



Elderberries

Unitarian Universalist
Retired Ministers and
Partners Association

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www.uurmapa.org



Dave Hunter and Kerry Mueller hosted a UURMaPA lunch at their retirement community on March 23. According to Kerry, they had a nice lunch and time for a check-in.

Left to right, back row:

Mary Higgins, Roger Fritts, John Gilmore, Joel Weaver

Middle row:

Leslie Westbrook, Paula Maiorano, Len DeRoche, Dave Hunter, Charlie Dietrich

Front row:

Giovanni Maiorano, Carol Taylor, Kerry Mueller

Virginia Jarocho-Ernst and Christopher Ernst are not pictured because they had to leave before the photo was taken.

Introducing Fritz Hudson: Connections Chair Nominee

My UU ministry began with graduation from Harvard Divinity in 1976. Parishes served included developmental appointments in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, settled calls in Iowa, Arizona and Nebraska, and interim posts in Connecticut and Minnesota. Ginny Gross actively partnered me in that life for 30 years. Our children, Eric and Sally, shared it directly in growing toward independence. My retirement began in joy in 2017, but took a drastic turn a year later with Ginny's sudden death.

Eric and family live in Buffalo, New York. Sally's life, in Charlottesville Virginia, first brought visits and new acquaintances here. In 2020, my visits became more frequent and laser-focused on one acquaintance, Donna Shaunesey. Donna's and my shared life and partnership began at that year's end.

Through the UU congregation in Charlottesville VA, I have grown into a choir tenor, a coming-of-age mentor, and our primary player in the Charlottesville Clergy Collective.



Interwoven with and expanding those investments, my retirement is primarily structured by service as an attorney/mediator in our community's criminal, juvenile, and immigration courts.

UURMaPA has proved to be an important lifeline for me through retirement's several transitions. I appreciate our semiannual conferences and particularly the monthly virtual gathering of my peer-support group. As Connections Chair, I will be eager to partner with you to weave such lifelines into an ever stronger web.

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Leadership Transitions Update

UURMaPA's Nominating Committee (Chair Judy Gibson, Mel Hoover, Ginger Luke, Beth Miller, and Sue Redfern-Campbell) is pleased to report we were successful in filling all leadership vacancies this year. We nominated five Board members and three members of the Nominating Committee for 2023-2025, to take or continue in office, beginning July 1. Six of our current leaders agreed to serve a second two-year term, and two members are new (see their bios elsewhere in this issue). Here is a list of all who told us "YES" –

Susan Rak, President (2nd term)
Ned Wight, Vice President (2nd term)
Fritz Hudson, Connections Chair (NEW)
Joy Atkinson, At-Large #2: Assistant Connections Chair (1st full term)
Wayne Arnason, At-Large #3: UUA/UUMA Liaison (2nd term)
Kathleen Hunter, Nominating Committee (NEW)
Ginger Luke, Nominating Committee (2nd term)
Sue Redfern-Campbell, Nominating Committee (2nd term)

Two leaders are handing off their positions to wonderful UURMaPAns (above) who said they are willing to step up:

Millie Rochester, Connections Chair since 2021
Judy Gibson, Nominating Committee since 2019

Starting again in July, the Nominating Committee will begin looking for members to serve in at least six other leadership positions. We are always eager to hear from UURMAPAns who would be willing to consider working to keep our great organization going. If you might be interested, send us a message at nominations@uurmapa.org.

Introducing Kathleen Hunter: Nominating Committee Nominee



I joined UURMaPA in 1992 when my late husband, Alan Deale, retired. Over the years, I have appreciated watching those older than I meet the various joys and challenges of retirement and aging. Now that I am one of the old ones, I enjoy the energy of the newly retired, and I like to hear their perspectives on life in retirement.

I recently consolidated my life by selling my cottage in Canada and moving to live year round in New London NH, which is a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) because it is a small college town not too far from Boston and is a magnet for people in retirement. I always go to Star Island in the summer so it's a pleasure to live nearer to it.

President's Pondering by Susan Veronica Rak

I recently saw the new production of “Camelot” on Broadway and it made me think about how ideals bump up against the messiness of life. And how much patience it requires to see things through, or to accept that my/our goals may not be realized during our time in an organization or on earth, even. I know that sounds rather heavy and very serious, and those thoughts don't quite go hand-in-hand with the lush musical score of the play, but yet the underlying message of hope and perseverance ripples through there.

You may wonder what this has to do with UURMaPA... we are not an organization or group dedicated to changing the world or imagining a new society. But given who we are and whence we come, our ideals and hopes are never far behind, even in retirement. I think it is commitment to our liberal religious ideals and the value we place on connection and community that makes participating in UURMaPA rewarding, especially for the volunteers who make so much of this good stuff happen! This is the time of year when transitions often occur and in our organization there are a few volunteer positions that are changing hands. Elsewhere in this newsletter you've read about who is being elected to serve on the UURMaPA Board and the Nominating Committee. Not too much is changing there, as a number of us are either still finishing a term of service or have signed on for a second stint in our respective roles. Speaking for myself, I am honored and glad to be carrying on this work with our terrific Board for another term.

