



OBITUARIES

Professional Religious Leaders
2019–2020

VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 2020

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ANDREW C. BACKUS

(1944-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Andrew “Andy” C. Backus who died on January 22, 2020, at the age of 75.

Andy was born on June 12, 1944 in Washington, D.C to Gordon T. Backus and Elizabeth W. Backus. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University, MD with a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry in 1966, and PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1972. Andy then took a job at Moorestown Friends School as a Chemistry and Science teacher following which he worked for the Rohm and Haas Co., PA. Later in 1983, Andy received his Master of Divinity from the Harvard Divinity School, MA.

Rev. Backus was ordained on June 5, 1983 by the First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Tyngsboro, MA where he carried out his first ministry from 1982 to 1983. He was then called to serve the UU Society of Oneonta Inc., NY (1983-1994) and the UU Society of Schenectady, NY (1994-2000). Thereafter, Rev. Backus served as an interim minister at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, BC (2000-2002) and the First UU Church of San Diego, CA (2002-2003). In 2004, he retired from the ministry.

In addition to his parish ministry, Rev. Backus served various denominational boards and committees. He was President of the Washington, DC area Liberal Religious Youth (LRY, 1960-1961); of the Middle Atlantic Region of LRY (1961-1962); and of the Harvard UU Ministerial Students. He presented a program on collegial worship at the Iroquois Chapter of the UUMA; and a workshop on “liturgy” at the General Assembly in 1981, and on “UU Liturgy” at the Eastern NY Cluster Conference in 1986. Rev. Backus functioned as Secretary-Treasurer for the Iroquois Chapter (1986-1992), and Secretary-Treasurer for the continental UUMA (1992-1994). Furthermore, he was a member of the UUMA Computer Communications Committee, and delegate to numerous district meetings and General Assemblies (1976-2000).



Andy also provided his services to numerous community organizations. He served the Community Relations Committee of Job Corps, Oneonta, NY (1983-1986) and the Clergy Advisory Board of the Planned Parenthood of Delaware and Otsego Counties (1983-1985). Andy functioned as Board of Trustees for several organizations including OURS, a local human services agency (1983-1988); OFO, a human

services agency (1989-1994); Project 85, a human services agency (1990); and Planned Parenthood of Northeastern NY (1995-1998). He was co-convenor for the Schenectady County Clergy Association and Community Facilitator of Study Circles, an anti-racism program (2000). From 1983 to 2000, he was a speaker at numerous community-wide public events. Moreover, Andy had created his website: *“Celebrating Family and Community Gatherings: music and song-for all traditions, with inclusive language, free of charge”* (this website will be up through 2020).

In his spare time, Andy enjoyed piano, photography, carpentry, boating, tennis, roller skating, and cooking.

Andy is survived by his wife of 53 years, Christine L. Backus; his sister Leslie Claire Backus, and his brother-in-law Greg Cassidy; his nieces Alisha and Hema Sarang-Sieminski and their children, Thendral, Kavyn and Suriyan.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship.

A memorial service was held at 2 pm on Saturday, February 15, 2020, at the **Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship**, 1207 Ellsworth St, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Chris Backus at 2746 Broadway St, Bellingham, WA 98225.

GEORGE BRIGGS

(1930-2019)



The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. George Briggs, who died on November 21, 2019, at the age of 89.

George was born on August 21, 1930 in Highland Park, IL to George Briggs and Evelyn Rist Briggs. He graduated from San Jose State College, CA in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, following which he earned his Master of Theology from the Iliff School of Theology, CO in 1955. From 1955 to 1961, George served as a minister to several small Methodist churches in Oregon and Idaho. He then worked at the Alameda Co., Welfare Dept., Oakland, CA as a Social Worker (1961-1964), and as a Social Work Supervisor (1964-1968). From 1964 to 1968, he served the Universalist Church of Oakland, CA, part-time, assisting the minister. Later, in 1979, George graduated from Lamar University, TX with his Master of Arts in English.

Rev. Briggs was ordained in 1955 and welcomed into preliminary fellowship in 1968. Following his fellowship, he served his parish ministry at the UU Meeting House of Pittsfield, ME (1968-1973); and Spindletop Unitarian Church Incorporated, Beaumont, TX (1973-1982). In 1982, Rev. Briggs was called to the UU Church of Birmingham, AL where he would minister until 1990. Later in 1990, he accepted a call from the UU Congregation of Fort Lauderdale, Oakland Park, FL and served as an interim minister for a year. He then carried out a series of interim ministries at the following congregations: the UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem, NC (1991-1992); the UU Church of Canton, NY (1992-1993); The Community Church of Chapel Hill UU, NC (1993-1994); and the First Congregational Unitarian Church of Harvard, MA (1994-1995). In 1995, Rev. Briggs retired from active ministry. The UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem, NC honored him as their Minister Emeritus in 2000.

In addition to his parish and interim ministries, Rev. Briggs, carried out other vital services on behalf of the denomination.

He functioned as President for the Southwest UU Minister Association; as a Program Director for the Southwest UU Summer Institute (1978); and as Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Southwest District UUA (1981-1982). He served on the Southwest UU District

Board; and was Minister of the Week, at the “The Mountain” (1984).

Rev. Briggs provided his services as an Auxiliary Chaplain for the University of Alabama Hospitals (1982-1990) and as President for the Beaumont Ministers Association, TX. He was volunteer interviewer for the Crisis Control Ministry, Winston-Salem, NC (1991-1992, & 1995) and for the Interfaith Council for Social Service, Chapel Hill, NC (1993-1994).

In his spare time George greatly enjoyed reading, music, and attending concerts.

George is survived by his daughter Irma Polster and her husband Mark Polster; and his three grandsons, Aaron Polster, Julius Polster and Elliott Polster.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the *Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)* or to the *American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)*.

A memorial service was held on November 25, 2019, at Congregation Beth Am in Tampa, FL. Another memorial service was planned to be at the UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem, NC sometime in June, 2020 and his ashes to be scattered in the Memorial Garden there.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Irma and Mark Polster at 12716 Carte Dr., Tampa, FL, 33618.

BARBARA D. BURKE

(1934-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Barbara D. Burke, who died on October 28, 2019, at the age of 85.

Barbara was born on January 7, 1934 in Oakland, CA to Warren Burke and Ellen Dunbar. She graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Education, following which she earned her Master of Public Administration from the Graduate School of Public Affairs, University of Washington in 1985. She then served the Edmonds Unitarian Church, WA as a student minister (1988) and the Unitarian Church, Rockford, IL as a summer minister (1988). Later in 1989, Barbara received her Master of Divinity from Northwest Theological Union, WA.

Rev. Burke was ordained on January 24, 1991, by the Northlake UU Church, Kirkland, WA where she carried out her parish ministry for eight years (1990-1998). In 1998, she accepted a call from the Community UU Church, Daytona Beach, FL and served there until 2000 as a New Congregation Minister. Rev. Burke then served Horizon UU Church, Carrollton, TX as a Program Minister from 2000 until 2003, and simultaneously as an Adult Religious Educator from 2002 to 2003. Later, on November 30, 2003, she retired from her active ministry.

Outside of her ministry, Rev. Burke carried out vital services to the denomination. She served as a worship leader for the UU Women's Federal Biennial Conference (1991); and as a member for the Lambda Ministers Guild (1991), and the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) Ministerial Transition Team. She functioned as a UU Delegate for the Washington State Interfaith Council (1991-1994); and chaired the Nominating Committee, PNWD Chapter, UU Ministers' Association (1992-1995), and the Steering Committee of PNWD UU Rights Campaign (1994-1995). Furthermore, Rev. Burke performed as a President for the Puget Sound UU Council; Continuing Education Representative for the PNWD-UUMA (1995); and Worship Leader for the



Service of Hope and Remembrance at the General Assembly 1995.

Throughout her life, Barbara was devoted to serving the community. She served the Board and Executive Committee of Kirkland Performance Center (1991); and the Advisory Board of B-GLAD, Youth Eastside Services (1991), and Green Grass Gatherings (1992-1994). She also fulfilled her services as Treasurer

and Volunteer Chaplain for Evergreen Hospital Medical Center. Barbara was Draft Counselor for Seattle Draft and Military Counseling Center and a member of Humptulips, Ministerial Study Group (1991-1995). In 1996, she was featured on an hour-long ABC-TV Turning Point program: "For Better or Worse: Gay Marriage."

After retirement from her ministry, Barbara continued her community service as a Spiritual Advisor at Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. In her spare time, she loved needlework, reading, hanging out with friends, and spending time with her family. Likewise, she enjoyed playing bridge, visiting museums, going to movies, dancing and traveling to foreign countries.

Barbara is survived by her sons Jesse McDonald, TJ McDonald and his wife Hisako Matsumoto; her sisters Elizabeth Merriman, and Nancy Bosch; her grandson Kisho McDonald; her granddaughters Lily McDonald, Georgia McDonald, and Ruby McDonald; her nieces Kate Merriman, Porter Merriman, Amy Taylor; her nephew Joe McCormick; her grandniece Elsbet Merriman; and her grandnephews Davis and Bentley Lanterman.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the *Path with Art*, 312 2nd Ave South, Seattle, WA 98104.

Notes of condolences may be sent to TJ McDonald at 312 N 82nd St, Seattle, WA 98103.

CAROLYN W. COLBERT

(1934-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Carolyn W. Colbert, who died on June 4, 2019, at the age of 85.

