

The Communicator

Volume 20, Issue 4

the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

Winter, 2002-03

UUWF Creates Clara Barton Washington Internship

Last December the UUWF sold the site of the Clara Barton Camp for Diabetic Girls to the Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc. It was time for the UUWF to return to what it does best and to let the camp corporation do what it truly does very well. It was a hard decision to make and one that the UUWF board hoped would take the Federation in new directions.

There were several options for the proceeds from the sale of the camp site, but the board was clear that the UUWF should do something to honor Clara Barton and her accomplishments. That is when the most intriguing opportunity came to us. A conversation at General Assembly in Cleveland with the Rev. Meg Riley allowed the UUWF to begin to consider endowing an internship in the Washington Office of the UUA. This internship would focus on social justice issues pertaining to women and

opened a vision of how the UUWF could serve women in new ways.

So, what you will read in the article to follow is how this vision has come to reality. The UUWF has seeded the internship and the UUA will help us

fund a permanent endowment that will allow a woman to work in Washington for a year – a new woman every year – who will focus her energies on issues related to women. Consider the possibilities!

– Linda McAffrey,
President, UUWF

In a bold move, the UUWF Administrative Board voted unanimously on October 25 to create an endowment for a UUWF Clara Barton Washington Internship for Women's Issues. The intern will work in the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy.

Using proceeds from the sale of the land occupied by the Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc., in North Oxford, MA, the

board dedicated an immediate \$200,000 to the internship. They also committed to an ambitious fundraising initiative with a goal of a total endowment fund of \$400,000. Denny Daviddoff, who has served as UUWF President and UUA Moderator in the past, agreed to chair the fundraising committee.

"I can't think of a more appropriate way to honor Clara Barton's legacy," stated UUWF President Linda McAffrey. "Barton's work broke much ground for women – from her demands for equal pay

for equal work to her pioneering efforts in locating both Confederate and Union soldiers missing in action after the Civil War."

"We are excited and way past ready for this help!" declared the Rev. Meg Riley, Director of UUA Advocacy and Witness Programs, who will help to shape and oversee the future internship. "Women's issues are horrendously under siege, but most media doesn't even inform its readership about what is going on. This intern will provide a link between

(Continued on page 3)



The Women's Group of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY, honored four of their members with memberships in UUWF's Clara Barton Sisterhood earlier this year. Pictured above (l-r) are Women's Group member Verna Livingston with the newly enrolled Sisters: Shirley Hadley (in rear), Annette McLinden, Marjorie Duffy and Anne Vendig. See page 3 for more information on the Sisterhood.

Linda's Window

The UUWF Administrative Board held its fall meeting in Bloomington, IL. The UU Church of Bloomington donated space for the meeting and the church's UUWF group joined the board for dinner one evening. I thank the church and the women's group for making us feel so welcome.

The board spent all of Friday working on strategic planning with the Rev. Charlotte Cowtan. It was hard work and the most productive the board has done in the 4½ years I have been on the board.

We were fortunate to have the Rev. Meg Riley and Denny Davidoff with us, and their perspectives were immensely helpful.

The efforts of our strategic work pointed us in five directions to focus our energies:

- 1) transformative structure;
- 2) engendering advocacy;
- 3) wave appropriate programs;
- 4) women centered religious education;
- 5) committing ourselves to addressing linked oppressions.

As a result of the planning, a task force of experienced women from our general membership has been appointed to look at restructuring the UUWF. The board felt it was appropriate to seek outside help with this task, and I'll report next time on who has accepted this challenge and how they will accomplish the work. Many women's groups are looking at how they are doing their work and the UUWF is no exception. These are bold endeavors on our part, but necessary if the UUWF is to

succeed in the coming years

Last, but not least, I want to thank the UUWF board for their determined and daring vote to endow the UUWF Clara Barton Washington Internship for Women's Issues. This endeavor will ensure the UUWF a legacy that will honor both Clara Barton and the Universalist women who made the Clara Barton Camp for Diabetic Girls a reality.

In faith,
Linda



RCRC Plans Roe v. Wade Anniversary Celebration

By Phyllis Rickter
Past UUWF President

The annual meeting of the Council of Governors of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice was held in Washington, DC, in October. The council is made up of representatives of coalition members, and one of its important responsibilities is the election of the members of the Board of Directors. The Rev. Meg Riley, director of UUA Washington Office's Advocacy and Witness Program, was one of the

eight persons elected to the board to serve until the end of 2005.

Coalition President Carlton Veazey reported on the National Black Religious Summit VI held at Howard University in Washington this past summer. It was highly successful. There are new state affiliates of the coalition in Kansas, Wisconsin and Texas. Clergy for Choice, Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom, and the Black Church Initiative are all reaching new audiences. In September represen-

tatives attended their first United Nations meeting since the coalition was accredited as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Plans for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of both the Religious Coalition and the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision were described. The main event will be held on January 22, 2003, at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Ave., Washington, DC. The theme of the convocation and the Coalition's

anniversary is "From Generation to Generation: Celebrating 30 Years of Faithful Choices." The main speaker will be the Rev. George Regas of the Regas Institute, Pasadena, CA and there will be worship participants from many faith traditions.

For more information, call 202/628-7700x21 or e-mail to info@rcrc.org

Phyllis Rickter, Arlington, MA, is UUWF's representative to RCRC's Council of Governors.