There are two people departing their elected positions in this round and I want to make special mention of them here.

✿ Millie Rochester has served as the “Connections Chair” on the Board for the past two years. “Connections” is so important to what we do and who we are, and the nature of making those connections has changed and evolved in the past two years. So Millie stepped into this demanding role at a pivotal moment and has helped the Board and our membership see the value and importance of what we do and how we can change and “do” more. She has also helped us navigate changes in how we envision both this position and the “Connections Assistant” role. She's been a truly pastoral presence to us on the Board and to the wider UURMaPA community. Thank you, Millie, for your dedicated service!

✿ And this seems impossible, but Judy Gibson's time on the Nominating Committee is done. Her wisdom, experience and deep commitment to Unitarian Universalism and this organization feeds into everything she does. In addition to working with her team on NomCom, finding the best possible volunteers to serve, she also helps us on the Board stay on top of important record keeping details we might not always get to! It may not be in her job description, but we've come to rely on her attention to details and her encouraging spirit. Thank you, Judy!



Susan Veronica Rak

Multigenerational Conversations: Our Great Joy

In March, nearly 40 ministers in diverse life stages and ministry settings came together to discuss our grief and losses. Even though many of us were meeting for the first time, participants let us know it was a touching, tender and open-hearted conversation. We also heard that there wasn't enough time and that it would have been good to have more than one session arranged. Still experimenting, we'd like to come together again, this time for a multigenerational conversation on the deep satisfaction and great joy of our ministries.

Co-sponsored by the UUMA and UURMaPA (the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association), this multigenerational Zoom gathering of UU ministers will be about us, about our joy in this vocation we have chosen. Once again we will gather in small multigenerational group breakouts. The groups will be lightly facilitated and will include an opportunity to consider a few words about your small group sharing that you might share back with the larger group at the end of our time. Through connecting meaningfully and deeply with one another across our generations of ministry, we hope to strengthen our collegial community.

Wednesday May 10, 2023 at 2-3:30pm ET/ 1-2:30pm CT/ 12-1:30pm MT/ 11am-12:30pm PT

Here is the link where you can learn more and sign up:

https://members.uuma.org/site_event_detail.cfm?pk_association_event=26578

Spring
Has
Sprung!



If you have contributions for *Elderberries*, please contact editor Ann Schranz at elderberries@uurmapa.org. Have you heard of the death of a partner? Please let Partner Obituary Editor Eleanor Richardson (grandmoot@aol.com) and Connections Assistant Joy Atkinson (revjoy@aol.com) know so they can prepare a short announcement and an obituary. Clergy Obituary Editor Jay Atkinson works from information provided by the UUA. In addition, please send a copy of any such notice to the Board (board@uurmapa.org). The website (<https://uurmapa.org>) shows the most currently available information regarding clergy and partner obituaries.

Board Unanimously Votes Amendments to UURMaPA's Purpose

On March 16, 2023, the Board of UURMaPA voted unanimously to amend the Purpose of UURMaPA as described in our organization's by-laws. This vote came at the end of a year of study of whether UURMaPA should have a covenant or alternatively a change in our Purpose.

The first phase of this process was a discussion about whether our purpose would be well-served by including a covenant as part of UURMaPA membership. That discussion led the Board into a deeper dive about why we have never been a formal membership organization with boundaries that include affirmation and enforcement of a covenant. We found enough ambivalence about a covenant last year that the Board proposed a different approach. Recognizing that our governance philosophy has been to trust an empowered Board, and that our by-laws do not include annual meetings or votes, the Board put forward, instead of a covenant, a proposal for amendments to the Purpose of UURMaPA. The Board invited feedback in writing to this proposal following the Fall Conference in late October, after which any next steps or a final Board vote would be considered.

Seven UURMaPA members sent written responses. Three of these were broad reflections on the changing ministry that did not speak directly to the Purpose statement. Two responses were critical of the proposed changes and recommended simplifying or abandoning the proposed changes. One response focused on the phrase "anti-oppressive attitudes" in the last sentence, describing it as "vague" and "subjective". This person hoped that the statement could be "more succinct and less ambiguous". The Board considered these reflections and did not find them persuasive.

One response that we did find persuasive came from Rev. Scot Giles, who encouraged us to include a reference to the guidelines and codes of conduct of the UU Society for Community Ministers, alongside that of the UUMA, since we have members who prefer to affiliate with UUSCM rather than the UUMA. We thank Scot for this suggestion. After review of the comments and discussion about our options, the following proposed amendments to the Purpose along with the Giles suggestion was moved, seconded and passed by a unanimous vote:

"In faithfulness to the Unitarian Universalist tradition and to the guidelines and code of conduct of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the Unitarian Universalist Society for Community Ministries, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association embody in our lives and our conduct with each other the values that we proclaim on behalf of our faith. Our purpose is to be an inclusive multicultural community that serves the interests and enhances the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers and their life partners through informational communication, periodic membership gatherings, and other supportive programs and activities. As a Unitarian Universalist organization of professionals and partners, we recognize that fulfilling our purpose calls us to cultivate anti-oppressive attitudes and practices consistent with our shared values, thereby promoting our collective well-being."