Carolyn was born on May 24, 1934, in Oakland, CA to Horton Richard Colbert and Lynette Colbert. She attended Goddard College, VT from 1952 to 1953, following which she went to the University of California at Northridge (1958-1964). From 1972 until 1975, she worked as an Adjunct Faculty at Starr King School for the Ministry, CA teaching Human Sexuality, Awareness Work, and Adolescent Development. Later, Carolyn applied to Starr King, where she earned her Master of Divinity degree in 1978.

Carolyn was welcomed into Preliminary Fellowship in 1982 and ordained on June 10, 1984, by the Unitarian Church of Davis, CA. From 1982 to 1986, she carried out her ministry as an on-call minister at the San Francisco Unitarian Church. In 1986, she was called to settled ministry by Community UU Church, in Kennewick, WA where she would serve until 1989. Rev. Colbert also served the Cascade UU Fellowship, in Wenatchee, WA as a Consulting Minister from 1987 to 1989. In 1989, she accepted another call to settled ministry from the UU Fellowship in San Luis Obispo, CA and ministered for six years (1989-1995). Henceforth in the decade that followed, Rev. Colbert completed a series of parish ministries at the following congregations: the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY (1995-1996); the UU Church at Washington Crossing, NJ (1996-1997); the UU Church of Fresno, CA (1997-1998); and the UU Church in Eugene, OR (1998-2006). She retired from active ministry in 2006; in the same year the UU Church in Eugene, OR, honored her as their Minister Emerita. After her retirement, Rev. Colbert served as an interim minister for three congregations: the UU Fellowship of Los Gatos, CA (2006-2007); the UU Church in Livermore, CA (2007-2008); and the Rogue Valley UU Fellowship, OR (2008-2010).

Rev. Colbert performed services on behalf of the denomination, as a Board Member and as a member of the Pacific Central District (PCD) of the UUA. Also, for the PCD she served the Refugio Planning Committee; was Facilitator/Planner for the Buried Voices Convocation of Women and for the PCD Board Retreat, as well as for Davis,



Palo Alto and Livermore UU board retreats. She served as a member and Program Chair for the Pacific Northwest District of UUA (PNWD). She was also a member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association.

In addition to her ministry, Rev. Colbert passionately served the communities to which she belonged. She was President for the Ministerial Association of San Luis Obispo County; training organizer on Domestic Violence for The San

Luis Obispo Ministerial Association; organizer for the Ecumenical Emergency Homeless Shelter; and appointed member of the District Attorney's Task Force on Domestic Violence. She was a speaker at Persian Gulf War protests; at Pro Choice rallies; and at several interfaith services. Carolyn served as organizer and preacher for interfaith AIDS service at Cal Poly University, and as a Board member for the Tri Cities, WA, Women's Shelter. She was instrumental in organizing Nagasaki Memorial ceremonies and various Peace programs in Richland, WA (home of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation). Her work *A Structure of Adolescent Workshops* was published by Project Community and the Teacher's Center for Self-Understanding, University of California. In her spare time, Carolyn practiced her Tai Chi form (Yang style), read and wrote poetry. She also loved to travel and had a large plant collection.

Carolyn is survived by her daughters: Charlin Sawyer, Shanda Sawyer, Katherine Sawyer; her beloved black cat Layla; and many UUA communities and friends who knew her during her lifetime of service.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be gratefully accepted by the family. Donations received will be used to cover the funeral and memorial costs and any donations received over these costs will be donated to **Planned Parenthood**. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to Charlin Sawyer with "In honor of the Rev. Carolyn W. Colbert" in the memo line, and send it to Rev. Carolyn Colbert, PO Box 1104, Woodacre, CA 94973.

A celebration of Carolyn's life took place at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 13, 2019, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Rd, Kensington, CA 94707.

Notes of condolences can be sent to: Charlin Sawyer, PO Box 1104, Woodacre, CA 94973.

DOROTHY M. EMERSON

(1943-2019)



The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Dorothy M. Emerson, who died on May 13, 2019, at the age of 75.

Dorothy was born on November 20, 1943, in Long Beach, CA, to parents Howard Douglas Emerson and Eloise Clark Emerson. She graduated from Pomona College in Claremont, CA in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts in German Literature, following which she earned her Master of Arts in Psychology and Education, from the Humanistic Psychology Institute, CA in 1974. She then worked as a consultant for several non-profit and social service organizations before following her call toward ministry. In 1988, Dorothy received her Master of Divinity from the Harvard Divinity School.

Rev. Emerson was ordained on September 25, 1988, by The First Universalist Society of Wakefield, MA, where she carried out her first ministry from 1987 to 1989. From 1989 until 1991, she served the First Church in Belmont, MA, as an Interim Associate Minister. In 1992, Dorothy accepted a call to settled ministry from the UU Church of Medford, MA, where she served for six years. Over the next decade, Rev. Emerson completed parish and community ministries at three congregations: the UU Church of Weymouth, MA (1998-1999); the Unitarian Society of New Haven, CT (2003); and the First Parish Church in Billerica, MA (2008-2010).

Rev. Emerson carried out a great deal of service on behalf of the denomination. She served as an Interim Religious Education Director for the First Parish of Watertown, MA (1988-1989) and as Executive Director for the UU Women's Heritage Society (1999-2005). She also edited several volumes of UU history including *Standing Before Us: Unitarian Universalist Women and Social Reform, 1776-1936* (Skinner House, 1999).

Outside of her ministry, Dorothy served as chairperson for the Black Concerns Working Group of the Massachusetts Bay District, and as a member for the NAACP, Mystic Valley Area Branch; Sustainable Business Networks of Massachusetts; and WAND, Women's Action for New Directions. She was co-founder of Rainbow Solutions, Inc, a socially responsible investing firm in Medford, MA. Moreover, Dorothy had

several books and articles published in her lifetime. Some of her works include *Women's History Is Political Action* (1989); *Glorious Women: Award-Winning Sermons about Women* (2004); and *Sea Change: the unfinished agenda of the 1960s* (2018). In her spare time, Dorothy enjoyed being with friends and family. She loved reading mysteries by women, traveling and exploring the beauty of nature.

Dorothy is survived by her wife Donna E. Clifford; her son Damian Elrod and his wife Kathy Vlietstra; her grandson Zade Elrod; as well as her sister and two brothers.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one's own choosing, as well as to the **UURMaPA's UU Rainbow History Project**. If you prefer to donate to the Rainbow Project, please make your check payable to **Treasurer Dave Hunter** with "In honor of Dorothy Emerson" in the memo line, and send to 535 Gradyville Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073.

A green burial took place at 3:30 pm on Saturday, May 18, 2019, at Cedar Grove Burial Ground, Limington, York County, ME. A celebration of Dorothy's life was held at 10 am on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at Melrose Unitarian Universalist Church, 70 W Emerson St, Melrose, MA 02176.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Donna Clifford at 51 Cedar St. Apt # 4101, Woburn, MA 01801.

HEATHER LYNN HANSON

(1938-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Heather Lynn Hanson, who died on November 24, 2019, at the age of 81.

Heather was born on June 29, 1938 in Oregon. She graduated in 1960 from Portland State University, OR with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, following which she earned an Associate degree in TV Production Technology from Mt. Hood Community College, OR in 1974. Soon after, in 1975, Heather received her Master of Arts in Communications from the University of Portland, OR. She then worked in various videos, adult education and training jobs for fifteen years before following her call to ministry. In 1994, Heather earned her Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion, CA.

Rev. Hanson was ordained on October 23, 1994 by the First UU Church Houston, TX where she carried out her first ministry (1994-1997). Thereafter, she served the UU Church in Eugene, OR (1997-1998) and Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, WA (1998-1999). From 1999 to 2001, Rev. Hanson ministered at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY as an Interim Minister and from 2001 to 2002, at the First Unitarian Church of Denver, CO, also as an Interim Minister. Then, over a decade, Rev. Hanson carried out a series of interim ministries at the following congregations: the First UU Church of San Diego, CA (2002-2004); the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, DE (2005-2006); Rogue Valley UU Fellowship, OR (2006-2008); Tahoma UU Congregation, WA (2008-2010); Shoreline UU Church, WA (2010-2012); and lastly at Eastrose Fellowship UU, OR (2013-2014). She retired from active ministry in 2016.

Rev. Hanson carried out a great deal of services on behalf of the denomination. She was producer of the video tape "The Interim Opportunity" for the UUA Dept. of Ministry. She served the Pacific North West District (PNWD) Leadership School in various roles, as a group facilitator (1985); and as a co-presenter of the topic of Conflict for the Winter School (1986). Furthermore, she also served the PNWD Conflict Intervention team for five years.



In addition to her interim ministry, Heather served various community organizations. She was a member of the Yakima Mayor's Committee on Human Rights, and the Longview WA Cable access for community. She functioned as a researcher and writer for the League of Women Voters (1971-1974); as a producer for the teacher training series for the Oregon Dept. of Education (1976-1977), and for the "By, For, About Women" cable series, Longview, WA (1980-1981).

In her spare time Heather greatly enjoyed ensemble singing, writing music, dance (especially folk dancing), photography, conversation, reading, and hikes in nature. Additionally, she loved attending live theater, dance, concerts, and art and science museums.

In tribute to Heather's life, her son Trevor wrote:

"My mother felt the need to be a calming presence to the turbulent spirit of humanity. In a world filled with people making noise, desperately trying to be heard, she chose to listen to people. Hear their concerns, opinions, outrages at the world's inequity and indifference. By hearing people, she gave them the validation they desired and allowed them to withdraw their voice from the cacophony of the world's noise. This is how she added to the tranquility of the world, one voice at a time. My mother was a peaceful heart."

Heather is survived by her sons Trevor and Shane; her brothers, Kirk Campbell and wife Janet, and Doug Campbell and wife Ellen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330.

