

Ilderherries

February 28 – March 2, 2022

Winter

Conference

Panelists

Volume 38 Number 2 **SPRING, 2022**

www.UURMaPA.org has a full-color version!

ALSO FEATURED INSIDE THIS ELDERBERRIES:

The Return of UURMaPA's Annual

Luncheon Onsite at General Assembly • 3

NEXT Virtual Conference: FALL

with regional onsite PODs! • 4

TOM OWEN-TOWLE'S Latest Book • 5

More Leadership Transitions, Bios • 6,7

UURMaPA Covenant Chats • 6

Two *Odes to Spring* • 9

What Brings U Joy – R. SMURZYNSKI • 10

What's Up With D. WEISSBARD & K. WELLS • 11

SoulCollagers Unite! • 12

Obituaries • 13-15



By ANNE HINES AND ANNE SPATOLA

It's been a couple months now since around 125 of us gathered virtually for our 2022 Winter Conference. yet we may still find ourselves reflecting with gratitude on some of the stories shared.

Instead of one keynote speaker, we listened to a panel of three ministers and one partner share their thoughts about retirement and its impact, as in how they might now be "perking up or packing it in." As **BARRY** FINKELSTEIN, CAROLYN PRICE, DAVID HUBNER and LAUREL HALLMAN (see photos below) offered their different perspectives, those of us listening were able to think about our own retirement experiences, which we were then invited to share the next day in small groups.

HOLLY HORN and BENJAMIN

MAUCERE graced us with a Service of Remembrance, gently honoring the lives of colleagues who had died since our Fall event.

We were inspired by two Odvssevs. JUDY GIBSON revealed a life of service including 15 years of activism in the south during the Civil Rights movement. She advanced the UUA's Sharing in Growth program in small southern churches as well as for modern integrated schools in Jackson, MS.



Continued, on page 8..



BARRY FINKELSTEIN



CAROLYN PRICE





LAUREL HALLMAN

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Contact info for most of the folks above can be found on the UURMaPA website

www.uurmapa.org under Governance.

(Directory password is WISDOM.)



Adieu from This Perch

My 2-term stay in the crafty, drafty nest of *Elderberries* ends with this issue and I happily pass the editor's branch to **Ann SCHRANZ** to wing into the future with this periodical that portrays just some of the intriguing dynamics of our flourishing Association (sometimes called "Yer Ma and Pa").

Fully half of my time at this lofty height was during the dang pandemic and I'll freely admit that one of my biggest challenges was compensating for the absence of candid and action photos that would emerge from our in-person conferences. Zoom shots get old, methinks.

But take heart! With the advent of some regional "pods" to orbit around our upcoming fall hybrid conference (see page 4) there may well be a new outlet for the snapping of happy retirees gathering together. Huzzah to that!

Over these four years I've found a heartening rhythm to the demands of this quarterly publication, as I also settled into numerous home-based routines that themselves compensate somewhat for my lower activity level in a constrained culture. Perhaps you know what I mean. For a while now, much of all I do outside our cohousing community is head over to the Bellingham UU congregation for choir rehearsals and services. I'm beginning to add more to that just lately, finally.

Like many others, I've missed the hubbub of wider engagements, but I also appreciate the reduced pace, and I am well aware of my inclination toward routines that could possibly become ruts, don't you know. So I reflect on the difference between rhythms and ruts, and find that the former feed me while the latter can become a dulling, if practical drain.

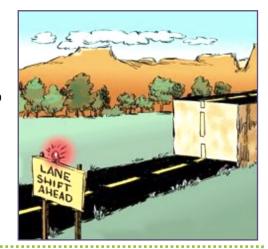
Most of what I provide for our congregation here is sound, as needed: a baritone voice, various small instruments *and percussion*. So I'm kinda into rhythms. The slower tempo of life amid a pandemic tempts me into routines, but they're usually by my own design (one gift of privilege) and I think I have generally avoided rutification, such that I rest and activate comfortably in the rhythms of retirement.

One of which has certainly been the assembling, editing and laying out of *Elderberries* four times a year, a regular and creative "a-to-z" task that I shall certainly miss. And I heartily applaud with great gratitude the corps of proofreaders who have mightily assisted the production line: **Barbara Child**, **Susan Lamar**, **Diane Miller**, **Ned Wight**, and mine

spouse **BARBARA TEN HOVE**, plus the late **JUDY WELLES**—all a blessing to me (and to you readers)!

But I have a variety of delayed and rather formidable projects to attend to in the weeks and months ahead (one of which is to help pioneer our fall conference "pod" up in this Pacific Northwest zone).

What do any of us know about what's really ahead, anyway? So onward we fly, from one perch to another. Here's hoping we can be in formation



EDITOR'S NOTE TO ONLINE READERS: You'll see some lines in **bold**, **red type**, which indicates they contain web links. I avoid familiar <u>underlinings</u>, since they don't translate live into a print medium and the added line can be distracting for readers. —*JTH*

SUSAN RAK

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS 'Tis the merry month of May, and where I live (NJ) spring is in full flower. Bulbs planted with hope and

expectation some years ago did their thing. Yet every year I feel this nugget of doubt, wondering if they made it through the winter. And then one after another colorful blooms make their appearance, some while there's still a frosty chill the air. It's a reward for the effort of digging in cold soil in November and a glorious reminder of hopes fulfilled.

Here in UURMaPA we're paying attention to transitions and changes—some seasonal, some part of evolutionary growth. There are bits and pieces about this throughout this edition of *Elderberries*. In particular, it is the season when we officially welcome new retirees into UURMaPA and recognize the excellent work of our volunteers and members. Lately, the Board has had conversations about the purpose of UURMaPA in this new era, and some questions that face this growing organization.

Reflecting on the meaning of UURMaPA and what it is that holds us in community (besides the shared identity of ministers and partners/spouses), I observed something that sets us apart from other groups of retired persons (e.g., AARP or my local community retirees group). To my mind, it is that we are rooted in the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition that makes UURMaPA unique. And this also requires an additional level of commitment.

