making decisions about what to do with their own archives usually came in the form of self-published sermon collections, or posts in UUMA media asking if anyone wants their books! It comes as a shock when you arrive at the time of reckoning with your own material and suspect nobody but you would like to publish (or read) your work.

Moving four times in five years was finally the incentive to deal with the 15 boxes of papers I had lugged around through three of the four moves. Not only was I unable physically to get them into the small attic in our newest (and hopefully final) home, but my spouse was strategically unwilling to help me. “Now is the time,” she said. “It’s deal with these boxes, or they’re going into the recycling dumpster!”

So I dealt with them, but not as well as I’d thought I might. In my imagination, I envisioned sorting through all the sermons, re-reading them and panning out some of the nuggets of gold to donate to the library and archives at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Good luck with that! It’s a sobering experience reading your old sermons and realizing how specific they are to moments in time and history of the church and the larger culture. Soon I realized that the moving truck would arrive and the boxes would have to be piled up in a bedroom.

I had contacted the MLTS Director of Library and Archives, John Leeker, to make sure he would be interested in receiving anything I could send him. I was grateful to find him so receptive, but I had to say—*Help! If I have to put these files in a storage unit, I’m sure I’ll never have another burst of energy to devote to them. Can I just pack up the paper sermon boxes and send them to you??* And John said – *Yes!* He said Yes, despite the fact that this was in the middle of covid summer and he wasn’t able to work in the archives at the time. So a quick trip to UPS and \$150 of shipping costs was all it took, and the donation was made.

Reflecting later on why he would be so receptive, I considered the fact that the archivist may not have any better idea than you or me what aspects of a minister’s life and career might be of interest or use to future scholars. The sermon about a social issue that seemed obscure at the time could be valuable to understand how that issue emerged into broader public consciousness. A scholar’s interest in some part of your identity or geographic location or congregation that is documented in your writings or papers might catch you by surprise. Archivists will never know just how much gold is in the motherlode of ore a minister sends in those boxes. So, they will say Yes, more than they will say No.

What I’m working on now is my digital archives. Insofar as I have machines that can accept and edit the digital files I have from years in various denominational leadership positions, I have the same ambitions for these that I had for the sermons.



Possibly, I will do a more thorough job of sorting through what I think would be worth preserving amidst the thousands of pages of electronic correspondence and reports. I recently found a CD of files from 2001–05 that I didn’t know existed!

If I can get this job done, I’m sure John Leeker will be much happier to receive a manilla envelope from me with a few CDs or floppy disks in the mail as opposed to the first five boxes that arrived via UPS. ☆ ☆



Meadville Lombard Archives — A Partial List (from over 100) of Personal Papers (2 or more boxes)

- Jenkin Lloyd Jones (78)
- A. Powell Davies (29)
- Vincent Silliman (27)
- Forrest Church (23)
- Laurel Hallman (22)
- Marjorie Newlin Leaming (13)
- Roy Jones (12)
- Mark Morrison-Reed (12)
- William Ellery Channing (10)
- Kenneth Patton (10)
- Marilyn Sewell (8)
- James Luther Adams (6)
- Henry Whitney Bellows (6)
- Frank Schulman (6)
- Bill Schultz (6)
- Neil Gerdes (5)
- H.B. Schofield (5)
- Max Gaebler (4)
- Michelle Bentley (4)
- Betty Jo Middleton (4)
- Roberta Nelson (4)
- David MacPherson (3)
- Spencer Lavan (3)
- Lewis McGee (3)
- David Eaton (3)
- Qiyamah Rahman (3)
- Peg Gooding (3)
- Carolyn Owen-Towle (3)
- Denise T. Davidoff (3)
- Bill Murry (3)
- Henry Ware Jr. (2)
- Sophia Fahs (2)
- Dorothy T. Spoerl (2)
- Gene Navias (2)
- Alice Blair Wesley (2)
- Barbara Wells ten Hove (2)

Notes from Sarah Levine MLTS Project Archivist



For info about archives at
Andover-Harvard & Starr King
see the next page (10)...

A lot of my work involves digitization of archival collections, and regardless of the subject of the records I am working with, I usually make a connection with at least one object that stands out and sticks with me. For example, we had a very large acquisition from the Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York—over 100 linear feet!

