



annual report 2010

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

... advancing justice for women and girls and promoting their spiritual growth

Meet the UUWF Leadership

Board of Trustees



Rev. Marti Keller
President

A minister on staff at the UU Congregation of Atlanta, Marti joined the board as Vice President/Communications in 2007. At UUCA she focuses on social justice, denominational work, small group ministry, pastoral care, lay ministry and adult education. She also preaches regularly, conducts rites of passage – including weddings and memorials – and serves on the Executive Team. She has been both a parish and community minister, working with congregations in the Mid-South for more than a dozen years. Prior to her ordination as a minister, she worked with several non-profit social change organizations, including 12 years as a director of public affairs, community and government relations for Planned Parenthood in California. She also spent 28 years working as an arts and cultural critic for various publications in the San Francisco Bay area.



Mary Mercier
Treasurer/Clerk

Mary – who joined the board in 2008 – is a member of the First Parish Church in Norwell, MA, where she has served on a number of committees as well as representing her congregation as a delegate to General Assembly. Professionally, she is a long-time manager and advocate for seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families and is an experienced clinical and administrative manager in both the public and private sector. She is currently Program coordinator and Senior Family Partner at Family Continuity, where she provides administrative oversight of program and supervision of staff as well as direct service to families.

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Report from the UUWF President: Looking Backward to Look Forward

The year 2010 was one of celebration for our Unitarian Universalist movement, as we observed the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Unitarian foremother, Margaret Fuller. Journalist, critic, and women's rights advocate, Fuller was a woman of a number of "firsts": first foreign correspondent for a U.S. newspaper, first full-time book reviewer, first female literary critic and author of the first major American feminist work, *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.



(left) Author/Actress Laurie James presented her one-woman play, "Men, Women, and Margaret Fuller" at a UUWF sponsored performance at GA 2010. Recipient of our 2010 Ministry to Women Award, Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker (right) also presented a UUWF GA workshop on the website offering free study materials for her recent book, *No Silent Witness: The Eliot Parsonage Women and Their Unitarian World*. The website was partially funded by a Margaret Fuller Grant.



The UU Women's Federation joined in celebrating the Fuller Bicentennial by featuring Margaret Fuller on our website and in our newsletter and by sponsoring author-actress Laurie James' performance of her one-woman play, *Men, Women, and Margaret Fuller* at General Assembly.

UUWF also celebrates Margaret Fuller every year with a funding program named in her honor, and another of our 2010 GA programs featured a recent recipient of a Fuller grant. Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker did a presentation on her funded project, NoSilentWitness.com, the website she developed to offer free study materials on her recent book, *No Silent Witness: The Eliot Parsonage Women and Their Unitarian World*. The study materials help readers to relate the history and experiences of the Eliot women to their own lives as UUs in a changing world.

We also honored Dr. Tucker during GA with our Ministry to Women Award, given to individuals or organizations that have ministered to women in an outstanding manner. Dr. Tucker was recognized for her earlier book, *Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930*, a truly prophetic work

in that it looks forward by looking back: the picture Dr. Tucker drew of the challenges facing women ministers then is just as true today.

Three Top Priorities

Looking back at Margaret Fuller inspired the board to look forward at its September 2010 meeting, my first as UUWF president. Vision work on our hopes and dreams for our organization over the next three years resulted in the board adopting three top priorities:

1. Strengthening our connections with, and support of, women's groups in local congregations.

To aid us in this goal our development activities will include reaching out to approximately 70 women's groups currently or formerly affiliated with UUWF to strengthen or re-establish our bond with them and to identify best practices regarding fundraising and membership. We will use letters, phone calls, e-mails or a combination to reach out to these groups. We also plan to experiment with an 'ambassador' program, whereby we will attempt to recruit representatives from active women's groups who, in turn, will reach out to women and women's groups

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*Advancing justice
for women and girls
and promoting their
spiritual growth.*

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Executive Administrator
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Thanking Our Donors

We extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all those individuals who contributed generous donations and pledges between January 1 and December 31, 2010.

We equally appreciate the support of our member groups in local congregations, other women's groups and congregations. They are listed at the end of each giving circle, in order of their home cities, for easier identification.

Olympia Brown Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)

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Atlanta, GA - UU Congregation of Atlanta
Manhasset, NY - Women's Group, UU
Congregation at Shelter Rock
New York, NY - Women's Alliance, Unitarian
Church of All Souls

Maria Louise Baldwin Circle (\$500-\$999)

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Brooklyn, MA - Women's Alliance,
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Detroit, MI - Women's Alliance, First UU Church
Eugene, OR - Women's Alliance,
The UU Church in Eugene
Kansas City, MO - Demeters, All Souls
UU Church
Littleton, MA - Littleton Branch Alliance,
First Church Unitarian
Louisville, KY - Women's Alliance,
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Madison, WI - UU Alliance, First Unitarian Society
Manhasset, NY - UU Congregation at Shelter Rock
Paramus, NJ - Women's Alliance,
Central Unitarian Church
Salem, OR - UUWF, UU Congregation of Salem
San Diego, CA - UUWF, First UU Church
Stockton, CA - The UU Alliance, First UU Church
Swampscott, MA - UU Women of Greater Lynn,
UU Church of Greater Lynn

