



## Spring Conference 2025 Review

The conference planning team regards our spring 2025 conference as the most successful in recent memory. It began Monday, April 21, with a worshipful ingathering service produced by a team led by Joan Van Becelaere.

David Bumbaugh offered a homily, which was warmly received, being relevant, moving and inspiring. One respondent to our survey mentioned the interactions across generations and disciplines, impressed by how Rev. Bumbaugh's grandson is in a different universe than the one we've lived in, but the advice or question—how does your work help?—is still important.

Susan Rak and others on the board brought us up to date on the activities of our association. As one person said, "As a first-timer, it satisfied some of my curiosity about this organization." Another response: "As this organization becomes an important part of my 'church life,' hearing from the leaders builds my sense of community."

Connecting Rooms on the first day answered the question, "How is it with thy spirit?" and even though these rooms were virtual, our members appreciated the opportunity to connect. "I made good connections with colleagues—some I knew, and some I now know," was the response of one person. And that perfectly describes the purpose of Connecting Rooms: As we are so spread out, and as travel is expensive and difficult, these virtual meetings are a way to connect—a different way. "I liked that the groups were small. It made the process workable, especially for people who have not previously met. This sort of exercise focuses the mind nicely. And it was an 'icebreaker' for me."



*The worship planning team, L-R: Jef Gamblee, Joan Van Becelaere, Chris Jones-Leavy, Kathleen Fowler, Marco Belletini, David Bumbaugh, and Alison Wohler.*

Continued on page 4

**Greetings from the  
Elderberries editor**

*George Buchanan here. I'm the editor for Elderberries. If you have story suggestions or ideas for improving Elderberries, contact me at elderberries@uurmapa.org*

*I deeply appreciate the information provided by so many of you and wise copy-editing and layout advice from my spouse Carrie Buchanan. Thanks also to Ann Marie Alderman for curating our directory.*

*All unidentified photos (including some outdoor signs) are from the Eastern Ontario town where I live.*

# Presidential Ponderings

**By Rev. Dr. Susan Veronica Rak  
UURMaPA Board President**

I write these words as spring wends its way towards summer here on the east coast. This is my last note to you as President of UURMaPA and after General Assembly, I will hand over the responsibilities of UURMaPA leadership to Richard Speck, incoming President.

It has been a rewarding and joyful experience over these past six years. I came onto the Board in the summer of 2019, and my first UURMaPA conference as a Board member was that Fall, focused on the the Rainbow History Project pioneered by Rev. Dorothy Emerson. After her death, it was carried on by the UURMaPA Board.

What a monumental and important work that was, celebrating the story of LGBTQIA+ in the UUA

with stories from the lived experience of those involved, many of whom part of this cohort of retired folk. That legacy lives on: be on the lookout for a book from Skinner House documenting much of the stories and history from that project (hopefully before the year is out).

**Continued on page 3**

## Table of Contents

Spring Conference Review	1, 4-7
Presidential Ponderings	2-3
New Board and Nominating Committee Members	8-10
Connections Corner	11-12
Welcome New Members	12
Save the Dates	12
Bellingham area Clergy	13
Obituaries	14-19

## ***Presidential Ponderings, continued***

Like most of you, I never imagined the arrival of the pandemic in a few short months after that! The changes we've seen since that time are remarkable - and through it all the growth of an inclusive, vibrant UURMaPA.

I recall our perhaps clumsy but hopeful initial Zoom gatherings, trying to figure out how to replace the in-person experience of General Assembly events with a virtual meeting. And I remember thinking that surely, by the fall conference of 2020 we'd be back in person!

Well, you all know how that went. Yet in these four+ years we've honed the conference experience to a point where there's a rhythm to the event and an expectation of quality programming that increases its value.

But most importantly this virtual world enabled us to provide opportunities for more and more retired UU ministers and partners or spouses to make real connections. Moving beyond the limits of geography and the expense of travel, Zoom allows us to not feel so alone in the world. We can find the support of kindred spirits despite time zones and area codes. And the number of our Zoom "small groups" meeting on a regular basis shows how this commitment to connections has grown and deepened.

I also think that this refocusing of how we connect prodded us to think of how we interact, and what guides those interactions. Our conversations about covenant and accountability rooted us in community and made real the assumptions we might have had about what that community could be. To state expectations about how we will be in community didn't set up a bunch of onerous rules and regulations but rather created a spirit of inclusion and respect - one that was probably there already but now made explicit.

I am proud of all that we did together over there past six years, with different participants in leadership but all with the same intent and commitment: "to be an inclusive multicultural community that serves the interests and enhances the well-being of retired Unitarian Universalist ministers and their life partners ..." (from the UURMaPA purpose statement)

I believe that UURMaPA is one of the best ways we have to connect and support one another in these difficult times, and I am so glad YOU are a part of it!