A memorial service was held at 11 am on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Trevor Hanson at 1232 Crescent Dr, Albany, OR 97321.

HUGO J. HOLLERORTH

(1925-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Hugo “Holly” J. Hollerorth, who died on September 22, 2019, at the age of 94.

Hugo was born on June 6, 1925 in Jefferson City, MO to Hugo John and Rose Johannah. He graduated from Northwestern University, IL in 1946 with a Bachelor of Science in business, following which he received his two degrees - a Bachelor of Divinity in 1949, and a Master of Arts in 1965, both from the University of Chicago, IL. In 1985, Hugo earned his Doctor of Education (EdD) from New York University. Later in 2005, Meadville Lombard Theological School awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity.

Rev. Dr. Hollerorth was ordained in 1949. He served as a Minister of Education at the Central Unitarian Church of Paramus, NJ, from 1959 to 1961; and as an Associate Professor of Religious Education at St. Lawrence School (Universalist), Canton, NY, from 1961 to 1965. Then in 1965, he joined the UUA as the Director of Curriculum Development, where he served until 1980. During this tenure, Rev. Dr. Hollerorth developed educational programs for children, youth and adults for use in Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships across the continent. He oversaw the work of development teams and authors, field testing programs prior to publication, editorial work, interpreting programs to local societies, and training teachers in their use.

Rev. Dr. Hollerorth believed that the existing curricula did not “address the human situation within which children and youth will be and are living” and launched a new curriculum series based on the discovery learning method. He wrote that this method was “grounded in the conviction that the most effective learning occurs when children have an opportunity to intuit principles for themselves from concrete experiences in their daily lives.” To aid with the discovery learning process, the curriculum “kits,” included visuals, books, filmstrips, audiotapes, puzzles, illustrations, games, music, and other materials and strategies to bring



the curricula alive for children and youth with diverse learning styles. The kits whose development he oversaw included *Decision Making* (1968), *Man the Meaning Maker* (1969), *Man the Culture Builder* (1971), *Human Heritage* (1972), *Person to Person Communication* (1972), *The Adventures of God's Folk* (1974), and *Haunting House* (1974, written by his wife, Barbara Hollerorth). Rev. Dr. Hollerorth was author of *Freedom and*

Responsibility (1969); and co-author of *Our Experiencing, Believing, and Celebrating* (1979). The curriculum vision was to enable children and youth to, in his words, “evolve a life-enhancing orientation to the world.”

In the late 1960s, Rev. Dr. Hollerorth shepherded the creation and publication of *About Your Sexuality* (AYS), a sexuality education curriculum kit by Deryck Calderwood for junior high youth (grades 7 and 8). Created in response to requests from parents and religious educators for materials that would help young people navigate this area against the backdrop of the sexual revolution of the 1960s, AYS included topics which other secular curricula did not. In the curriculum description, Hollerorth wrote: “Employing the full range of human knowledge about human sexuality; creative interaction with each other in a relationship of freedom, love, sensitivity, and so on; and diversity of thought, young people attempt to evolve a life-enhancing orientation to their sexuality.” *About Your Sexuality*, revised and supplemented over the years, remained in print until it was replaced by *Our Whole Lives*. The AYS curriculum laid the groundwork for what is a vital piece of Unitarian Universalist faith development to this day.

For their contribution to Unitarian Universalist religious education, Hugo and Barbara received the Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education at the 1976 UUA General Assembly in Claremont, CA.

In addition to his ministry, Hugo belonged to several community organizations. From 1975 to 1980, he performed as a workshop leader in human sexuality for Boston Family

HUGO J. HOLLERORTH

continued

Service and several private secondary schools. He was a member of the HEW Federal Government Task Force on Education for Human Sexuality (1977); volunteer (1977-1978) and a Chairperson (1979) for the University of Chicago Alumni Fund, Greater Boston Area. Furthermore, he functioned as a Health Curriculum Specialist at Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, MA. Beginning in the 1990's, Hugo was involved with the Southern Middlesex Opportunity Council. He first served on the staff, then after retiring, he served on the Board. While on the Board he wrote "Building a Culture of Care: The Ongoing Saga of the South Middlesex Opportunity Council", which looks at the origins, history and evolution of the organization. Hugo served the military and was an honorable discharge recipient. In his spare time, Hugo enjoyed travel, home decorating, biking, politics, and films.

After Hugo's passing, Mr. Barb Greve, UUA Co-Moderator and a religious educator, wrote of him:

"Holly (as he preferred to be called) was a dear friend and a mentor. I grew up in the congregation he chose as his religious home (First Parish in Framingham, MA). Holly was a shy and quiet person, though in the right setting he would open up like a beautiful flower. This past summer I had the

great delight to spend some time with him after services at church. He reflected on the nearing end of his own life and his amazement at how much his body and abilities were changing. His mind was quick as ever. He shared his joy and pride at helping bring AYS into being and loved that OWL was a progressive extension of that work. He marveled at how much had changed in his lifetime and how much had stayed the same. He was a dedicated steward of our faith and will be sorely missed by many."

Hugo is survived by his daughter Rachel Buerlen; and his grandchildren Holly Buerlen, Jason Buerlen, and Nicole Hunter, and his great grandchildren Kairi and Dominic.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the *First Parish in Framingham*; to *Planned Parenthood*; and to the *Head Start-South Middlesex Opportunity Council*.

A celebration of Hugo's life took place at 1 pm on Saturday, November 16, 2019, at the First Parish in Framingham, 24 Vernon St, Framingham, MA 01701.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Rachel Buerlen at 33 Thurston Hill Road, Rutland, MA 01543-1626.

DAVID A. JOHNSON

(1935-2019)

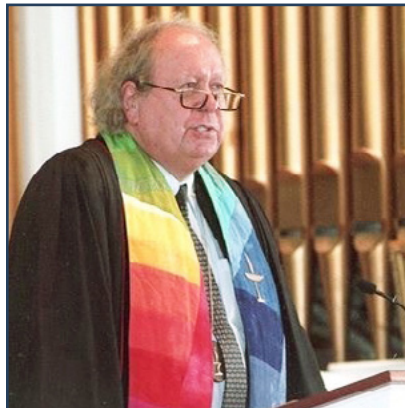
The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. David A. Johnson, who died on July 22, 2019, at the age of 83.

David was born on October 16, 1935, in Buffalo, NY, to Axel H. Johnson and Glenna B. Johnson. He graduated from Antioch College, OH, in 1958, with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, following which he received his Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Illinois in 1961. In 1964, David earned his Bachelor of Divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL.

David was welcomed into Preliminary Fellowship on April 14, 1964, and ordained on October 25, 1964, by the Unitarian Society of Cleveland, OH. Following his ordination, he served the UU Church of Bloomington, IN (1964-1970), and then the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, PA (1970-1973). In 1973, Rev. Johnson accepted a call from the UU Church of Tucson, AZ; he ministered there for fifteen years, until 1988. Finally, he fulfilled his parish ministry at the First Parish in Brookline, MA (1988-2003), before his retirement in 2003.

After his retirement, Rev. Johnson was drawn to interim ministry and served as an interim minister at the following congregations: First Unitarian Church in New Bedford, MA (2003-2005); the First Parish UU Church, Bridgewater, MA (2005-2006); the Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson, MA (2006-2007); the UU Meeting House, Chatham, MA (2007-2008); and the First Parish in Plymouth, MA (2008-2010). In 2010, the UU Church of Tucson, AZ, honored him as Minister Emeritus for his meritorious service to the congregation. From 2010 to 2012, Rev. Johnson served the UU Meeting House of Provincetown, MA; and finally, the United First Parish Church, Quincy, MA (2012-2014).

Rev. Johnson's service on behalf of the denomination was extensive. He was the business manager for the First UU College Conference, Lake Forest, IL (1961); and a member and officer, for the Liberal Religious Scholars Collegium. He served as a chairman for the Ohio Valley UU Congregation (OVUUC) College Centers Committee (1964-1968), Nominating Committee (1966), and Conference (1962); and was a Host Minister in 1966. Thereafter, Rev. Johnson



functioned as a member of the Advisory Committee, UUA Division of Education (1967-1969), and Division of Education & S.R. Curriculum Development Committee on UU Identity (1971-1975). He was president for the Alumni Association of the Meadville Lombard Theological School (1972-1974), and an organizer for the International Association of Religious Freedom Native American Conference (1976). From 1980 to 1982, Rev. Johnson worked as a board member for the Pacific Southwest

District Board, UUA; and for the UU Support of Sanctuary as a founder and chair (1986).

Beyond his ministry and denominational activities, Rev. Johnson was affiliated with several community organizations. He was officer and committee chair for the American Civil Liberties Union; and President for the Pima Council on Aging and Tucson Interfaith Coalition on Aging. He served as a board member for the Apache Cultural History Foundation; Parents United; and United Way President's Council. Furthermore, David chaired the Independence Citizens Committee; Tucson Unified School District; and Sanctuary Covenant Churches. In his spare time, he enjoyed skiing, sailing and writing articles on Gerontological Theology, and Universalist and Unitarian History.

David is survived by his wife Julie Coulter; his sons Kirk Johnson, Erik Johnson, and Matthew Johnson; his stepchildren James (Jim) MacDonald, Nancy MacDonald and Darren MacDonald; and his several grandchildren and a step grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association. Please address the donations to Dave Hunter, Treasurer, 535 Gradyville Road #V-211, Newton Square, PA 19073 with a note "In memory of David A. Johnson" on the memo line.

