

[News – June 2018](#)

Letter Opposing the Domestic Gag Rule

The UUWF and the UUA — among 110 faith and secular organizations — signed a letter on May 16 to Secretary Alex Azar, Secretary of the Health and Human Services Department, expressing grave objections to likely-restrictive new regulations guiding the Title X national family planning program that would institute a new, anti-choice, domestic “gag rule.”

The proposal would make it illegal, in most cases, for health providers in the national family planning program to tell their patients how to safely and legally access abortion. It would require them to supply prenatal and adoption referrals to women regardless of their choices; and it would make it impossible for millions of people to receive birth control from Planned Parenthood clinics.

The proposed regs were issued May 22 and, taken individually or as a whole, would indeed “compromise the program’s continued success and interfere with Title X-supported providers’ commitment to offering high quality care.”

We are part of a Religious Advocates Working Group (RAWG), and are in the process together of coming up with the most impactful ways to weigh in on this development. The next few days and weeks we will be using social media and other means of witness urging DHHS to reject implementing any proposals that would restrict access to high quality affordable family planning services. For more about a national petition campaign opposing these new anti-choice rules, [click here](#).

UUWF Needs You

One position on the UUWF Board remains open, the VP for Funding Programs. The UUWF Board of Trustees is a dynamic, committed group of people. We meet in person twice a year, and attend General Assembly. Think about joining! And share this link with people who might be interested: <http://bit.ly/uuwfjob2018>

Events UUWF, UUW&R and International Women’s Convo are sponsoring at General Assembly:

UUWF Annual breakfast and Ministry to Women Award

Thursday 6/21/2018 – 7:15 – 8:30 AM
Crowne Plaza — Salon B
No charge – [RSVP now](#)



The 2018 Ministry to Women Award is being given this year to [Rev. Dr. Deborah Pope-Lance](#) and [Rev. Gail Seavey](#) in recognition of their prophetic persistence over the years that has kept the issue of clergy sexual misconduct within Unitarian Universalism within our public consciousness. They both have named and educated on the existence of sexual harassment and abuse in our faith communities, and helped develop safe congregation practices.

UUW&R breakfast

Friday 6/22/2018 – 7:15 – 8:45 AM
Marriott — Truman A
\$35 (sliding scale) – [RSVP now](#)

UUWF/New Prophetic Sisterhood Sermon Award Winner*

Friday 6/22/2018 – 11:15 AM-12:15 PM



Room 3501 EF
The winner of the annual
UU Women's Federation
Sermon Award, Clare
Fortune-Lad, Director of
Religious Education at
the Universalist Unitarian
Church of Haverhill,

Massachusetts, will deliver her sermon,
“#MeToo, Now What?” with the intent of
sparking an interactive dialogue between
participants to explore the ways that “all are
called” to build this movement for gender
equity through a spiritually-sustaining lens.
Rev. Marti Keller, UUWF Minister
Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario, UUWF V-P
Recruitment
Clare Fortune-Lad



IWC Annual Breakfast
Saturday, June 23, 7 –
8:30 AM
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Salon B, Kansas City,
Missouri

Keynote speaker: Dr. Rica Lamar, India
\$35 – [RSVP now](#)

#Me Too: Called to Challenge Systemic Patriarchy*

Saturday 6/23/2018 – 1:30 – 4:00 PM

Room 2503

U*U women worldwide lead their civic and
faith communities to confront physical,
sexual, economic bullying and abuse in
systems of patriarchal authority. With
distinguished panelists and small group
conversation, we will define the problem
and search for answers. As U*Us we will
listen, engage and act.

Rev. Marti Keller, UUWF Minister
Rev. Addae Kraba, Past UUW&R
Convener, IWC board president-elect

Dr. Rica Lamar
Melissa Stiehler

UUWF Report to the General Assembly* Friday 6/22 in General Session 3 at 10:20 AM

Exhibit Hall Booth 322-326: Information,
UU womxns bookstore, and The Red Tent!*
(open to the public on Sunday)

Red Tent Mini-Workshops and Appearances

Author/Musician Nancy Vedder-Shults will
be at the booth with her latest book, [The
World Is Your Oracle](#). She'll present some
mini-workshops in The Red Tent.

UU Women and Religion Bookstore

The Store will feature a new [anthology of
womyn's wisdom](#) by Matrika Press,
Chalices by [KimberleeClay](#), a new book by
[Rev. Dorothy Emerson](#), an updated version
of the Peacemaker study series by [Melinda
Morris Perrin](#), fresh reprints from the
archives, and lots more!