Wishing you all the best,

***Susan***

Reverend Dr. Susan Veronica Rak, retired



**Pictures by  
George  
Buchanan  
from around  
Perth,  
Ontario**



## *Spring Conference 2025, continued*



*Scotty McLennan*



*Phyllis Morales*

Phyllis Morales offered us a peek into her life in photos, as she brought along her photo albums to illustrate her Odyssey. We were all amazed at her travels, and the fact that in her life, she moved 31 times. One attendee said, “I was delighted to hear her perspective and story. I appreciated her photos. As a shy child with a very shy mother, her spirit of exploration and acts of international hospitality as an adult were so intentional and generous. I am glad and grateful I was able to hear her Odyssey.”

Others were impressed with her delicate recounting of her husband’s service as president of the UUA. “I felt for her as she recounted Peter’s departure from the UUA in very careful words. I can only imagine that her odyssey evoked some painful memories.”

The spring conference usually features a concert, and this year, we welcomed Melanie DeMore. Our members loved her. “She is able to connect online in a very palpable, heartfelt way. I sang along and felt very uplifted. I loved how accessible she was and how her songs emotionally and spiritually connected. She is a very welcoming spirit.”



*Melanie DeMore*

**Continued on page 5**

## Spring Conference 2025, continued



*Karen Hering*

Tuesday's activities began with an appearance by Rev. Karen Hering, whose recent book, *Trusting Change*, fueled her theme presentation: "Called to Connect in the Midst of Change." Many attendees were enthusiastic about the session "This is why I registered for this conference and I was not disappointed. It was an excellent opportunity to learn and grow in spirit. I especially appreciated her inviting us to consider the variety of connections in our lives. I'll pay more attention going forward."

However, we may have misjudged how popular Rev. Hering would be. We received several comments indicating people wanted more time with her. "I would have enjoyed more time for Karen Hering to share her wisdom and experience. The format of talk/reflect/small groups needed much more time to be effective. She was original, organized, experienced, present, and I wanted more of her and less of everything else."

Wayne Walder's MiniStories session was new for us this spring. Driven by a desire to honor the stories we inhabit as ministers, Wayne devised a way for us to share and appreciate three different stories, which were a big hit with most of us. One said, "It was good. It is true that we ministers inevitably have interesting stories: funny, sad, profound, quirky. I welcome quirky and funny along with sad and profound. I'm also wondering if there was a way for there to be live, real-time engagement with the presenters and one another."

Although Wayne was apprehensive at first, his session was engaging. "So rich! And Wayne's presentation of the storytellers was warm and empathetic—which encouraged our deep listening. The stories were beautiful in themselves and evoked some of my own stories of ministry. I was reminded that often the most important parts of our ministries might be the least visible. I hope something like this recurs in future conferences."

Indeed. Conversations have already started.

The worship team returned in Tuesday's last session to lead us in a service of remembrance, honoring the memory of recently departed ministers and partners. It was personal for some of our members. "I had personal ties to two of the deceased and will follow up with messages to their next-of-kin, sharing fond feelings of remembrance that arose for me during the service."

But for others, who did not know the deceased, the service still moved them. "This was one of the deepest times for me. I didn't know all those we remembered, yet I appreciated being 'introduced' in this intimate and moving celebration of their lives and ministries. I loved the obituaries, shared so lovingly and offering a better understanding of our colleagues who have gone before, many of whom I had not known."



*Wayne Walder*

**Continued on page 6**



## **Spring Conference 2025, continued**

3. What positive changes can I make in my life and daily practices that will enable me to go the long distance?

A personal note now, from the conference planning team. Thank you for noticing our work and complimenting us. We were happy to produce this conference. Yes, we expended a significant amount of effort to make the conference happen, but we had a good time doing so. The planning team consists of about a dozen people who came together before the year-end holidays, however, nearly 70 people, some in more than one role, made direct contributions to this conference. And we offer our sincere gratitude to those people. Thank you.

You played a part as well in making this the most successful conference we can remember. We had a record number of registrants and exceeded projected income. Thank you so much!

The planning team is now looking for a couple of new members, as some have regretfully resigned to attend to other obligations. Serving on this planning team is work, but it's good work and it's a lot of fun. Susan Smith is our scribe, librarian and historian. She said, "Since I have no particular duties during the conference itself, I collected on-the-fly thoughts about making our next conference even better. I also kept an eye on the lively chat thread and responded to questions. These roles are very dynamic and keep me on my toes, which is what I enjoy."

