



Walter Royal Jones, Jr.

March 15, 1920 - April 28, 2010

Reverend Walter Royal Roy Jones, Jr., D.D. died April 30, 2010 peacefully at home. He was born in Brooklyn, New York to Walter R. Jones and Anita Dunker Jones in 1920. Walter Royal Jones Jr. received his B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1941. Reverend Jones then began his career in the ministry, serving Unitarian and Universalist congregations in Barnstable and Yarmouth Port MA 1945-1949; Brooklyn NY 1949-1951; Floral Park NY 1951-1957; Gloucester and Essex MA 1957-1963 and Charlottesville VA 1963-1972. He accepted the position as Minister of the Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins in 1972 and retired as Minister Emeritus in 1990. He served on the Business Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association UUA, was vice chair of the Study Commission on the Free Church in a Changing World and co-author of the section on Ethics and Social Action 1963 and chair of the UUA Commission on Religion and Race 1963-1967. He participated in the civil rights March on Washington and in Birmingham and Selma AL, and McComb MS. From 1983-1985 Reverend Jones chaired the UUA's Committee on Purposes and Principles, which conducted a wide-ranging dialogue from which the UUA's present statement of ethical, theological and social principles developed. Reverend Jones was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in 1986, where he served as Minister-in-residence in 1990 after his retirement from Foothills Unitarian Church. He was a guest lecturer at Colorado State University from 1990 to 1992, and taught a course on Unitarian Universalist

History and Polity at the Iliff School of Theology in 1994. He was given the Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism in 1990. Roy's community service in Fort Collins included volunteering in a variety of capacities with the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, the Community Crisis and Information Center, United Campus Ministry, Larimer County Community Corrections, and Chaplain at the Larimer County Detention Center. In 1945, Roy married Mary Elizabeth Lyons with whom he had six children. Two, Catherine Elizabeth and Thomas Philip, preceded him in death. His surviving children include Walter Royal Jones III, Christine Elizabeth Jones, and Carol Ann Jones Conley married to Ernest Conley, all of Charlottesville VA, and Linda Susan Jones Bothe married to Dieter Bothe of Fort Collins.

Following the death of his first wife, Roy married Eliza Craddock East in Charlottesville in 1970, thereby adding three grown sons to his family, John Samuel Fitch of Boulder, Peter Warner Fitch of Charlottesville, and Julian Robert Fitch now living in Thailand. It was a joyous marriage for them both. His children and step-sons and their spouses gave Roy and Eliza 10 grandchildren William Henry Conley is deceased, and six great-grandchildren. Eliza Jones died in 2004. Roy's passions were people, ideas, music and trains. He was a great collector of classical music recordings and recently returned to studying the piano. He turned of the basement of his home into a railroad model exhibit linking the hills of Virginia to the Rockies in Colorado. Thanks to the generosity of model railroad buffs from Fort Collins and Loveland, Roy and his neighbors, family and friends were treated to one final run of the trains to celebrate his 90th birthday. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, at 1:00 p.m. at the Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Foothills Unitarian Church, in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I did not know Roy but he was a great friend of my mother's, Harriett Elizabeth Heiser Entsminger, in the 1930's, 40's. While in college they exchanged letters, some of Roy's which I have in my possession. He accompanied his letters with the most charming and delightful sketches and illustrations which I treasure! I wish for him family to know that through these letters, I have always felt he was a friend to me as well. Jill Entsminger Bauer, Lexington, KY

Jill Bauer - February 15 at 06:25 AM

RM

“ On behalf of the U.U. Retired Ministers and Partners Association may I express our deepest condolences and sympathy over the loss of Rev. Roy Jones. What a wonderful role model, leader and minister he was for all of us. Our movement is so much the richer for his presence among us. Personally, Roy was the very first Universalist minister I ever heard preach. When I was 13 years old, our family was visiting in Gloucester, MA and attended Roy's church. I was so impressed by his sermon and remember thinking that Universalism must be a very special religion. Many years later, I "found" Unitarian Universalism in Richmond, VA and realized that 20 years earlier I had first heard its "saving" message in Roy's words. May you experience the love and caring of Roy and Eliza's many UURMaPA friends surrounding you as you move through the time ahead. Rev. Makaanah Morriss President, UURMaPA

Rev. Makaanah Morriss - June 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ I first met Roy when I was a teenager thinking of becoming a minister and I drove to Fort Collins from Greeley just to talk. He was gracious, wise, and helpfully cautious. Later, when I served a Ministerial Internship at Foothills UU it was a regular source of inspiration to meet and talk with him every week, listen to his sermons and work with him on a city-wide initiative to promote the equal rights of gay, lesbian and bisexual people. I was deeply honored that he gave my ordination sermon. I have returned to that sermon several times over the past years for encouragement. He was truly a wordsmith and it is my opinion that the enduring power of our Principles and Purposes are due to his way with people and with words. The Ministry of Roy Jones continues to this day to shape who I am as a Unitarian Universalist minister. It was with great sadness that I heard of his death. He lives on through the impact of his words and deeds.

Thomas Perchlik - May 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I know he was loved and cared for deeply and will be missed. May he rest in Peace. Our Sympathy to your family.

Shari Stroup - May 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ To the family - I remember fondly years of ministerial family retreats at Ghost Ranch with Roy and Eliza. Eliza and my husband Andy used to take off on grand art gallery and sight seeing tours while the ministers met. What wonderful people. I'm so sorry for your loss. Fondly, Rev. Sarah Lammert

Sarah Lammert - May 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Besides being a rail fan and model railroader, Roy was also a conductor for a while on the Fort Collins Municipal Railway. I enjoyed his company on several shifts my self. He will be missed.
Roger Mitchell Motorman, Chief Mechanic, and Vice President: Fort Collins Municipal Railway Society

Roger Mitchell - May 05, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ My deepest condolences on your loss. I served as a Ministerial Intern at Foothills from 2003-1005. Roy had been a hero long before I met him, and while I was at the church and afterward he was a mentor to me. A kinder, gentler soul never lived! And yet also funny and passionate about life and social justice. I will miss being able to visit with him again, he shaped my life in so many ways.

Jinnie Trabulsi - May 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM