



## Report to the UUA Board of Trustees

October 2009

Dear Friends,

When I sat down to write this, it suddenly struck me that I will only be updating you on UUWF activities two more times – in January and April of next year. I informed you this past April that Rev. Marti Keller, minister at the UU Congregation of Atlanta, GA, will succeed me as UUWF president. I hope and trust that some of you may already know Marti or had the opportunity to meet her at this year's General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

This year's GA provided us with many opportunities for visibility – our three successful workshops (the International Convocation of U\*U Women Action Plan, the Real Wealth of Portland, and our annual grants workshop); my presentation to the Assembly, which highlighted our first ever Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Grant recipients and our collaboration with the ICU\*UW; and our leadership breakfast. I thank the UUA board for its continued interest in the UUWF's work of advancing justice for women and girls and promoting their spiritual growth.

Speaking of "spiritual growth," we have added that component to our mission statement to reflect our two-fold approach to our work – social justice (highlighted by our Equity and Justice Grants Program) and spiritual growth (with our Margaret Fuller Grants Program the centerpiece of that work). We also this year made a conscious decision to bring the two funding programs into parity.

In recognition of the upcoming bicentennial of Margaret Fuller's birth, the UUWF will join other organizations in featuring programs in 2010 celebrating her life and achievements. Ours will include publishing guidelines for hosting conversations modeled after those Fuller famously held, as well as a dramatic presentation on her, by Laurie James, in one of our GA workshop slots. We are especially focused on her work since our Margaret Fuller Grants Program has for many years assisted women in their study and promotion of UU religious feminisms.

Fundraising continues to demand concerted effort, as I know it does for the UUA and our local congregations. At its September meeting our board decided to focus more attention on congregations, in addition to continued individual and group membership appeals. I ask each of you to remember the UUWF when you return to your own congregation. You might suggest that the Women's Federation would be a worthy recipient of a give-away-the plate or an annual giving appeal. UUWF board and National Development Council members, myself included, are willing to do presentations about our work to congregations and other UU gatherings in our local areas.

I'm off now for a bike ride to downtown Newburyport, MA, where dozens of local businesses have decorated each lamp post with their own version of a scarecrow (I know you're all amazed at the exciting life I lead). I may bring pictures to the UUA board meeting to show you my favorites. In the meantime, much affection and continued appreciation for your devotion to our beloved faith.

Sincerely,

President