

# the communicator

THE NEWSLETTER OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

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## Margaret Fuller Memorial



Memorial for Margaret Fuller Ossoli at Mount Auburn Cemetery (date unknown).  
Photo courtesy Mount Auburn Cemetery Historical Collections.

Although Margaret Fuller died in 1850 and a memorial to her was erected in the Fuller family plot in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, there is no historical evidence that any memorial service was ever held for her. On July 18 the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Committee and the Friends of Mount Auburn made up for that by holding a service in the cemetery's chapel, followed by a procession to her memorial for a wreath laying ceremony. Photo coverage of the event is available on Friends of Mount Auburn photo stream at [www.flickr.com/photos/mountauburncemetery](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mountauburncemetery).

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## What Would Margaret Think?

“I’ve asked myself,” said Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker, “the same question the UUWF leadership has asked me. What would Margaret Fuller think of our status as UU women today?”

This was the question we posed to Cynthia, this year’s recipient of UUWF’s Ministry to Women Award. Presented during General Assembly most years since 1974, the award honors those who have ministered to women in an outstanding manner.

A two-time recipient of Margaret Fuller grants and a past member of that program’s selection panel, Cynthia was honored in particular for her book *Prophetic Sisterhood: Liberal Religious Women Ministers of the Frontier, 1880-1930*. This work truly is prophetic in that it looks back to look forward: many of the challenges that Cynthia identified as facing earlier women ministers in our movement still face our women clergy of today.

The award was presented to Cynthia at a tea honoring Margaret Fuller, and in keeping with the spirit of Margaret’s Bicentennial year we asked Cynthia for her thoughts on the question opening this article. Here’s her response:

“Would Margaret see the new hour that she had envisioned embodied in us two centuries later?” Cynthia said. “Would she see us, her younger sisters and brothers, thriving in mutually beneficial, appreciative and prophetic relationships?”

“Would she see the new manifestation that she had believed was at hand in the mid 1800s, where women are free to be a discerning intelligence, to live unimpeded and unfold such powers as we have been given?”

“Would she see in our institutional culture and congregational lives the energy that she described as ‘divine’?”

“Surely Fuller would have to be gratified by our obvious and significant gains, by our access to

good educations, our opportunities in the workplace, the number of ordained women we have and our wonderfully savvy and full-throated moderators, a president and a provost at our theological schools and even some female faculty at Harvard. Imagine that!



Dr. Cynthia Grant Tucker, recipient of this year’s Ministry to Women Award.

“We’ve had sisters in top administrative positions at 25 Beacon Street and Beacon Press and heading our district offices. We have a remarkable group of stewards right here in our UUWF, a sisterhood that’s still strong and resilient, fun-loving and prophetic. It’s becoming commonplace at GA to have women deliver the keynote addresses, and I could go on.

“In short, we’ve made progress.

“But while Fuller would surely be gratified, she wouldn’t be satisfied or rest easy. Here at our tea, she’d be cornering us one by one, interrupting our catching-up to grill us on whether our outward gains have been matched by or simply distracted from a deeper systemic progress. She’d ask us if women collaborate, if ordination has opened a gulf between lay and ordained, how women in prosperous tall-steeple churches relate to their struggling underpaid sisters doing community ministry.

“And what of our voices and words?” she’d ask. How many of us are still being silenced, having our words and work co-opted, ignored, or

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# Leadership Changes at UUWF

**U**UWF gratefully acknowledges the hard work and diligent service of several board members who have left the board in recent months.

Catherine Onymelukwe, Vice President/Development, left in April to assume the presidency of the UU United Nations Office. A member of The Unitarian Church in Westport, CT, as well as a resident of that city, Catherine first joined the board in 2006.

In June, both Linda Lu Burciaga, President, and Luz Bravo-Gleicher, Vice President/Funding Programs, completed their terms on the board. Linda Lu was a member of the first board to take office following UUWF's 2004 restructuring and served first as chair of the Equity and Justice Grants Panel. Luz followed her in that position in 2007. Linda Lu hails from Newburyport, MA, and is a member of the First Church in Boston and the First Religious Society of Newburyport. Luz's home is in Providence, RI, where she is a member of the Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel.