By that I do not mean each of you has to work harder at being part of UURMaPA, or take part in every activity, or meet any other requirement. But participation at any level in UURMaPA asks us to keep in mind the religious tradition that grounds us. And sometimes we might need to be more explicit about that grounding than others.

Whether you are a long-time retiree or newly welcomed into this community, no matter if you are clergy or spouse, or whatever level of participation you claim, UURMaPA welcomes you into this circle and asks you to Susan take these next steps with us. May the days ahead bring you new growth and deeper connections!

Come to Our UURMaPA Luncheon at GA in Portland on June 24!

UURMaPA's annual welcoming event will happily be held at General Assembly from 12–2 pm on Friday, June 24, in the Multnomah Room of the Hyatt Regency Portland (OR). At this, our first in-person GA lunch since 2019, we will warmly greet our newest members (our guests at no cost), and announce the recipient of our 2022 Creative Sageing Award.

The meal menu features a two-course artisanal Caesar salad with chicken or fish and dessert. Accommodations can be made for vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options upon request when you make your reservation, the deadline for which is FRIDAY, MAY 20.



Event cost per person is \$35, and you may pay by mailing a check to RICHARD SPECK, 4721 Mermaid Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19808 by Friday, May 20, 2022, or you can pay on line by going to https://paypal.me/UURMAPA?

country.x=US&locale.x=en US (click on the "Send" button, enter the amount and reason— "UURMAPA GA"— and follow the prompts to enter your credit card).

Also please indicate if you are requesting chicken vs. fish, or a vegetarian, vegan or gluten-free meal option. Should you encounter any trouble, please contact RICHARD at rgspeck@comcast.net. We hope to see many of you in-person at this year's GA lunch!



Next Conference: Fall, 2022 October 24–26

The next UURMaPA conference is coming to your online neighborhood in less than six months. That is, it will be virtual again and enjoyed in the comfort of your home. However, there is an innovative variation this time around, as noted in the nearby sidebar (right column).

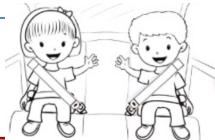
In this event, we will focus on *Mindful Dying*. The Rev. Dr. Tom OWEN-TOWLE, our keynote speaker, will discuss his theology on death using concepts from his recent book, *Making Peace With Our Own Death*. (See a review, next page.) The presentation will challenge UURMaPAns to reflect deeply and prepare diligently for our own deaths while we're still awake and kicking. Reflections will be followed by discussion questions in small groups.

TOM OWEN-TOWLE was ordained in 1967 and served for 24 years with his life-mate, CAROLYN, as co-ministers of First UU Church of San Diego. Tom is still preaching as well as conducting workshops on themes of conscious aging and mindful dying.

We have another stellar planning team, headed by the indomitable **Barbro Hansson**, and guaranteed to provide excellent programming. More details will be forthcoming, but save these dates, **October 24–26**, and plan to register early to assure that Zoom links are received and information is accurate. We look forward to seeing you soon!

UURMaPA Fall 2022 Conference Planning Team:

- Convener: Barbro Hansson (Peterborough NH)
- Scribe: **JOHANNA NICHOLS** (Montpelier VT)
- PR/Publicity/Communications: Rosemarie Smurzynski (Arlington MA)
- Worship Coordinator: CHRISTINE ROBINSON (Albuquerque NM)
- Odyssey Coord.: MARK WARD (Asheville NC)
- Small Grp Coord.: **TERRY ELLEN** (Pikesville MD)
- Topics of Interest Coordinator: BETH MILLER (Sarasota FL)
- Pod Liaison: CYNTHIA CAIN (Mackville KY)
- Music Coordinators: ARTHUR & ANDREA BERMAN (West Vancouver BC)
- Virtual Choir Director & Internet Liaison: RICHARD SPECK (Wilmington DE)
- Zoom Master & Tech Professional: Jon Claney
- UURMaPA Liaison: Anne Spatola until 6/30;
 BARBRO HANSSON after 7/1



Buckle Your Seatbelts!

~~ In-Person "Pod" Pilots ~~

The realm of virtual UURMaPA conferences is expanding, now to also include a ground-breaking inperson "pod" gathering (one or more) that will at least be offered at First Unitarian Church in Wilmington DE, at the same time as the virtual Fall Conference on October 24–26.

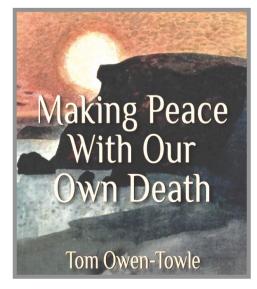
This pod pilot is the brainchild of UURMaPA treasurer RICHARD SPECK (who also serves as Conference Internet Liaison) and Jon Claney, our Virtual Tech Professional. They suggested that instead of trying to organize a full hybrid conference, we utilize Wilmington as a great location for this regional innovation, endorsed by the UURMaPA Board.

First envisioned as a good option for local members of UURMaPA who could commute to First Unitarian Church on a daily basis to watch the virtual programing together, the pod could also include individuals wanting to visit the Wilmington area and arrange their own accommodations. The pod would sustain itself financially and be organized by a local group of UURMaPAns separate from but linked to the Fall Conference Planning Team.

There are lots of unknowns as we embark on this pioneering design, but UURMaPA leadership is excited about the potential it holds to combine our accessible virtual conferences with regional in-person gatherings.

Additional pods in other areas are also being explored (e.g., quite likely in the Pacific NW), to be held at locations equipped with proper technology. Those interested in developing their own pod for this Fall's conference (or for next Winter/Spring) can contact RICHARD SPECK (rgspeck@comcast.net) and he will share what they are learning as they go along.





REVIEW by BARBARA WELLS TEN HOVE

Reading almost any book by **Tom Owen-Towle** is like sitting down for a long conversation with a



grace-filled, gentle friend (something I am fortunate to have done with Tom and his spouse and co-minister Carolyn numerous times over the past 35 years). His latest offering provides an opportunity for each of us to reflect on who we are and where we are going as if we were talking with Tom.

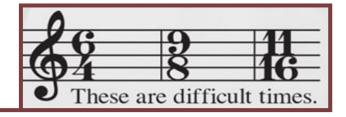
While his material on the pandemic could ultimately feel dated and the first chunk on UU theology may seem a bit long, when he moves into the chapter "Preparing for Our Own Farewell," his work really shines. As Tom puts it, "I've chosen to muse upon my transience and forthcoming expiration, right here and now, plotting (and plodding) the best I can and conveying soulful lessons while still conscious" (p.101). His lessons include ways to encounter our own death with grace and the deaths of those we love with acceptance. He invites us to face our fears, explore our life in all its facets, and work with others in preparation for our ultimate goodbye.

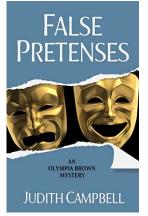
I particularly loved the ways he addresses the many views we religious liberals have of the afterlife (e.g., when you're dead, you're dead; a return to everlasting love; the immortality of influence; and my favorite—since it came from my mother—a peephole to keep an eye on loved ones). These short little reflections made me tear up and laugh at the same time.

Finally, Tom provides an excellent outline for a class on death preparation, something every UU congregation should offer regularly. Useful and meaningful!

As someone who preached at least annually on death I can't stress enough how important it is to have

resources such as this book to help us (and those we serve) prepare for the ultimate farewell. As our colleague Nancy McDonald-Ladd writes in her dedication, after reading Tom's book, "I know you will find yourself as blessed as I am, by the transformative ministry in evidence on each and every page."





NEW RELEASE! Olympia Brown is serving an older congregation desperately trying to save their historic stone chapel. The financial consequences and benefits of keeping on, or giving up are considerable. Rev. Olympia must remain neutral, but the risks and challenges of doing so are mounting fast. Add to this, a curious couple asks her to perform their wedding in that very church. Eventually, she tells the two they need time to think and sends them on their way, setting off a chain of international consequences that even she could never have imagined...

JUDITH CAMPBELL is a UU minister, poet, political satirist and the author of the OLYMPIA BROWN and VIRIDIENNE GREENE MYSTERIES ...and a whole bunch of other cool stuff too! www.judithcampbell-holymysteries.com

The UUA Bookstore, INSPIRIT, is the first and best place to get all of her mysteries.

Leadership Transitions UPDATE

UURMaPA's Nominating Committee (Judy Gibson, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller, Sue Redfern-Campbell and Chair BARBARA WELLS TEN HOVE) was successful this year, nominating for five board and two Nom Com positions for 2022-23, as shown below, to take office July 1. See bios of the latest newcomers, next page.

Treasurer: RICHARD SPECK (2nd term) Secretary: GLORIA PEREZ (2nd term) **Elderberries Editor: Ann Schranz** (shifting board portfolio) At-Large #1, Conferences: BARBRO HANSSON (see bio in previous Winter Elderberries) At-Large #2, Connections Assistant:

JOY ATKINSON (one year term)

Nominating Committee: MEL HOOVER Nominating Committee: BETH MILLER We honor and thank these four who have all finished terms:

- ANNE SPATOLA, Board (Conferences)
- JACO TEN HOVE, Board (Elderberries; soon to be Webmaster)
- BARBARA WELLS TEN HOVE, Nominating Committee
- DIANE MILLER, Nominating Committee

And a couple of UURMaPA servants departing their roles after numerous years of dedication also deserve warm accolades:

- DUANE FICKEISEN, Webmaster
- ROGER ROCHESTER, Partner Obituaries Editor*

*(This latter position is currently open; please contact any board member if you are interested: board@uurmapa.org)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION: SHOULD UURMaPA HAVE A COVENANT?

At the UURMaPA Board Retreat in February 2022, a half-day of in-depth conversation occurred about the promises we make to each other as members of and participants in UURMaPA. We are a loosely organized association, with modest by-laws and no requirements for membership beyond being a retired UU minister or a partner of one. We are clear that the most important reasons people enjoy UURMaPA are the social and educational opportunities we offer. We also recognize that we are often asked to undertake representational roles for retirees within the UUA and UUMA.

In that context, we wondered over the past two years whether these functions and interests might be better served by creating a UUMA Chapter for retirees. After some discernment, the Board has decided not to pursue that Chapter option. We decided instead to clarify how UURMaPA relates to important qualities of UUMA Chapter life, especially living within a covenant, code, and guidelines.

We recall that our statement of purpose in our by-laws begins with affirmation of the UUMA Code of Professional Practice. We note that two years ago the Board decided to work together on its own internal covenant describing the promises we make to each other as a working group of UURMaPA leaders. We have felt inspired and bound by that covenant, and so we decided to encourage all UURMaPAns, ministers and partners, to consider whether a statement of the commitments and promises we make to each other within UURMaPA would be beneficial to us.

At our recent March 2022 Conference, the Board announced a year-long study period of issues around the promises we make to each other and a process for deciding on whether we want a covenant or something like a covenant as a common public standard of behavior and ethical commitments. Lively discussions have already been happening among our Board and Facebook group. Here's how you can get involved in our first round of small group one-hour conversations, planned for May 2022:

You should have received by now an email with a Survey Monkey questionnaire that has the same information as this article and asks you to sign up for **one** of the FIVE sessions below:

- ◆ Two Tuesdays Either May 17 or 31 at 7 pm EDT (6 pm CDT, 5 pm MDT, 4 pm PDT)
- ▶ Two Thursdays Either May 12 or 26 at 1 pm EDT (12 pm CDT, 11 am MDT, 10 am PDT)
- ◆ One Saturday May 14 at 1 pm EDT (12 pm CDT, 11 am MDT, 10 am PDT)

Each group will have a facilitator from the Board. A short study packet will be sent to those who register. (If you haven't heard about it yet, an interesting new resource is the June 2021 Commission on Appraisal Report on "Unlocking the Power of Covenant," available from InSpirit Bookstore at UUA or as an Amazon Kindle e-book.) For more information, or if you don't find an email from UURMaPA to register via Survey Monkey, contact warnason@gmail.com 🌣 🛠



Leadership Transitions – From the UURMaPA Nominating Committee

For Board At-Large #2,
Connections Assistant:

JOY ATKINSON (1-yr term)



The Rev. **Joy Atkinson** was ordained in 1974 after a year-long consulting ministry at the Humboldt UU Fellowship in Northern California. She went on to serve for 24 years as parish minister in Duluth MN, Davis CA and San Mateo CA.

Upon leaving a 14-year ministry in San Mateo in 2002, she was named their Minister Emerita. Not ready to retire at the time, she moved into interim ministry, and served 10 congregations in California and one in Arizona as interim senior minister over the next 16 years.

She retired in 2018. In retirement she has pursued writing, choral singing and amateur astronomy.



For Nominating Committee:

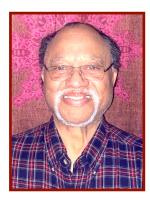
MEL HOOVER

(2-year term)

The Rev. Dr. **Melvin A. Hoover** (Mel) – minister, organizer, educator, husband, father and grandfather, was born September 24, 1944, in Columbus OH. He graduated from the integrated West High School and received the Urban League's Future Leaders of America Award. This introduced him to social justice role model and national Urban League Director Whitney Young, who happened to be a UU. Years later Mel administered the Whitney Young Fund for the UUA.

In 1968, Mel graduated from The

Ohio State University with a BS in Social Welfare and commitment to the Civil Rights Movement, non-violent change, and King's charge to create Beloved Community.



In seminary he met his life partner and ministerial colleague **Rose Edington**. His ministry with the UUA began in 1985 as a volunteer with the Urban Church Coalition and the Black Concerns Working Group. He joined that UUA staff in 1987 with responsibility for leading the UUA's antiracism, anti-oppression programs. In 2002 he and Rose became co-ministers of the UU Congregation in Charleston WV, from which they retired in 2014. In 2020 they moved to Bellingham WA.

As active elders their ministries continue through MelRose Ministries for Positive Transformative Change, still journeying toward the wholeness to be found in Beloved Community.

For Nominating Committee:

BETH MILLER

(2-year term)

In 2012, after 22 years in parish and institutional ministry, the Rev. **Beth MILLER** semi-retired and became a "snowbird" living nine months a year in Sebastian FL. Retirement didn't take and she soon became part-time consulting minister serving Friendship Fellowship (Pineda FL) and doing guest preaching and facilitation at area churches.

Since then she served short-term ministries in Arlington VA and Baton Rouge LA as part of the Targeted Ministry program that UURMaPA worked with the UUA Transitions Department to establish.

In Sept. 2019, Beth joined the UU Church of Sarasota FL as halftime contract Associate Minister from which she retired April 1, 2022.



She hopes retirement will stick this time and, although taking time to discern what that will mean for her, has accepted upcoming terms on the UURMaPA NomCom and Fall Conf. Planning Team.

WINTER 2022 CONFERENCE REPORT

Continued, from page 1...

LILIA CUERVO's Odyssey described her journey as a

Colombian immigrant to this country, and how she found Unitarian Universalism once here. Her story covered class, cultural and racial issues, and her courage and determination were apparent as she became the first Latin American to be ordained into our UU ministry. (See her poem, next column.)

In another segment of the conference, seven colleagues offered intriguing workshops:

- Ethical Dilemmas for Retirees in Congregational Life, with WAYNE ARNASON
- Pastoral and Socially Active Ministry after Retirement, with JEREMY BRIGHAM
- Writing Workshop, with JUDY CAMPBELL
- Democracy in the US: Challenges and Survival Chances, with **DAVE HUNTER**
- Self: Caring for Our Best Gift During the Homestretch of Life, with TOM OWEN-TOWLE
- Do Individualist Humanists Have a Welcoming Place in Contemporary UU Congregations, with RICHARD RUACH
- Being White: Then and Now, with NED WIGHT

All of these presentations and the several opportunities for small group conversations helped us feel connected to one another, even though not together physically. Beautiful music was provided throughout the conference—sometimes recorded by professional artists, and sometimes by our own UURMaPA choir directed by RICHARD SPECK. And because of the recent attack on Ukraine by Russia, one recording was of a Ukrainian choir singing; it was a sacred moment, indeed.

As with previous conferences, each session was introduced with a delightful photo gallery put together by **BARBRO HANSSON** and tech pro Jon Claney, accompanied by regional music, and adding much fun as we were brought into one another's homes or, in some cases, vacation spots!

The conference ended with a deeply moving worship service offered by **THERESA NOVAK**, challenging us to be open to change, and to keep alive our passion and our work for justice.

There are so many people to thank for this conference—the Planning Team for sure (ANNE HINES & ANNE SPATOLA, plus KATHLEEN ELLIS, FRITZ HUDSON, RICHARD SPECK, WALT WIEDER, and Jon Claney on tech), worship and workshop leaders, Odyssey presenters, small group facilitators, choir members, and more. But especially those attending; it was wonderful to connect with all of you.



BREAKTHROUGH By LILIA CUERVO

Some who attended the Winter Conference might remember that in my Odyssey I shared the incident of a policeman chasing me out of my wealthy neighbor's neighborhood. The poem below expresses how difficult it was for me to forgive and to heal from that traumatic experience. I started this letter in seminary in 1994 and for many years I couldn't find a satisfactory ending for it Then, in May 2018, its ending came in a flash (see the last stanza)...

I saw you just that one time. But your fateful memory, far too long has lived in me. Needing closure, I send this letter that you never will receive.

Coming out of a transforming, spiritual retreat, I was feeling mindful, buoyant, clear, and free. Everything was so inviting on that Autumn afternoon.

Driving home, wandering on new roads I anticipated a grand finale exploring my wealthy neighbor's neighborhood.

