

News – January 2018

As we begin another trip around the sun, your UUWF Board and staff wish you the best of New Year's resolutions and revolutions! We have news this month on Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship awards, deadlines approaching for the 2018 Sermon Contest, UUWF at the October Women's Convention, and a few other tidbits. We've just heard our General Assembly workshop was accepted, so you will be hearing our Sermon Contest winner in a workshop. We're also planning the annual breakfast event and another large booth in the exhibit hall. Plan to be with us in Kansas City Missouri this June!

Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarships Awarded

The panel consisted of:

- Rev. Joyce Palmer, Asst. Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church West, Brookfield, WI
- Maria O'Connor, Director of Religious Education, Unitarian Universalist Church West, Brookfield, WI
- Rev. Julie Forest, Interim Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, Rancho Mirage, CA

They selected:

Dianne Daniels of Norwich CT



Dianne Daniels has work and volunteer experience which demonstrate her commitment to racial justice and serving her community. As the

president of her local NAACP branch and Registrar of Voters, Dianne has leadership experience in the area of racial justice we find compelling and inspiring. Her background in business administration and management are also important experiences for church leadership and ministry.

Dianne says, "I am so honored to be chosen as a recipient of a Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship – in reading about Mrs. Bowens-Wheatley, I found SO much to inspire me and to help drive me forward."

Sana Saeed from Arlington, MA



We see Sana Saeed's positive, inclusive, inter-faith perspective as a strength for our movement. We like her work in youth ministry and were impressed by her

leadership and influence on the issue of immigration within her UU community. We see the ways her understanding of Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley's legacy impacts her commitment to restorative justice and dialogue with UU communities.

Justice for Women and Girls Sermon Award

2017 was quite a year. From the Women's Marches in January to the #MeToo movement, millions of women-identified persons and their allies spoke out and called out gender injustice.

For the past several months, we've seen revelations of men in power being known to harass and assault people who were in thrall

to that power. So many emotions have arisen in the midst of these allegations, and unfortunately surprise is not one of them.

As Laurie Penny writes in her article, *The Unforgiving Minute*: “[it never was about individual monsters] This is about structural violence, about a culture that decided long ago that women’s agency and dignity were worth sacrificing to protect the reputation of powerful men and the institutions that enabled their entitlement.”

Now and once again, people have begun to speak out *en masse* about their abuses and harassment. Now is the time to push our society further and faster toward the end of the [imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy](#). As Unitarian Universalists, we must continue to break the cycles of oppression within and beyond our denomination.

As a full page ad in the New York Times reminds us: The Truth has a Voice. It rings forth from our UU pulpits.

The Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation annually sponsors a sermon award on “Justice for Women and Girls.” Issues of sexual assault and women’s rights and leadership are in the spotlight, and Unitarian Universalists offer a progressive religious voice as part of this public dialogue.

Eligibility: We invite UU religious professionals and lay people of all genders to share your voice, responding to the world around us by addressing a topic related to the UUWF’s mission — *advancing justice for women and girls and promoting their spiritual growth*. The sermon must have been written by the entrant and delivered during calendar year 2017 or by the submission deadline in 2018 before a UU

congregation. We have assembled a diverse judging panel of UU professionals and lay leaders.

The winner of the sermon award receives a \$500 reward and will be invited to share their sermon at General Assembly 2018 in Kansas City, MO. If the winner is unable to attend GA, they will be asked to choose a person to deliver the sermon for them.

How to Enter: Submit your materials by email to uuwf@uuwf.org (with the subject line “UUWF Sermon Award”). The **deadline is February 15, 2018**. Due to the need for applicant anonymity, only written sermon text will be accepted. Feel free to share <https://www.uuwf.org/sermonaward> with anyone who might be interested.

We have assembled a diverse judging panel of professional and lay UU leaders. We will notify entrants by the end of February about the judges’ decision.

Materials—

1. Cover page with your name, address, phone number, email address, sermon title, and the date and location where you delivered the sermon.
2. Sermon, with title. Please remove any identifying information (e.g. name, congregation).

2017 Award Winning Sermon Posted!



Erin Walter,
2017’s Sermon
Contest Winner,
sent us some links
to various versions
of the sermon she

gave at the 2017 General Assembly.

[From Eve to Hillary](#)
[GA First UU From Eve to Hillary summer 2017](#)

Here also are some recordings, from First UU San Antonio and Austin. Each is a little different. Enjoy!

Audio: <http://uusat.org/podcast/from-eve-to-hillary/>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ehs4tjLAbdQ>

UUWF at the Women's Convention

On January 21, 2017, millions of people across the United States marched in what was considered by *The Independent* as the largest day of protest in United States history, part of what would eventually become a worldwide movement known as the Women's March.