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Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
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Outreach Fund, The Community Church of
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Plano, TX - Women's Alliance,
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 UU Church of Marblehead
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 First Unitarian Church of the River
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 Women, First Universalist Church
 Pittsburgh, PA - Women's Alliance,
 First Unitarian Church
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 The UU Congregation of Santa Fe
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 UU Church
 Savannah, GA - UU Church of Savannah
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 Tamworth, NH - UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes
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 Blaine, WA - Free Church Unitarian
 Brewster, MA - Women's Circle Alliance, First Parish
 Cincinnati, OH - Heritage Universalist
 Unitarian Church
 Dallas, TX - Women's Evening Alliance,
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 Peabody, MA - Brooksby Village UUs
 San Jacinto, CA - UU Fellowship of Hemet and
 San Jacinto Valley
 Vero Beach, FL - UU Fellowship of Vero Beach
 Waldport,, OR - Central Coast UU Fellowship

About the UUWF

The UU Women's Federation is a continental membership organization that advances justice for women and girls and promotes their spiritual growth. It is an independent non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation and one of only three associate member organizations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the other two being the UU Service Committee and the UU United Nations Office.

Inheritor of a proud tradition, UUWF was formed in 1963 through consolidation of the Association of Universalist Women (founded in 1869 and believed to be the first organization of lay church women in the United States) and the Alliance of Unitarian Women (1890).

UUWF Funding Programs: Touching the Lives of Women and Girls



This mom was one of the participants in a series of health workshops for local farm worker, indigenous, and Latina women supported by a 2010 Equity and Justice Grant. Child care was among the hands-on services at the workshop provided by congregants from the grant's recipient, the UU Church of Ft. Myers, FL.

Equity and Justice Grants Program

...supporting social justice projects that improve the lives of women and girls

This program awards grants to Unitarian Universalist organizations, UU groups, or to groups or organizations with a significant number of UUs involved in the hands-on work of the project. The program

welcomes proposals addressing a wide range of issues consistent with UU principles and which emphasize the achievement of social justice for women and girls in areas such as: women's health; abortion/reproductive rights; age discrimination; war; human rights; poverty; unemployment; Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian/Transgender concerns; domestic violence and child abuse.

Margaret Fuller Grants Program

...funding accessible projects in Unitarian Universalist religious feminisms

These grants are made to Unitarian Universalist women for scholarly projects that explore feminist thought and action within a religious or spiritual context. This includes works that could be called "womanist," "mujerista," "eco-feminist" or "woman-

centered." Projects can include an analysis of first, second or third wave feminist writings and related activities. This is work that can create, define, clarify, illuminate, develop, share and birth feminist theology from a UU point of view. We are interested in projects that will contribute to the feminist transformation of our UU community and the larger world.

Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship Program

...general support for aspirants/candidates to the UU ministry who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic

To qualify for funding from this program, applicants must be registered with the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministerial Credentialing Office as either an aspirant or candidate. Scholarship recipients are expected to communicate with the scholarship panel about the ways in which their path to ministry has been enhanced by a Bowens-Wheatley scholarship, but there is no requirement for a post-award accounting of how the funds were spent. If the path to ministry is abandoned before completion, funds must be returned to the UUWF.

For more information, including application guidelines, go to www.uuwf.org/fundingapplications.html.

UUWF Leadership, *CONT. FROM PAGE 1*



Rev. Terry Davis VP/Development

Terry was granted preliminary fellowship status by the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee in March 2010 and was ordained

by the UU Congregation of Atlanta in November. In August, she will join Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, MO, where she will serve as Minister of Pastoral Care. She brings over 25 years of marketing, communications, fundraising and nonprofit experience to UUWF. In 1992, Terry founded and served as CEO of a \$3 million regional graphic communications and marketing company whose clients included several international Fortune 500 firms. She sold

her firm in 2007 to complete her ministerial studies and prepare for UU ministry.



Kirstie Lewis, Ph.D VP/Funding Programs

Like Terry, Kirstie joined the board last fall. She became a UU in 1993 and has served in a variety of capacities at her local congregation, East Shore Unitarian Church of Bellevue, WA. She has sung alto in church, school and community choirs since her early days as a Lutheran Preacher's Kid. She became passionate about women's issues about the time that she purchased the first issue of *Ms. Magazine* from a newsstand in about 1970, and has been involved in a

variety of women's groups since that time. An Educational Psychologist with a Ph.D. from Columbia University, Kirstie has established her own business, Irlen Center Northwest, where she evaluates and treats individuals with learning problems and perceptual challenges and sensitivities. In the Fall of 2000, Kirstie joined the Margaret Fuller Grants Panel where she served for six years – two of them as chair of the group. One of her activities at East Shore was to establish an annual Margaret Fuller Tea as a way of focusing deliberately on women's issues of today.