As soon as I entered it, a black car appeared behind me.
Feeling safe, well protected, I kept driving further in. I turned right, you did the same.
Turned left, you followed me.
Casually, I turned into another street for confirmation.
Being so near now, through the mirror
I could see that you were neither my guardian nor protector, but a policeman on duty, staring at me.

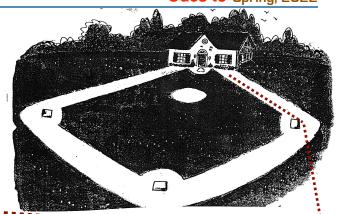
How I despised your eyes burning with such hatred. They made me tremble, feel violated, an intruder being chased, undesirable, unclean. Bewildered, humiliated, and mostly very sad, I began to exit, your piercing eyes still upon my back.

I drove towards home and you sped in the opposite direction. Where did you go? To chase other "intruders" from where just the white and wealthy may freely come and go? Will I ever forgive you? Forgive you who profiled me? Forgive your denying my freedom? Forgive you who made me feel unclean? And yet, how can I deny you what I so desperately need?

To become whole, to end this long nightmare, I must forgive you.
With peace filling my heart, and courage too, I am finally ready.
Yes. I forgive you.

long live b. u. u. s. i.

Here be a brief paean to an unheralded and low-budget yet beloved UU publication, running from 1994–2003 produced by the good energy (and copier) of our colleague **charlie kast**. These three images formed the front page of the last edition, sigh. I could find no mention of this periodical online, don't you know, but it lives on in the hearts (and file cabinets) of a few of us devotees. *-ed.*



b.u.u.s.i., the baseball Unitarian Universalist spiritual inter-

FINAL ISSUE, #19, december 25, 2003

a journal for people for whom baseball is spiritual journey

we communicate, share and promote the spirituality of baseball in all its forms (sent free of charge as a labor of love by editor/publisher 406 mitchell lane, chapel hill, nc 27516)

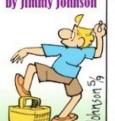
baseball is the universal story: an odyssey in which the individual leaves home in search of truth and meaning in life. the hero is aided by teammates who sacrifice for him and assist him on the journey. enemies oppose her and try to put her out. after many trials, the hero finds success only in returning home.....

like dorothy in "the wizard of oz," the hero discovers the truth that she always has within herself the power to go home. one must only believe and claim that power.

Corrina's Going a-Maying * by Robert Herrick 1591-1674

Get up! Get up! Get out of bed!
Mother Nature's lost her head!
She's thrown her best upon the earth,
All is color, song and mirth.
You're not here and it's a shame,
With boys afoot and girls agame.

From "Arlo & Janis" by Jimmy Johnson



Get up! Get up! Throw on a dress!

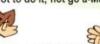
If you can manage, maybe less. Lose your jewels. Forget the pearls.

Soft leaves and grass avern the girls. Let's go! Let's go! And I'll stop

braying! You're all I need to go a-Ma Come out! Come out! see
with your eyes,
How all around such beauty lies.
The trees so green the world

The trees so green, the world a park, And you're inside, still in the dark.

'Twould be a sin is all I'm saying, Not to do it, not go a-Maying!



Our friends are out there making time,

While I sit here inventing rhyme. They're putting normal to the test, Shocking truth gets passed for jest.

No way to tell what plans they're laying,

Now can we please, please, please go a-Maying?

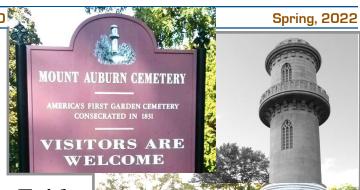
And I really hate to mention this, But here's a reason not to miss. The days are passing with the sun, It won't be long before we're done. In the ground we'll be decaying, And then we'll wish we'd gone a-Maying!

* THIS ISN'T REALLY HOW THE POEM GOES, BUT IT IS THE GIST!



ELDERBERRIES 10 Spring, 2022

WHAT BRINGS YOU JOY?



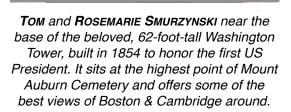
Friends Amid the Founders of Our Faith

by ROSEMARIE SMURZYNSKI, Arlington, MA

had not intended to retire in 2009. I only wanted a sabbatical after working 10 years as an Accredited Interim Minister. I had not intended to be a docent at Mount Auburn Cemetery (located since 1831 on the Watertown/Cambridge line, just 6 miles from downtown Boston). I had only wanted to be trained and involved for that year.

The Cemetery, three miles from my home, was a place I loved and frequented. Twice I had volunteered at their booth at the New England Flower Show. I had taken staff-led walks. So I became a docent at this "place of repose for the dead and comfort for the living" and offered history walks to the graves of our Unitarian Universalist forebears for congregation members. My one-year sabbatical led to two and then to permanent retirement. I have not looked back.

What drew me to Mount Auburn? The landscape, paths of beauty everywhere; the museum quality monuments; the people buried. I told my then 10-year-old granddaughter about those people and how I loved and admired them and considered them friends that I wanted to know better.



She asked, "Grandma, do you have any friends at the cemetery who are alive." Yes! I told her about the community of docents and staff, plus visitors who often want a route to walk or a listening ear to talk about grief. I do both.

I love history, reading and writing about people, rich or poor, notable or not. I frequent the settings of UU forebears such as Julia Ward Howe (buried with her family), Margaret Fuller, honored in a cenotaph in a family plot that hails her "a citizen of the world," and founders of our faith William Ellery Channing, Hosea Ballou, John Murray.

Cenotaph for Margaret Fuller Ossoli (1810-50) at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Over the years, a group of us were able to fundraise and save the deteriorating Channing monument. I was also honored to be the worship leader of a Memorial Service for Margaret Fuller, commemorating her life 160 years after she died

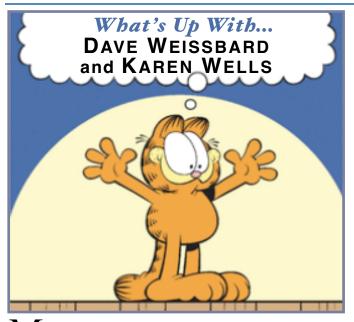
in a shipwreck. I am grateful to lead various Celebration of Life services held at Mount Auburn gravesides.