Jan Carlsson-Bull was one of two people who administered connecting rooms and trained facilitators. Jan wrote, "Deeper connection with colleagues surely was the hot fudge on top of the rich sundae of serving on the conference planning team. It was also a joy to partner with Anita Farber-Robertson in coordinating the Connecting Room facilitators. If you are thinking about joining the planning team, if your life permits the time to say yes, you will be grateful that you did so."

Please contact Sonya Sukalski ([sonya.sukalski@comcast.net](mailto:sonya.sukalski@comcast.net)) or Jeff Briere ([jeffbriere@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbriere@gmail.com)) if you wish to join the planning team or if you have questions about it. We will begin to plan the fall conference within a few weeks. We aim for 75-minute Zoom meetings, and the frequency of our meetings increases as we near the conference opening. We'd love for you to join us!

The fall conference opens October 20 and closes October 22. Increasing costs force us to raise the registration price from \$45 to \$50, which is still a bargain. Check your email over the summer for the latest news about the fall conference, or visit our Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/2003125769981908](https://facebook.com/groups/2003125769981908)), or our website ([uurmapa.org](http://uurmapa.org)) for more information.

Remember Scotty's advice: ***Simplify, Savor and Serve.***

At last, here are Shelly Page's words as the conference ended: "I so appreciate all of you! In many ways, UURMAPA is now my church. Take care and see you in October!"

***The Conference Planning Team***



# New Members Join Board, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following new and continuing members of the UURMaPA Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. With gratitude, the current board has endorsed their candidacies. Please join us in applauding their upcoming service as we look forward to their contributions and leadership in the years ahead.



**The Rev. Dr. Richard Speck (left), our new president,** is the retired District Executive for the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. He served 14 years as DE before retiring from full-time ministry in 2014. He was named Minister Emeritus in 2019.

He has served as Treasurer of the UU Ministers Association twice, finishing his second three-year term in 2020. He served as treasurer of the UU Retired

Ministers and Partners Association for four years 2021-2024. He is married to Janet Tillman and resides in Wilmington, DE. He enjoys making music with various instruments, flying his own airplane, and creating stained glass art.

**The Rev. Charles Stephens (right),** our new vice-president, was ordained in 1973, as a Lutheran. He transferred to the UU Ministry in 1981, serving UU congregations in Maine, New Hampshire and New Jersey. He was named Minister Emeritus to the UU Congregations in Ellsworth, Maine and Washington Crossing, NJ.

Trained at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Guidance, he continues to provide Spiritual Direction, primarily to colleagues. He is active as a guest minister, a Democratic County Chair, managing their seasonal rentals and gardening. He and Alison, his wife, live in Blue Hill, Maine on their large homestead. They have three adult children and a grandson.



Continued on page 9

## ***New Members Join Board, Nominating Committee, continued***



**Janet Tillman, the new At Large I, Connections Coordinator (at left),** has 40-plus years of experience with nonprofit organizations spanning the fields of mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, health care, domestic violence and quality improvement. She received her MSW from The Ohio State University School of Social Work. She is an experienced manager, social worker, and instructor/facilitator with skills in organizational development, leadership, governance, strategic planning, program design, and more. In 2007 Janet started a consulting business focused on building nonprofit organizations' capacity to align their services with their vision/mission and community needs, deliver quality services, and communicate program effectiveness to stakeholders. It is through her work with nonprofits that Janet strives to achieve her mission of "community change through organizational excellence."

**The Rev. Christine Robinson, the new At Large II, Denominational Liaison (at right),** earned her M.Div from Boston University School of Theology in 1980 and served most of her career in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She retired from her position there in 2017, worked with the Congregational life staff in the PWR as consultant for large congregations for several years, and did two distance interim ministries during the pandemic. She "fully" retired in 2022. She is married to William Baker and they have a grandson, born in 2023. She remains a participating clergy member of First Unitarian in Albuquerque. She has taken an interest in how retired and non-parish clergy participate in UU congregations and relate to the parish clergy and to the guidelines, policies, and best practices of our faith on that matter.



**Continued on page 10**

## ***New Members Join Board, Nominating Committee, continued***

Thanks also to continuing board members **The Rev. Anne Marsh, Secretary; The Rev. Dr. Paul Johnson, Treasurer; The Rev. Joy Atkinson, Connections Assistant (2nd term); The Rev. George Buchanan, Elderberries Editor (2nd term); and The Rev. Barbro Hansson, At Large III, Conferences.**

The **Nominating Committee** has two new members and three who are continuing.



