UUCSR
WOMEN’S GROUP BOARD MEMBERS
JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022

BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Diane Mansell
VICE PRESIDENT TBD
SECRETARY Palma Torrisi
TREASURER Leona Handelman

BOARD MEMBERS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Sandra Frank
BOOK SERIES CHAIR Patti Paris
HOSPITALITY CHAIR Ruth Barrie
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Katherine Miller
NOMINATING CHAIR Jo Rymer
PROGRAM CHAIR TBD
PUBLICITY CHAIR Catherine Ripley
WOMEN’S ISSUES Maria Ceraulo
WOMEN TALK-DAYTIME Sari Flesch
HONORARY MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)
Maxine Dangler
Marilyn Fischell
Lee Geisen
Claire Paccione
Ursula Salamone
Judith Wylie-Rosett
WG LIAISON Sharyn Esposito
OUR MISSION

To create a community of caring, committed women and men who are steadfast in their quest for equality, justice and peace.

To value ourselves and to value each other in order to advance women’s rights.

To educate ourselves and others on women’s issues so as to achieve equality of the sexes.

To enhance our spirituality and to affirm, advocate and support the development of feminist theology.

To be responsive to the needs and aspirations of our members by providing enrichment and support.

To extend our bonds of sisterhood to liberal religious women within and beyond our congregation and denomination.

OUR COVENANT

We covenant and affirm to relate to one another with sensitivity, support in joys and sorrows, and recognition of special needs. We shall reach out in the spirit of appreciation, respect, support and honesty in accord with our UU principles. Further, our relationship shall be one of creativity, humor and play.

As empathic women who have concern for each other, we will listen to one another. Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. In all other cases a majority vote will be taken. In reaching decisions we will encourage flexibility, and sufficient time for exploration and process.

We work together through our commitment to the group by paying attention to our process, by empowering as many members as possible, being open to new and varied ideas, and by allowing time for ritual and celebration in order to nurture our spiritual selves. We will be responsive to the value of one another as unique and important human beings.
A strong woman is both gentle and powerful.
Sweet, yet strong.
Dangerous,
Wild,
    Smart and funny.
Masculine, feminine,
    A King,
    A Queen.
Neither, nor.

Women or miracles.
Born of Wind, Water, Fire, and Ice.

We are healers,
    Warriors.
Crones, carrier of Wisdom.

Strong women move through this world in quiet,
Softness,
    Thunder,
    Power.
We are survivors,
    Bending, swaying like the willow in the wind,
    Adapting, never breaking.

We are Bi, Lesbian, Transgender, Straight
We are the spectrum.

Complex,
Complicated,
    Transparent,
    Humble.

Strong women are the mothers, fathers, sisters, lovers, granddaughters,
    Grandmothers.

Not afraid of sisterhood,
    The circle.

We are of the moon, stars, the sun.

Child of Mother Earth

A strong woman is a gift to the world.
A strong woman is me.
We are just now emerging from the dark and hopefully, headed toward the light. I am beginning my tenure as the new Women’s Group President as UUCSR is gradually reopening with more in-person activities, while still continuing with virtual ones.

It is hard to believe, but the first meeting of our Women’s Group was held on January 16, 1963, at the North Shore Unitarian Church, with 41 women present. Their focus then was to offer a diverse program to satisfy the needs and desires of all its members, including service and education programs, social events, and occasional fund raisers.

Fifty-eight years later, we now have a total of 103 active Women’s Group members, including 16 men. Using the Women’s Group mission as our guide, we continue to work towards helping create a world where everyone is recognized for their inherent worth and dignity, our first UU Principle, and we now embrace our new 8th Principle as well “to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Our goals continue to include growth of collaborations with other committees and all UUCSR members, and to enhance our spirituality based on a feminist theology that incorporates full humanity and affirms both sexes along with all races and social groups. Women’s and gender identity rights are also deeply intertwined. We want to foster a community of caring, committed women and men who are steadfast in their quest for equality, justice, and peace.

The Women’s Group will still work to close the Gender Wage Gap, improve Women’s Reproductive Rights, address the issues of Violence Against Women, seek laws to Mandate Paid Sick and Parental Leave, enact Affordable and Competent Child Care, and to finally pass the Equal Rights Amendment, just to name a few items about which we are passionate.

The Women’s Group managed to successfully offer many programs virtually during the pandemic that were well attended. Moving forward to our 2021-2022 year, we will continue offering ongoing programs, as well as new and innovative multi-platform programs and events as permitted by UUCSR’s Reopening Guidelines.

Thank you for your continued support. Please know that you are all invited to attend Women’s Group sponsored events. Our events are not just for women only. In addition to email reminders, all events are listed in every *Quest* and on the uucsr.org calendar. Come join us!
We would have every arbitrary barrier thrown down. We would have every path laid open to Woman as freely as to Man. Were this done...we believe the divine energy would pervade nature to a degree unknown in the history of former ages, and that no discordant collision, but a ravishing harmony of the spheres, would ensue.