This donation included material documenting the *New York League of Unitarian Women*, especially in two large scrapbooks. Flipping through these scrapbooks let me (and researchers who can access them online now) peek into what was important to Unitarian women in New York in the late 19th and early 20th centuries based on the topics that were covered in these meetings. (And to see what they ate! The menu cards were especially fun to read.)

We are most interested in material donations that speak to the lived experience of communities within UUism that have been historically underserved or underrepresented in the archives. This includes, but is not limited to, the communities and identities that comprise our six foundational **Special Collections** (see logos, below left).

Specifically, in conjunction with Meadville Lombard alumna Qiyamah Rahman's forthcoming anthology, *The Presence of Black Clergywomen in Unitarian Universalism*, we are seeking sermons written and delivered by clergy or laypeople who identify as UU and women, womanx, trans and/or female from marginalized communities of color, to add to the **Sankofa UUs of Color Special Collection**. ☆ ☆



<https://meadville.libguides.com/archives/specialcollections>



<https://www.meadville.edu/library-and-archives/archives/>

Donating Archival Material

John Leeker, Director of Library & Archives

Our acquisitions policy both looks into the past and thinks about the future of UUism.

We are looking to collect:

- ◆ *Papers of individuals and families*
- ◆ *Accumulation of historical material pertaining to a single event, theme, or movement*
- ◆ *Historically and culturally significant manuscripts and artifacts*

If you are interested in donating materials, please contact an archivist: archives@meadville.edu.

Heresies By CAROLYN OWEN-TOWLE

It began with a gift to Meadville Lombard of the “tablecloth”—the lone monument, I believe, to UU women clergy of the 20th century. As President of Ministerial Sisterhood UU, I created this cloth in 1980, carrying it each year to General Assembly, where newly ordained ministers were invited to sign it.

I would then bring it back to San Diego, where in tribute to their clergy sisters, our laywomen would colorfully embroider the imprinted names. It became a work of art, with signatures of 259 clergy women, woven by 38 laywomen, between the years of 1980 to 2002.

I was asked to come speak to the students at Meadville Lombard about the history of the cloth in the context of the rise of feminism and

concomitant ascent of female clergy in the UUA. While there, I spent time with archivist John Leeker.

Graciously, he showed me file after file of fully archived histories of clergymen. We then spoke of women, and the need for their representation, especially as women had surged in swiftly growing numbers since the 1970s to comprise over half the ministerial leadership of our UUA.

John and I decided to create a name and then encourage women to send their files to the new, now appropriately named archive, “*Heresies*”—in tribute to our heritage of being choice-makers. *Heresies* would also include women religious educators and female leaders in the movement.

As chair of the new *Heresies* archive, I am gradually inviting women to participate, by sending whatever personal and ministerial information they deem appropriate.

It has been both an honor and challenge for me. Personally, I have sent sermons, ministerial musings, work on various UU committees and local community boards, some pictures, information concerning my run in 1991 for UUA President, two books I wrote, and documents from around the denomination.

I am deeply gratified to be part of something that will truly awaken, inform, and celebrate UU women who have contributed profoundly to our beloved movement.

If you are interested in donating to *Heresies*, contact me at: uucarolyn@cox.net. ☆ ☆



NOTES FROM Meg Richardson

(She/Her/Hers)

Assoc. Dean of the Faculty
Assoc. Prof. of UU History

mrichardson@sksm.edu
510-430-3246 www.sksm.edu

Many of the materials from Starr King's archives are in the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) Library in Berkeley; some, like Thomas Starr King's letters, are on "permanent loan" there.

Personal papers might be donated to the GTU and added to their archives. Check with their archivist, Colyn Wohlmutter (She/Her/Hers): cwohlmutter@gtu.edu or 510-649-2509.

The GTU has **Starhawk's** archives, for example, and may have interest in other personal papers.

Meanwhile, you may know that Starr King has recently moved from Berkeley to a beautiful space on the Oakland campus of Mills College (an undergraduate college for women and gender non-binary students with graduate programs for students of all genders). This move was complicated by the global pandemic so our acclaimed Rare Books Collection is currently in special climate-controlled storage nearby.

One of the attractive opportunities arising from this move is the possibility of creating an excellent, accessible home for **Earl Morse Wilbur's** collection.

But most of us haven't been able to get into the building, even to unpack; only six members of staff have been cleared by Mills to go on campus with rigorous protocols because of the virus.