A celebration of David's life was held at 2 pm on Thursday, August 1, 2019, at the First Parish of Brookline, 382 Walnut St, Brookline, MA 02445.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Julie Coulter at 25 Allen Avenue, North Providence, RI 02911.

RICHARD W. KELLEY

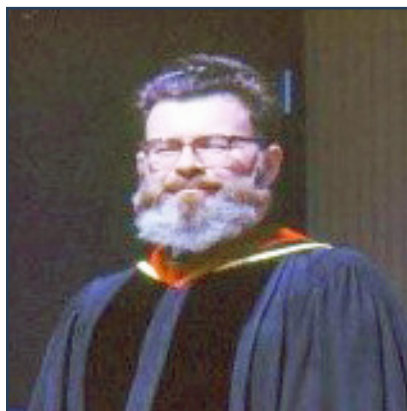
(1926-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Richard W. Kelley, who died on Feb 8, 2020, at the age of 93.

Richard was born on August 2, 1926 in Rockford, IL to George M. Kelley and Vera N. Kelley. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science, following which he worked as a Chaplain's Assistant at Council for Clinical Training of Minister, Napa State Mental Hospital, Imola, CA. In 1955, Richard earned his Bachelor of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry.

Rev. Kelley was ordained on May 24, 1956 by the Unitarian Church of Our Father, Newburgh, NY where he carried out his ministry from 1955 to 1959. In 1959, he was called to the UU Church of Little Rock, AR where he served until 1967. Later in 1967, Rev. Kelley accepted a call from the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, NM and ministered for four years. Thereafter, he served for two decades at the Paint Branch UU Church, Adelphi, MD (1971-1991). On July 31, 1991, Rev. Kelley, retired from his active ministry; on September 1, 1991, the Paint Branch congregation honored him as their minister emeritus. After his retirement, from 1991 to 1994, Rev. Kelley served the UU Church of Hagerstown, MD as a consulting minister. Furthermore, he served the UU Fellowship of Southern Maryland, MD as a church administrator from 1996 to 2005, and as a newsletter editor from 2005 to 2007.

In addition to his parish ministry, Rev. Kelley served the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference (SWUUC) Summer Institute as a Workshop Leader (1959-1960); as "Sunset" Speaker (1961); and as a Program Chairman (1962). He also served the board of the SWUUC (1962-1965), SWUUC Religious Education Committee (1962-1965) and SWUUC Executive Committee (1964-1965). Rev. Kelley was visiting minister to the Unitarian Fellowship of Alexandria, LA; and performed as a Secretary-Treasurer (1963-1964) and President (1964-1965) for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association- Southwestern Chapter.



Richard passionately provided his services to the communities to which he belonged. He functioned as a board member for the Planned Parenthood Clinic, Newburgh, NY (1957 -1959) and served the Urban League of Greater Little Rock, AR under various positions: as a member (1960-1967), as a board Member (1960-1963), as First Vice President (1962-1963) and as an Acting President (1963). For the Arkansas Council for Human Relations,

Richard served as a Member (1960-1967), as a Board Member (1961-1963) and served the Advisory Committee (1961-1964). In addition, he was a Special Instructor of Philosophy in the Religion Department of Little Rock University, AR (1965-1967); and he served on the board for the New Mexico Mental Health Association (1968-1969). In addition, Richard was an enlisted man of the United States Army. In his spare time, he enjoyed artwork generally, block printing, sculpture, creative writing, woodworking, camping, hiking and swimming.

Richard's daughter Tina DeLaBriandais wrote: "Our father was a gentle and sensitive man who celebrated life, nature, love and the closeness of his family. He left behind him a long lifetime of found and cherished memories shared by many friends and family."

Richard is survived by his wife Mary Ann Kelley; his children Susan, Tara and Tina; his ten grandchildren; and his seven great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the *Unitarian Universalist Association* or to the *Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*.

A memorial service was held at 3 pm on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at the Paint Branch UU Church, 3215 Power Mill Rd, Adelphi, MD 20783.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Mary Ann Kelley at 201 Dennis Ct, Oakley, CA 94561.

WILLIAM N. KENNEDY

(1949-2019)



The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. William “Bill” N. Kennedy, who died on April 28, 2019, at the age of 69.

Bill was born on June 11, 1949, in San Francisco, CA, where he grew up. He received his Bachelor of Science in Broadcasting from San Diego State University in 1972. Afterwards he worked for thirty years in TV broadcasting before heeding his call toward ministry. In 2005, Bill graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry with a Master of Divinity.

Rev. Kennedy was ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, CA, on September 26, 2009, where he served as an affiliated Community Minister. Prior to his ordination, he fulfilled his parish internship at the Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church, WA (2004-2005) and served the Unitarian Universalist of San Mateo, CA in 2007 as an Adjunct Minister. Rev. Kennedy retired from active ministry in 2017.

Rev. Kennedy dedicated much service to the Unitarian Universalist denomination. Prior to his ordination he served the UU Fellowship of Redwood City on the Board of Trustees, as Chair, and Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee, as well as the Worship Committee and taught Our American Roots, a History curriculum (over three sessions) in October of 2005. He was a member of the Starr King School for the Ministry Chapel Committee (2002-2004); Chair for the UU Committee on Ministry; and Chair and Co-District Networker for the Partner Church Council. Furthermore, Rev. Kennedy helped devise the theme, create and facilitate workshops for the Pacific Central District Men’s Retreat (2002-2004).

Outside his denominational work, Bill was devoted to promoting health and access to health care; he was an advocate for patients who experienced barriers to care, language, and finances. He worked with the Peninsula Interfaith Action in support of San Mateo County ACE Health Care Program for the uninsured and participated in

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Team in training, fundraising, advocacy and support. In his spare time, Bill enjoyed hiking and biking, particularly the coastal redwoods. In 2000, he participated in a century ride around Lake Tahoe, and raised money for blood cancer research and support.

Bill’s wife noted after his death: “Bill was loved by many and is sincerely missed”.

Rev. Kennedy’s colleagues had these lovely words to offer:

Rev. Judy Welles: “Bill was a cherished colleague and longtime friend. We met on the bus in Transylvania where I first experienced his warm heart, acerbic wit, and gentle compassionate nature”.

Rev. Thomas Anastasi: “I will always remember Bill as the best intern minister you could ever have”.

Rev. Cecilia Kingman: “Bill was a gift to me and I’m so grateful we were friends”.

Rev. Theresa Hardy: “Bill was a joy, welcomed you, encouraged you, made it feel like somebody was thrilled you were there at the moment for that event, large or small”.

Bill is survived by his wife Geri; his son Adam; his daughter Amanda; and his beloved granddaughter Iola.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one’s own choosing, as well as to the *International Myeloma Foundation* or the *Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation* or the *Sempervirens Fund*.

A celebration of Bill’s life took place at 2 pm on Saturday May 25, 2019, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, 2124 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062.

Notes of condolences may be sent to the Geri L. Kennedy at 7811 S. 113th St., Seattle, WA 98178.

MARY L. KNIGHT

(1955-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Mary L. Knight, who died on May 22, 2019, at the age of 64.

Mary was born on January 30, 1955, in Pendleton, OR to William Henry Knight and Sara Lou Knight. In 1979, she received an Associate degree in Liberal Arts from Honolulu Community College, HI, following which she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in 1981. Mary became certified as a Public Health Nurse in 1986 and became licensed as a registered nurse in HI (1982), WA (1985), MN (1985), and OR (1994). She served these four states for twenty-one years as a nurse in Pediatrics and Maternal Child Health, before ensuing her call toward ministry. In 2007, Mary graduated from Marylhurst University, OR with her Master of Arts in Applied Theology.

Rev. Knight was welcomed into preliminary fellowship on May 14, 2007, and ordained on September 30, 2007, by the Michael Servetus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, WA (now UU Church of Vancouver). Following her ordination, she executed her community ministry as a Hospice Chaplain at the UU Church of Vancouver, WA (2008-2010); and at the UU Church of Spokane, WA (2010-2014). Rev. Knight achieved Final Fellowship in 2012.

In addition to her community ministry, Rev. Knight performed essential service to the denomination. She was a member of the UU Ministers Association; and a General Assembly Delegate (1983: Vancouver, BC) for the First Unitarian Church, Honolulu, HI. She served as a Choir Member, Care & Concerns Coordinator (1994-2002), and a Lay Minister (1996-1998), for the First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR. Furthermore, Rev. Knight served as a Music Director (2004), and as a Chaplain (2006), for the Pacific North West District Eliot Institute Winter Camp; and regularly preached at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Hood River, OR.

Throughout her life, Mary aimed at spiritual nourishment



and healing for the community. She was a First Aid Staff for the International Special Olympics in MN in 1993; a painter for Habitat for Humanity Construction in 1995; and a Patient Support Volunteer for Hopewell House Hospice, Portland, OR in 1997. From 1997 to 1998, Mary served the Providence Child Center, Portland, OR in various positions: as an Interim Director of Family Resource Center; as a Coordinator of the CIRT (Community Information and Referral Team); and

as a member of the Continuous Quality Improvement Committee on Staff Retention. She then functioned as a Service Excellence Diplomate (1998) for the Providence Health System, Portland, OR; and volunteered at the Portland Rose Festival Art Exhibit in 2001 and 2002. She was chaplain at the Signature Hospice, OR (2008-2010); and Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital, WA. Mary also performed as a Health Consultant for the Liberty Mutual Health Company.

In her spare time Mary enjoyed watching *Jeopardy* ("I'm good at it") on TV, reading, cooking, enjoying nature, hiking, walking, seeing/discussing films, visiting family and friends, playing board games, water aerobics and folk dancing.

