



## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY AND HERITAGE SOCIETY BULLETIN



### **All Souls Church Acquires the Channing Lectern**

The Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City is celebrating its Bicentennial Year. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, All Souls had its 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. A highlight was the presentation of the historic Channing Lectern to the congregation.

Rev. Tracy Spowls previously served at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, New Jersey before coming to All Souls as the Assistant Minister of Lifespan Faith Formation. She suggested that All Souls pursue acquisition of the Channing Lectern when she learned it needed a new home. It was purchased by the All Souls Historical Society and presented to the congregation by Christina Bellamy, President of the Society.

All Souls Church traces its founding to a gathering in the parlor of Lucy Channing Russel in New York, when she invited people to meet her brother, from Boston, William Ellery Channing. He was en-route to Baltimore where he delivered his well-known sermon, "Unitarian Christianity." Upon his return, huge crowds assembled to hear him preach. All Souls Church was incorporated that year, as the First Congregational Church of New York, on November 15, 1819.

The beautiful lectern is the work of deaf sculptor Leon Morse who lived outside Paris. In 1929, the lectern was commissioned by Plainfield member Emma Adams, a descendent of Presidents John Quincy Adams and John Adams, as a gift in memory of her mother Amelia Merrifield Adams, a charter member of the Plainfield church.

Morse created the hand-carved portrait of William Ellery Channing on the front panel of the lectern working from photographs of portraits. The lectern was designed to complement the interior of the Plainfield church. The lectern was in continuous use in the Plainfield sanctuary until the last service there on November 4, 2018.

The antique lectern is placed in the All Souls archives room and will be used on special occasions. A series of events to celebrate the congregation's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are planned, culminating in our Bicentennial weekend, November 15 – 17. The website, [www.allsoulsnyc.org](http://www.allsoulsnyc.org) lists upcoming activities.

For more information, please contact Bill Bechman, Co-Chair of the All Souls Bicentennial Committee at [bill.bechman@gmail.com](mailto:bill.bechman@gmail.com).





*of John Murray's landing  
in America*



*of Channing's sermon  
"Unitarian Christianity"*

## **Call for Papers! 2019 Convocation of Unitarian and Universalist Studies**

### **"Origins of Unitarianism, Universalism and**

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN A. FARMAKIS (1923 – 2016)

The Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society offers our condolences to the family and colleagues of the Rev. John A. Farmakis, who died on January 24th, 2016 at the age of 92.

John received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1944. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1946 and was stationed in Germany and at Fort Hood. After leaving the army, he enrolled in Harvard Divinity School and received his degree in 1950.

Ordained to the Ministry in 1952 by All Souls Universalist Church of Oakland, ME, he held a pastorate there from 1951 to 1953, was minister at the First Parish Church of Saugus, MA in 1953, served in the United States Navy as a Chaplain from 1954 to 1956, and as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Stanford, CT from 1956 to 1970. He was minister of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence from 1970 to 1988 and retired on his sixty-fifth birthday. Following retirement, he served as interim chaplain to Manchester College, Oxford (now Harris-Manchester College) throughout the 1988-1989 academic year.

Rev. Farmakis engaged within the denomination outside of parish ministry, serving on many boards and committees, including his service to what was then the Universalist History Society (now the Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to  
The John A. Farmakis Memorial Fund,  
Attn: Patrice M. Wiseley, Associate Director of Gift Planning Services,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
3535 Market Street, Suite 500,  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-3309.



## **PRESIDENT'S POST**

Good news all around for the Conrad Wright Lecture! Established 10 years ago, during this last year (2018) we have raised more than \$15,000 towards an Endowment to support the lecture and help ensure its future. The generosity of so many of the members and friends of UUHHS has been inspiring. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed to the initial appeal earlier last year or helped us to reach our *Faithify* goal during December -- and double thanks to those who contributed to both.