Rev. Marti Keller, who has served as Vice President/Communications since 2007, is UUWF's new president. Marti is a minister on staff at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, where 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 District for over a decade. Prior to her ordination as a minister, she worked with several nonprofit social change organizations, including 12 years as a director of public affairs, community and government relations for Planned Parenthood in California.

### Welcoming New Board Members

Joining the board in June were Terry Davis, Atlanta, GA, our new Vice President/Development, and Kirstie Lewis, Ph.D., Bellevue, WA, Vice president/Funding Programs.

Terry was granted preliminary fellowship status by the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee in March 2010 and has begun her ministerial settlement process. 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 in order to complete her ministerial studies and prepare for the UU ministry.

Terry has also served in a number of leadership and fundraising roles for national and local nonprofit organizations. She served twice as co-chair of the annual Atlanta fundraising dinner for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a national LGBT civil rights organization. The Atlanta HRC dinner was attended by over 1,100 members, sponsors and federal, state and local elected officials and raised over \$250,000 annually. Terry served as a communications consultant to Prevent Child Abuse Georgia and was honored as one of the top three volunteers in Georgia. Terry has also provided marketing and communications support to a number of other nonprofit organizations, including Hands on Atlanta, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, East Lake Foundation and Teach for America.

Kirstie became a UU in 1993 and has served in a variety of capacities at her local congregation, East Shore Unitarian Church of Bellevue. She has sung alto in church, school and community choirs since her early days as a Lutheran Preacher's Kid (PK). She became passionate about women's issues about the time that she



From the top: Terry Davis; Rev. Marti Keller (left) with Linda Lu Burciaga; Kirstie Lewis, Ph.D.

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# 2010 Grant Recipients Are Announced

## Equity and Justice Grants Program

*Funding bold, innovative projects that effect positive change in the lives of women and girls.*

Carbondale (IL) Unitarian Fellowship: \$5,000 for “The

Kabwe Library and Resource Center/Building a Legacy of Literacy” – start-up costs for this facility, which will serve the Ranchhod HIV/AIDS Hospice and Orphan Care Center in Kabwe, Zambia.

Mujeres Iniciando en Las Americas, Costa Mesa, CA: \$1,000 for “Hombres Contra Femicidio (Men Against Femicide aka White Ribbon Campaign),” an educational program for middle school students in southern California that addresses the root causes of violence against women.

UU Church of Fort Myers, FL: \$3,000 for “Women’s Health Workshops: Empowering Migrant Farm Workers and Indigenous Women,” two free workshops covering reproductive and family health, domestic violence, human trafficking, prenatal care and community resources serving 100 farm workers and indigenous women and adolescent girls in Southwest Florida.

h<sup>2</sup> Empower Inc., Huntington Station, NY: \$4,000 for “Women’s Literacy in Burundi,” start-up costs for an adult education learning center to teach reading, writing, and accounting to participants of a microloan program in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Rock Women Group, Nairobi, Kenya: \$1,000 for “Kenya Child Labour Project,” support for a project that addresses structural issues keeping children in exploitive jobs.

Mujeres De Maiz Opportunity Foundation, Sequim, WA: \$1,000 for “Promoting Adult Women’s Literacy in Chanal, Chiapas, México,” a full-year, certified program of literacy training for 15 women who were unable to complete their primary education.

## Margaret Fuller Grants Program

*Supporting UU women in scholarly, prophetic and innovative explorations of religious feminisms.*

Shelley Jackson Denham and the Mountain Quartet, Highlands, SC: \$3,500 for a CD of up to 16 of Shelley’s original songs, most of which have not been recorded before. Shelley is the author of

“Blessed Spirit of My Life” and a number of other hymns and readings included in *Singing the Living Tradition*.

Rev. Melissa Mummert, Charlotte, NC: \$3,000 for “Creating a 21st Century Consciousness Raising Curriculum,” development of a program guide and website.

Alyson Gaylord-Loy, Medford, MA: \$2,000 for “Frances Appleton Longfellow: In Her Own Words,” a site-specific performance, musical presentation and production of a DVD drawn from the writings of this devout, 19th century Unitarian.