So as much as we appreciate the generosity of alumni and friends, we really can't accept any donations right now. ☆



NOTES
FROM

Maureen Jennings

Assoc. Librarian for Collection Management 617-998-1424

specialcollections@hds.harvard.edu
<https://library.hds.harvard.edu/collections>

Harvard's ties to UUism run deep and wide, and we're always interested in building up collections for underrepresented groups (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women).

Many people underestimate the value (and volume, in some cases!) of their personal papers. For instance, while preparing to sell her house, one donor originally contacted us about contributing "a few boxes." Four rounds of discussion and 41 boxes later, we are thrilled to be able to preserve the comprehensive record of her important life's work.

Another interesting acquisition was the **Carlton Pearson** collections, which involved two trips to Tulsa, OK, in order to ensure the transfer of over 700 boxes (!) of material. As most of the material was audiovisual, we had to secure a climate-controlled truck to transfer the collection to Harvard.

Also, an important message we try to get across is that our Library is a resource for everyone in the UU community. The counterpart to preserving these great collections is helping connect people to them! Feel free to reach out to us with any questions about finding, using, or donating material.

Clergy Papers— Materials that we collect:

- Biographical information; Diaries
- Orders of service
- Sermons, addresses, presentations, etc.
- Oral history interviews (typescript or recording)
- Correspondence which documents the ministry of the individual
- Correspondence and other documents relating to prof. organizations with which the minister has been involved
- One copy of reprints or published articles written by the minister
- Photographs and other AV materials of the individual and the church where the minister served.
- News clippings, articles, etc., specifically about the minister. ☆



WHAT BRINGS
YOU JOY?

ACTIVISM IS NEVER DEAD

By JOHN BURCIAGA, Newburyport, MA

Ministry began for me in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and morphed early from sole emphasis on pastoring and preaching to social justice when the ugly specter of racism invaded my first settlement and I resigned my Baptist church when a pulpit exchange with a Black clergyman was cancelled. I was assaulted on streets and in the local post office, and threats were made to burn the church.

My subsequent discovery of UU made possible a formidable Justice component to my calling and soon I was a Civil Rights leader as vice president and Housing Chair for a Pennsylvania Branch of the NAACP. This led to no few harrowing experiences not to be related here, but my activism continued, including immigration and gay rights, throughout a 10-year ministry in Atlanta and 20 years in Florida.

Briefer settlements and interim service in the Washington, DC, area, Arizona and New England preceded my retirement after 55+ years of ministry. Thankfully, exceptional health and vitality have made possible further activity in defense of minorities and other victims of society. Along the way I also gained what I've called a "companion" career in journalism, serving as managing/senior editor of a newspaper in Atlanta and Tampa Bay, and writing columns on a broad range of topics.

During my years in retirement, and in the past dozen years I've written Op-Ed columns for a North Shore Boston daily and recently my 350th piece was published, with a byline for "Politics, Popular Culture and Social Issues." Many of these are tweaked for inclusion in my blog, "Ichabod's Kin" which has enjoyed readers in up to 52 countries, but mostly in the USA.

Having a broad audience gives greater range to my passion for justice and has borne fruit in substantial ways. For instance, a local election once threatened the cherished non-partisan makeup of the city council when a candidate attempted to use his hoped-for election to build his political party's presence in the community and to advocate for right-wing policies. Fortunately I found his website of intentions before he removed them from public sight, and revealed them in a pre-election column, leading to his rejection at the polls.

Another columnist in the same paper happened also to be a teacher in a more distant community, and unbeknownst to it, had penned a series of pieces critical of immigration in terms made familiar by the former US president. I responded with specific exception to each of his columns, sent copies of his and mine, with a cover letter to the principal, superintendent and School Committee of that more distant community, which has a large immigrant population, leading to his ouster in short time.

I had learned long ago that evil may often be out of sight but is always there, and it is persistent and as determined in its efforts as are we in ours to eradicate it. More recent years have seen just how pernicious it is.

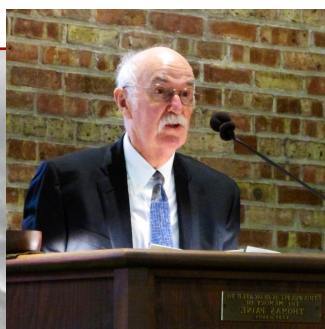
Being in retirement does not mean the heart of our work is done. As long as we are blessed with the means and opportunity to join the fray, we can be "in the mix" for justice.