**The Rev. Dr. Marni Harmony (at left)**, the first new member of the Nominating Committee, was ordained in 1974. Marni served churches in State College, Pennsylvania, and Brookfield, Wisconsin, before being called to Orlando, Florida, where she served for 20 years. She then enjoyed two wonderful Interim ministries in Marietta, Georgia and Tarpon Springs, Florida. A Unitarian Universalist since age 7, Marni has served as a hospital chaplain, a college chaplain, and a psychotherapist as well as being a VISTA volunteer. She retired in 2014 and has stayed active with UURMaPA and the UUMA. She is happily retired and makes her home in Winter Park, FL with her spouse Nancy and their animal companion dogs Finn and Wilson. She eats lots of vegetables, plays the Irish whistle, and takes chocolate seriously.

**The Rev. Leslie Westbrook, Ph.D., LCPC (at right)**, the second new member of the Nominating Committee, has spent over 50 years devoted to Unitarian Universalism. She was ordained to parish ministry in 1973 and served parishes in New England and the Southeast. She served for six years at the UUA. She was first a pastoral psycho-therapist in the Chicago area and then received a Ph.D. in clinical social work and has worked for over 30 years in the Washington, D.C. area. Many of her clients have been Unitarian Universalists, both ministerial and lay. During those years, she was affiliated as a community minister at Cedar Lane and then River Road. For eight years she served on the MFC. Her commitment to our faith runs deep.



Many thanks also to those continuing to serve on the Nominating Committee: **The Rev. Beth Miller (2nd term), Barry Finkelstein (2nd term), and Kathleen Hunter (2nd term).**

## CONNECTIONS CORNER

Want to strengthen your connections with other UURMaPAns?  
Here are some opportunities:

### Join a **GENERAL CONNECTIONS ZOOM GROUP**

**73 UURMaPAns are now participating in 12 regular Zoom Groups**

Though self-governing as to format and schedule, most groups

- > Have 5-8 members
- > Choose a Convenor/Facilitator member
- > Meet monthly for a 90-minute session to
  - \* open and close with a reading
  - \* give each member 5 minutes to share "How is it with thy Spirit"
  - \* spend the remaining time discussing a topic chosen at the prior session (and choosing the next session's topic.)
- > Each fall and spring, free all to "depart with thanks" or re-commit for 6 months more.

**To explore joining an on-going Connections Zoom Group, or forming a new one, email [fhudson@uuma.org](mailto:fhudson@uuma.org).**

### Try a **FOCUSED INTEREST ZOOM GROUP** (Learn more by contacting the Convenors directly)

- **Ministers' Partners**  
Convenor: Janet Tillman - Email: [jetillman@comcast.net](mailto:jetillman@comcast.net) Phone: (302) 388-3499  
*Come together with other partners to share personal experiences, establish a social network, offer & receive support, and have fun.*
- **Goddess Group**  
Convenor: Sydney Morris - Email: [samorris@uuma.org](mailto:samorris@uuma.org) Phone: (906) 370-3927  
*We meet monthly. We check in, and then go around to answer the question "How has the goddess shown up in your life this month?"*
- **Grief Support**  
Convenor: Duane Fickiesen - Email: [dfickeisen@uuma.org](mailto:dfickeisen@uuma.org) Phone: (717) 448-3279  
*For UURMaPAns who have been recently widowed and are grieving the loss of their partner meets monthly. Each of us grieves in our own way. We offer a safe and confidential space to find support in our separate journeys.*
- **Caregivers**  
Convenors:
  - Makannah Morris - Email: [revs2uu@aol.com](mailto:revs2uu@aol.com) Phone: 434-384-7821
  - Yvonne Strejek - Email: [yesyvonne@gmail.com](mailto:yesyvonne@gmail.com) Phone: 510-684-1471
  - Kathleen Ellis Email: [kellis@uuma.org](mailto:kellis@uuma.org) Phone: 512-567-2115*For UURMaPAns caring for another person, who come together for an hour of check-in, shared resources, and caring for one another. We covenant for confidentiality.*

Continued on page 12

## Partner with (or become) a LOCAL AREA CONNECTOR

Our membership is clustered into 35 Geographical Areas.

