

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY AND HERITAGE SOCIETY



UUHHS is pleased to announce Megan Marshall will speak at the UUA Headquarters in May and a new Endowed Fund is being launched.

Megan Marshall, the Pulitzer Prize winning biographer of Margaret Fuller (*Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*, 2013) will deliver the 2015 Conrad Wright Lecture for the UUHHS on Friday, May 8, 2015 at 7: 00 p.m. at the new UUA headquarters at 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston.

This event is to celebrate Marshall's achievement of winning the Pulitzer for a book that depicts a Unitarian Universalist historical figure. It is being held on Mother's Day weekend to honor Fuller, our foremother, who is often considered America's first feminist. Megan Marshall is the author of one previous book, *Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism* (2005), which was a Pulitzer finalist, and won the Francis Parkman prize. *The New York Times* said this Fuller book "pushes Ms. Marshall into the front rank of American biographers, calling her an "ideal biographer." (Cont'd pg. 2)

UUHHS is proud to co-sponsor two GA workshops:

Learning From Women's Outreach to Other Outsiders, co-sponsored with UU Women's Federation and *A Way out of No Way*, co-sponsored with the *Living Legacy Project*. (Cont'd pg. 2)

Journal to Feature UUHHS Convocation Scholarship

Work is underway to complete Volume 38 of our *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*, which you can expect to receive in April 2015! (Cont'd pg. 4)

UUHHS is pleased to announce our 2015 history and heritage prizes.

Thanks to a generous donation, we have increased the prize amount in each category to \$1000. (Cont'd pg. 3)

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Wright Lecture cont'd.

We are also launching a new endowed fund to honor UU historian Conrad Wright. UUHHS sponsors an annual Conrad Wright lecture in honor of the great Harvard historian of the twentieth century. In recent years, the lecture has been held in a variety of locations, including UU seminary settings in Berkeley, and Chicago, as well as Harvard and Andover Newton. This celebration marks the first time we have held such an event at denominational headquarters and marks the launch of a new Endowed Fund for the Conrad Wright Lecture. This fund will ensure the longevity of the annual lecture and allow UUHHS to invite top rated lecturers and authors with a special interest in UU history and heritage.

Marshall, who teaches at Emerson College, and is a 2014-2015 Cullman Center Fellow at the New York Public Library this year, gives us a complete and stimulating look at Fuller's exciting, but tragic life. Here we learn the familiar aspects of her relationships with other Transcendentalists, but we also gain insight into how she struggled financially, and became an advocate for the working class. We especially learn greater details about her relationship with Giovanni Ossoli, and the final days of her life. *The New York Times* said that reading this book is like having the experience of what Emerson described as the feeling of talking with Fuller: "You stretch your limbs & dilate to your utmost size."

Please join us to hear a wonderful talk, see the new headquarters, and enjoy a delicious reception in the glorious new space.

GA Workshops cont'd

Learning From Women's Outreach to Other Outsiders, is co-sponsored with UU Women's Federation and led by Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker and Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie

Cramped in a church that stifled their voices and vision 100 years ago, liberal women went outside its walls to practice a larger faith of community service and social betterment. This lecture and panel response will explore how these early rebellions can help our own witness become more prophetic today.

Also being offered, *A Way out of No Way*, co-sponsored with the Living Legacy Project is led by the Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson.

When Unitarian Universalists have faced difficult conditions in the past, we have developed fresh energy. In the segregated, repressive southern society of the 1950s and '60s Unitarian Universalists "made a way out of no way." This workshop will include young adult UUs from the #BlackLivesMatter movement as respondents, creating dialogue about how the past offers wisdom for the present, and how the present helps us better understand the past.

**Coming soon!
Brand new UUHHS
website!!**

History and Heritage Prizes

In 2015, we will be offering prizes for the best research essay by a seminarian and the best history-related religious education curriculum created since 2010. We will also offer a prize for the best recent history of a congregation in 2016.