What started as volunteering at the Visitor Center and leading walks deepened into a calling in my retirement. I was doing what I loved best—using skills I learned as a caregiver, teacher, and minister. During a December Candle Light Service, on the darkest night of the year, I told a wider Cambridge community, "We come together in the presence of wounded hearts. The good news is the word *together* and the knowledge that the cemetery embraces all in these tough times."

Thirteen years ago, I became part of this community of the living and the dead. It has made all the difference to me in my retirement self—deepened my call to ministry and brought me extraordinary joy.



Rosemarie leading a tour...





Dave & Karen, 30th Wedding Anniversary, 2020

Karen in costume as

Helen Rich, for an

historical video about the

only woman suffragist from the North Country.

any years ago, Leon Hopper, then in the Department of Ministry, initiated a conversation about the difference between "Doing Ministry" and "Being a Minister." I was/am in the second camp, which has made adjusting to retirement more difficult: my identity was threatened.

After retiring in 2006, after 41 years of full time ministry (27 as minister of the UU Church in Rockford IL), Karen and I returned to Canton NY, 18 miles from the Canadian border. Canton was the site of my ministerial preparation and where Karen and I met when she was 11 and I was 21. Karen came to Canton because her father, John Wells, retired as an Air Force lawyer to come to the Theological School at St. Lawrence University.

Karen and I first bonded when she played Dorothy in the University's production of the Wizard of Oz and I, as Technical Director of the university's theatre department, had to fly her off in her house in the tornado. Karen went on to have a career as an actress and then theatre teacher. We got together

1987) and we married in 1990. We became the proud parents of Hilary Rebecca in 1992. Karen continued her career teaching theatre in Rockford area schools.

Since arriving in Canton, the UU Church here has provided a community of support, and we love our beautiful farmhouse with $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres and a big red barn. During our first five years here, I worked as a "Community Relations Specialist," which involved writing and administering grants with the non-profit St. Lawrence County Housing Council. (I did \$6.5 million worth.) I soon also landed monthly preaching gigs with two old Universalist congregations: Central Square and Watertown NY, which have continued offering me a sense of connection with my former identity.

at the New Haven (CT) General Assembly in 1989 (after the death of my first wife, Linda, in

Karen was not really prepared to retire and was frustrated when she could not find a teaching job here. She became a director and actor for the Grasse River Players, the local

community theatre, and developed a popular "Acting for Kids" program. I participated in the Poor Peoples' Campaign (PPC) March

on Washington in 2018 and have been one of the founders of its Northern NY chapter and a member of the PPC state Coordinating Committee. I also currently serve as President of the Canton Free Library.

We have derived great joy from living close enough to our daughter Hilary and her spouse Zach that we can be a part of the life of their family with a brilliant, charismatic three-year-old grandson Finn.

As a Religious Humanist, my sense of connection to the increasingly theistic UUA has diminished, an experience I addressed in my 2015 Ministry Days sermon, "Musings of a Dinosaur" as representative of the 50-year ministers. My energy and health at 81 have been increasingly marginal, but it has all worked out for the best, said Pollyanna.



Sermon prep with grandson Finn

(Editor's transparency note: Karen is sister to my spouse Barbara, who made me add this note.)

Is SoulCollage Your Spiritual Practice? asks Gretchen Thomas

We're starting a new small group to let UURMaPA members who are already experienced **SoulCollagers** do Readings together. We'll meet twice a month for two hours on Zoom. If you're interested, email **GRETCHEN THOMAS** at revgt13@gmail.com soon with

which days of the week and times of day could work for you.

Remember: Creating a **SoulCollage** deck without asking it for support and guidance is like cooking a special meal for your loved ones but never sitting down to eat it together.

Gretchen, who lives in Melbourne, Australia, adds: "I'm really happy about this possibility of doing SoulCollage with other ministers—uniting two of the great loves and commitments of my life. I'd sadly backed away from nearly all my UU work and connections, but UURMaPA is bringing me back to it. A very great blessing. I'm really grateful."



Albert Einstein's cautionary wisdom:

"Not
everything
that can
be counted
counts,
and not
everything
that
counts
can be
counted."



A Message From

UU Society for Ministerial Relief, Inc.

Incorporated in Massachusetts in 1850

www.uuministerialrelief.org

February 22, 2022

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am writing this letter to all retired ministers, partners, and surviving spouses as president of the *Unitarian Universalist Society for Ministerial Relief*, and on behalf of our officers and members. In case you don't already know, I was elected to succeed our former president, the Rev. Dr. David Pohl, at our Annual Meeting in November.

At that time, I reflected on the huge shoes that I will be attempting to fill, but in his typically humble way, David wrote, "Actually, my shoe size is only 7.5, my height continues to shrink, and remember that Rhys [Williams] served as president well beyond my 18 years" [Rhys: nearly 40 years. -ed]. David's protestations to the contrary, the one thing that I am sure of is that his deep knowledge of and friendship with so many of our recipients will be irreplaceable. I will do my best to continue David's compassionate and pastoral leadership here.

I know that one of the things he felt most passionately about was to find ways to expand our help to an increasing number of retired ministers and their survivors. As he wrote some years ago, "It is our mission to actively seek out and assist those who could use the help made possible by the resources of this Society. It is also our mission to be generous, not merely prudent, in providing that help, to the end that those who have served our liberal religious movement are able to live with dignity and a reasonable security in their retirement years."

We suspect that there are many who could potentially benefit from the financial assistance of the Society, but who either aren't aware of us or may be reluctant to ask. Please check out our website and write, call, or e-mail the Society, whether concerning your own situation or the possible needs of others.