Mary is survived by her mother Sara Lou Knight; her brothers Bill Knight, Tom Knight, Joel Knight, Dee Knight, David Knight, and Jim Knight; her cousin Susan Knight, nephew Tim Knight, and niece Julie Knight Iwayama; as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews throughout Pacific Northwest, Alaska, California and Utah. She was preceded in death by her father William Henry Knight.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one's own choosing, as well as to the **PAWS (Progressive Animal Welfare Society)**, PO Box 1037, Lynwood, WA 98046.

A celebration of Mary's life was held on Sunday, July 14, 2019, at the First Unitarian Church of Portland, 1211 SW Main St, Portland, OR 97205.

Notes of condolences may be sent to The Knight Family at PO Box 17761, Seattle WA 98127.

DENNIS G. KUBY

(1934-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dennis G. Kuby, who died on April 23, 2019, at the age of 84.

Dennis was born on June 1, 1934 in Cleveland, OH. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Bethany College, WV in 1957, following which he received his theological training from the Oxford University in England (1960-1961). In 1962, Dennis graduated from the St. Lawrence University, NY with a Bachelor of Divinity.

Dennis was ordained on December 16, 1962 by the UU Society of Cleveland, OH where he served for five years (1962-1967). In 1967, Rev. Kuby accepted a call from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA and functioned as a Vice-President (1967-1969). He then returned to parish ministry at the UU Church of Studio City, CA (1969-1971). In 1973, Dennis was granted preliminary fellowship for Specialized Ministry in Ecology.

Rev. Kuby's services on behalf of the denomination were remarkable. He was President for the Ohio-Meadville District of Unitarian Universalist Ministers, and secretary for the UUA Ministers Co-op. He was the Executive Director for the Ministry of Ecology Inc, CA for over four decades (1974-2019); and served the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Inc.; the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and the Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship.

Throughout his life Rev. Kuby was noted for his work on promotion of environmental theology, ecological system of ethics, and ecological liturgy. He performed ecological worship services at various churches in the Bay Area and his sermons urged development of more public transportation, replacing cars with bicycles and making ecologically sound values and lifestyles. He conducted workshops and seminars on ecology and religion and suggested ideas for environmental resource problems. He assisted churches in planning model environmental projects and appeared on various television and radio programs discussing a moral response to the energy crisis.



Furthermore, Rev. Kuby served on the board for the Americans For Democratic Action, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Committee for Civic Responsibility. He was President for the Bay Area Hemlock Society (later The Socrates Death Acceptance Fellowship); head of the Hemlock Society of California and chair for the Clevelanders for Constitutional Freedom. Dennis frequently contributed to the UU journals and publications, the New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor.

Many of his sermons were printed in the Los Angeles Times and the San Fernando Valley News. His article *Ecology Is Religion* was published by the UU World.

In his spare time, Dennis enjoyed studying and mastering French cooking, he appreciated Opera (Puccini was a favorite), Duplicate Bridge, tennis and yoga. Before his ministerial journey, he served the United States Marine Corps Reserve for two years (1955-1957) and was an honorary discharge recipient.

Dennis's son Scott shared these lines about his father: "He preferred to be remembered as a Unitarian minister committed to the philosophy of Universalism - that what truly connects and unites us is our common humanity. Three books that shaped and influenced his life were: *The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius*; *How to Win Friends And Influence People* by Dale Carnegie; and *The Saviors of God* by Nikos Kazantzakis."

Dennis is survived by his wife Jeanne Kuby and his son Paul "Scott" Kuby.

Memorial donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.

Rev. Kuby had a pre-planned memorial service attended by friends and family on his 60th birthday in Bratenahl, OH.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Jeanne Kuby or Scott Kuby, at 1250 Queens Rd, Berkeley, CA 94708.

ERINN JEANNE CAITLIN MELBY

(1948-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Erin Jeanne Caitlin Melby, who died on May 18, 2019, at the age of 70.

Rev. Melby was born on July 15, 1948 in Benson, Minnesota, to William Lincoln Melby and Betty Jane (McNellis) Melby. In 1975, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and English from Macalester College, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Southern Colorado. Rev. Melby spent eight years in the U.S. Air Force as a Computer Operations Supervisor for NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs, CO, before heeding her call toward ministry. In 1984, she graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM), CA, with her Master of Divinity.

Rev. Melby was one of the first Unitarian Universalists to attend seminary as an openly trans person; she came out to SKSM during her first year while giving a presentation on “gays, lesbians, and transsexuals.” She had first come out as trans in 1967 and first changed her name in 1975, although she went on to maintain a relationship with her pre-transition self, Karl, for the rest of her life.

Like almost all aspiring trans UU ministers, Rev. Melby experienced barriers to living out her call to ministry. She went before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) unsuccessfully in both 1984 and 1985. Almost a decade later, after a two-year chaplain residency and a day-and-a-half-long psychological evaluation, she was finally passed by the MFC. She was welcomed into preliminary fellowship in 1994 and ordained on June 4, 1995, by the UU Church of Davis, CA.

Following her ordination, Rev. Melby served as a Chaplain/Spiritual Counsellor at Yolo Hospice for sixteen years (1995–2011). In leading the annual memorial service, her warm, resonant voice welcomed everyone to touch the tenderness of grief, no matter what face of “The Holy” they had or hadn’t known. She simultaneously served the UU Church of Palo



Alto, CA, as its first community minister (1999–2001) and directed a Pastoral Associates Program at the congregation. In 2011, Rev. Melby retired from active ministry.

Outside her ministry, Rev. Melby was an active participant in UUA district and regional activities. She was involved with the Pacific Central District UUA, particularly around LGBTQ issues.

She also was an active member of TRUUsT (Transgender Religious professional UUs Together). One of the fifteen people who attended the first TRUUsT membership retreat in 2016 in Pacific Grove, CA, Rev. Melby was a minister to ministers, offering her chaplaincy and pastoral care to the TRUUsT community.

Throughout her life, Rev. Melby worked on issues of social justice, particularly related to HIV/AIDS. She served as a Consultant to the Sacramento AIDS Interfaith Network; assisted the Sacramento AIDS Housing Alliance; and provided pastoral care to the LGBTQ community via the Lambda Center and UC Davis Medical Center. In her spare time, she enjoyed writing short stories, reading mysteries, drawing, and painting, as well as attending concerts and plays.

Rev. Melby is survived by her children Hans Melby, Bjorn Melby, Anna (Melby) Strain; her aunt Joanne (McNellis) Kavanaugh; four grandchildren; hundreds of friends; and her extended family within TRUUsT.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to *TRUUsT (Transgender Religious professional UUs Together)* and/or the *American Cancer Society*.

A celebration of Rev. Melby’s life took place at 2 pm on Saturday, July 27th, 2019, at the UU Church of Davis, 27074 Patwin Road, Davis, CA 95616.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Anna Strain at 8805 Acadia Road, St. Paul, MN 55125.

PRISCILLA MURDOCK

(1931-2018)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Priscilla “Peri” Murdock, who died on May 29, 2018, at the age of 86.

Priscilla was born in Cambridge, MA to William and Ethel (Murdock) Traunstein. She graduated from Suffolk University, MA, in 1954, with a Bachelor of Arts in English and History, following which she worked as a newspaper reporter, feature writer, and catalogued manuscripts at the Huntington Library. In 1962, Priscilla joined the Peace Corps and went to Manizales, Colombia where she lived with a family and increased her Spanish speaking fluency. She then received her Master of Arts in English American Literature in 1966, from Ohio Wesleyan University, before following her call to ministry. In 1985, Priscilla earned her Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School, MA.

Rev. Murdock was ordained by the UU Church of Wakefield, MA on June 9, 1985, and carried out her first ministry at the UU Meeting House of Pittsfield, ME from 1985 to 1990. In 1991, she accepted a call from the UU Church in Reston, VA where she served as an interim minister until 1992. Then over a decade and half, Rev. Murdock served in a series of parish ministries at the following congregations: First Unitarian Church, Cincinnati, OH (1992-1997); UU Church of Stockton Illinois, IL (1997-2003); and finally, at the St Paul’s Church of Palmer, MA (2003-2008). On August 31, 2008, Rev. Murdock retired from active ministry.

Outside her ministry, Rev. Murdock taught UU Polity at Bangor Seminary, ME for a year (1987). She was ministerial representative for the Central Midwest Religious Education Committee (1997-2001); Secretary-Treasurer (1997-2002) for the Stockton Ministerial Association; and director for the Midwest UU Conference (1998).

Rev. Murdock also provided her services to several community organizations. She served as a member of the Palmer Rotary Club, Stockton Women’s Club; as a board



member for Sojourn House (a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility) (1998-2002); and was on the Ethics Committee of Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati (1993-1997). Furthermore, Peri taught Spanish at Wakefield High School, MA, and English and Spanish at international schools in Brussels and in Lahore, Pakistan. In her spare time, she enjoyed drama, music, reading, history and travel. She traveled extensively, to nearly fifty

countries on five continents.

Peri’s friend Rev. Dr. Nina D. Grey, remembers:

“While serving in Keene UU Church, NH, I would sometimes on my days off visit Andover Newton Theological School just to get out of town! So, I would see Peri sometimes on those visits. I was blessed to be able to take two trips with her over the years, a bus tour after a Spokane GA to Seattle, Victoria and Vancouver British Columbia while I was in Keene; and a car trip to Nova Scotia while I was at Germantown in Philly. These were a long time ago! Peri’s decision to continue serving until she was 75, I believe, inspired me to do likewise!”