And that brings me joy! ☆ ☆



"Why Not Me?: Finessing Life's Slings and Arrows"

by DONALD H. WHEAT



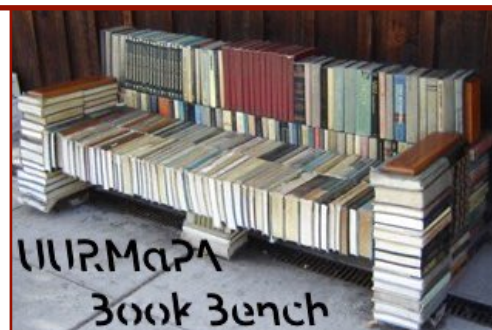
Andrew A. Wheat, Ed.; William F. Schulz, Foreword
(Paperback, September 2020)

The 40 short essays in *Why Not Me?* show how to live a fulfilling, meaningful life in a universe that wasn't designed to ensure human happiness. A common response to tragedy is, "Why me?" Ironically, those who grasp how unfairness and misfortune are inevitable parts of life often experience more gratitude and happiness for the many good things that do come their way. In clear, accessible words, **DONALD WHEAT** unfolds his humanist philosophy.

The best revenge for an often-unfair life is to live fully and courageously, nurturing others and promoting justice. "If no one is looking after us," Wheat concludes, "then we must look after each other. We have resolved to be more just and more loving than what has been given to us."

DONALD WHEAT graduated from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1958.

After serving a couple of Christian Churches, Don found his philosophical home at Third Unitarian Church of Chicago, where he served from 1969–96 (apart from brief stints at First Unitarian of Albany, NY, and heading a Chicago-area community center). He retired to South Haven, MI, in 2015. Third Church's annual Wheat Lecture is named for its minister emeritus.



Why Not Me?
FINESSING LIFE'S SLINGS AND ARROWS
Rev. Donald H. Wheat



DEAR FRIENDS, I am grateful for your generosity toward UURMaPA these past months. **We've received \$22,669 thus far (as of Dec. 31).** This has allowed us to reduce the gap between what we've spent and our income, and now we can aim at a balanced budget for the new fiscal year.

I have been touched by the many notes that were included in your letters. Here are just a few of the comments:

- ◆ "Lack of travel and restaurant meals in the pandemic has saved us some money. Thanks for letting us know UURMaPA is in need right now."
- ◆ "I am sorry I did not contribute in the past two years but my health limited my activities. Hope this will make up for the time lost."
- ◆ "Just finished participating in our virtual conference—excellent & amazing!"
- ◆ "I really appreciate UURMaPA, and particularly **Elderberries.**"
- ◆ "Thank you for the work you do each year, and especially your dedication to UU Rainbow History project/documentation within UUism."

The UURMaPA board has adopted a 2021 budget that we hope will not demand any drastic actions in reducing programming and is based on conservative estimates. If you are as generous in 2021 as you have been in 2020, we will be fine. Thank you again for your donations to our organization. Without you, we couldn't offer the connections and programs that you want.

A final note, should you wish to benefit UURMaPA in your will or other estate planning, let us know how we can assist you in that matter. I look forward to when we can meet in person again.

Yours in the Faith, **RICHARD SPECK** — treasurer@uurmapa.org

Sardonic Quotes on **MONEY**

from *The Curmudgeon* (compiled by Jon Winokur)

- Money won't buy you happiness, but it will pay the salaries of a large research staff to study the problem. —**Bill Vaughn**
- That money talks I'll not deny.
I heard it once. It said, "Goodbye." —**Richard Armour**
- Money isn't everything, but it ranks right up there with oxygen. —**Rita Davenport**
- It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, as long as you've got money. —**Joe E. Lewis**
- All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy. —**Spike Milligan**
- Money is something you have to make in case you don't die. —**Max Asnas**
- Money doesn't make you happy. I now have \$50 million, but I was just as happy when I had \$48 million. —**A. Schwarzenegger**



From the UUA OFFICE of CHURCH STAFF FINANCES

On reporting 2020 income:

If you made withdrawals from the **UU Retirement Plan** last year, you will receive a Form 1099-R from TIAA. (A tax MEMO from Andrew McGeorge, UUA Treasurer & CFO, was emailed Jan. 21; snail-mailed by Jan. 29.)