**In 18 areas, Connectors now offer:**

- welcomes to newly retired & new-to-Area UURMaPAn's;
- annual check-ins with continuing Area UURMaPAn's;
- support to survivors at an Area UURMaPAn's death;
- other connecting opportunities as moved by Area colleagues' spirit and energy

**In 17 areas, Connector activity awaits your initiative to form a partnership.**

Check out your Area's listing. <https://uurmapa.org/resources/#Area-Connectors>

- If your Area has a Connector, contact them to join in their ministry.
- ***If your Area has no Connector, email [fHUDSON@uuma.org](mailto:fHUDSON@uuma.org) to explore how to partner in this ministry.***

## Let's Connect!!

Fritz Hudson – Connections Co-ordinator

## Save the Date

UURMaPA Fall 2025 Conference,  
October 20-22, 2025



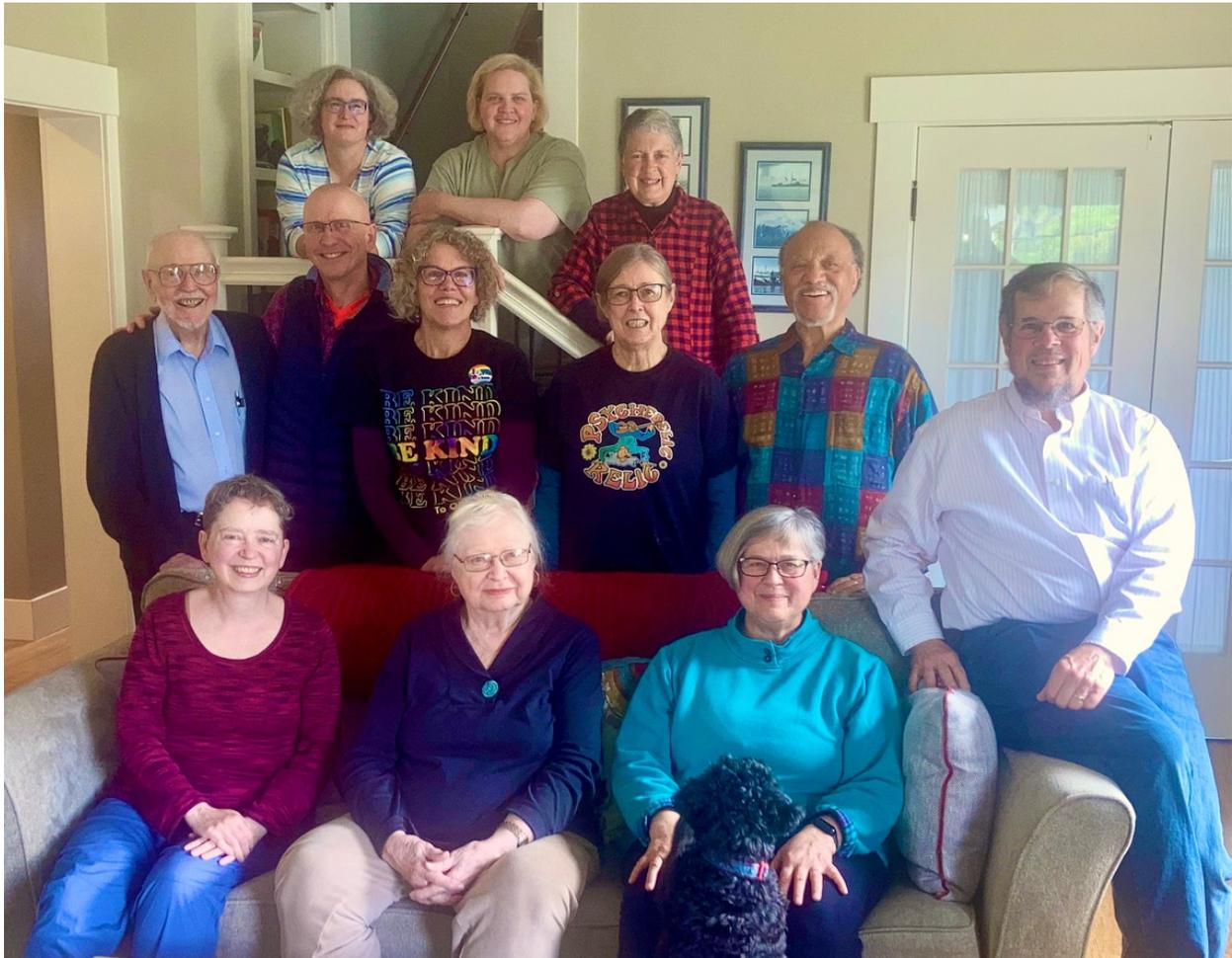
## Welcome to New UUURMaPA Members

**Bill Gupton**

**Bob Klein**

**Nancy and Vince Pellegrini**

## ***Bellingham Honors Retirement of Settled Minister and Spouse***



*Front row:* Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove (spouse Rev. Jaco was behind the camera); Loretta Willems; (spouse of Bill Haney), Linda Berg (with Ziggy) and Rev. Peter Luton. *Middle row:* Rev. Bill Haney; Rev. Paul and Jane Beckel; Rev. Rose Edington and Rev. Mel Hoover. *Back Row:* Lisa Heezen and Rev. Tessie Mandeville (aspirants to retirement); Rev. Barbara Gilday.

Bellingham (WA) Unitarian Fellowship's numerous clergy and partners (mostly retired) gathered to honor the impending retirement and departure of our beloved settled minister and spouse, Rev. Paul and Jane Beckel on May 31, 2025, a rainy day that spoiled our backyard picnic, but was nonetheless a very fulfilling event. We especially enjoyed a circle conversation where each shared insights about their experience of transitioning from working world into retirement.

# Obituaries

## Donna E. Clifford

WOBURN, MA – Donna E. Clifford, 76, passed away Nov. 25, 2024, at her home in Woburn, after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was the spouse/beloved life partner of the late Rev. Dr. Dorothy Emerson.

Donna was born in Stoughton, Massachusetts, Dec. 22, 1947. She was the daughter of Ward and Barbara (Batchelder) Clifford. She graduated from Stoughton High School in 1965 and received a B.A. in philosophy from UMass Amherst in 1970. Donna was a longtime member of the Melrose, Massachusetts, Unitarian Universalist Church. She was very active in many UU organizations over the years.

Donna and Dorothy shared over 30 happy years together and were legally married in June 2004. They traveled to many places before Dorothy's sudden passing in May 2019.

Donna worked as a professional financial advisor specializing in socially responsible investments at the company she founded, Rainbow Investment Solutions. She was affiliated with many organizations, including Zonta Club of Medford, Medford Arts Council, NAACP, MUUA and many others.

Donna loved to travel, especially to Provincetown, Massachusetts; Sedona, Arizona; and Hawaii. She recently enjoyed a wonderful trip to Italy. Her hobbies included photography, hiking, writing poetry, music, reading and art. She loved spending time with her family and many friends and was loved dearly.

Donna is survived by her son, Damian Elrod (Susan) of Michigan, and grandson, Zade Elrod of Michigan. She is survived by siblings, Judy Barrette of Norton, Massachusetts; Diane (Rich) Rodriguez of Santa Barbara, California; Janet (John) Fahey of Stoughton, Massachusetts; Joan (Peter) Ouellet of Mashpee, Massachusetts; Ward (Kristina) Clifford of Hull, Massachusetts; and Sherri (Kevin) Stone of Bourne, Massachusetts; as well as many nieces, nephews, uncle and aunt, cousins, dear friends and colleagues. Besides her wife and parents, she was predeceased by her brother-in-law, Robert Barrette.

A Celebration of Life was held Jan. 18 at the Melrose UU Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center at BIDMC.org or Melrose UU Church (please make checks to Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church with "in honor of Donna Clifford" on the memo line, and mail to 70 West Emerson Street, Melrose, MA 02176).



Continued on page 15

## Obituaries, continued



### Carole Green

SANTA ROSA, Calif. — Carole Green, 90, widow of the Rev. Dr. Robert Edward Green, died on Jan. 14. She was born Dec. 2, 1934, in Chicago to Jalmar and Anna Perttula. Her two sisters, Viola and Marie, were 15 and 16 years older, “bonus mothers” to Carole. She grew up in Redwood City, California, and graduated from Sequoia High School. She attended Santa Rosa Junior College, then San Francisco State University, where she earned a B.A. and a teaching credential.

Carole used to joke that if a car came by and the passenger door was open, she would hop in. She almost wasn’t kidding. When she lived in Portland, Oregon, she overheard a recently widowed woman at the UU Fellowship express anxiety about taking a cross-country road trip alone. Without hesitation, Carole, then in her 70s, offered to join her and even volunteered to drive her car. Although Carole had never met the woman before, off they went. Carole made friends easily, and they stopped to visit several along the way. Her love of “going on an adventure” never faded, though more recently, her road trips were mainly limited to cruising around beautiful Sonoma County with her daughter at the wheel.

While living in San Francisco, Carole met her husband, Robert, after accidentally driving the wrong way down a one-way street. They lived in many places, including San Diego, California, the states of Ohio, Massachusetts, Vermont, Georgia and Michigan, and abroad in Japan. In 1973, they settled in Stockton, California, where they raised their “triple-trouble trio” Christopher, Kimberley and Channing. Carole taught mostly second grade until her retirement in 1996.

After Robert passed away in 2003, Carole relocated to Portland to be near daughter Kimberley and family. Later, they spent two years in Clovis, New Mexico, before returning to Santa Rosa in 2011.

Carole passed away peacefully, at home with Kimberley and wonderful caregiver Pau Dianimoto by her side. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Robert; her sons Christopher and Channing Green; and her sisters, Marie Francescutti and Viola Andreini. Carole is survived by daughter Kimberley (Chris) Gibson, and two grandchildren.

