



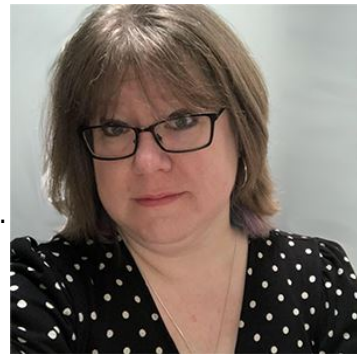
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

News – May 2019

UUWF at GA to Focus on Sermon Award and Minister's Collaboration Programming

If you'll be attending General Assembly in Spokane next month, please plan to join us for two very special UUWF Programs.

On **Thursday, June 20th at 8 a.m.** join us at our Annual Breakfast for the **2019 Sermon Award. Rev. Kimberley Debus** (right) is a community minister based in New York's Capital Region, inspiring an artful and art-filled faith through large-scale worship and private consultation. She also provides sabbatical ministry support throughout the denomination. She has previously served congregations on the North Fork of Long Island and Key West. Debus will present her award-winning sermon, "**How Not to Be a Boy.**" There is no cost to attend, but [advance registration](#) is requested.



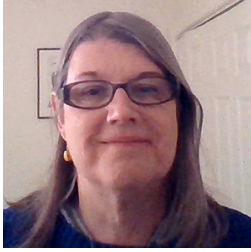
Thursday, June 20th at 3 p.m. we will present the **UU Women Minister's Collaboration.** UU women-identified ministers continually face bias and sexism from a faith tradition established and dominated by male thinking. This is an opportunity for us to gather, discuss what impacts and influences our ministry, and gain a sense of collaboration and cohesion. Discussion will be led by Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson, with Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee assisting. No pre-registration required.

Welcome New Board Members

The UUWF Board welcomes five new members! They bring new energy, ideas, resources, and community, and we are excited to introduce them to you.



Isabel Call is the intern minister at the UU Church of Spokane, WA. She says, "My foremothers taught me to speak up and center my own experience, because it is so easily silenced by the powers that be. But women of color are teaching me that my voice can easily drown out theirs, at exactly the moment when we all need to hear what they are saying. This is a useful tension, one best shared with others, in spaces where we can speak honestly and risk making mistakes. This is the kind of environment I hope to find and create on the UUWF board."



Terry Cummings is the interim minister at Granite Peak UU Congregation in Prescott, AZ. She says, "I see an urgent need for women and girls in our movement to be educators of others, both men and women, boys and girls, about the need for women to be in positions of power, and to have power over our own bodies. This includes the UUA, and all of its member congregations. Our first two principles speak to these issues."

NY. She says, ministers in our faith below the surface, compensation as numbers to take a particularly, how are (structurally and



Kimberly Quinn Johnson is the minister at the UU Congregation of the South Fork, in Bridgehampton, "While many may point to the number of women as evidence that we have already progressed, if we dig women still do not command the same respect or men in our faith. I think we need to go beyond the more nuanced look at the place of women in our faith — younger women and girls supported in leadership interpersonally."



Betty McCollum was recently appointed a Lay Pastoral Associate and a member of the Board of Trustees at All Souls NYC. She says, "Through my leadership in my local churches, I have felt very gratified that I have contributed to their growth, organizational effectiveness, and their support of their members. I would like to continue that work on the denominational level."



Mandolin Restivo is a member of the UU Fellowship of Fredericksburg, VA. She says, "I think the most important thing women and girls can do in our faith in this moment is work to divest themselves from White Supremacy and through that envision and create new communities; and open, loving faith spaces. I believe that the UU Women's Federation is well positioned to become an accomplice in this important work for our denomination."

Equity & Justice Grant Recipient Gives Life the Shape of Justice... One Tampon at a Time

By [Rev. Ann Keeler Evans](#) and [Scott Rubin](#), co-founders, Shape of Justice, Inc.