To reach TIAA directly with any question regarding form 1099-R or to update your mailing address or email in their system, please call **800-842-2829**. If you did not receive the UUA tax MEMO, email lrose@uua.org.

With you across the distance,

Linda Rose :: she/her/hers
Retirement Plan Director
617-948-4265

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) for careful researching and composing of obituaries for ministers. **ROGER ROCHESTER** (~RR) does a similarly fine job for partners.

IN MEMORIAM



RICHARD HENRY (1921 – 2018)

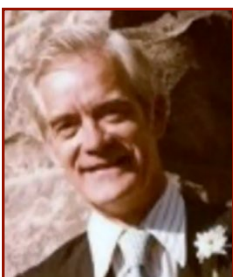
The Reverend Dr. Richard Henry—parish minister, scholar of Czech Unitarianism, avid sailor and mountain climber, and vigorous social activist—died in Seattle on 6 August 2018, aged 97.

In retirement, Dick traveled to Prague six times for research in the Čapek archive at the Unitarian church, eventually publishing *Norbert Fabián Čapek: A Spiritual Journey* (Skinner House Press, 1999), the first book-length biography of that liberal religious martyr. His second book was *Eleanor Roosevelt and Adlai Stevenson* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).

Besides scholarship, the Rev'd Mr. Henry was actively engaged throughout his parish career in social service causes, including Planned Parenthood and the Clergy Council on Abortion. He was an active leader in mental health issues and was twice a delegate to international mental health congresses in London and Toronto. In Denver, CO, he was the founding president of the Good Death Fellowship, promoting death with dignity.

Richard Henry was born on 5 February 1921 in Boston to Richard Henry and Dorothy Miller. He earned an A.B. in philosophy at Harvard University in 1943 and a B.D. at Union Theological Seminary (NY) in 1946. Mr. Henry was ordained on 17 February 1946 by the First Unitarian Society of Brooklyn, NY, where he served as assistant minister (1945–49) under the Rev'd John Howland Lathrop. He moved on to senior ministries at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church (Knoxville, 1949–57), the First Unitarian Society of Denver (1957–77), and the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City (1977–86), from which he retired on 1 August 1986 as Emeritus Minister, having meanwhile, in 1979, been awarded a D.D. by Meadville Lombard Theological School.

At his death, Dick Henry was survived by his wife Pat, and his sons Seth and Evan. A Celebration of Life was held on 15 September 2018, at Horizon House, Seattle, WA. ~JA



Dick Henry in Knoxville



EVA A. MORIN (1914 – 2020)

Eva A. Morin, widow of the Reverend Roland E Morin, died 3 December 2020 at her home in Keene, NH. Eva was born in Carlisle, Massachusetts, on May 19, 1914, to Romey and Rose (Fadden) Clark. She married Roland E. Morin in 1936 and moved to Hudson, MA, where they raised their two children, Paul E. Morin and Suzanne I. Morin.

In 1959 Eva and Roland moved to Laconia, NH, where Roland was ordained and installed as the minister of the First Unitarian Society. In 1963 they moved to Chelmsford, MA, where Roland served as the minister of the UU church. Eva was involved in church and community affairs, acting in a local production of "The Pirates of Penzance." They lived in Chelmsford until their retirement in 1979. In retirement they moved to Campton, NH, where they enjoyed the beauty of the White Mountains.



Upon her husband's death in 1984, Eva moved to be closer to family. She lived Nashua, NH, Maynard, MA, Stow, MA, and finally Keene, NH. She enjoyed reading, painting with watercolors, gardening, her family, and friends of all ages.

She is survived by son Paul Morin and his wife Margaret of Tinmouth, VT, and daughter Suzanne Morin and her husband Joseph Staples of Keene, NH, plus six grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and seven great great grandchildren. Due to the pandemic there will be a memorial service later in 2021.