In order to continue the momentum of this historic event, the organizers of the Women's March followed up with the Women's Convention in Detroit during October 2017, "for a weekend of workshops, strategy sessions, inspiring forums and intersectional movement building to continue the preparation going into the 2018 midterm elections."

Through the support of the Women's March and the UUWF, as the Vice President /

Recruitment and Outreach, I had the honor of attending the Women's Convention, a gathering of over 5,000 individuals, where some of the key highlights included:

The fantastic art gallery curated by [Amplifier](#), featuring "over 70 United States-based, femme-identifying artists exploring women's rights, anti-Muslim bigotry, immigration/migration, American identity, [and] prison reform."

Keynote speeches were presented by Rep. Maxine Waters and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and several other notable national and local activists and organizers. On the last day of the convention, state caucuses were organized to continue to build "better networks to prepare for the work at home," long after the gathering in Detroit is over.

Lastly, one major highlight for Unitarian Universalists was the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice ([MUUSJN](#)) led-panel, Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition: How Faith Informs Choice, moderated by Jenny Byer, MUUSJN Reproductive and Economic Justice Organizer.

Following the Women's Convention, on January 21, 2018, the Women's March will organize in Las Vegas for Power to the Polls, which aspires to launch a "national voter registration tour" on the anniversary of the historic 2017 Women's March on Washington. The UUWF has signed up as a partner for this event and encourage our supporters to donate directly to the campaign [here](#).

More photos: <https://www.uuwf.org/uuwf-at-the-womens-convention>



Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Facilitator Facebook Group

A group for Cakes curriculum facilitators has been gathered on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cakesforthequeenofheaven> This group is a place for Cakes facilitators – past, present, or potential – to share questions and ideas. You do need to request to join the group!

There are also new sound samples and digital music downloads in the [UUWR Store](#), including *She Calls to Us*, the CD by Carole Eagleheart that covers most of the music needed for the Cakes curriculum!

From the UUWR events calendar



SouthWest UU Women (merged SW District UUWR and UUWF groups) present their annual conference in **Austin Texas, February 23-25.**

Keynotes are Texas Rep Donna Howard. Luncheon Speaker is UUSC Board chair Rev. Lyssa Jenkins, Ph.D., and the featured musicians are Kiya Heartwood and Rev. Meg Barnhouse!

The [UU Women’s Connection](#) (formerly CMwD UUWF) from MidAmerica Region have announced their Spring keynote and theme. “Finding Your Voice.” [Carley Mattimore](#) is a Reiki Master and Shamanic Minister who will teach us about Shamanic Breathwork. **June 1-3, 2018 at Pilgrim Park Conference Center near Princeton Illinois.**



Next month... We’ll have updates on our General Assembly plans, an advocacy action roundup, and perhaps a feature on one of our UUWF groups or members!

January 13, 2018 / [G C Ohmann](#)

[News – December 2017](#)

Greetings, friends! There’s a lot to tell you this month, so we’ve arranged this issue as a digest, and hope you’ll click the links to read more in-depth on each of these topics.

More than 2,400 Faith Leaders Call on Senators to Oppose Senate Tax Bill: UUWF Signs on

Rev. Marti Keller, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation: “Challenging and preventing extreme inequality is a moral imperative for Unitarian Universalists as we affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We are committed to working to change economic systems that perpetuate and worsen income and wealth inequality with a goal of life, dignity and wellbeing experienced by all. This bill does not alleviate, only exacerbate, the disparities. We cannot ignore the harm caused by a lopsided system– which this bill would only further-caused by a tax code that gives control of our country’s financial resources

to a very small percentage of people. Women continue to be especially vulnerable to economic inequity, with wage and wealth gaps that preferential provisions for high income corporations and individuals, and unfair Earned Income Tax and Child Tax credits will not repair.” [Read More...](#) [Statement in PDF](#)

Denny Davidoff and the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation



The passing of Denny Davidoff on December 7 has sparked outpourings of love and respect for this icon of our UU movement.

In a sermon Denny delivered to the Paris UU Fellowship on April 19, 2015, she recalled her initial role in the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation (UUWF).

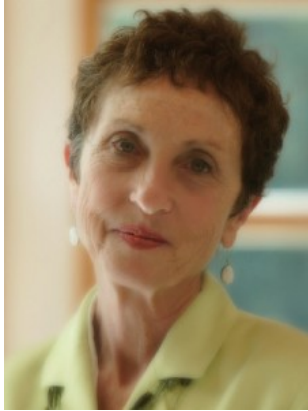
“In the fall of 1971 (as a then member of the Westport Connecticut UU congregation), I was asked to join the search committee that would find the successor to Constance Burgess, the legendary Executive Director

who was turning 65. It was the first time I was asked to serve in the larger UU world beyond congregation and district.

“The UUWF of those days had a large staff, occupied a large space—pretty much the entirety of Elliot house behind 25 Beacon Street—and a very large membership made up of Women’s Alliances out of our pre-merger Unitarian structure and the Universalist Women’s groups which were inexplicably called Units. I resisted at first. My father had died suddenly in October and my only brother had succumbed to galloping melanoma five weeks later, leaving two children, a pregnant widow, and my inconsolable mother. Jerry [her husband] pressed me to take advantage of the diversionary aspect of this assignment, so I said ‘yes’.”

Denny served on the UUWF Board from 1973-1985, both as a member and President. She also served on the task force to revision the organization from a membership organization to primarily a grant-giving one, in response to a change in the lives of UU women, who were much less likely to join and participate in traditional daytime church groups. [READ MORE ABOUT DENNY DAVIDOFF and UUWF...](#)

Advocacy and Action Round-up



Rev. Marti Keller

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation's mission *to advance justice for women and girls* stirs and guides our involvement in the legislative and

other public policy actions we participate in, always in partnership with other faith and secular organizations. The Rev. Marti Keller leads these efforts on behalf of UUWF.

The following are some of the advocacy efforts we participated in recently:

On October 9, UUWF was part of an **All Above All** coalition letter to Donald Trump asking for a “clean budget,” that is, a fiscal year 2019 federal budget which does not contain language prohibiting abortion coverage and care. “Withholding coverage for abortion care creates profound hardships for people across the country,” we wrote, “particularly for those who already face significant to receiving basic quality healthcare, such as low-income women, immigrant women, young women, women of color, people with disabilities, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.”

Also in October, along with **Planned Parenthood** and other pro-choice groups, we signed on to a letter to the acting secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement expressing “grave concerns” over a 17-year-old Jane Doe and other young people in the custody

of federal authorities, who are being denied or delayed access to abortion. The letter pointed out that in their journeys to the U.S. border, many of these unaccompanied immigrant youth experience violence in the form of sexual assault and sex trafficking. In fact, human rights advocate that between 60 percent and 80 percent of women and girls are raped on their journey here. Jane Doe was able to secure an abortion.

In late November, under the auspices of the **Interreligious Working Group on Domestic Human Needs**, we wrote the Senate Majority and Minority leaders in opposition to the Senate version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, calling on Congress to “put the needs of working families and struggling communities first in creating a just tax system.”

December 5, we joined with other members of the **Coalition for Liberty & Justice** strongly opposing both the Religious and Moral Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of contraception under the Affordable Care Act: “These new regulations greatly expand the scope of the institutions and businesses which could opt out of this coverage based on their faith or principles.

“We support the right of all workers and their dependents to access contraceptive coverage and to make personal decisions about using contraception based on their own beliefs.”

We also filed our own comments with DHHS, saying “over the past five decades, the UUWF has been unwavering in defense of reproductive health care rights and access for women.”

Leadership Transition



The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF) board of trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Claire Sexton as our new President. Due to family illness care

giving responsibilities, UUWF President Justice Waidner Smith has stepped down. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her husband Aiden at this difficult time.

[READ MORE FROM CLAIRE...](#)

Annual Appeal from UUWF

Well, it's been a year. For the past several months, we've seen revelations of men in power being known to harass and assault people who were in thrall to that power. So many emotions have arisen in the midst of these allegations, and unfortunately surprise is not one of them...

It has been some time since we, as Unitarian Universalists, have looked at the issue of violence against women. As women, it is perhaps always on our minds, yet the tide has gone low institutionally since the energy surrounding the [1993 UUA General Assembly resolution on violence against women](#), after the recommendations of the clergy sexual misconduct task force, funded by the UUWF.

A look at the resolution reminds us that not much has changed in the 24 years since then. The goal of the resolution is as necessary now as it ever was. Now and once again, people have begun to speak out *en masse* about their abuses and harassment. Now is the time to push our society further

and faster toward the end of the imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy. As Unitarian Universalists, we must continue to break the cycles of oppression within and beyond our denomination.

[READ MORE AND JOIN US ...](#)

Did we tell you? Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario Joins UUWF Board



Please welcome Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario as UUWF's new Vice President for Recruitment and Outreach! Marissa says:

I have been involved in the UU community since I was around 15 years old; I first became involved through social justice youth organizing in Pacific SW District. Following that, in 2005, I served as a Youth Ministry Associate for the Youth Office and in 2012, I served as the Welcome / Outreach Coordinator for the UU Congregation in Brookline, MA. For years, I was actively involved with DRUUMM, served as the Youth Observer with the UUSC, and currently serve as a trainer with the UU College of Social Justice. [READ MORE ABOUT MARISSA...](#)

UUWF Board Met in Tulsa



Your UUWF Board met recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where we gathered one evening to say thank-you and farewell to Justice Waidner Smith. We spent the next 2 days giving our attention to what lies ahead, for the Board and for UU women. We snapped this photo just before we all scattered to the four winds.