Internship, cont. from p. 1

Washington and UUWF activists, providing support and information to get UU women more effectively involved with shaping our daughters' daughters' lives."

Riley says evidence of this siege on women includes use of federal dollars to promote marriage rather than job-training for poor women, tacking abstinence-only-until-marriage sexuality education onto obscure bills and appointing people who are hostile to feminism in key places which determine women's lives. She states with certainty that, "In the

current administration, this intern will never be bored!"

Interns in the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy spend 11 months in an intensive program that includes policy analysis, coalition work, legislative advocacy, communication with the UU grassroots, public speaking and writing about issues, theological reflection, development of resources, research, and other issue-based work. Currently there are three such internships in Washington, but plans are underway to build up the program.

Upon learning of the development of the internship center, members of the UUWF board immediately saw a great opportunity. "Putting a fulltime intern on women's issues concretely focuses our longstanding and broad commitment to feminist issues," stated Mandy Jacobson. Jacobson has been designated the board's point person as the program is more fully designed and the first intern is selected. She is especially excited about what this internship will say to young adult feminists. "This is an explicit invitation to the next waves of feminism

to make the Women's Federation their own."

Women who are interested in helping to develop and support this initiative should contact Mandy Jacobson by e-mail at dre@uucss.org or by phone at 202/588-7111 or Meg Riley by e-mail at Mriley@uua.org or by phone at 202-296-4672, ext 17.

Applications for the first internship are due March 1, 2003 and may be found on the Web site of the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy at www.uua.org/uuawoa.



Sisterhood Honors Women 80+

Universalist Clara Barton, one of our most famous foremothers, was a distinguished leader of her day. Noted for her nursing work in the Civil War, she also founded the American Red Cross and was actively involved until she was well into her 80s.

In order to honor her example and celebrate today's women, UUWF created and maintains the Clara Barton Sisterhood, a special category of Life Membership for women over 80. With a donation of \$80 to UUWF, a congregation, individual or women's

group can honor a UU woman who is 80+ and whose life and work you wish to recognize.

Clara Barton Sisters are awarded a certificate suitable for framing, a letter recognizing their accomplishments, life membership in UUWF and, while supplies last, a copy of *In Sisterhood... Life Stories of UUWF Clara Barton Sisters*.

Write to the UUWF Office, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108; call 617/948-4692 or e-mail to uuwf@uua.org for a Clara Barton Sisterhood application.

The following women were also enrolled in the Sisterhood between January 1 and December 15, 2002 (listed in order of the women's group or congregation that honored them):

The Alliance, First Parish UU Church, Arlington, MA
☞ Virginia B. Thayer

Women's Alliance, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, WA
☞ Elizabeth Knowlton Butler

UUWF, Unitarian Church of Bloomington, IL
☞ Mary Lou Steadman

Angle Alliance, First Parish Brewster, MA
☞ Joyce Ricker

Women's Evening Alliance, First Unitarian Church of Dallas, TX
☞ Mary Helen Lyons
☞ Jane Vrabel

Dedham Branch Alliance, First Church in Dedham, MA
☞ Marjorie Wiren

North Fork UU Fellowship, Jamesport, NY
☞ Buddith (Bunny) Cantwell

Demeters, All Souls UU Church, Kansas City, MO
☞ Louise Baggett

UUWF, Lincoln Unitarian Church, Lincoln, NE
☞ Ruth Prell

First UU Church of Nashville, TN
☞ Virginia Grantham

(Continued on page 4)



the Communicator

the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

First Class
US Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
No. 1275

25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108-2800

ph: 617-948-4692
www.uua.org/uuwf/

Return Service
Requested

Sisterhood, *cont. from p. 3*

UUWF, First UU Church,
San Diego, CA
☞ Gail Durson
☞ Fryda Nicoloff
☞ Eleanor Benson Stein

Women's Alliance, First
Unitarian Society of

Schenectady, NY
☞ Erma Ruth Callaway
Chestnut
☞ Doris Clara Downs
☞ Ann Greenly
☞ Dorothy Benfield
Koenig
☞ Helen Voorhis Webster

Award Proposals Still Accepted

The proposals for UUWF's 2003 Margaret Fuller Awards are still being accepted, with the deadline for applying February 1, 2003.

This UUWF program awards grant funds to UUs doing accessible projects that focus on any of the many strands of UU feminist theology – accessible meaning projects that can be put to practical use by local congregations, women's and other groups.

Contact the UUWF Office for proposal guidelines.

UUWF at GA 2003

UUWF's initial effort in soliciting GA program proposals from groups or individuals outside the Federation's formal structure was a resounding success. A number of excellent proposals were received and reviewed by the Program Working Group, with GA 2003 program slots awarded to:

☞ The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, presenting a workshop titled "Celebrating 40 Years of Support for Reproductive Freedom."

☞ Olympia's Daughters, for their workshop, "Domestic Violence Awareness and Healing," which will address this topic with readings and songs.

Other UUWF workshops planned for GA '03 are "The Second 40 Years: A Look at UUWF," which will focus on the work of the Restructuring Task Force; and "Clara Barton Internship: Women Take a Stand," which will explore the new internship program (see p. 1). UUWF's 2003 Margaret Fuller Awards will be presented in the Federation's fifth workshop slot.