The Board sees this as an appropriate step and a conclusion to this stage of the ongoing conversation among us about what UURMaPA means to us, and how we can continue to thrive as an inclusive organization welcoming future generations of retirees. In her written response, Marilyn Sewall wrote: "So much these days is mere 'virtue signaling,' and I hope we do not become a part of this phenomenon, which is simply empty rhetoric." The Board has taken Rev. Sewall's challenge very seriously, and we encourage UURMaPA members to do the same. We see the Purpose change as one small step among many steps to be taken to enhance the quality of our relationships and the courage of our conversations.

Update on Rainbow History Book

Thank you all for your patience while I have worked on the book that grew out of the Rainbow History Project sponsored by UURMAPA.

I received many wonderful submissions, and it soon became clear that one book would not hold all of that plus even a portion of the many materials already on the Rainbow History Project website. As a result, this book will be largely made up of personal essays written specifically for it, with a few sermons and other repurposed pieces that felt important to include. My hope is that in the future there may be another book that will contain even more of the LGBTQIA+ history within our faith.

It has been a long road, but now I have exciting news to share!

I am delighted to report that after three and a half years of hard work, the full manuscript is in the very capable hands of Skinner House editorial staff. We are starting production and aiming for publication this fall!

I hope you all will be pleased with the final result. I am so deeply grateful to UURMAPA for your role in creating and supporting the project, and for the opportunity you have given me to bring this part of it to fruition. It has been, and continues to be, a work of love.

In gratitude,
Diana McLean



Diana McLean participated in the Transgender Day of Visibility rally at the Minnesota State Capitol,

DRUUMM
PUBLIC WORSHIP
**SHINE ON BEAUTIFUL
& RESILIENT PEOPLE**

MAY 11, 2023 8 PM ET
REV. KATIE ROMANO GRIFFIN
AMANDA THOMAS

RSVP: druumm.org/events

OPEN TO ALL

UURMaPA is among the sponsors of this event. Members are encouraged to register and attend.



“hummm...” by Nina Benedetto

Visit Nina’s website to see
additional art:
www.ninabenedetto.com



“hummm...” by Nina Benedetto

This is the latest painting in my “Envisions” series. Because my paintings are steeped in symbolism, mythology, metaphor, puns, aphorisms, and cross-cultural allusions, I’ve done a bit of explaining below to reveal the intentions behind the piece.

The Title “hummm...”– Hum is an oddly wonderful sound word that can be used in many contexts. Depending upon one’s tone of voice, it expresses wonder or suspicion, indifference or condescension, questioning or declaring, and even elation, surprise and curiosity. When somebody says “hummm” there is usually more to the story that is unspoken. If said slowly with raised eyebrows it could express something as having an “Aha!” quality. I entitled this painting “hummm...” not just because of the sound hummingbird wings make but partly in jest to the initial response many viewers express encountering my work — hummm! Eyebrows furrowed!

Sacred Geometry – In cultures where it is deemed sacrilegious to directly represent the Ultimate (or “God”) in human terms, Islamic artists have found ways to use abstractions to portray essential elemental conceptions of the Divine. Different from patterns like checkerboard or stripes that merely repeat, sacred geometry consists of continuous patterning where there is a constant shifting of designs and shapes within other designs. This layering pays homage to the dynamic, infinite, mystical nature of the Universe. Shifting elements of the patterns can “move”, change and confound us, much as our experiences of life itself. Islamic artisans also implied that by “cropping” rather than ending at the edge of the format, the patterns continue beyond the edges of the work into infinity.

Bleeding Hearts – These flowers are associated with compassion and here make the shape of the infinity symbol. They too go off the page and onto the outside edge of the canvas, inviting the viewer to grapple with ever-expanding (and mind-blowing) concept of infinity.

Hummingbirds – A hummingbird’s wings make the figure 8 shape of infinity while hovering. This back-and-forth wing motion gives the birds the ability to fly backwards, forwards, sideways, straight up, and upside down. Hummingbirds experience life from every point of view, and by design they suck the nectar of life! They embody how essential perspective taking is to having and creating more compassion.

The Hanged Man – In Tarot, the Hanged Man is about initiation and perception. He literally must see the world from upside down. Although a Tarot deck of cards features only one Hanged Man, in this canvas there are two. The upright card is creased as if it had been crumpled, and the second card is sideways, suggesting there are other ways of seeing something. And we all know there are times when the world can seem upside down and sideways!

Stars – Lest we forget, we come from star dust. We must look up in order to see the stars, and in that very action we hold our heads up, literally. So it is no wonder, then, that The Star card of Tarot signifies our hopes and aspirations. Thus, the naked figure, like a fountain, perpetually pours the renewing water of life onto the earth.

I hope these explanations of my symbolic lexicon enrich your experience of “hummm.”