* indicates that you must be registered for
GA to attend.

New VP for Communications



We're excited to
welcome Jess Bors to
the UUWF Board as the
next Vice President of
Communications! Jess is
Acting DRE of the
Buxmont UU

Fellowship in Warrington, PA. We'll tell
you more about her in our next newsletter.

Recent Grants

The Margaret Fuller Grants program
supports Unitarian Universalist women in
scholarly, prophetic, and innovative

exploration of religious feminisms. Our Margaret Fuller Projects this year include funding an ongoing project to **document UU women's herstory in a special collection at Meadville-Lombard**. Before her health turned, Denny Davidoff asked UUWF to contribute to the preparation of the HEResies Special Collection archives to be converted to searchable online documents. In addition to contributing many boxes of rough-scanned herstorical documents and several artifacts such as quilts, the UUWF Board has committed to funding the bulk of this project. Once the physical and digital collections are complete, it should make researching our herstory and the women who made it a far easier task.

The UUWF is also helping to fund an upcoming Skinner House book project "Speaking Our Stories and Telling Our Truths: Black Women Clergy in Unitarian Universalism." The anthology will provide the first published **scholarly treatment of Black women clergy in the Unitarian Universalist tradition**.

Equity & Justice grants are made to Unitarian Universalist organizations & groups, or to groups / organizations with a significant number of UUs involved in the hands-on work of the project. The program welcomes inquiries addressing a wide range of issues consistent with UU principles and which emphasize the achievement of social justice for women.

An Equity & Justice grant this year provided funds for a congregation in **Harrisburg, PA to offer childcare during the 40-day season of civil actions by the Poor People's Campaign**, Pennsylvania at the state capital as part of the larger Campaign, A National Call for Moral Revival.

An upcoming project is to expand a congregational project of **providing menstrual products to food pantries**, women's shelters, and other organizations serving low-income women and families. The **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley** supplies 10 organizations in six counties, and is ready to expand beyond the capabilities of the congregation. UUWF funding will allow the project to be made into an independent nonprofit (called "Shape of Justice") and expand to five new locations, as a test for possible further expansion around the US.

UUWF is also giving a major gift in support of the **UUA's Promise and the Practice of our Faith commitment to Black Lives of UU**.

The Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley scholarship 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.

This past year's recipients are Dianne Daniels of Norwich CT and Sana Saeed of Arlington, MA. We are proud to support Dianne and Sana on their paths to ministry.

The panel was convened by scholarship committee chair Rev. Joyce Palmer and included Maria O'Connor, Director of Religious Education, Unitarian Universalist Church West, Brookfield, WI; and Rev. Julie Forest, Interim Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, Rancho Mirage, CA

Collaborative Work

UUWF is working with UUW&R and International Women's Convo to convene a

facilitated meeting in September 2018 entitled Many Voices/ United Vision: A Collaboration of U*U Women. The meeting is an opportunity to share experience, expertise, and insights as we unite our voices to strengthen collaboration among U*U women and lay out strategies for a joint vision and collective action. To gain the widest perspective possible, UU organizations with goals of human rights and social justice are invited to send representatives, whether or not women's rights are an official part of their portfolio, as so many issues affect women disproportionately.

Aims of the meeting are to: bring the leadership of U.S. UU women's organizations and other UU women's voices together to engage in a planning process; develop an understanding of how each organization functions and what it is doing to advance women's human rights; explore how our organizations can work together to strengthen women's voices and women's leadership in our movement; build positive and productive working relationships; build a joint vision; lay out possible paths of collaboration; and hopefully establish a common course of action.

Annual Report

UUWF Board President Claire Sexton will deliver the short version of our Annual Report at General Assembly on Friday June 22, around 10:20 am during General Session 3. You can watch the live stream at www.uua.org/ga, or read the expanded version here: [UUWF GA Annual Report June 2018](#)



the UU Fellowship.

New Clara Barton Sisters

Madison County, KY
— **Joan Boewe** and **Ann Stebbins**,
(pictured) *honored by*

Franklin, NC — **Joan Hawthorne**, *honored by the UU Fellowship.*

You can see current and past honorees on our website: www.uuwf.org/clara-barton-sisterhood

June 12, 2018 / [G C Ohmann](#)