Peri is survived by her nieces, Leslie Garner and Debra Gerlach; her nephew, Russ Traunstein; many of her grandnieces, nephews and cousins; and UUA Communities and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Ethel (Murdock) Traunstein, and her brothers.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to a charity of one’s own choosing as well as to the Palmer Rotary Club, 1465 N Main St, Palmer, MA 01069.

The family scattered Peri’s ashes at a private ceremony.

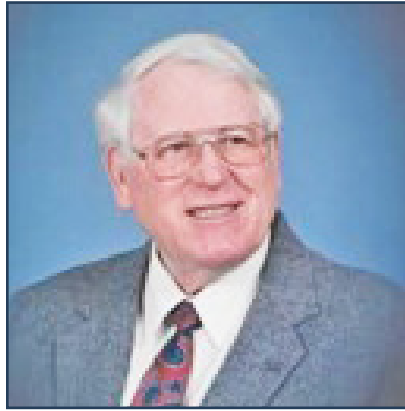
OREN ARTHUR PETERSON

(1927-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Oren Arthur “Pete” Peterson, who died on June 10, 2019, at the age of 91.

Oren was born on October 11, 1927, in Williamsburg, IA, to Oren Peterson and Myrtle Peterson. He graduated in 1945, from a small-town school system in IA, and joined the Navy aviation cadet program. In 1949, Pete received his Bachelor of Science in pre-med, from the University of Iowa, following which he became a fighter pilot in 1950. In 1955, he was ordered to the Navy Intelligence Postgraduate School in Washington D.C. Thereafter, Pete served for three years as a staff intelligence officer abroad USS Saratoga in the Mediterranean-Atlantic; two years as a Commanding Officer for a carrier airborne warning squadron on an anti-submarine carrier; and six years in Washington D.C., as instructor in the Intelligence School and as an editor briefing officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon. Pete served in the Navy for 21 years, retired in 1968, and then began his training for UU Ministry. In 1971, he earned his Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

Rev. Peterson was ordained on October 8, 1971, by the Unitarian Society of Germantown, PA, where he carried out his first ministry from 1971 to 1973. In that year, he was called to settled ministry to the First Parish Church UU, Duxbury, MA where he would serve for six years. From 1980 to 1984, Rev. Peterson ministered at the UU Church in Eugene, OR; and at the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, HI, from 1984 to 1985. He went on to complete further parish ministries at the Emerson UU Church, Canoga Park, CA (1986); and the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines Iowa, IA (1986-1993). Rev. Peterson retired from active ministry in 1993. After his retirement, he served for almost a decade, as an Interim Minister at the following congregations: Hope Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK (1993-1994); First UU Church of Austin, TX (1994-1995); UU Society, IA (1996-1997); People’s Church, Kalamazoo, MI (1997-1998); the First UU Society in Newton, MA (1998-2000); Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, NJ (2000-2001); and the Starr King UU Fellowship, NH (2001-2002).



Rev. Peterson performed a variety of other roles on behalf of the denomination. He was Vice-President for the Pacific North West District of the UUA. He served the UUMA Executive Committee (1975-1978) and frequently attended the District UUMA programs. Furthermore, Rev. Peterson served the Channing bi-Centennial, the UUA Sesquicentennial and UUA-US bi-Centennial Committees.

Outside of his ministry, Oren was an engaged member of the community. He

was on the Program Advisory Committee of Oregon Public Television. He served as an active member of the National Hemlock Society; Planned Parenthood; the American Civil Liberties Union; Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association; and the Experimental Aircraft Association. Pete was also instrumental to help found the Iowa chapter of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Additionally, he performed as a Chaplain of the Masonic Lodge and was an active Rotary Member in Duxbury, MA.

Oren’s wife Patricia noted, “During the Korean War, Oren’s plane was shot down. He ditched the plane in the Sea of Japan and was rescued by helicopter.”

Oren is survived by his wife of 49 years, Patricia Knight Peterson; his children Thea Peterson, Thomas Peterson, Laura Peterson, and David Peterson; his nine grandchildren Michael, Oren Silas, Nathan, Beth, Rebecca, Anton, Tepper, Stella, and Leonard; and his three great-grandchildren Theo, Raven, and Alva. He was preceded in death by his siblings Adela Engel and Phyllis Murphy; his twin brother Keith Peterson; his sons Oren A. Peterson Jr and Paul Peterson; and his grandson Max.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Planned ***Parenthood of the Heartland***; and to the Good Life Fund at Scottish Rite Park, 2909 Woodland Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312.

A celebration of Oren’s life was held at 10:30 am on Saturday, August 17, 2019, at the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, 1800 Bell Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Patricia Peterson at 2909 Woodland Ave Apt 1001, Den Moines, IA 50312.

STEPHEN E. PHINNEY

(1940-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Stephen “Steve” E. Phinney, who died on May 2, 2020, at the age of 80.

Steve was born on March 31, 1940 in Rochester, NY to Robert Morris Phinney and Margaret Smith Phinney. In 1964, he graduated from the University of Rochester, NY with a Bachelor of Science in Physics, following which he completed his graduate work in Astrogeophysics at the University of Colorado (1968-1972). He then worked as a Staff Systems Engineer at IBM Federal Systems Company (FSC), (1973-1982); as an Advisory Systems Engineer at IBM FSC, Manassas, VA (1982-1994); and as a Senior System Engineer at Signal Corporation, Fairfax, VA (1994-1999), before discerning his call to ministry. Later in 2003, Steve received his Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC.

Rev. Phinney was granted Preliminary Fellowship in 2004, and ordained on April 17, 2005, by the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Alexandria, VA. Prior to his ordination, he served as an intern minister at the First Unitarian Church of Richmond, VA (2002-2003); after his ordination, he served the UU Church of Ellsworth, ME as an interim minister (2006-2007), and the UU Westside Congregation, Rio Rancho, NM as a settled minister (2007-2013). Rev. Phinney then retired from his ministry on July 31, 2013.

Outside of his parish and interim ministries, Rev. Phinney was President of the Liberal Religious Youth Officer (LRY) in Rochester, NY (1958); board member of the Unitarian Universalist for Social-Justice of the Baltimore-Washington Area, and member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. He played piano and taught Religious Education for six years with his wife Lucy, at the UU Congregation of Fairfax, VA (1976-1982). For the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, VA, Rev. Phinney created a bookstore, served as a member of the Aesthetics Committee (1995), and co-chaired the Sunday Service Committee (1993).



Rev. Phinney also provided his services to several community organizations. He was Assistant Scout Master for the Boys Scout (1982-1992); he Co-chaired the I-95 Crossing Study for Virginia Secretary of Transportation (1991-1994); and chaired the Prince William County, Commission on Transportation, VA (1991-1996). Additionally, he served as a member of the Northern Virginia Citizen’s Advisory Committee of Transportation Coordinating Committee (1992); of the Prince William County Historical Commission, VA (1996-2002); and of the Committee to Restore Brentsville Center, VA (1996).

In his free time, Steve liked restoring antiques, genealogy, camping, traveling, reading and collecting. He loved music, played trombone and piano, and sang in church choirs.

Steve is survived by his wife, Cynthia Mortland Phinney; his three children: Sara Phinney Kelley and her husband Dave, Jennifer Phinney Bell and her husband Pat, and Robert Stephen Phinney and his wife Alyce; his five grandchildren: Rachel Bell Hopkins and her husband Cameron Hopkins, Erin Bell, Kathleen (Katie) Kelley, Tobey Phinney and Lucas Phinney; as well as his brother Robert A. Phinney and wife Caroline. He was preceded in death by his parents and his first wife, Lucy Walsh Phinney.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the *Food Bank of the Rockies*.

There is no memorial service planned right now; at a later date, his ashes will be interred at the Phinney family cemetery plot in Barnstable, Cape Cod, MA and scattered on Mount Desert Island, ME.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Cynthia Phinney, 14836 E. Alabama Place, Aurora, CO 80012 or messages may be left *here*.

GENE A. REEVES

(1933-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Gene A. Reeves, who died on May 8, 2019, at the age of 86.

Gene was born on April 2, 1933, in Franklin, NH to Eugene V. Reeves and Parmelie T. Reeves. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire, NH in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, following which he earned his Bachelor of Sacred Theology from

Boston University, MA in 1959. He then received his PhD in Philosophy of Religion, from Emory University, GA in 1963. In 2014, Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL awarded him an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Rev. Dr. Reeves was ordained on November 19, 1961, by The United Liberal Church in Atlanta, GA (now the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta). In 1962, he was called to the Crane Theological School of Tufts University, MA where he served as a Professor until 1967. From 1969 to 1979, Rev. Dr. Reeves fulfilled his Parish ministry at the First Unitarian Church, Dayton, OH, and then served the Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL for nine years as a Dean and Chief Executive Officer (1979-1988). Later, the Meadville Lombard Theological School honored him as Professor Emeritus.

During his service to the denomination, Rev. Dr. Reeves served as a Chairman of the Committee of the Crane Conference on the Ministry at Tufts University (1964). He was also a strong advocate of the civil rights causes and anti-war movements of the 60s and 70s. Dr. Reeves was one of the clergy men who answered Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to Selma, AL in 1965.

In addition to his ministry, Gene belonged to several community organizations. He served as a consultant to the Niwano Peace Foundation and functioned as chair of the planning committee for the 1987 Congress of International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) at Stanford University. He was founder of the International Buddhist Congregation headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, and a founding member of the Council for a Parliament of the World Religions. He also served as an advisor to the Risshō Kōsei, a Japanese new religious movement founded in 1938. Furthermore, Gene authored many articles in scholarly



journals; co-edited the *Process Philosophy and Christian Thought*; edited *A Buddhist Kaleidoscope: Essays on the Lotus Sutra*; and translated *The Lotus Sutra: A Contemporary Translation of a Buddhist Classic*. He did extensive research on contemporary Chinese Buddhism and spoke about Buddhism and the Lotus Sutra in Japan, Korea, China, Singapore and the United States.