Invitation to Support UURMaPA Financially

Dear Friends:

We are starting to emerge from the long shadow of the pandemic. Our congregations have pivoted to a hybrid model of worship that has involved some of us who are still active. We began offering an online conference experience that has attracted over 150 of us consistently to see one another in a virtual world. We even are experimenting with regional clusters we are calling Pods where we join with one another in a smaller venue at a church or conference center for in-person meetings as part of the semi-annual conferences. We on the UURMaPA board are hard at work creating additional ways that we can inspire one another to maintain abiding connections and foster meaningful new ones in these evolving times.

UURMaPA now holds virtual ingatherings for new ministerial retirees and their partners. It has been well received and has been a larger gathering than if we had assembled at a General Assembly. We are creatively adapting to this new normal and feel that steadily improving electronic communications likely will enhance the bonds that unite us from here on.

While all of this is very positive for UURMaPA's future, such technology comes with added expenses. Also, we have always depended upon your generosity to support our other ongoing work to keep you connected, like the quarterly issues of Elderberries. And we are completing the UU Rainbow History Project to document the influence of our people in the LGBTQ movement within Unitarian Universalism. The manuscript has been accepted by Skinner House Books and will be published in late Summer or Early Fall of 2023. We still have outstanding costs associated with this effort.

We have tightened our budget to approximately \$35,000 a year so that we use our funds wisely. We have a very modest endowment (under \$80K) and want to grow it to provide more funding for special projects. We maintain a Money Market account for emergencies.

There are over 1,200 members of UURMaPA. If each were to donate just \$50, we would receive \$60,000, which would completely support our operations for the year and boost the endowment as well. For some of you, this might be a stretch, understandably. For others, you may be able to be more generous. Please, whatever amount you can give now will be greatly appreciated. Know that you are a valued member of our association.

If you wish to give online, go to the <https://UURMaPA.org> web page and click on the "Donate" button to be directed to the proper site. Should you wish to write a check, make it out to UURMaPA, c/o Richard Speck, 4721 Mermaid Blvd., Wilmington DE, 19808. All gifts will be acknowledged for tax purposes.

Thank you again for considering the financial well-being of UURMaPA. With your help, we will continue to support our retired ministers and their partners in the many fruitful ways of our interdependence.

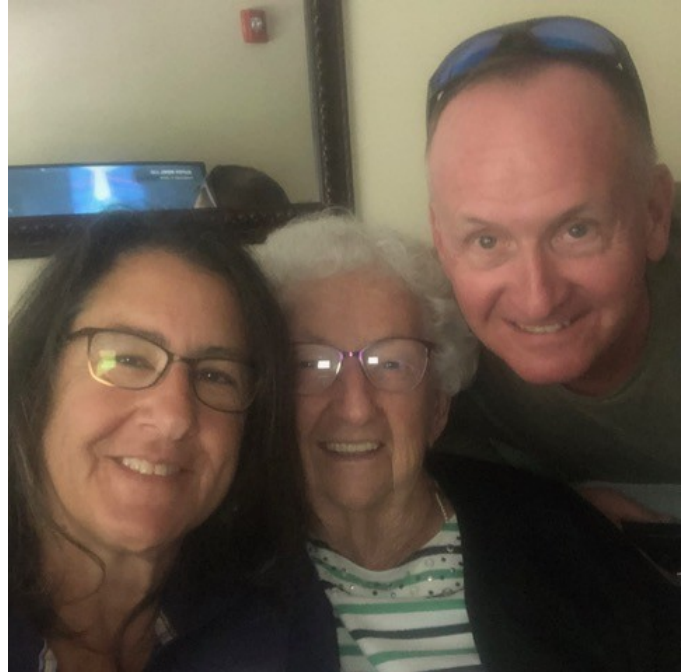
Yours in the faith,

Susan Rak, UURMaPA President

These Days

By Joanne Giannino

My mother-in-law
in the car
from Vermont
to Massachusetts
is quiet
At 90
looking out the window
smiling
As the autumn kissed
northern trees
give way to still late summer
green leaves of the southerly maples
She's so quiet I wonder what she's thinking
is she bored
angry
sad?
No,
grateful
She lets us know
each time she asks
Isn't life wonderful?
Oh, this world is so beautiful!
Isn't it just lovely?
And then with
a deep breath
and *thank you* exhalation
she relaxes
back into her seat
I enjoy being the passenger
these days.



Update from the UU Organizations Retirement Plan

As you may have already experienced, the transition of the UU Retirement Plan from TIAA to Empower has taken place with bumps in the road. Distributions are proceeding smoothly for non-clergy participants, but that has not been the case for clergy. The good news is that Empower works with church plans. However, because TIAA was not well structured for church plans, their system of working with tax suppression/housing allowance was not conveyed to Empower in any usable way. This is why Empower now needs all ministers receiving distributions to complete the ***Housing Allowance Distribution Form***. We know this is cumbersome and we can only apologize for the frustration and extra work this has created. But the good news is that we are working with a company that understands clergy whereas TIAA chose never to do so.

Empower is going to establish a grace period during which they will continue to suppress taxes if that is what you had set up with TIAA. However, they must set this up manually, and we are waiting to hear a date when the grace period will go into effect. It will run through August 1, 2023. Any taxes withheld in the meantime can be claimed for a refund when you next submit your taxes.

If you have not registered your account with Empower, please see our page: [Getting Started with Empower](#).

