



Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation



News – June 2020

Statement on Inequities Highlighted By the COVID-19 Virus

As Unitarian Universalists committed to gender equity, we believe in justice, dignity, and compassion for all.

Universal access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare is a moral imperative.

As we have witnessed the unprecedented spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, the UU Women's Federation is committed to advocating for a United States where catching a preventable illness and seeking medical care does not bankrupt a person.

The UU Women's Federation demands a world where a living wage, paid time off, shelter, ample food, and adequate healthcare & childcare are not markers of privilege, but rather a right of any and every human.

We demand a New Normal that not only addresses the virus but interrupts the underlying oppression that has made this pandemic so catastrophic. We honor all the essential workers who risk their lives to ensure that the rest of us can be with our families and loved ones, and we insist that they be valued not only in words but with fair compensation for the risks they are taking on our behalf. This New Normal affirms the dignity of detained and incarcerated people, dismantling the systemic cruel and unusual neglect in prisons.

We seek a system that does not cause women, trans, and people of color communities to be disproportionately harmed by pandemics or other crises. The New Normal includes a health care system with accessible mental health care, safe and affordable housing, nourishing food, and adequate time off work to maintain health and safety for ourselves and our loved ones.

It is with deep and profound sadness that we mourn the death of Betty Habach McCollum from COVID-19. Betty was a UUWF Board member and had been a UU for most of her life, most recently at All Souls in NYC. Her full obituary is [available here](#).

Betty is survived by her children, Vashti (Luke) Lozier of Milwaukee, WI and G. Angus (Tara) McCollum of Brooklyn, NY; and five grandchildren Emilie, Annalise, Isabella, Ian, and Malia.

As Vashti so perfectly wrote, "The tragedy and heartache of the circumstances of her death will never overshadow her life which was full and rich and active. I know that if she could, she would have done anything to be with all of us for one more meal, one more holiday, one more summer at Sagamore and on Shelter Island, one more Woman's Alliance meeting, one more UUWF meeting, one more mountain to climb, one more game of tennis or golf, one last lap in the pool, one more philharmonic concert, opera, ballet, museum exhibit or Broadway show. She is leaving us with so many wonderful memories and as a model of how to live life to the fullest."

In Memoriam **Betty McCollum**



Grant Funding is Available

Now is a great time to think about projects that advance some of the concerns we share. UUWF is eager to support Unitarian Universalist congregations, organizations, or groups that prioritize the achievement of social justice for those who identify as women.

The [Equity & Justice Grants](#) can be used for projects that include, but are not limited to: education; women's health; abortion/reproductive rights; age discrimination; war; human rights; poverty; unemployment; Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian/Queer concerns; Transgender concerns; gender justice; domestic violence; child abuse; and job discrimination.

[Margaret Fuller Grants](#) are for projects that explore feminist thought and action within a religious or spiritual context. It is work that is able to create, define, clarify, illuminate, develop, share, and birth feminist theology from a UU point of view. We are interested in projects that will contribute to the feminist transformations of our UU community and the larger world. 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. Applications for events such as conferences or workshops must detail tangible outcomes or products that will result from the event.

If you have a project but are not sure if it fits the criteria, we welcome [emails](#) in which we can discuss the possibilities. The deadline for the next round of funding is August 1st so, please, submit your proposals now!

Communication from Elizabeth Fisher



[We're deeply sad to report that Liz Fisher is under hospice care for cancer. She shares these thoughts with us. The full text of her message is [available here.](#)]

As I look back over my 72+ years of life in this body I am amazed at all I have experienced, thought, and felt. During my years from early 1980s to the present, [Women and Religion](#) has been my nourishment. As Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826-1898) taught so well, the early societies that preceded patriarchy have a profound message for us.

The purpose of Women and Religion is to proclaim our ancestral stream of concern for fair, compassionate, kind, and most of all, mutually supportive inclinations. This tendency is to be blended with the contemporary concerns of positive modeling of non-violent co-existence and protection of the natural world – plant, animal, stone and star.

... I have for some time been creating and sharing expressions of my observations, feelings, insights and wisdom. I have also published the efforts of others, especially in the Rise Up curriculum. I made available some of these at www.RiseUpandCallHerName.com. I believe the Universe has intelligence which is available and willing to participate in each of our adventures. It is called LOVE.

We're Still Listening!

Thanks to everyone who has participated in our listening campaign by filling out a survey, sitting down with a cup of tea to chat with someone, or participating in a Listening Circle. We've received 73 [individual surveys](#) and know of 10 groups. Woo-hoo!

Your voices are essential in reshaping our organization. Now is an especially fertile moment for your ideas to take root, since we are merging with UU Women and Religion and recrafting our mission.

If you haven't shared yet, it's not too late. In fact, we're ramping up. Before GA, we will be hosting up to 10 Listening Circles via Zoom for any and all who would like to participate, including caucus groups for BIPOC women, women youth (under 18), young adult women (18-35), emerging adult women (18-25), trans and non-binary folk, LGBTQ women, UUA national and regional staff women, and women who are UU religious professionals. Please stay tuned for our schedule or contact us at uuwf@uuwf.org to let us know you're interested in either participating in or leading a Circle.

After GA, we'll be continuing with one or two Zoom Listening Circles each month. And, soon, we'll be able to tell you what we're learning.

So, please join us for a Listening Circle, or simply [fill out our survey](#). You might also call up a friend and fill out your surveys together. We may not be able to hug right now, but we can listen our way back into a world of connection.

Board of Trustees Positions Open

The UU Women's Federation and UU Women and Religion continue to work toward a merged organization and plan for the future. Sue Boone has been our Treasurer/Clerk for seven years and we are grateful for her commitment and her voice on the board. However, she has reached the end of her term limit.

Per our bylaws, we are now seeking a new Treasurer/Clerk as well as trustees-at-large. Our trustees serve for three-year terms. If you are interested in learning more about what this entails, please [contact our office](#). If you're ready to jump in, please complete this [application form](#).

Join Us at GA 2020

Tuesday, June 23 • 7-8 p.m. Eastern

Minerva Potluck + Ritual

A safe, sacred space for all who identify as women to connect with one another in spiritual exploration and a diverse celebration of women and femininity. [For more information and to register...](#)

Wednesday, June 24 • 10-11 a.m. Eastern

Annual UU Women's Breakfast

Honoring two women who have long served our faith in their efforts and activism towards women's justice and nurturing women's spirituality. [For more information...](#)

Thursday, June 25 • 5:30 p.m. Eastern

UUWF Annual Report

An indepth overview of the status of our organization: funding programs, grants awarded, work we have done during the, and steps towards our merger with UUWR. [For more information...](#)

Thursday, June 25 • 7-9 p.m. Eastern

Web (Red) Tent

Another format for safe, sacred space for all who identify as women to connect in depth. UUWR usually hosts a Red Tent in the GA Exhibit Hall. [For more information...](#)

Find us in the Virtual GA Participation Portal

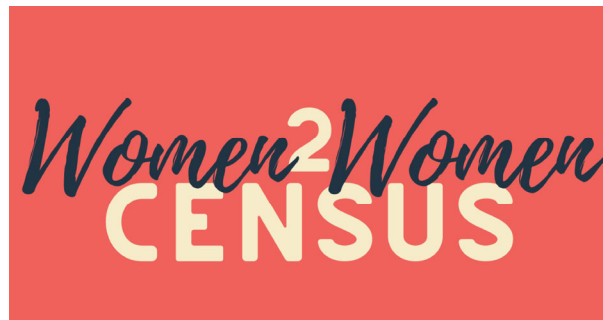
Reproductive Justice Workshop

UUWF Presidents past and present discuss how, more than ever, we need to be alert to oppressions regarding women's reproductive and contraceptive rights. [For more information...](#)

Find us in the Virtual GA Participation Portal

UU Women Exhibit Hall Booth

A unique virtual booth featuring links to resources, as well as an array of beautiful and inspiring products from our online gift store. [For more information...](#)



Women's March was born in a moment of crisis, with a small group of women putting out a desire to march that quickly reverberated across the globe. Now we are in another crisis of unprecedented proportions, and we need each other more than ever.

Given the existing and increasing threat of the coronavirus, women are working hard to create new and meaningful initiatives that allow for us to connect, resist injustice, and support each other to meet this moment.

The strength and brilliance of the Women's March is in the power of everyday women taking our dreams and demands into our own hands. Women have always handled business and this moment, while utterly unprecedented, is no exception.

This Women2Women Census is a crucial step to learn about each other so we can better serve and meet this moment. All women are invited to take 5-10 minutes to [complete the census](#).

What's Going On In UU Women's Spirituality

For many years [Rev. "Twinkle" Marie Manning](#) (co-convener of UU Women & Religion) has been leading retreats and hosting sacred gatherings. Her interfaith ministry uniquely fits within our Unitarian Universalist values and principles, as well as the varied places women draw their faith. In response to the Covid 19 pandemic, she quickly wove together an array of offerings to serve as tools to help alleviate the suffering and loneliness that stem from fear and isolation.

Minerva Potluck+Ritual virtual gatherings are a time for spiritual renewal and nourishment. A safe and sacred space for all who identify as women to connect with one another, share food, conversation and spiritual exploration. Those who attend are encouraged to take turns sharing gifts, ie: read a poem or passage from a book, sing a song, chant, drum, show a piece of art or something similarly special to them, etc. Twinkle guides those gathered in a time of ritual, reflection and meditation. The Minerva gatherings also serve as a model for women to take back to their own congregations and groups. [Register to receive a private Zoom link.](#)

There is also a newly created private **UU Women's Spirituality Facebook Group** where [women can connect.](#)

Monday Mantras provide a single thought/affirmation to use as a touchstone throughout that day and week. **Thursday Blessings** offer a prayer, blessing, or meditation typically in image and text form, but sometimes also in audio. **Sunday Videos** are typically a personal greeting or a reading. The full schedule is available on the [UU Women and Religion Facebook page.](#)

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Nan Rogers from Hudson UU in Massachusetts hosts a **weekly "Women's Web Tent"** (a virtual Red Tent) on [Facebook.](#)

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Rev. Jess Tardy, an interfaith minister from Pittsfield UU in Maine, hosts a **weekly Sunday night "Unchurch w. Rev. Jess."** It has been described as a diner-style atmosphere that harkens back to the Golden Age of Radio... soulful and fabulous!

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Sarah Dan Jones, a musician from Starr King Fellowship in Plymouth, New Hampshire, **sings songs live every morning** beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the [church Facebook page](#) and then at about 9:20 on [her personal one.](#) Both are open for the public to tune in.

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Rev. Marti Keller has been posting regular texts and videos of her reading her own Poetry on [her Facebook page.](#)

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These UU women's newsletters have recently posted with public access:

- The Beltane Edition of She Speaks is on the [UU Womenspirit website.](#)
- [Beltane thoughts from Melody Lee](#), co-author of Women of Wisdom curriculum.
- UU Women's Connection [Spring 2020 Voice of Women](#)

Clara Barton Sisterhood Welcomes New Members



The Clara Barton Sisterhood welcomes our newest inductees:

- *(top photo)* **Connie Gates** (South Valley UU Society), who received her award while maintaining social distancing protocols
- **Deborah Lewis** (Women's Alliance of First Parish UU in Arlington, MA)
- **Jeanie Wing** (Women's Leadership Alliance at First Unitarian Church in Brooklyn)

Plus two of the 2019 recipients who we regretfully omitted from our newsletter:

- *(middle photo)* **Mimi Ford** (Starr King UU Fellowship)
- *(bottom photo)* **Maxine Steeves** (First Religious Society UU of Newburyport, MA)

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.](#)

Donate / Join UUWF

Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

advancing justice for women and girls and promoting their spiritual growth

www.uuwf.org

Contact us: uuwf@uuwf.org



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