Throughout his life, Gene taught at various Universities in the United States,

China and Japan. He was the Director of Planning and Institutional Research, and assistant to the President at Wilberforce University, OH; Professorial Lecturer at the University of Chicago Divinity School, IL; and taught at the Antioch College, OH; the University of Tsukuba in Japan, and the Renmin University of China. In his spare time, he enjoyed reading, art, nature, birds, golf, photography, electronics, auto repair and carpentry.

For those congregations who struggled to broaden their outlook, Rev. Reeves highlighted: "Make your tent larger. Like those Jews in their Babylonian captivity, I believe we are called today, each one of us is called, to make our tents larger, to move beyond our own tribalism, our racial and ethnic and national and class smallness, and let our vision of human wholeness become a basis for a more genuine community, a model of what can be."

Gene is survived by his wife Yayoi Reeves; his daughters Rev. Eva Cameron (UU Minister) and Anna Kerr; his step-son Takuro Sato (Machiko Sato); his sister Joyce Reeves; his five grandchildren Peter Hochgraf, Irene Hochgraf Cameron, Kayleigh Kerr, Ella Kerr, and Momo Sato; as well as his two nephews and two nieces. He was preceded in death by his parents; his former wife Joan Reeves; and his brother Richard Reeves.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one's own choosing, as well as to the Meadville Lombard Theological School, 610 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605.

A celebration of Gene's life was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2019, at the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Yayoi Reeves at 7321 S. South Shore Drive #5B, Chicago, IL 60649.

ROBERT L. SCHAIPLY

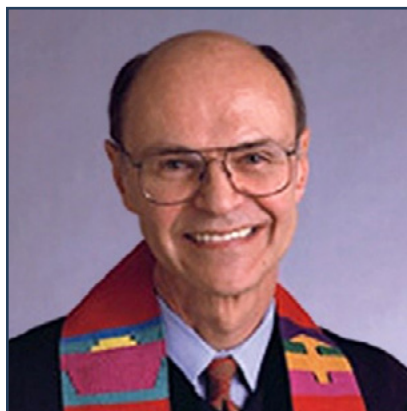
(1942-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Robert “Bob” Lloyd Schaibly, who died on November 11, 2019, at the age of 77.

Bob was born on August 16, 1942 in Lansing, MI to R. L. Schaibly Sr. and Dorothy Strieter Donley. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, following which he worked as a Church Administrator at the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco, CA. In 1971, Bob earned his Master of Divinity from the Harvard Divinity School, MA.

Rev. Schaibly was welcomed into preliminary fellowship in 1971 and ordained on October 10, 1971, by the Beverly Unitarian Church of Chicago, IL, where he carried out his first ministry (1971-1979). From 1979 to 1982, he ministered at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord, NH. In 1982, Rev. Schaibly accepted a call from the First Unitarian Church of Houston, TX and served as a senior minister for two decades (1982-2002). Then in 2002, he retired from active ministry; upon his retirement the Houston congregation honored him as their Minister Emeritus. Thereafter, Rev. Schaibly served the UU Community Church of Washington County, OR (2005-2006) as an interim minister.

Outside of his ministry, Rev. Schaibly served on the Board of the Southwest District of UUA, Houston Area UU Ministers, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), UU Lesbian and Gay Concerns, Lake Geneva Summer Assembly Planning Council (1970s), the Emerson Centennial Celebration Committee and UU Historical Society. He was a member of the UUA Affirmative Action Task Force; President for the Southwest District UU Ministers Association; and a founder and chair of the New England Students for the UU Ministry. Furthermore, Rev. Schaibly was Theme Speaker



at the Star Island, Life on a Star Family Week in 1983. Many of his sermons were published in UU World and Church of Larger Fellowship newsletter. Some of his published writings include: “Is There a Crisis in the Ministry?” *Journal of the Liberal Ministry*, vol. 12, no. 3; and “The Power of the Patient,” *DAY magazine* vol.3, no 2.

Beyond his parish ministry, Bob served as member of several community organizations including Child and Family Services of NH, the Emergency Aid Coalition (a food pantry program); Amnesty International, People for the American Way, and SEARCH (a day center for the homeless). He functioned as Board Member for Houston ALCU, AIDS Foundation of Houston, Lake Geneva Summer Assembly Planning Committee, and “Dialysis and You” magazine. Likewise, Bob was President for NH ACLU (1980-1982); community representative for the University of Houston Animal Research Committee; and Theme Speaker for the American Cancer Society of Texas. He chaired the Mental Health Council and an ecumenical Ministerial Fellowship. Bob studied Buddhism with the Zen leader Thich Nhat Hanh and was named a Dharma Teacher in the Order of Interbeing. Bob was co-founder of the Houston Zen Community.

Bob is survived by his husband, Steven R. Storla; his sister, Rebecca Davidson and her husband, John; his brothers, Ben Schaibly, Bill Schaibly and his wife, Cathy; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Endowment Funds of the First UU Church of Houston, 5200 Fannin St. Houston, TX 77004; or the First Unitarian Church of Portland, 1034 SW 13th Ave. Portland, OR 97205. Memorial services have been held at both congregations.

EDWARD SEARL

(1947-2019)



The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Edward “Ed” Searl, who died on July 28, 2019, at the age of 71.

Ed was born on November 15, 1947, in Chester, PA, to Clinton N. Searl and Mary W. Searl. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1969, with a Bachelor of Arts in history, following which he started his graduate school at the University of Vermont in 1969. In 1970, he emigrated to Canada before finishing his graduate degree. Later in 1973, Ed received his Bachelor of Theology from McGill University, QC, Canada.

Rev. Searl was welcomed into Preliminary Fellowship on April 25, 1977, and ordained on November 8, 1977, by The First Unitarian Church, Youngstown, OH. He carried out his first ministry at the Youngstown congregation from 1977 until 1983. He then fulfilled his Parish Ministry for nearly three decades at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, IL (1983-2012). In 2012, the Hinsdale church honored him as their minister emeritus.

In addition to his ministry, Rev. Searl performed services to the denomination as a ministerial representative for the Commission Lay Leadership Program, Ohio Meadville District in 1979; and as a Secretary and Treasurer for the Ohio Meadville District Professional Religious Leaders in 1979.

Outside his denominational work, Ed belonged to several community organizations. He was Vice-President for the Mahoning County Mental Health Association, Inc. in 1977; trustee for the Mahoning County Transitional Homes, Inc.

in 1978; and corresponding secretary for the Planned Parenthood of Mahoning County in 1979. Likewise, he served as a member for Commission on Human Need and for the Mahoning Valley Association of Churches; and as chair for the Juvenile Justice Team.

Ed loved writing, exploring cities and backroads, traveling, sports, and history. His first book, *In Memoriam: Modern*

Funeral and Memorial Service was published in 1993, and the second edition in 2000. His other published writings include *Shipwreck in the Mountains* (1975), *Beggar’s Bouquet* (1979), and *A Place of Your Own* (1998). Ed also edited a five-book collection: *Bless This Child*, *Coming of Age*, *We Pledge Our Hearts*, *Beyond Absence*, and *In Praise of Animals*. He self-published several books, including *If Only for the Season* (2011) and *Around the Delaware Arc: 101 People Places and Lore* (2013).

Ed is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ellie Searl; his daughter Katie Bodnar; his brother Clint Searl; and his two grandchildren Brett and Bridget Bodnar. He was predeceased by his parents, Clinton and Mary Walter Searl.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Edward Searl Memorial Fund at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 West Maple Avenue St., Hinsdale, IL 60521.

A memorial service was held at 2 pm on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, 11 West Maple Avenue, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

Notes of condolences may be sent to Ellie Searl at 7300 Johnson Farm Lane, Apt. 102, Chadds Ford, PA 19317.

GLENDAC. WALKER

(1933-2020)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Glenda C. Walker who died on Feb 12, 2020, at the age of 86.

Glenda was born on June 13, 1933 in Branchville, NJ. She graduated high school in 1951, following which she joined the Air Force in 1953. She then received a Bachelor of Arts in Experimental Psychology in 1979; and Master of Social Work in Counseling in 1981; both from the University of Oklahoma. Subsequently, Glenda worked for the University of Oklahoma, where she undertook various positions: as Peake People (1981-1982), as an Administrative Secretary (1982-1984), and as an Information Processor (1984-1985). Afterward, she served as a Student Clerk, Student Field Placement, Youth Group Facilitator and Assistant to Minister, at the Harvard Divinity School, before discerning her call to ministry. Later in 1990, Glenda earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School.

Rev. Walker was ordained on June 17, 1990 by All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK, where she carried out her ministerial internship from 1988 to 1989. Following her ordination, she was called to the First Unitarian Church of Wausau, WI, where she served the congregation for a decade (1990 to 2000) and retired on June 13, 2000. Soon after her retirement, on November 19, 2000, the Wausau congregation honored Rev. Walker as their minister emeritus.

In addition to her parish ministry, Rev. Walker served several denominational boards and committees including the Central Midwest District (CMD) Extension Committee, and the CMD Ministers' Association Nomination Committee. In 1989, she was student liaison for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.