Whether or not you want taxes suppressed, if you are clergy and receive distributions, you need to complete Empower's ***Housing Allowance Distribution Form***. This will set up your record properly for your annual form 1099-R.

You can find the form itself and details related to the form here, where we are posting what we learn: [Completing the Empower Housing Allowance Distribution Form](#). You will also need to complete the IRS Form W-4P (new provision in 2023) and a state form for some states listed on this page.

We know that we will encounter more hiccups along the way, but the UUA Retirement Plan Team is dedicated to seeing this through for you, our participants. Please contact us with questions and visit our [Knowledge Base](#) where we have posted information about the transition and will continue to do so.

On the path, together,

Rev. Richard Nugent, Director, Church Staff Finances
Gloria Guldager, Director, UUA Retirement Plan
Jackie Toone, Employer Liaison
Anna Gehres, Retirement Plan Specialist



Ode to the Daisy Beetles

By Joanne Giannino

“I’m scared of the beetles, Nonna,”
says my six-year-old granddaughter.
The bugs are all over the daisies.
“They won’t hurt you,” I coo
but she leans away.
“I know,” I say, “let’s get some
soap and water and you can
spray those pests away.”
For the rest of the day
for the rest of her stay
she asks over and over
to go into the garden
and with her bottle of suds
she washes her fears away.



Stirrings of Compassion

By Gretchen Robinson

I am hoping to write some memoir material. We will see how it goes. I am a poet and writer, among other things. I do not write poetry now. I have gone back to being “locked up in prose,” as I have put it. I wrote this as a comment for a *New York Times* article:

One reason my husband married me was for my blonde hair. His father always told him to marry a “Swedish girl” because they kept a clean and tidy house. Sorry, I wasn’t Swedish -- Nor did I ever trade on it, ever. Being blonde is not a sign of virtue or intelligence (I’ve endured hundreds of dumb blonde jokes), nor of any supposed sexiness or being better than anyone else. I took no pride in my blonde hair. Pride goeth before a fall, and I was not going to ‘fall.’

I had my grandmother take me to the beauty shop and have it cut off. I wanted it short. The Quebecois woman barber fussed about cutting my hair. “Are you sure?” “Yes.” She asked my grandmother if she could send my long blonde locks, now in her loving hands, to the nuns in Quebec so they could use it for dolls. Off they went. My dad would call me his little boy but I didn’t care.

I refused the projections on me. Because I saw them as shallow and insipid, I saw how awful the projections on Black people were. I’d sit on the subway train going into Boston in the late 40s/early 50s with my grandmother and see Black people in seats opposite me. I felt how beaten down they were. We were poor but not downtrodden. We had woods to run in. I could see the apartments out the windows where they lived, and I felt deep stirrings of compassion.

Unitarian Universalist Society for Ministerial Relief, Inc.
Incorporated in Massachusetts in 1850

The Rev. Harold E. Babcock, President
88 Middle Street
West Newbury, MA 01985
978-270-9683
hebabcock1@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Susan Suchocki Brown, Secretary
80 Mill Glen Road
Winchendon, MA 01475
978-833-0916
revsusanu1@verizon.net

March 2023

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I'm writing 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.

Formed in the latter part of the 19th century to aid elderly Unitarian ministers and their surviving spouses, this independent organization holds over ten million dollars of investment, the income of which is granted quarterly to thirty-five or more individual recipients as long-term supplementary aid where retirement or pension provisions have not been adequate, or to meet unexpected expenses. Grants are based on financial need as determined by an application for aid provided by the Society.

As I noted in my annual report to the members last November, I like to think of our Society as a kind of promissory note to all those who have served our religious movement as both leaders and supportive partners. To those who have given so much of their time, talent, and treasure to make the world a better place, often with minimal recompense, my hope is that we can be there in a modest way to help them achieve some financial security, comfort, and freedom from fear in their retirement years. We know that for many of our recipients, our assistance is literally a God-send.

The Society is always concerned to find ways to expand our help to an increasing number of retired ministers and their spouses. We continue to suspect that there are many who could potentially benefit from the financial assistance of the Society, who either aren't aware of us or who may be reluctant to ask. Please check out our website (www.uuministerialrelief.org) where you can download an application for aid, and write, call, or email the Society, whether concerning your own situation or the possible needs of others.

With appreciation and kind regards,

Harold E. Babcock, President

P A N D E M I C (in modified acrostic)

By Barbara Wells ten Hove

March 2023

Perhaps I was naïve. **P**eople told me it would only last a few months. **P**lacated, I hunkered down, waiting for the curve to flatten. **P**eaceful moments happened in my quiet house.

Astonishingly I found ways to cope. **A**voiding others, I read whole series of books and watched versions of plays I'd missed. **A**ll in all, I discovered I could manage.

Never did I think it would go on and on. **N**ow and then I had a glimmer of hope but soon became angry at the ways culture and community shut down. **N**o one seemed to care that we were sacrificing so much out of fear. **N**ot suffering from coronaphobia, I visited family, shopped for others, was the first to get the shots.