Pamela Gerke, Everett, WA: \$2,000 for re-writing the draft script and score, and four performances of “Nightingale: a Musical of the Life and Passionate Nature of Miss Florence Nightingale.”

## Marjorie Bowers-Wheatley

*Supporting aspirants/candidates to the UU ministry who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic.*

Alex White, Cambridge, MA, is the recipient of a grant of \$1,500.

## What Would Margaret Think

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trivialized? Have any of us grown tired of trying to get equal speaking time in mixed groups? Have we noticed that causes we’ve yet to achieve are being dismissed as outdated?

“I can’t say what our guest would hear or conclude after quizzing us, but I’m sure of two things. She’d assure us more progress is coming, the time to be hopeful is now. And I think she’d feel she had come home.”

**Editor’s note:** Cynthia’s 2009 Margaret Fuller Grant helped her develop a website containing study materials relating to her newest book, *No Silent Witness: The Eliot Parsonage Women and Their Unitarian World*. You can visit it at [NoSilentWitness.org](http://NoSilentWitness.org). And for more coverage of UUWF’s GA events, go to [www.uuwf.org/uuwfatga2010.html](http://www.uuwf.org/uuwfatga2010.html).

## Leadership Changes at UUWF

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purchased the first issue of *Ms. Magazine* from a newsstand in about 1970. She has been involved in church and community women’s groups since that time. In addition to her musical background, and her attention to women’s issues she is an Educational Psychologist with a Ph.D. from Columbia University. She 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.

**Perpetuate your values** by making a difference in the lives of women and girls. Please consider including UUWF in your planned giving. The UUA’s Office of Legacy Gifts has the resources and expertise to help you – contact them at 1-888-792-5885 or visit [www.uua.org/giving](http://www.uua.org/giving) and click on Planned Giving.

[www.uuwf.org](http://www.uuwf.org)

# Rosemary Matson's Women and Religion Papers Go to the Schlesinger Library



The late Lucile Schuck Longview (left) with Rosemary Matson. UUWF honored them for their contributions to the Women and Religion resolution and movement with our 1998 Ministry to Women Award.

Long recognized as a key implementer of the Women and Religion resolution adopted by the UUA General Assembly in 1977, Rosemary Matson recently donated her papers relating to the resolution and the movement it started to the Radcliffe Institute's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

Rosemary's collection includes numerous publications by various authors active in the Women and

Religion movement, relevant material she has written, articles about her, and her pertinent correspondence and reflections. Her papers join those of the late Lucile Schuck Longview, initiator of the W&R resolution, which were previously donated to the Schlesinger.

Located in Cambridge, MA, the Schlesinger holds the world's largest and most significant archives related to women. It is named in honor of noted 20th century feminist Elizabeth Bancroft Schlesinger and her husband, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr., a respected history professor at Harvard University.

## Thanking Our Congregational Donors

UUWF gratefully acknowledges generous donations from the following congregations received since January 1, 2010.

- Atlanta, GA  
UU Congregation of Atlanta
- Black Mountain, NC  
UU Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley
- Fond du Lac, WI  
Open Circle UU Fellowship
- Langhorne, PA  
UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks
- Manhasset, NY  
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The Ethelwyn Doolittle Justice and Outreach Fund of the Community Church
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UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes
- The Woodlands, TX  
Northwoods UU Church
- Tupelo, MS  
UU Congregation of Tupelo
- Waldport, OR  
Central Coast UU Fellowship

We also extend our thanks to the UUWF Chapter of the UU Congregation of Santa Fe, NM, which has also made a generous gift in addition to their annual member dues.

## Reminder: UUWF is Going Green

As announced in the last issue, this and most future issues of *the Communicator* will be published in pdf format for electronic distribution and posting on our website only. This will save just under 35,000 sheets of paper and \$9,000 per year, as well as the other resources that go into printing and mailing process.

Not sure we have your current e-mail address? Go to [www.uuwf.org](http://www.uuwf.org) and click "Receive our newsletter via e-mail" on the Home page.

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