The family asks that contributions be made in Eva's memory to the Monadnock Humane Society, 101 West Swanzezy Road, Swanzezy, NH 03446 or to Keene Community Kitchen, 37 Mechanic St, Keene, NH 03431. Condolences may be sent to Suzanne Morin, 60 Skyline Drive, Keene, NH 03431 and/or Paul Morin, 493 East Road, Tinmouth, VT 05773. ~RR





Bob West in Knoxville

ROBERT N. WEST (1929 – 2017)

IN MEMORIAM

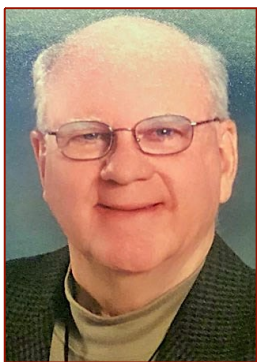
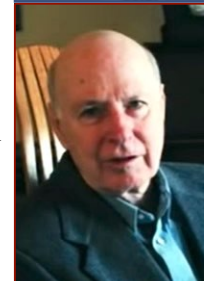
The Reverend Dr. Bob West—parish minister whose career was unforgettably defined by his presidency of the UUA (1969–77)—died on 27 September 2017, aged 88.

Mr. West's UUA presidency began at a time of great turmoil, with deep division over Black empowerment and the Vietnam War, and the UUA facing imminent bankruptcy. Though he faced painful and often resented decisions, Mr. West succeeded in eliminating the UUA's debt within four years. "His conduct under fire was often heroic," recalled the Rev'd Dr. John Buehrens, "but largely thankless." Yet, he oversaw the development of the UUA's ground-breaking sexuality program, created the Office of Gay Concerns, and, most boldly, supported Beacon Press's publication of the *Pentagon Papers*.

Robert Nelson West was born on 28 January 1929 in Lynchburg, Virginia, to Samuel Washington West and Mary Evelyn Wells West. He served in the U.S. Navy (1946–48) and then was graduated from Lynchburg College in 1950 with a B.A. in English—originally hoping to become a poet. But heeding a call to ministry, Bob earned his M.Div. from Starr King School in 1957. Later he would twice receive a D.D.—one from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1970 and another from his undergraduate alma mater, Lynchburg College, VA, in 2013.

Mr. West was ordained on 21 October 1957 by the Tennessee Valley Unitarian (now UU) Church in Knoxville, TN, serving there for six years, followed by another settlement (1963–69) at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY. Then at the 1969 General Assembly, from a contentious field of seven candidates, the Rev'd Mr. West was elected the 2nd president of the UUA. After his presidency, he left ministry for the fields of finance and law. He was later seen as an "unsung hero" and in 2004 received the UUA's Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of UUism.

At his death, Bob West was survived by children Robert Jr., Charles, Thomas, and Mary Catherine, grandchildren Lila, George, Lily and Oliver, great grandchild Phoebe, and sister Rilla Krebbs. His wife of 65 years, Nancy, had died the previous year. A memorial service was scheduled for 11 November 2017 at the First Church in Boston. ~JA



WILLIAM J. GNAGEY (1927 – 2020)

Dr. William J. Gnagey, spouse of the Reverend Dr. Ruth Jacquot Gnagey, died peacefully on 14 November 2020 at his home in Normal, Illinois, with loved ones.

Bill was born on 16 August 1927 in Milledgeville, Illinois, the son of Leelo and Virginia Gnagey. He was educated at Manchester College, IN, and Wayne State University (Detroit, MI), where he received his B.S., M.Ed., and Ph.D. in Psychology. He taught in the public schools of Detroit for four years. At the same time, he was ordained by the Church of the Brethren and was Associate Pastor of the Church of the Brethren of Detroit.

In 1953, Bill began a career as a professor of Psychology, eventually at Illinois State University where he remained for 38 years. At Illinois State he also served as Director of Educational Research and Assistant Dean of the Graduate School. He received many honors at ISU and loved being an educator. He retired as Emeritus Professor in 1999.

He was an active member of the UU Church of Bloomington-Normal (IL) from 1961, serving as Board President for two years and in many other capacities. His sense of humor was refreshing, and he kept it to the end of his life.

Bill married Marilyn Macey in 1948, but she died in 1973. He married the Rev. Dr. Ruth Jacquot on 19 May 2003, and they spent many years sharing ministry during the winter months at UU churches in Texas.