Depression set in, though. **D**ealing with it as I was able, I tried to find ways to remain positive. **D**oing what I could, I learned to preach from my living room and sing into my phone. **D**amn, it sucked.

Eventually, the tide began to turn. **E**ven though many in my progressive communities thought it wrong, I went back to church, took off my mask, and remembered anew why community is meant to be lived in person.

Many folks cut me off, thinking my choices to engage and re-connect unsafe and unkind. **M**ainly, I was able to ignore their voices, trying hard to recognize that my views were not wrong, just different. **M**ost of my family and friends eventually joined me, realizing that after two plus years it was time.

It was hard to be on the outside of the communities I love. **I** was told I was ignorant, inappropriate, insensitive. **I** responded, "I think community is as important as individuals. I know that humans are not supposed to live apart from each other."

Carefully, I re-engaged. **C**an we find common ground after three years? **C**ommunity shifted but survived. **C**ongregational life re-energized. **C**an't we all be right?

Perhaps another **n**ew **d**ay emerges. **M**ay it come!

Consider joining a Peer Support Group

UURMaPA members who would like to enrich their connection with retired colleagues through regular online interactions might consider joining a Peer Support Group.

These groups depend entirely upon volunteer facilitators, who offer to convene groups and facilitate virtual meetings. If this is something you could see yourself doing in the coming year, please contact Vice President Ned Wight at vice-president@uurmapa.org. He'll be sending an e-mail invitation out to new UURMaPA members, asking if they'd like to participate in a collegial peer group. Based on those who say "Yes," he'll help designate two co-conveners for each group. They then become self-governing and self-regulating groups. Some decide to end after a year; others have been continuing for many years.

He is also open to your suggestions about virtual support groups with a specific focus. Two such groups already exist: a Caregivers Support Group for members who have particular roles as caregivers within their households, and a Grief Support Group for those recently bereaved. If there are other specific groups that you would like to suggest, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ned at vice-president@uurmapa.org.

These groups were initially launched by our colleague Jim Eller when he served as Vice President from 2013-15. He was inspired by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book *From Aging to Sageing*, which acknowledged the challenge of shifting our focus from "doing" to "being." Touching base with peers periodically seemed like a helpful way to facilitate this shift.



Call for "Creative Sageing" Award Nominees

Each year, UURMaPA recognizes one of its members—a minister or partner—with a "Creative Sageing Award." Drawing upon the wisdom of rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi in his landmark *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*, this annual award recognizes one of our members who has done something particularly impressive and/or inspiring during their retirement. Previous recipients have written books, undertaken significant projects, or done something unusually creative during this chapter of their lives.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another UURMaPAN for this year's award, simply identify the person and submit a brief description of their achievement(s) or project to UURMaPA's Vice President, Ned Wight (vice-president@uurmapa.org) by May 15, 2023. Ned and a small committee will review submissions, select an awardee and announce the recipient at the UURMaPA virtual new member welcome gathering this summer.

If you have any questions about the Creative Sageing Award, don't hesitate to contact Ned at vice-president@uurmapa.org.



**Kris Barker
(1964 - 2022)**

CHICAGO, IL – Kristina (Kris) Judith Barker, 58, died May 14, 2022, in Chicago. She was the wife of The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker. Kris was born March 5, 1964, in Arcadia, California, the daughter of Judith and Peter Starman, and attended the University of California, Irvine, where she received a B.A. in Theatre Arts in 1986.

Professionally, Kris was a film and stage actor before going back to school to become a landscape architect. She received her Masters in Landscape Architecture in 1996 from the College of Environmental Design at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

She and Lee Barker were married in 1999 in Pasadena, CA, where he was senior minister at Neighborhood UU Church. In 2003 he was named president of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, where he served until 2019 and is now president emeritus.

Upon moving to Chicago, Kris established her own landscape architecture firm. Specializing in residential design, her talents were sought after by clients throughout the midwest, even as she continued to take on projects in California. Over the years, Kris received numerous design awards from the Illinois American Society of Landscape Architects. For many years, Kris was an active member and leader in the First Unitarian Church of Chicago. She was a member of the Board of Trustees and chaired a ministerial search committee.

She is survived by her husband; their daughter, Ava; her mother, Judith Edwards; her sister, Kimberly Starman; and brother-in-law John Diklich. A memorial service was held June 8, at the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago. Memorial donations may be made to Neighborhood UU Church, 301 Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena CA 91103. UURMaPA will contribute \$50 to the Church.

**Betty Maloney
(1923 - 2022)**



BOULDER, CO – Betty Maloney died Feb. 2, 2022 when, although fully vaccinated, she succumbed to COVID. She was the widow of Rev. Thomas J. Maloney.

She was born June 8, 1923, in Boston, MA, to Walter and Elizabeth (Zepfler) Gartner. She attended Needham schools. Betty's childhood summers were spent at her grandfather's beach cottage in Minot on Boston's south shore. Her fondest memories later in life were of Minot. She was a graduate of Middlebury College, VT, with a major in economics; received an M.A. in Economics from Columbia University; and later an M.A. in Education from Southern Illinois University.