(Clockwise from top: Sue Boone, Rev. Marti Keller, Marissa Gutiérrez-Vicario, Gretchen Ohmann, and Claire Sexton)

Looking for a Way to Honor Women?

UUWF's Clara Barton Sisterhood is a great way to honor women aged 80 or more for their often unsung contributions to your religious community. [Learn how to honor a woman in your congregation.](#)

Now available online: "[In Sistehood](#)," the 1989 publication of the life stories of Clara Barton Sisterhood members. (PDF – large file; may take a while to download)

We've been working on a compilation of all the honorees from the beginning of the award in 1979. Unfortunately, we have very little information on the 1990s. If you have any info, please contact us!

Enrolled in 2017



St. Joseph, MI
— **Gloria Weberg** (at left), honored by Red Tent sisters at Berrien UU Fellowship. With Gretchen Ohmann.



Racine, WI
— **Nancy Hennessy, Jeanne Arnold, Frances Scott, and Virginia Burlingame** (not pictured), honored by Olympia Brown UU Church.



New York, NY
— **Evelynn Gioiella, Margaret "Fran" Mercer, and Carol Tittle**, honored by the Women's Alliance of All Souls Unitarian Church. With Sr. Minister Rev. Galen Guengerich

From One of Our Partners



Collective Voices 

Advancing Global Reproductive Justice

Monday, December 18th
12:00 - 2:00pm ET

This session will look at international programs to support women and girls of color and ensure access to care and support for marginalized communities.

Monica Simpson
SisterSong

Twanna Hines
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)

Betty Odallo
Center for Reproductive Rights

Suzannah Phillips
Women Enabled

Sahar Moazami
OutRight Action International

Leticia Zenevich
Women on the Waves

Erin Williams
International Women's Health Coalition

Sarah Lynch
CARE

SisterSong launched the “Collective Voices” webinar series to bring together groundbreaking and innovative leaders to share lessons and discuss programs that are making a difference...

Please, join SisterSong on Monday, December 18th from 12:00-2:00pm EST for “Advancing Global Reproductive Justice” featuring Monica Simpson (SisterSong), Twanna Hines (Center for Health and Gender Equity), Suzannah Phillips (Women Enabled), Diana Carolina Moreno (Center for Reproductive Rights), Sahar Moazami (Outright Action International), Betty Odallo (Center for Reproductive Rights), Leticia Zenevich (Women on the Waves), Sarah Lynch (CARE), Erin Williams (International Women’s Health Coalition). [READ MORE AND REGISTER...](#)

New Archive Publications Are Available



“A Wider Horizon: UU Women with a Vision” was originally printed in 1985. You can [read A Wider Horizon online](#) or purchase one or multiple copies on the UUWR website.

From the Introduction:

Our Unitarian-Universalist heritage includes the contributions of many women of firm conviction and strong character. With determination and tact, these self-reliant women accomplished personal and social goals against all odds.

They boldly entered college and started careers, not a usual thing to do in the early 1800s. They took active roles in the social concerns of their day and worked steadfastly toward more equal opportunities for women. At the same time, they valued home and family. Their fortitude has opened doors to fuller lives for women at home and in the community.

... Sharing these stories can move us toward a more balanced view of human experience. Supported by the framework of a liberal religious faith, women then and now dare to initiate, dare to state their vision, and dare to serve.

UU Women and Religion Calendar of UU Women's Gatherings



[SWUW Conference in Austin TX](#)

23 Feb 2018

[Pacific Central WR Retreat in Novato, CA](#)

08 Mar 2018

[Florida UU Women's Retreat](#)

13 Apr 2018

[UUWomenspirit at The Mountain, NC](#)

16 May 2018

[UU Women's Connection Retreat – Pilgrim
Park IL](#)

01 Jun 2018



**Circle of First Unitarian Church of South
Bend Indiana drumming and chant CD**

This UUW&R Exclusive is now **available
for DOWNLOAD! \$12 / Audio CD \$15**

www.uuwr.org



**Happy
Holidays
from your
UUWF
Board!**

Tune in next
month for news
of Marjorie
Bowens-
Wheatley
Scholarship
recipients,
Sermon

Contest, HEResies UU women's herstory
archive, and plans for General Assembly
2018!

Winter Solstice by Melinda Perrin

December 11, 2017 / [G C Ohmann](#)