A gathering in her honor was held in Santa Rosa on Feb. 22. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton, California.

**Continued on page 16**

## Obituaries, continued

### Carl Herbert Haag

PRINCETON, N.J. – Carl Herbert Haag, 96, died April 23. He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Carol Haag, children Cindy and Ken, daughter-in-law Nikki and two grandchildren.

Carl was born July 3, 1928, in Cleveland, the only child of Anna and Albert Haag. He explored the city with his mother, an avid bicyclist, and his childhood friend Herb Field. He and Herb spent a summer with a Mennonite family in Virginia that was a treasured memory. Later he led cycling trips with Canadian Youth Hostels in Canada and Europe and took his wife and children on a cycling trip through the Canadian Rockies.

Following graduation, he enrolled in the U.S. army, attending Antioch College on the GI Bill. He earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Michigan, and while teaching there, he responded to a job offer at Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, N.J. He was so intrigued with the Advanced Placement Program that he took the job, then worked as the director of the AP program for 27 years.

ETS brought many good things into Carl's life, including his wife Alice Carol Schwartz. He saw her in a play as Mommy in the "American Dream" and thought she was dreadful, but when they took a walk at ETS and he saw her take her shoes off in the mud he fell in love with her. They were married at the Unitarian Church in 1965 and lived in Princeton for 60 years. They built a house in the woods and raised their two children, Cindy and Kenneth, there. Carl created a magical, loving environment for them to grow up in. Long before he died Carl wrote a note for his family to find, saying: "You were the best things in my life and I loved you deeply."

Carl was an avid photographer, capturing his life experiences from an early age. He photographed people, the natural world, family occasions and his many travels around the world. He was an avid collector, fascinated by tools and antiques. He was a good listener, asking engaging questions to draw someone out and learn about them, and was a great storyteller, talented historian and playful companion. He cared about the environment and social issues.

Unitarian Universalism was very important to Carl, coming from a non-religious background. He was engaged at local, district and continental levels, president of the church, committee member, teacher, historian, library creator and welcomer. He was president of the Metro New York District and served on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. As a board member of the Universalist Retreat Center in Murray Grove, he helped save 200 acres of New Jersey shoreland. He also helped create and lead a men's group that lasted decades and continues on.

There will be a memorial service later this summer at the Unitarian Church of Princeton. Send inquiries to: [susan@uuprinceton.org](mailto:susan@uuprinceton.org)

Continued on page 17

## Obituaries, continued

### **Dorothy Carol (Walker) Kjelshus**

GREENWOOD, MO – Dorothy Carol (Walker) Kjelshus passed away Nov. 14, 2023, in her home in Greenwood, Missouri, at age 99. Carol was born Aug. 8, 1924, to Wesley and Elizabeth Walker. She grew up in Iowa county, Dodgeville, Wisconsin. She graduated from high school there and attended Platteville State College in Platteville, Wisconsin. She joined the United States Cadet Nurse Corps and then attended and graduated from the Kahler Hospital School of Nursing, Rochester, Minnesota, in 1946. She earned a Bachelor of Science in public health nursing from the University of Minnesota medical school.

Carol met Ben Kjelshus while at the University of Minnesota and they married in December 1949. Carol worked as a county public health nurse in Cook County, Illinois, and in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. She worked as a community mental health nurse at Western Missouri Mental Health Center in Kansas City until retirement.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Rev. Bjarne (Ben) Kjelshus; two sisters, Joyce Kirschbaum (Pat) and Margaret Peat (Delmar). She is survived by her three children, Jon (Cheryle), Karen Hinkle, and Eric; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Carol enjoyed being a mom and being married. She enjoyed seeing her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren grow. Carol was an avid reader all her life and enjoyed getting a new supply of books and magazines to read when she was not able to get out as much. She took pleasure in sewing and making lap quilts to donate and knitting caps and mittens. She was a committed beekeeper for many years, enjoying taking care of her “girls.”

A Celebration of Life took place Dec. 23, 2023, at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Kansas City. A service of remembrance and interment of ashes took place July 27, 2024, at Nora Unitarian Universalist Church in Hanska, Minnesota.

### **Audrey Beth Loadman**

SANGERVILLE, ME – Audrey Beth "Betty" Loadman, 90, passed away Sept. 22, 2022. Betty was born Nov. 2, 1931. Her son Eric wrote, “She will be in my heart forever.”

Audrey was the second wife, and widow, of Rev. Jack C. Loadman. She was a loved and respected member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sangerville, Maine.

Audrey was a nurse, trained at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and worked as a nurse at different times.