She married fellow Needham High graduate Thomas J. Maloney in 1948, a man possessed with Wanderlust. Tom completed degrees from Northeastern; the University of Colorado in Boulder; a Divinity degree from Harvard; and a PhD in Sociology/Anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis. In the year that Tom and Betty spent in Boulder, they became active in the Unitarian Fellowship (the first fellowship chartered by the American Unitarian Association) and welcomed their first daughter, Susan. Daughter Greta was born in Massachusetts; Lisa, was born in Davenport, IA; and son Thomas Jefferson was born in Quincy, IL.

Tom served ministries in Davenport, IA; Quincy, IL; and Boulder, CO. He also taught Anthropology and sociology in Boulder; in Las Vegas, NM; at Southern Illinois University; and started the Anthropology Dept. at Ripon College, WI.

(continued on the next page)

In Boulder, beyond raising four children, Betty was active in the League of Women Voters, Shares In the Future (anti-nuclear weapons), and library services to Boulder County. She helped obtain funding for a bookmobile and volunteered with the librarian. She was president of the League of Women Voters. In 1967 the family moved to Ripon, WI, where Betty was a fifth-grade teacher. In Edwardsville, IL, she worked as a reading tutor.

In Edwardsville Betty really came into her own in community service: the Human Relations Commission, the Edwardsville Township Community Improvements Corporation, and the Historic Preservation Commission. Maloney counted the months of her service in Edwardsville with bricks from demolished buildings. “Oh, dear,” she would say, “this was a three brick month!”

She helped to create the N.O. Nelson Historic District, the Goshen Preservation Alliance, and Friends of the Edwardsville Public Library. She administered the Community Development & Rehabilitation Fund and oversaw surplus food programs for Edwardsville Township. She worked tirelessly for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and debated Phyllis Schlafly on the issue. She received the NAACP Award, the Women’s Award, and the Jefferson Award for Distinguished Public Service in the St. Louis area.

In 2005 her husband Tom, “the light of her life, left her.” In 2013 she moved to Balfour in Louisville to be closer to daughter Greta. In 2016, due to increasing dementia, Betty moved to The Academy at Bella Vista. In 2019 Betty lost her eyesight to glaucoma but remained engaged in the world. She was a trivia champion at Bella Vista, a lifelong gardener, an artist, and very interested in genealogy. For years she sent individually painted holiday cards and cards with pressed flowers. As family historian, she compiled numerous books on branches of her family.

Betty is survived by her sister, Louise Birkhead of Slingerlands, NY; daughters, Susan Thomae (Edmundo) of Mexico City; Greta Maloney (Bob Palaich) of Boulder, CO; and Lisa Maloney Hahn (Dan Maloney Hahn) of Groton, NY; her son, Tom (Jeff) Maloney (Lori) of Worden, IL; seven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Donations in Betty’s memory can be made to:

The League of Women Voters (<https://www.coloradogives.org/LWVColorado>)
The Madison County Historical Society (<https://madcohistory.org/joindonate>)
or the Poudre River Public Library (<https://www.poudrelibraries.org/donate>)

Mickey Worth (1947 - 2023)



ELLSWORTH, ME – Michelle “Mickey” Worth, 75, died peacefully at Northern Light Maine Coast Hospital, Ellsworth, on Friday, Feb. 24, with her husband, Mark Worth, holding her hand, and surrounded by friends. Mickey was born in Newport, R.I., May 21, 1947, the daughter of Sherwood Barry and Elizabeth Johansson Barry.

She grew up in Pittsfield, Mass., and graduated from Pittsfield High School, Class of 1965. She had a B.A. from National College of Education (now National Louis University, Chicago) and an M.A. in counseling from the University of Southern Maine.

During a brief first marriage, Mickey’s daughter Kimberly Evans was born in 1965. Mickey married Mark Worth in 1979. They moved to Ellsworth in 1991, where Mark was a pastor serving the Unitarian Universalist churches in Ellsworth and Castine. Mickey was a social worker employed by Community Health and Counseling Services from 1991 until her retirement in 2016.

She loved to travel and learn about other cultures. During their 45 years together, Mickey and Mark visited Greece, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Italy, Canada and Mexico. Mickey was active in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth, and in A.A., where she made many dear friendships. She was famous for her cookies and made the best carrot cake anyone has ever eaten.

She is survived by her husband, Mark, who represents Ellsworth and Waltham in the Maine House of Representatives, her sister Sandra Barry of Waukesha, Wis., brother Dennis Barry and sister-in-law Sharon Barry, of Pittsfield, Mass., sister-in-law Carolyn Barry of Chesterfield, Va., and her grandchild Darwin MacDonald of Pittsfield, Mass. She was predeceased by her parents, her daughter Kim Evans and her brother Stephen Barry.

There will be a celebration of Michelle’s life on May 13, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth.

Arrangements by Acadia Burial and Cremation Direct, 248 State St., Ellsworth.

UURMaPA Spring Conference

Thirty Years Both Ways: Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future

The Summary

- An innovative program addressing past and future
- Odyssey by Carol Hepokoski
- Still only \$40 for registration (scholarships available)
- May 1-3 on Zoom, with a pod available in Wilmington DE
- A chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new acquaintances
- Draft Conference Schedule:

<https://uurmapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Preliminary-Program-Schedule.pdf>

- Register at <https://uurmapa.regfox.com/uurmapa-spring-conference-2023>

The Theme

Where were you in 1993?