With appreciation and kind regards,

HAROLD E. BABCOCK, President www.uuministerialrelief.org

To explore conditions for eligibility for assistance, please contact our Secretary:

SUSAN SUCHOCKI BROWN (978-833-0916) 11 Whipple Road, Kittery, ME 03904 email: revsusanuu1@verizon.net Entrusted with an endowment of over \$12 million, we disburse close to \$400,000 annually in special and ongoing grants.

Continuing gratitude to **JAY ATKINSON** (~*JA*) for careful researching and composing of obituaries for ministers.

IN MEMORIAM

ROGER ROCHESTER (~RR) has done a similarly fine job for partners for some years, but he is retiring from this post after this (Spring) issue.

So we are seeking a new editor for partner obituaries. Nominations (including of self) are welcome. Please contact **board@uurmapa.org**.





BEVERLY A. BUMBAUGH (1936 – 2019)

The Reverend Beverly Bumbaugh—who came into UU ministry in mid-life and served multiple solo and co-ministry settlements with her husband **DAVID BUMBAUGH**—died on 14 February 2019, aged 82.

Beverly Ann Keplinger, the oldest of six children of Paul L. and Thelma A. Keplinger, was born on 2 May 1936 in Hagerstown, Maryland. Midway through college she married her high-school sweetheart, David Bumbaugh, and completed her B.A. in English in 1958.

Raising a family occupied much of Beverly's time early on as David completed ministerial study and served churches in the Midwest. By the mid-1970s, hearing a ministerial call of her own, she began informally sharing roles with her husband, then settled since 1969 in Alexandria

VA. In affirmation of this, the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church board accepted their joint proposal in 1977 to recognize them as co-ministers, and the congregation forthwith ordained her on 22 January 1978. She soon enrolled in an independent ministerial study program, completing the equivalent of an M.Div. in 1981.

Over succeeding years, the Rev'd Ms. Bumbaugh served settled and interim ministries at the UU Fellowship at Easton MD, the East Shore UU Church (Kirtland OH, 1986–87), the UU Congregation of Rockland NY (1987–91), the Muttontown (NY) UU Fellowship (1992), the UU Church of the Lehigh Valley PA (1992–93), and the South Nassau UU Congregation, NY (1994–95). In 1995 she returned to coministry with David at the Beacon UU Congregation in Summit NJ, where he had already been settled for seven years. A cancer diagnosis led her to early retirement in 1998, and the Beacon congregation elected her Minister Emerita.



At her death, Beverly was survived by her spouse, the Rev'd David E. Bumbaugh, four children, four grandsons, and five siblings. Memorial services were scheduled on 6 April 2019 at Bristol Village in Waverly OH; and on 25 May 2019 at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria VA. Notes of condolence may be sent to David E. Bumbaugh, 335 Oak Ave, Waverly OH 45690, or revbev@aol.com. ~JA



SUSAN L. MAJEAU (1933 – 2021)



Susan "Sue" L. Majeau, surviving spouse of Reverend Joseph Majeau, died 21 September 2021, after a brief illness. She had just celebrated her 88th birthday.

Sue taught school in Hampden and Portland ME for many years, and always declared that 4th grade was the perfect age. She was a gifted artist and loved music, story telling, the beauty of nature, and road trips (especially with her grandson, Caleb). Two organizations that were a huge part of her life were the Unitarian Church and Memory Joggers.

She is survived by her sisters, Becca Lombard (Mercy Beal) and Marcia Hastings; her children, Marci Gaglione, Trudy Bacon (Jeff), Cedena McAvoy (Terry), Katie Snow (David) and Bob Parsons; her grandchildren, Wynnona, Paul, Nathan, William, Toby, and

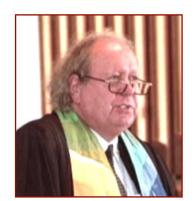
Caleb; seven great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild, who was not yet born. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joseph Majeau; son, David Parsons; and grandson, Jesse McAvoy. $\sim RR$

DAVID A. JOHNSON (1935 – 2019)

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend David Johnson—dynamic parish minister, UU historian, lover and scholar of UU hymnody, and passionate advocate for the learned ministry as well as for the marginalized and oppressed—died in an automobile accident while on a road trip on 22 July 2019, aged 83.

Dave Johnson's brash activism started early, as recalled by a fellow student at Meadville Lombard, John Keohane: "It



was David Johnson who convinced me to cut classes for a week and go with him, David Bumbaugh, and Yoshi Fukashima to May Meetings in Boston, that spring of 1961. Dave got all of us free lodging at the homes of Unitarian ministers Joe Barth and John Nichols Booth. We were present at the creation of the UUA."

One of David Johnson's deep concerns was for what he saw as the growth of "an illiterate ministry" among too many UU clergy. Speaking of this worry to the study group *Collegium* as its Distinguished Scholar in 2004 (full essay here), David recounted how some "Universalist questions" he submitted to the MFC ended up being unused because no one on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee knew what an adequate answer might be—this despite one of the questions being simply to "invite them to name three persons they valued from the Universalist pilgrimage."

David Axel Johnson was born on 16 October 1935 in Buffalo, New York, to Axel H. and Glenna B. Johnson. After graduation from Antioch College (OH) in 1958 with a B.A.

in sociology, he earned an M.A. in philosophy at the University of Illinois in 1961 and a B.D. at Meadville Lombard Theological School in 1964.

Mr. Johnson was ordained on 25 October 1964 by the Unitarian Society of Cleveland OH. He enjoyed successive settlements in Bloomington IN (1964–1970), Pittsburgh PA (1970–1973), Tucson AZ (1973–88), and Brookline MA (1988–2003), and was elected emeritus in both Tucson and Brookline. An account of his innovative ministry in Tucson spans 18 pages (pp. 47-64) in the church's history. After formal retirement, the Rev'd Mr. Johnson served interim ministries in New Bedford, Bridgewater, Hudson, Chatham, Plymouth, Provincetown, and Quincy—all in Massachusetts.