Seminarian History Prize **\$1000 awarded in 2015**

The Seminarian History prize will be awarded for the best research essay on Unitarian Universalist history. Essays should be approximately 15-25 pages in length, and they must draw on primary sources and be organized around a clear thesis. Persons currently enrolled in an M.Div. program and/or who are Candidates for Ministerial Fellowship are eligible to participate. Deadline: June 1, 2015

Religious Education Prize **\$1000 awarded in 2015**

The Religious Education Prize will be awarded in 2015 for the best original curriculum created since 2010 covering some aspect of Unitarian Universalist history. Both professional and volunteer religious educators may submit curricula; however, curricula commissioned by the UUA are not eligible. Curricula for children, youth, or adults are all eligible. Deadline: June 1, 2015

Congregational History Prize **\$1000 awarded in 2016**

The Congregational History Prize will be awarded in 2016 for the best history of a local UU congregation prepared since 2012. Congregational histories should be at least 40 pages in length. Deadline: June 1, 2016

Please direct submissions and questions to Dan McKanan at dmckanan@hds.harvard.edu. As appropriate, winning submissions may be considered for publication in the *Journal of Unitarian Universalist History*. In addition to the \$1000 award, all winners will receive a free one-year membership in the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society.

UUHHS is honored to support the publication of *Southern Whites: Unitarian Universalists in the Civil Rights Era*, by the Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson, an engaging account of the roles that UU individuals and congregations played in the civil rights movement in the South in the 1950s and '60s. Pre-orders are being taken now by the UUA bookstore for a mid-February publication.

This **Special Issue** will feature scholarly work presented at the exciting 2013 UU History and Heritage Convocation, jointly planned by UUHHS and UU Collegium, which met in November at the 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The theme for this fabulous conference, which was partially supported, with our thanks, by the UU Funding Program, was **"UU History in the Nation's Capital and Beyond."** This vital theme served as the centering point for a number of works on the influence of Unitarians and Universalists on social policy in U.S. history. Having access to these articles in the journal will make an important part of the conference available in print, a treat for those who could not attend, and a reminder for those who were there of much that was shared in that experience.

Included are two lectures: the inspiring theme lecture given by Mark Morrison-Reed, "Race: The Circumstantial Influence of Unitarian Universalism on U.S. Policy," and the provocative Collegium-sponsored scholarly lecture given by Philip Gura, "From Edwards to Emerson, Revisited."

Also included are five promising articles of original research on nineteenth-century Unitarian and Universalist leaders/ministers. This includes Dan McKanan's introduction of the theology of George Lippard, Dana Capasso's examination of Mila Frances Tupper Maynard, Colin Bossen's recovery of Abby Price, Robert Reutenauer's account of abolitionist John Milton Niles, and Pete Guest's study of Universalists and the 1845 Anti-slavery Protest using social science history methods. These last two articles complement each other well.

Finally, we are expecting this very full issue to include thirteen book reviews! We are certain you will be happy to receive your

copy of this upcoming volume of the journal. You will get a taste of the extraordinary work brought together at our 2013 UU History and Heritage Convocation, and you will be able to read what reviewers are saying about several recently published books in Unitarian Universalist history.

Book Reviews: Two Unitarian Ministers

By Jim Nugent, DUUB editor

Let me draw your attention to two recent publications of interest to UU historians. Alan Seaburg's new book covers Brooke Herford's years ministering at influential Chicago and Boston churches while Richard Kellaway's book, the first of two volumes, covers William James Potter's formative years. Volume I of the Potter book ends as Potter starts his first and only ministry at First Unitarian Church in the prosperous whaling port of New Bedford, Massachusetts.

During Brooke Herford's sixteen years in America, he served the Church of the Messiah (now First Unitarian) in Chicago, Illinois and the Arlington Street Church in Boston, Massachusetts, while Potter ministered in New Bedford for thirty-two years. Both were Unitarian with Herford on the Christian end of the spectrum while Potter moved toward Free Religion.

Both books are available immediately for Kindle reading – the Potter volume is also available on paper.

Both books are based on personal papers that were never meant for public consumption and both are housed in distant archives; Potter's letters and journals are at the Huntington Library in California while Herford's personal letters back to English relatives—foundation of the Seaburg's book—are (Cont'd next page)

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housed in Oxford, England at Harris Manchester College.