Yes, that was 30 years ago now. The year the first web browser came into use. The year Delores Williams published her first book of womanist theology. The year of the Thomas Jefferson Ball at General Assembly, and the subsequent upheaval.

In lieu of a theme speaker and listed in alphabetical order, our LIVE theme panels will include participation from these leaders:

Wayne Arnason, Sofia Betancourt, Jacqueline Brett, Barbro Hansson, Laurel Hallman, Mel Hoover, Janice-Marie Johnson, Arvid Straube, Diane Miller, Elias Ortega, Carolyn Owen-Towle, Chris Rothbauer, Leon Spencer and Elnora Williams

Monday Panel #1 – “After the Ball is Over” – Key figures whose lives were changed by the 1993 General Assembly controversy about the Thomas Jefferson Ball will tell their stories, reflect on the evolution of anti-racist and anti-oppression work after the Ball, and consider the future of our commitment to this work.

Tuesday Panel #2 – “Women, Identity and Leadership” - Four women who have aspired to the UUA Presidency will meet for the first time in public conversation about women in leadership in our Association. The circumstances thirty years ago, the changes that have happened since, and the future of identity considerations in leadership roles in denominational and congregational life will shape their reflections.

Wednesday Panel #3 - “The Future of our Movement and our Ministry – Multigenerational Perspectives” . Parish and community ministers of different ages and from different worlds of congregational size and denominational leadership will reflect on where religious life and religious leadership are heading by the middle of the 21st century.

Other Programs

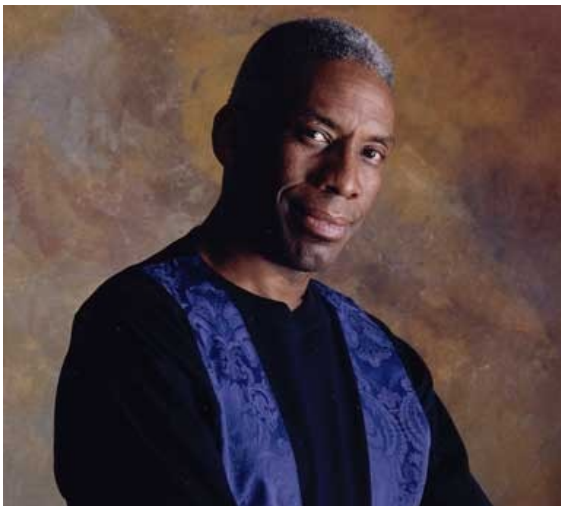
Reggie Harris, singer-songwriter, storyteller, and lecturer associated with the UU Living Legacy program, will make a special appearance Monday evening. Here’s a sample of his music:
<https://youtu.be/8aUANXW1TRY>.

Of course, we will have our usual inspiring worship, including the Remembrance Service, opportunities for deep connection in small groups, and an Odyssey by Carol Hepokoski. All in the Land of Zoom.

Pod

We love that so many people have been able to gather virtually at past conferences, but some still miss the personal face-to-face connections that meant so much pre-pandemic. If you are among those, you are invited to the Wilmington, Delaware, pod. Pod participants make their own arrangements to stay (or commute) and eat in a variety of settings near the church, which will host conference programming segments shared on a large screen. Some joint meals will be arranged. Contact Richard Speck treasurer@uurmapa.org for more information or to join the pod.

Want to know more? <https://uurmapa.org/activities/>



Reggie Harris



Carol Hepokoski

Fall 2023 Conference Convener Search is Under Way

Here's an idea for you -- how might it be to envision yourself as the Convener of the Planning Team for the Fall 2023 UURMaPA Conference? You never thought of such a thing? Hmm. Well, consider this. Are you committed to UURMaPA having meaningful and inspiring gatherings? Are details important to you? If you would like to explore the possibility of you as Convener, write to Barbro Hansson at BarbroMHansson@gmail.com.

To help you think about whether you would like to explore, here is some preliminary information.

The Planning Team Convener, in collaboration with the UURMaPA Board Conference Coordinator, will recruit a creative and robust team of individuals who will each take on a particular portfolio. (A few UURMaPAs have already volunteered to join the Planning Team.) There are all kinds of tools and resources available for the Convener and the Team.

The Fall 2023 Conference is scheduled for October 23-25. It will again be multi-platform, available at low cost in the virtual Land of Zoom. For those who want to gather in person, there will also be a number of regional pods.

First order of business for the Planning Team Convener and the Board Conference Coordinator will be to explore possible themes and settle on a good one. And, with the Planning Team in place, the focus turns toward creating rich, relevant and rewarding conference programming for our UURMaPA membership.

Not sure whether the Convener's position is for you, but intrigued by the possibility? Tempted perhaps? Write to BarbroMHansson@gmail.com and talk it over with Barbro. You just never know what might come of it.

-- Save the Date --

Fall Conference

October 23 - 25