Funding Panels

The UU Women's Federation is also ably served by the dedicated panels that are

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From the President, *CONT. FROM PAGE 1*

in nearby UU congregations and introduce them to UUWF membership. We will also continue our active direct mail campaign to women's groups in UU congregations across the U.S. and Canada to inform them of UUWF and invite them to support our organization.

Our General Assembly programs in Charlotte this June will focus on this goal, with one, "How UU Women Gather in 21st Century Congregations," highlighting several different congregationally-based women's groups, their commonalities and their diversity, and how they deepen their connections to their religious communities. Our second GA program slot will be a look at "Justice Work for and by Women," an opportunity for attendees

UUWF Leadership,

CONT. FROM PAGE 4

charged with selecting recipients for our three funding programs:



Equity and Justice Grants Panel: Rev. Mitra Rahnema (left), Chair, Grosse Pointe, MI; Jacqueline Duhart, El Cerrito, CA; Juliana Keen, St. Paul, MN; Louise Kurabi, Bellevue, WA; Justice

Waidner, Tulsa, OK.



Margaret Fuller Grants Panel: Rev. Rev. Shirley Ranck, Ph.D. (left), Acting Chair, Petaluma, CA; Betsy Darr, San Francisco, CA; Janet Nortrom, Shorewood, WI; Mary Teslow, Franklin,

NC. UUWF also gratefully acknowledges the service of former chair Elizabeth Fisher of Richmond, CA, who recently rotated off the panel.



Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship panel: Rev. Danielle Di Bona (left), Chair, Winthrop, MA; Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt, New York, NY; Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris, Pleasant Hill, CA;

Jodie Tharan, El Cerrito, CA.

to learn about UU projects in the U.S. that affect positive change in the lives of women, funded through UUWF's Equity and Justice Grants program. We've also invited the International Convocation of UU Women to share accounts of similar work they support abroad. One outcome we hope for is the encouragement of more of these projects in congregations throughout our Association.

2. A second goal is to be intentional in promoting diversity in our leadership: racial and ethnic, age, geographic, sexual orientation, and theological.

We have openings on two of our grants panels and on our Board of Trustees. We are exploring best practices, including that of the UUA Nominating Committee, as we fill these crucial volunteer roles, and we are also looking at our nominations process in general.

3. In order to clarify and streamline the application process for all three of our funding programs (Margaret Fuller; Equity and Justice; and the Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship Program) we are evaluating and revising the written application materials.

Taking as a kind of template the application guidelines posted on the UUA website for individuals seeking grants from the UU Funding Program, we have modified our applications and criteria so that they are more parallel for the three programs and include guidelines, restrictions, grant award sizes, how to apply (including budget forms), and a history of each of the funding panels. This includes sample projects that have received funding, those demonstrating what we consider to be best fit and best outcomes. The updated forms were posted on our website in January.

Although this annual report will not reach you until after the March 15th deadline for 2011 applications, it's not too early to start planning for 2012. Please do take a look at the new applications and criteria and as always, your feedback on them is welcome.

Leadership Transition

The year was also one of leadership transition for the UUWF. Several of our dedicated volunteers completed their current terms of service with us, and we thank them for their hard work and for the energy, talent, and wisdom they so generously shared with us. Rotating off our board were President Linda Lu Burciaga, Newburyport, MA, who previously served as Equity and Justice Grants Panel chair; Vice President/Development Catherine Onyemelukwe, Westport, MA; and Vice President/Funding Programs Luz Bravo-Gleicher. Also completing their service with us in 2010 were Margaret Fuller Panel Chair Elizabeth Fisher, Richmond, CA, and Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris, Pleasant Hill, CA, a member of our Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship Panel.

Our farewells were paired with welcomes extended to those who joined us in our UUWF work in 2010. New to our board are Kirstie Lewis, Ph.D., Bellevue, WA, Vice President/Funding Programs and Rev. Terry Davis, Atlanta, GA, Vice President/Development.

Joining our funding panels were Betsy Darr, San Francisco, CA, and Janet Nortrom, Milwaukee, WI, to our Margaret Fuller Panel; Jacqueline Duhart, El Cerrito, CA and Juliana Keen, St. Paul, MN, to our Equity and Justice Panel; and Jodi Tharan, El Cerrito, CA, to our Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship Panel.

None of the UUWF's work would be possible without the continued support of members and friends like you, whose generous gifts of time and money are gratefully acknowledged in this report. We look forward to seeing many of you at General Assembly, where we'll join with other UUs around the country in celebrating the UUA's 50th anniversary.

And we're looking forward to your help in celebrating the UUWF's 50th in 2013!

In faith,

Rev. Marti Keller
Rev. Marti Keller, President

For More Information...

- Go to www.uuwf.org
- Visit us on Facebook – search for Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
- Subscribe to our e-mail discussion group – go to <http://www.uuwf.org/emaildiscussionlist.html>

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