Survivors include her son Eric and a stepson, the Rev. Kirk Loadman, a UURMAPA member who lives in Centennial, Colorado.

**Continued on page 18**

## Obituaries, continued

### Maia Williams

SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, MEXICO – The literary community of San Miguel de Allende lost one of its most active and passionate members when Maia Williams, 69, died on July 30, 2024. She was born in 1955.

Maia was the co-director of the San Miguel Writers' Conference from 2014 to 2020. One memorable event was when the Literary Sala entertained the daughter of Diego Rivera, Guadalupe Rivera Marin, for a weekend. In her honor, Maia created a formal banquet using recipes from a book Guadalupe wrote called, *Frida's Fiestas: Recipes and Reminiscences of Life with Frida Kahlo*.

Maia was founding editor for San Miguel's bilingual arts and culture magazine *Crossroads*, published from 2015 to 2020. She also founded the Prose and Poetry Café, a monthly reading series featuring accomplished local and visiting writers. She conducted writing workshops called "Wild Muse: Show Up and Write," offering inspiration to several hundred aspiring authors over the years. They grew to include year-round, in-person and online courses for writers of short-form creative nonfiction, resulting in the publication of the anthology, *Memory as Muse: Then and Now*.

Maia and her husband, Rev. Wyman Rousseau, arrived in San Miguel in 2011 from Charlotte, NC, for what they called "a year of living creatively," and they never left. Maia topped off her U.S. career as CEO of a sales and management consulting firm in the Carolinas, growing annual client revenues from \$500 to \$750 million over five years. She volunteered across North Carolina as an advocate for creative arts organizations, including the board of Charlotte's renowned Arts & Science Council and as annual fundraising chair for The Echo Foundation, an educational organization focused on social justice, with strong ties to the late Elie Wiesl, humanitarian, literary icon, and Nobel peace laureate.

The common threads throughout her career were building community, growing businesses, supporting social justice efforts and the arts. Maia celebrated love, laughter, friendship, equity and kindness in all she did.

We offer our condolences to Wyman, son Landon, daughter-in-law Tracy, and her three grandchildren.

Contributions to the [GoFundMe campaign](#) for Wyman's ongoing care needs will be greatly appreciated. The site also allows you to leave words of support and sympathy, which Wyman will see. The picture at right of Maia and Wayne is taken from the GoFundMe page.



Continued on page 19

## Obituaries, continued

### Barbara Bowman Prairie

CINCINNATI, OH – It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Barbara Bowman Prairie, who died on Aug. 4, 2024, at the age of 85 in Cincinnati, surrounded by her daughters, Adrienne and Karen, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

Barbara was born on May 4, 1939 in Memphis, Tennessee, to Eugene C. Bowman and Mary Irene Wilke Lowe Bowman. Barbara was an active Girl Scout throughout her youth and attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she majored in chemistry. While in New York City, she met and married Rick Prairie, then moved to Champaign, Illinois, where their children were born. They settled in Cincinnati, divorcing in 1973. During her time in Ohio, Barbara was active at St. John's Unitarian church, worked as a counselor at the Margaret Sanger Center and raised her daughters as a single mom with very limited resources.



In 1982, Barbara and Karen moved to the Washington, D.C., area, where she worked at All Souls Unitarian Church and then to Boston in 1985. Barbara served as the General Assembly Administrator for the Unitarian Universalist Association for the next 17 years until her retirement.

She and husband Michael Boardman retired to Berea, Kentucky, on a whim, and thrived in this small arts and crafts college town. Her door always open, Barbara hosted international students and others in her fully furnished basement apartment. She hosted the annual neighborhood Labor Day party, garden tours, fundraisers, a three-day UURMaPA board meeting, and more. Upon Michael's death, she catalogued his whole library.

Barbara was an insatiable tourist. She loved traveling and seeking off-the-beaten-track attractions. If you mentioned your door was open for a visit, she would absolutely show up as an enthusiastic guest. An excellent correspondent and engaged friend, she kept in touch with everyone no matter where she was, sending postcards from every location, as well as her annual Groundhog Day letter.

Valuing experiences over material gifts, family members were treated to trips with Barbara all across the U.S. Each grandchild chose their own destination for their 10th birthday celebration! She enjoyed sewing, pottery, macrame, woodworking, knitting, quilting, dancing, gardening and innumerable other media.

Barbara is survived by her brother, Gene Bowman; daughters Adrienne Cruise and Karen Prairie; stepdaughters Katherine Boardman and Sheila Boardman; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Boardman (2005), and partner, David Oldham (2023).

A Celebration of Life was held Sept. 28, 2024, in Cincinnati.