Rev. Walker provided her services to various community organizations. She served the Sexual Harassment Council of the University of Oklahoma (1984-1985); and the Steering Committee of several community organizations, some of which include: Aids Memorial Service, Tulsa, OK (1989); Interfaith Choice Luncheon, Tulsa, OK (1989); and Interfaith Breakfast on Infant Mortality Issues, Tulsa, OK (1989). She was on the community

board for the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Institutional Review Committee, Alliance for Mentally Ill, and North Central Health Care Community Coordination Committee.

Rev. Walker was also one of the first three honorees of YWCA, Women of Vision in 1993. In her spare time, she enjoyed walking, reading, movies, and hanging out with friends.

Rev. Walker is survived by her daughter Holly Jewell; niece Kathleen Brown; nephew Gregory Limon; as well as many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents Oliver and Jean Walker, and her sisters, Eileen Walker and June Woodcock.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wausau, WI.

A memorial service was held at 11 am on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the *First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau*, 504 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403.

Notes of condolences may be sent to the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, 504 Grant St, Wausau, WI 54403; Attn: The Friends and Family of Glenda Walker.

JUDITH A. WALKER-RIGGS

(1939-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Judith A. Walker-Riggs, who died on July 8, 2019, at the age of 79.

Judith was born on August 4, 1939, in Baltimore, MD, to Charles and Marjorie Louise Walker. From 1957 to 1958, she studied Comparative Religion at the University of Rochester, NY, following which she earned a Certificate in Theology from Manchester College, Oxford, England, in 1964. Judith also took courses on modern theology at the University of Oxford, while being at Manchester College. On leaving Manchester College, she was given status as a Unitarian Minister. Later, in 1987, Meadville Lombard Theological School, IL awarded her with honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Rev. Walker-Riggs was ordained on June 24, 1964, by the General Assembly of Unitarian Churches, Great Britain. Following her ordination, she served the Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel, Warrington, England for a year. In 1965, she accepted a call from the First Unitarian Church, Reading, England and served the Reading congregation until 1967. From 1968 to 1970, Rev. Walker-Riggs ministered at the First Unitarian Church, Stoneham, MA, and then at the UU Fellowship Brussels, Belgium (1971-1972). In 1972, she was again called to the First Unitarian Church, Stoneham, MA, where she would serve for four years. Thereafter, Rev. Walker-Riggs executed her vital Parish ministry at the following congregations: The Peoples Church UU, Cedar Rapids, IA (1976-1983); Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, Alexandria, VA (1984-1985); All Souls Unitarian Church, Kansas City, MO (1986-1991); and Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel, London, England (1991-1998).

From 1998 onwards, Rev. Walker-Riggs was drawn to interim ministry and served as an interim minister for the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY (1998-2000); Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon, PA (2000-2001); Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids, MI (2002-2004); and finally at the UU Community of El Paso, El Paso, TX (2006-2008).



Rev. Walker-Riggs carried out a great deal of services on behalf of the denomination. She functioned as LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) local and Federation officer (1954-1957); and as President for the MBD UUMA (1975-1976). She was actively involved in the UUA Extension Training (1978); and served the UUA Board of Trustees (1981-1989), Ministerial Fellowship Committee (1979-1986), the UU Ministers Association, and the UU

Women's Federation. She chaired the UUA Long-Range Planning Committee (1982-1984); and was a board member for the Governing Body of British Unitarians (1993-1998) and Starr King School for the Ministry. Furthermore, Judith served the British Unitarian Finance and Administration Committee from 1995 to 1998. She was adjunct professor at the Meadville Lombard Theological School and was one of the writers for UUA Kit, "Liberal Religion- Our Mission for the Future".

In addition to her ministry, Judith belonged to several community organizations. She served on the boards for the League of Women Voters; United Way; Red Cross; Planned Parenthood; Council of Churches; Council on Aging; Emergency shelter; Camden Ecumenical Refugee Network; and many more organizations. She was appointed to the Civil Rights Commission (1979-1983) and the 8th Circuit Court Desegregation Monitoring Committee (1987-1990). She was instrumental in setting legally required Religious Education in Schools for the London Borough of Camden. In her spare time, Judith enjoyed theatre, music, reading, walking, swimming, and crossword puzzles.

Judith's son James had these thoughts to share in reminiscence of his mother: The thing I remember the most (and that people often mention first when remembering her services) was her "Freddy the Frog" stories. The way in which they brought children into adult service, and the opportunity for her to use her voice performance skills was legendary. Personally, her drive for justice in the world around her really affected my brother and me. She was committed to understanding the ways in which UUs could help drive fundamental change. She influenced countless others in her

JUDITH A. WALKER-RIGGS

continued

congregations and in the denomination as a whole.

Judith is survived by her sons Iain Urquhart and James Urquhart; and her stepson Steven Riggs.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.

A celebration of Judith's life was held at 10 am on Saturday, July 13, 2019, at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 1025 Mt. Vernon Highway NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327.

Notes of condolences may be sent to James Urquhart at 3208 Fairview Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501.

CHRISTINE M. WETZEL

(1928-2019)



The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. Dr. Christine “Chris” M. Wetzel, who died on October 14, 2019, at the age of 91.

Chris was born on May 6, 1928 in Auburn, ME to Chester A. McKenney and H. Christine Dearing. She graduated from St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts in Greek and Religious Education, following which she earned her Certification of Religious Education from St. Lawrence Theological School in 1951. Later in 1992, Chris received her Doctor of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

Rev. Dr. Wetzel was ordained on May 6, 1979 by the North Shore Unitarian Society, Plandome, NY (now UU Congregation of Shelter Rock). Prior to her ordination, she served the First UU Church, Claremont, NH, as a Director of Religious Education (DRE) (1956-1958). She then served her parish ministry at Murray UU Church, MA (1959-1970) and the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY as a Minister of Religious Education (1971-1992). On August 31, 1992, Rev. Wetzel retired from her ministry, and upon her retirement the Shelter Rock congregation honored her as their Minister Emeritus.

Rev. Dr. Wetzel performed an array of services to the denomination. She served on the Advisory Board for the Universalist Heritage Foundation; was a Charter member of the UUA Accreditation Committee of Religious Educators, UUA Panel on Theological Education and UUA CEPTEL

(a commission on grant giving for the Theological Schools). Furthermore, she functioned as a faculty for the Meadville Lombard summer schools and for the Star Island RE weeks.

In addition to her denominational service, Chris was a member of several community organizations including Planned Parenthood, the League of

Women Voters, the Association of University Women and the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

In her spare time, Chris loved traveling, mainly to Greek Islands. She also enjoyed studying abroad and attended St. George’s College in Jerusalem, Manchester College in Oxford, England and several summer schools at Starr King and Meadville Lombard.

Chris is survived by her two sons Peter Wetzel, Dr. Gayle D. Wetzel and his wife Esther Spirgi Wetzel; her sister Pearl McKenney Silvernale; and her three grandchildren Benjamin Wetzel, Sabine Wetzel and Niels Wetzel.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to the charity of one’s own choosing.

A small family gathering was held to celebrate her life.

Notes of condolences may be sent to the Wetzel family at 7109 Ruane St, San Diego, CA 92119 or to *Peter Wetzel*.

JAMES ALLEN WICKMAN

(1931-2019)

The Ministries and Faith Development staff offer our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. James “Jim” Allen Wickman who died on November 29, 2019, at the age of 88.

Jim was born on November 9, 1931 in Omaha, NE to James Augustus Wickman and Christine Elizabeth (Hardin) Wickman. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1953, a Master of Business Administration in 1954, and PhD. in Business in 1961, all from the University of Washington. Jim worked at the University of Washington as an Associate Professor, teaching Social Responsibility of Business and Ethics in Business from 1956 to 1982. At the end of 1982, he opted for an early retirement from his teaching; in 1983, the University of Washington honored him as Professor Emeritus. Later in life, Jim discerned his call to ministry and earned his Master of Divinity from Northwest Theological Union, Seattle, WA in 1991.

Rev. Wickman was ordained on September 8, 1991 by the Shoreline Unitarian Church, Seattle, WA. Prior to his ordination, he interned at the Kitsap UU Fellowship, Bremerton, WA. After his ordination, he accepted a call from the Community UU Church, Pasco, WA and served for two years until 1994. Following his first settlement, Rev. Wickman was occasionally called upon for pulpit engagements. In 1999, he retired from active ministry.

Rev. Wickman served the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) as President for two years, and a Board member for five years (1980-1985). He functioned as Registrar of the PNWD Unitarian Leadership School (1980-1987) and served the PNWD Leadership School Committee. Furthermore, he was founding member of Shoreline Unitarian Church, WA and Secretary of the UUMA Chapter.



Throughout his life, Jim continued teaching part time. He had several of his writings published including “*Christmas Stories*,” *UU World*, 1981; “*Lighting the Candles of Christmas*,” *Christmas Eve Service*, Worship Arts Clearing House, 1981; *Christmas Stories*, “REACH Christmas Collection, 1986. He was involved with the Habitat for Humanity group (in three cities: Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, WA) as a volunteer builder. In his spare time Jim enjoyed cabinetry, carpentry, photography and travel.

Jim is survived by his wife of 42 years, Janet L. Tyler; his children Shelley Weisberg, Jeff Wickman, and Cristy Wickman; his stepchildren Richard Ingham and Lori Bartosh; as well as his seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ***Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church***, 14724 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155.

In remembrance of Jim, his family planned presented and participated in “My Love Affair with the Mountains” a program of Jim’s photography, music and poetry (originally created by Jim for the initial Earth Day celebrations in Seattle, WA).

Notes of condolences may be sent to Janet Tyler at 4009 Vista Place, Pasco, WA 99301.