I found the "Unitarian Pope" a fascinating read giving an inside picture of the operation of a local church, insights into church the yearly ebb and flow of congregational activities, church finances, and reports on day to day ministerial duties. Interesting tidbit; all the money Herford received performing marriages went, by tradition, to his wife. I also got a better picture of the interplay of various Unitarian organizations in the nineteenth-century because Herford reported on them when he wrote letters back home. Herford was a regular participant in the annual American Unitarian Association (AUA) May meetings in Boston, the Saratoga meetings of the National Conference of Unitarian Churches (NCUC), and the meetings of the Western Unitarian Conference (WUC).

William James Potter wasn't a traveler. He was raised a few miles from New Bedford, went to the normal school, and after a spell at Harvard, returned to New Bedford where he stayed until retirement.

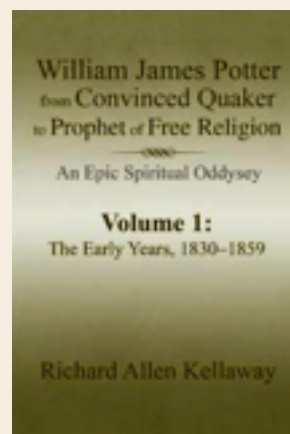
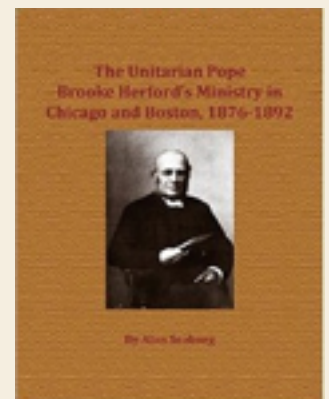
Kellaway's book is the story of his education, his search for independence and vocation, and the development of his Unitarian beliefs that grew out of his family's Quaker roots. I enjoyed learning about his normal teachers, his issues with his father, and his moral development but, I'm guessing that the meat of Potter's life will be covered in the second volume. I can't wait. Unlike Herford, Potter had little to do with traditional national organizations like the AUA, the NCUC, or the WUC. Instead, Potter started the Free Religious Association and later helped establish a journal, *The Index*, to encourage the scientific study of religion and ethics. Under editor Benjamin Franklin Underwood, *The Index* moved to Chicago where it was incorporated into *Open Court*.

I bought both books at Amazon.com in the Kindle editions. The Unitarian Pope was \$4.99 while the William Potter book was \$3.99. At those prices I didn't hesitate before ordering. And with Kindle's instant delivery I also didn't have to wait to start reading. Both books are well done but the Herford book does suffer a bit mechanically. It has more errors, some typographical while others might be handwriting decipherment problems like the sentence, "The National Conference that year met . . . in Philadelphia rather than Sarasota." I think that should be Saratoga.

All in all, two interesting additions to Unitarian and Universalist history. Both books give us a fresh and surprisingly comprehensive look at the bigger picture by focusing on the smaller details.

The books:

"The Unitarian Pope: Brooke Herford's Ministry in Chicago and Boston, 1876-1892" by Alan Seaburg (\$4.99 Kindle edition)



"William James Potter From Convinced Quaker to Prophet of Free Religion - Volume I: The Early Years" by Richard Allen Kellaway (\$3.99 Kindle edition)

Membership Dues Increase:

After a year of research and considerable discussion, the UUHHS Board voted to raise annual dues to the following:

2015: Student \$20 Regular \$40 Three year \$90
2016: Students \$30 Regular \$50 Three year \$125

This was not an easy decision, but due to increasing costs of editing and production of our Journal, organizing and hosting conferences and lectures, we needed to ask our members for help. We've been receiving generous grants from the UU Funding Panel, but this is not a sustainable resource. So effective this year, we ask for your support. In return we pledge a high quality Journal, conferences, lectures and online presence. Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

Membership Renewal!

Your membership expires in June of the year on your mailing label. To renew or extend your membership, contact: Paul Sprecher, UUHHS, 27 Grove St., Scituate, MA 02066, or email membership@uuhhs.org. You can also renew ONLINE at uuhhs.org/Join. Simply print out the form, fill it in, drop it in the mail, or use PayPal option from that page.



The BOT: Jim Nugent, Kathy Parker, Dan McKanan, Helen Zidowecki, Earl Holt, Kate Walker, Paul Sprecher, Mark Harris, Liz Strong, John Marsh, Colin Bossen, Barbara Coeyman