At his death, David was survived by his wife Julie Coulter, sons Kirk, Erik, and Matthew Johnson, stepchildren James, Nancy, and Darren MacDonald, and several grandchildren. A celebration of David's life was held on 1 August 2019 at the First Parish of Brookline MA. Memorial donations were encouraged to the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association (UURMaPA). ~JA



WILLIAM N. KENNEDY (1949 – 2019)

The Reverend Bill Kennedy—remembered by Judy Welles as a "cherished colleague [with] a warm heart [and] acerbic wit" and by Thomas Anastasi as "the best intern minister you could ever have"—died on 28 April 2019, aged 69. Bill's colleague in chaplaincy, Theresa Hardy, recalled him as "a joy [who] welcomed you, encouraged you, made it feel like somebody was thrilled you were there at the moment for that event, large or small."

Bill was devoted to promoting health and access to health care, faithfully advocating for patients who experienced language and financial barriers in the medical system. He worked with Peninsula Interfaith Action in support of San Mateo (CA) County's ACE Health Care Program for the uninsured and with

Peninsula Interfaith Action in support of San Mateo (CA) County's ACE Health Care Program for the uninsured and with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Team in the areas of training, fundraising, and advocacy.

William Neal Kennedy was born on 11 June 1949 in San Francisco, California, and grew up there. He received a B.S. in broadcasting from San Diego State University in 1972. After working 30 years in TV broadcasting, he answered a call to ministry and in 2005 earned an M.Div. from Starr King School. Mr. Kennedy was ordained by the UU Fellowship of Redwood City CA on 26 September 2009 where he served as an affiliated community minister until retiring in 2017.

Bill found spiritual renewal in hiking and biking, especially in the coastal redwoods. In 2000, he participated in a century ride around Lake Tahoe, and raised money for blood cancer research and support.

Bill is survived by his wife Geri, son Adam, daughter Amanda, and granddaughter Iola. A celebration of Bill's life, attended by many colleagues, took place at on 25 May 2019 at the UU Fellowship of Redwood City. Memorial donations were encouraged to the **International Myeloma Foundation**, the **Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation**, or the **Sempervirens Fund.** ~*JA*

ANN REYNOLDS CAMPBELL (1937 – 2021)

Ann Perry Reynolds Campbell, spouse of Reverend FRED CAMPBELL, died 27 Sept 2021, surrounded by family. Born 11 June 1937 in Woodstock, Connecticut, where her family had been for eight generations, Ann left to attend Earlham College in Indiana, after graduating from Woodstock Academy.

Ann met Fred Campbell at Earlham when she was managing the student cafeteria and Fred applied for a job in the kitchen. They married in 1960, after graduating.

Her inquisitive mind and natural sense of humor led her to enjoy a range of employment. She helped design the Head Start Programs at the University of Arkansas. She served as purchasing director for the Michigan Cancer Foundation in Detroit, and she worked in hardware stores.

Ann was an Advanced Master Gardener and couldn't pass a garden without pulling weeds. She was also a Master Thrifter whose turn signal automatically started blinking for a word sale. During the last 20 years while living in Williamston MI. Ann participated in Sh

a yard sale. During the last 20 years while living in Williamston MI, Ann participated in Shagbark Questers historical society; restoration of the one-room Branch School; garden clubs at the local, state and national levels; Williamston Kiwanis, the Williamston Depot Museum, food bank and more.

She was kind whenever possible—her kindness being tempered only by her tendency to be a little more truthful than some people were comfortable with. Ann's sense of humor was perhaps her greatest asset, and it was ever present. Relatively early in their 61-year marriage, when asked why she wasn't more engaged helping her husband Fred in his job as a minister she observed, "As far as I can tell, you are only paying one salary."

Ann is survived by her loving husband Fred Campbell, son Craig Campbell (Peggy), daughter Judi Lintott (Richard), and four adult grandchildren, Ian Campbell, Griffin Campbell, Emily Lintott and Susan Lintott.

A celebration of Ann's life, along with dedication of a community memorial garden to be created in her honor, will be held in early summer 2022. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ann's name to Ann Campbell Memorial, Williamston Area Beautification Fund, PO Box 116, Williamston, MI 48895.

GENE A. REEVES (1933 – 2019)



IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Dr. Gene Reeves—whose career was largely anchored in the academy, with interests first in process philosophy and then a major shift to Buddhist thought—died peacefully at his Chicago home on 8 May 2019, aged 86.

Dr. Reeves focused on process thought in his early career, but through contact with Japan's progressive Buddhist movement, Risshō Kōsei-kai, he became increasingly drawn to broader interfaith activity, and especially to study of the chief Nichiren Buddhist text, the Lotus Sutra. He lived most of his last thirty years in Tokyo, studying, teaching, and lecturing on Buddhist topics in Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, and the US. In 2008, as a capstone to his long devotion to Buddhist thought, Dr. Reeves published *The Lotus Sutra: A Contemporary Translation of a Buddhist Classic*.

Gene Arthur Reeves was born on 2 April 1933 in Franklin, New Hampshire, to Eugene V. Reeves and Parmelie



Twombly Reeves. He earned a B.A. in psychology at the University of New Hampshire (1956), an S.T.B. at Boston University (1959), and a Ph.D. in philosophy of religion at Emory University (1963). Mr. Reeves was ordained in 1961 by the United Liberal Church (now UU) of Atlanta. He served on the faculties of Crane Theological School (Medford MA) and Wilberforce University (near Dayton OH) before moving to Meadville Lombard as Dean and CEO (1979–1988). The seminary later named him Professor Emeritus and awarded him a D.D. *honoris causa* in 2014.

At his death, Gene was survived by his wife Yayoi Reeves, daughters Anna Kerr and the Rev'd Eva Cameron (UU), step-son Takuro Sato, sister Joyce Reeves, and five grandchildren. A celebration of Gene's life was held on 13



June 2019 at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. Memorial **donations** are encouraged to Meadville Lombard Theological School, 180 N. Wabash Ave, Chicago, IL 60601. ~*JA*



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

"I was Born to be Wild. But only until about 8:30ish. Maybe 9pm tops..."