Besides Ruth, he is survived by three of his children: Leslie Roberts, of Bloomington, IL; Timothy Gnagey (Vickie) of Leroy, IL; and Jeffery Gnagey (Janice) of Northfield, MI; two step-children: Bruce Praul (Kelly) of Sunbury, OH, and Kyle McCullough of Apopka, FL; seven grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

A virtual memorial service will be scheduled by the UU Church of Bloomington-Normal at a later date. For service updates or to send condolences online, please visit www.carmodyflynn.com. ~RR





ALAN G. DEALE (1927 – 2018)

The Reverend Dr. Alan Deale—distinguished preacher, church builder, strong institutionalist, social justice activist, and fighter for death with dignity—died on 29 January 2018, aged 90.

A veteran of the 1965 Selma Marches, Alan Deale was also instrumental in the Oregon Right to Die Society, whose success in reforming the state's laws carried a personal meaning for him when he was able to help both his second and third wives, the Rev. Marguerite Hessler-Deale and Dr. Leola Lorenzen, fulfill their wishes to die at home.

Alan Glengyle Deale was born on 7 August 1927 in Hanover, New Hampshire, to the Rev. Jessie Deale and the Rev. D. G. Deale. Serving in both the U.S. Navy and Air Force (1945–50), Alan earned a B.A. in English from the University of New Hampshire in 1950, followed by an S.T.B and S.T.M. from Harvard Divinity School in 1953 and 1954. He served a brief ministry at First Parish Unitarian of Hubbardston, MA, where he was ordained on 29 May 1953, with Frederick May Eliot preaching. His parents, both ministers themselves, also participated in the service. Leaving the Hubbardston church in 1954, he spent a year of study at Oxford.

Back in the U.S., the Rev'd Mr. Deale accepted calls to the UU Society of Fairhaven, MA (1953–58), the UU Church in Rockford, IL (1958–70), and the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR (1970–91), the latter naming him minister emeritus. The Rockford congregation remembers his “pithy, lively sense of humor which raised a few hackles...balanced by a capacity for compassion for the human condition.” In 1979 he received a D.D. *honoris causa* from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

At his death, Alan was survived by his wife Kathleen Hunter, three children, three stepchildren, and nine grandchildren. A memorial service was held on 24 February 2018 at the UU Church in Rockford, IL, and a month later at the Portland UU Church on 24 March. ~JA



IN MEMORIAM



Senior at St Olaf's College

KAY A. JORGENSEN (1932 – 2018)

The Reverend Dr. Kay Jorgensen—beloved and dedicated community minister, professional street & theater performance artist—died peacefully on 15 January 2018 in Berkeley, CA, aged 86.

Walking through San Francisco's Tenderloin district, Kay was led, at age 66, to her deepest and truest calling. With Carmen Barsody, OSF, she founded the Faithful Fools (www.faithfulfools.org), inviting thousands of others to make “street retreats,” walking through the neighborhood, open to the homeless and marginalized people they encountered.

Kathryn Alice Johnson was born on 9 January 1932 in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Detlof Emanuel Johnson and Alice Otilia Palmquist Johnson. She earned a B.A. in 1953 from St. Olaf's College (Northfield, MN). Turned down as a woman for Lutheran ministry, she married Ronald Leland Jorgensen, a medical student, in 1955 and they had three children.

After a divorce in 1974, Kay moved to Minneapolis, discovered the First Unitarian Society there, and plunged more deeply into mime and theater. This led her to California for further work and study in mime and clowning. But by the 1980s she once again felt the pull of ministry, now as a UU, and received her M.Div. from Starr King School in 1987.

Ms. Jorgensen was ordained on 16 October 1988 by the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis shortly after beginning extension ministry (1988–93) to the nearby Northwest UU congregation. By 1996 she had returned to California, later secured ministerial affiliation with the San Francisco UU Society, and in 1998 began the Faithful Fools ministry for which Starr King School awarded her an S.T.D. *honoris causa* in 2004. In 2010 Kay was named minister emerita by her church and in 2015 she received the Patti Lawrence Distinguished Service Award from the UUA's Pacific Central District.



At her death, Kay was survived by her children Andrea, Joel, and Erik, and her *Faithful Fools* co-founder and partner in ministry, Carmen Barsody. A memorial service, complete with clown noses, was held on 11 March 2018 at the First UU Society of San Francisco. ~JA





Unitarian Universalist

Retired Ministers and Partners Association

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



Check out UURMaPA on FaceBook:



Like our page: www.facebook.com/UURMaPa/

Join our **UURMaPA** discussion group:
(Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers & Partners Assoc.):

<https://tinyurl.com/yyzrlam5>