Lack of access to menstrual products is one of the largest unmet needs for low-income women and girls. At the UU Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley (UUCSV), we asked around and found this was equally true in rural Pennsylvania. So we started collecting tampons and pads. Two women – who could finally marry after many years together – asked their wedding guests to bring tampons as presents. Church members kept our tampon barrel stocked and we raised a little money. It worked. Sort of.

The problem is our church serves parts of six rural counties and we draw our 130 members from more than 1,000 square miles. Suddenly we were spending more time and money driving the "tampon taxi" around our valley than the tampons and pads were worth.

So we put our heads together, drawing on the amazing expertise in our small, rural congregation. Our minister has a background in organizational development. She pulled in three men working from home offices, with expertise in law, business start-ups, branding, fundraising, shipping, and logistics. We developed a plan: use e commerce solutions to buy period products online and ship them directly to food pantries, shelters, and others serving low-income women and girls. No need

to give us boxes of tampons or pads; simply give us money. It worked. Sort of.

We approached the UUWF and received a \$5,000 Equity and Justice Grant to fund the start-up costs – including creating a separate 501(c)(3) charity – and provide funding to serve five new pantries or shelters. In the six months since we separated from UUCSV, Shape of Justice has:

- Expanded to serve more than two dozen new locations. (Remember that UUWF provided funding to serve only five, and we thought that might take two years!).
- Provided more than 70,000 tampons, pads, and panty liners to our partners in six counties, helping hundreds of women and girls safely manage their periods.
- More than tripled the initial funding. We've received donations from almost 100 people, in more than a dozen states and provinces, totaling more than \$7,500, plus a \$4,500 grant to expand to 16 new locations (including 11 middle and high schools).

Finally, just last month, we formed a partnership with the UU congregation in Sanford, ME, which runs a non-food pantry serving more than 100 low-income families in their rural area. Shape of Justice's buying power allows us to buy tampons much more cheaply than they could. We recently ordered more than 1,000 tampons and had them shipped directly to Sanford, stretching their limited funds so they can better serve families in need.

To learn more about Shape of Justice, to donate, or to see if we can partner with a pantry or shelter in your area, please visit www.shapeofjustice.org or contact either of us directly.

In Support of the Equality Act

The UUWF is one of [67 faith organizations](#) that have [signed on to the Faith Coalition](#) to support the [Equality Act](#). The Faith Coalition is working on a variety of strategies and tactics to (1) get the bill passed in the House and (2) generate broader public support to help with the longer-term tasks of Senate passage and culture change.

The Faith Coalition is asking individual members of faith organizations to [sign on to this letter](#). They already have 2,600 people from all 50 states and more than 600 clergy. At present, they are working to determine the best timing for both delivery of the letter to Congress and a webinar for our activists. Hearings were held last month in the House Judiciary Committee and in the Education and Workforce Committee.

Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship Recipient

Rayla D. Baldwin-Mattson recently received a Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship, which provides direct financial support to aspirants or candidates to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, or candidates in the UUA's religious education or music leadership programs, who identify as women of color, Latina, or Hispanic.

Rayla is a Director of Religious Education for the Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT. She has enjoyed working with children and youth since her own childhood – giving them a voice and advocating on their behalf. In addition to her work with children, she writes and shares her unique perspective as a single disabled mother of color within Unitarian Universalism.



More information on the UUWF's Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship is [available here](#).

New Clara Barton Sisterhood Members



The Women's Alliance of First Parish UU of Arlington, MA recently honored **Arleen Kulin** and **Lenore Winkler** (far left) with membership in the Clara Barton Sisterhood. **Jean Spence Nagle** and **Ann Abbott** were honored in 2018.

The Minnesota Valley UU Fellowship in Bloomington, MN presented **Barbara Bollag** (right) with her Clara Barton Award in January.

The Clara Barton Sisterhood was created 1979 as a way for local women's groups, congregations, and individuals to honor women aged 80 and over for their contributions to their congregations and communities. [Learn more here.](#)



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Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

advancing justice for women and girls and promoting their spiritual growth

www.uuwf.org

Contact us: uuwf@uuwf.org

