



Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

News – October 2019



A Note from Claire Sexton, UUWF President

Something I've noticed lately, among my women friends and colleagues especially, is the busy and the overwhelmed. Fall will hopefully bring rest to some, as trees and animals prepare to slow down.

The UUWF board is preparing to meet in Philadelphia, some of us in-person for the first time since we had 4 new members join in the spring. I'll be traveling from Waco, Texas where we're only just starting to feel a bit of fall (with highs of *only* 80° F and enough of a chill in the early morning to need a sweater). In addition to anticipating cooler Philadelphia weather, I'm excited at the promise of our meeting and diving into discernment regarding where our mission and passions will take us next.

I'm also happy to share that SisterSong, longtime friends of the UUWF, just won an important battle after a federal court (temporarily) [blocked a harmful and restrictive Georgia ban on abortion](#). They are also featured in the latest issue of [New Yorker](#).

We need rest, and yet we cannot rest. Are your rest and care practices any different now than they were before 2016? Take this time to read our updates and hopefully you might feel invigorated.

Take care, dear ones.

UUWF Supports Mass. Bill to Increase Access to Menstrual Products

The UUWF has joined the Massachusetts Menstrual Equity Coalition (MMEC), a group of menstrual health activists, advocacy organizations, non-profits, businesses, and public servants working to pass the I AM bill to Increase Access to Menstrual Products and to combat the stigma against menstruation. If the bill is passed, it would ensure access to free, quality menstrual products to public school students, incarcerated people, and homeless individuals who menstruate.



In discussion, the UUWF board wondered whether it was appropriate for our national organization to sign onto a Massachusetts-based initiative. We recalled that our religious heritage has strong and deep roots in the state, and that we are chartered in Massachusetts. We also affirmed the goals of supporting access to menstrual products in schools, prisons, and shelters and countering shame and stigma for menstruating individuals and those who identify as female or femme.

"If passed, the I AM measure would be the first statewide law of its kind in the country, making Massachusetts one of the leaders in the growing menstrual equity movement," according to the MassNOW website. We welcome the conversation that would ensue on our board if activists in other states asked for our support in similar initiatives!

If you'd like to learn more, or sign up yourself or organization to support the initiative, check out the [MassNow](#) and [Commonwealth Magazine](#) websites.

The "Yu-Yu Sisterhood" of the UU Congregation, Fullerton CA

The "Yu-Yu Sisterhood" is an all women, information sharing, and open invitational group in Fullerton, CA. Yu-Yus want to take advantage of other women's knowledge of events going on around the area and possibly invite each other along.

Membership is open to all who want to join the mailing list. Anyone can offer knowledge of an event to the membership through an email.

No formal meetings are planned, though an occasional lunch or dinner date will include all on our list. To be added to the Yu-Yu mailing list, send your name to [Doris Dressler-Clark](#) with "Yu-Yu" in the subject line.



SUUWC Details Available

The 2020 Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference info is [online](#). The conference will be held from **February 28-March 1** in Lafayette, LA with a theme of "**Break Not the Circle: UU Sisterhood in Acadiana.**" SUUWC welcomes keynote speaker Colette Pichon Battle, Esq., Executive Director of the [Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy](#), and musical guests [The Magnolia Sisters](#).

UUWF Funding Program Deadlines

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. [November 1 deadline.](#)

Equity & Justice Grants Program welcomes proposals addressing a wide range of issues consistent with UU principles and which prioritize the achievement of social justice for those who identify as women. [November 1 deadline.](#)

Margaret Fuller Grants Program funds projects that explore feminist thought and action within a religious or spiritual context. We prefer projects that result in a product that can be shared widely — such as a book, curriculum materials, program outlines/ descriptions, DVDs, audio recordings, workshop templates, or publishable articles. [November 1 deadline.](#)

Cakes Resources Can Now Be Downloaded

The UU Women and Religion Store has had many requests to make the digital resources for the classic curriculum, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, available as downloadable files instead of on a CD shipped with the books. We're happy to announce they've made that happen! Now the spiral-bound curriculum books will be shipped with a link and password to access the files. If you have already purchased the curriculum and would like access, please email store@uuf.org.



And, stay tuned – Cakes t-shirts may soon be available again!

New Clara Barton Sisterhood Member



The Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of San José recently honored **Meg "Bowman" Bowman** (above) with membership in the Clara Barton Sisterhood. The nominating letter noted said that "the list of causes and organizations in which Meg has been active would fill pages." Amongst her other notable work, she chaired the Women's Alliance for many years. Meg has been active with UU Women & Religion since its inception in the 1970s and has authored and contributed to many books, including quite a few about our Unitarian and Universalist foremothers.

The Clara Barton Sisterhood was created in 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

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