The other good news is that for the fourth successive year the Wright Lecture will be on the program of the General Assembly. Some of you will know that there is considerable competition for slots on the GA program, which have been reduced as part of some changes being tried out this year. We were fortunate to make the cut, in part (I think) that we have had increasing audiences each year and of course quality speakers.

In the fall of 2000, UUHHS and Collegium jointly sponsored a History Convocation in Washington, D.C. It was a great success and has been repeated triennially, first in the Boston area in 2013 and then the Twin Cities of Minnesota in 2016. As you can tell from the pages of this Newsletter, planning for "Convo IV" is moving into high gear.

The theme of this Convocation is "Origins", inspired by two significant events in the formative history of Unitarianism and Universalism, as you will discover as you read the "Call for Papers," included in this Newsletter. I encourage you to consider attending this Convocation, which will be held in Baltimore and will include an evening program in the church, where on May 5, 1829, William Ellery Channing preached a sermon that launched a movement.

Earl Holt

EarlHolt@aol.com

## **Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society Board 2017-2018**

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**\*\*HAVE AN INTERESTING  
HISTORIC UU FIND THAT YOU  
WANT TO SHARE WITH  
UUHHS?\***

**Please send any submissions about your local UU history and heritage to the UUHHS newsletter! Send all submissions to newsletter editor, Phoebe Cos at [phoebekates16@gmail.com](mailto:phoebekates16@gmail.com) by April 1st. We look forward to hearing your stories!**



## **A Note from the UUHHS Journal Editor**

By Kathleen Parker

It's January again, and I hope you are looking forward to the spring 2016 volume of our *Journal of*

*Unitarian Universalist History!* This issue is coming together on schedule and should be in the mail to

you, per usual, by April! Four outstanding articles of original research are included, highlighting the ways in which Unitarians from disparate walks of life and far-flung locations gave shape in the nineteenth century to the liberal religious vision they claimed as their own. The first article, by James

Trent, explores the influences that affected Samuel Gridley Howe working as a young physician in

Greece during the 1820s. Despite troubling questions we may have about Howe in later life, this history

offers new understanding of his early reform years. A second article, by Mary Johnson, tells the story of

a pre-Civil War minister in Alton, IL, who went on, after fighting in the Union army, to become a newspaper editor in the West. A third article, by military historian Peter Karsten, offers a focus we have not seen lately: the ethical dilemmas faced by Unitarians in government employ in the nineteenth

century -- a soldier dealing with the Mexican War; and jurists dealing with the Fugitive Slave Act,

corporate liability under the law, and other questions of conscience. The fourth article, by Kathleen

Parker (your editor), examines the Social Gospel ministry of an 1890s minister in Pittsburgh, PA, as he

struggled to minister with "moral enthusiasm" in an industrializing city. These articles promise to illuminate our understanding of what it meant to be a Unitarian in these nineteenth-century cases, and

they may inspire us as we face our own questions of conscience today. The articles are followed by

fourteen fine book reviews that should spark

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**Accepting submissions for a  
Sermon Competition and a  
Worship Arts and Sacred Music Competition.**

Original sermons, music, and other interactive liturgical elements will be considered for presentation in our morning worship services at the conference.

**Presenters should submit a proposal through the online form  
found at <http://uuconvo.org/> by May 15, 2019.**

Proposals should include an abstract of 300-500 words and provide an overview of the presentation's content. It should also include one or two sentences of biographical information about the presenter(s). **For sermons and original music, use the same form to submit your complete original work in written form.** Notification of whether a proposal has been accepted will be given by June 15, 2019.

For questions about submissions, please contact **Convocation Program Co-Chairs:**  
**Bob Reutenauer at [bobreut@gmail.com](mailto:bobreut@gmail.com)**  
**Natalie Malter at [malter.natalie@gmail.com](mailto:malter.natalie@gmail.com).**

Details about conference registration are forthcoming on Convocation 2019 website at  
<http://uuconvo.org/>