(Margaret Fuller, 1810 – 1850)

We made it!!! A year like no other in recent memory. I think of it as loss … and found.

Knowing we couldn't meet in person, the Women's Group Board voted to waive the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 dues and membership was extended to all of the then current Women's Group members to June 30, 2021. This year with the promise of on premises gatherings a letter will be sent defining how to become a member for 2021 to 2022.

Thank you for your continued support. Please know that you are all invited to attend the Women's Group sponsored events. Most are not for women only. In addition to email reminders, all events are listed in each QUEST and on the uucsr.org calendar. We encourage you take a quick look to see which ones appeal to your interests and attend.

With some ingenuity and lots of help from our UUCSR office liaison, Sharyn Esposito, Women's Group managed to continue most programs virtually. In this time of separation, participation in the book group, overseen by chair Patti Paris, grew and was extended through the summer to 12 monthly meetings virtually. Woman Talk Daytime held the first and third Wednesday of every month transitioned to virtual meetings easily. With current chair Sari Flesch attendees enjoy the stimulating discussions and their time together.

There were added events as well. Every Wednesday morning at 11:00 am, a get-together titled “Crafting for Sanity and Community” was presented by the Mental Health sub-committee partnered with Women’s Group. Patti Paris created and managed the Friday night film viewing with discussion afterwards opening the event to all UUCSR members who wanted to attend. These interactive virtual programs were warmly welcomed as a way of being together.

On Sunday, May 2, 2021, we were pleased to present a virtual Annual Women’s Group Worship Service “The Genesis of the Exodus” created from source material by Maria Ceraulo and Palma Torrisi with guidance from the Reverend Jennifer Brower. If you have not yet experienced it, I invite you to please see it. I know it is still easily reached through the uucsr.org website.

Women’s Group effectively celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the U. S. Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing gender equal voting rights by offering a virtual presentation of the historical progression featuring the lesser-known outstanding women who were instrumental in passage of the 19th amendment. A special shout-out to our Women’s Issues chair Maria Ceraulo for finding and editing the script as well as all who participated in reading; Ruth Barrie, Maria Ceraulo, Diane Mansell, Katherine Miller; songs performed by Catherine Ripley. Our program is on youtube.com. Check it out if you have not yet viewed it.

As Women’s Group has for the past several years, we co-sponsor with the League of Women’s for
their Voters Post Election Analysis that was shown virtually, of course, on November 17, 2020.

Instead of now popular holiday cookie baking party, a registry was set up at Target where the individuals being helped by the organizations New Hour and Women Opportunity and Rehabilitation Center (WORC) chose what they needed for their children and themselves. Women’s Group members then individually purchased items from the registry that were sent directly to each organization accordingly.

Most recently, dear to our hearts was the Annual Mother’s Day Luncheon offered to all who choose to attend to honor the nurturer in each of us. Yet again, it was Maria Ceraulo who planned the program suggesting the virtual tour of Cherry Blossom time in the Brooklyn Botanical Garden and the video showing funny gifts Mothers have received for Mother’s Day. Our thanks to Ruth Barrie for her welcoming remarks, to Maxine Dangler for introducing the visually exquisite Garden tour, and Maria who interacted with attendees during the video.

As for me, I always get much more from my participation than I give. It enriches my life. Thank you to all for entrusting the Women’s Group Presidency to me for the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hazel Frank, President
(2019-2020)

Women’s Group Board Officers
Sandra Hazel Frank – President
Diane Mansell – Vice President
Robin Finnan-Jones – Secretary
Leona Handelman – Treasurer

Women’s Group Board Members
Patti Paris – Book Series Chair
Ruth Barrie – Hospitality Chair
Katherine Miller – Membership Chair
Jo Rymer – Nominating Chair
Palma Torrisi – Program Chair
Maria Ceraulo – Women’s Issues Chair
Maxine Dangler – Women Talk Daytime Co-Chair
Sari Flesch – Women Talk Daytime Co-Chair
Lee Geisen, Giuseppina Iorfino, Kari Ann McVetty, Claire Paccione – Honorary Members (Non-Voting)
Sharyn Esposito – WG Staff Liaison
The first Meeting of Women's Group was held on January 16, 1963. It was held at the North Shore Unitarian Church, with 41 women present. (Agnes Burton, Mary Watts' mother, Pat Luciano, and Paulette Dundore were at this Meeting.) Included in their goals was the desire “To offer a diverse program to satisfy the needs and desires of all its members, including service and education programs, social events, and occasional fund raising.” The Group's spirit was embodied in the quote, “They say it couldn't be done, but I, poor fool, didn't know it, so went ahead and did it.” If you attended any of our Programs, you could see we continued following in the footsteps of our insightful Foremothers.

Our Women’s Group is part of and contributes to the national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation (UUWF).

A few years ago, we welcomed the Zen Meditation Group to our space. The Group is now part of the Adult Programs Committee.

Women's Group has held an opera night, galas with champagne, and delicious desserts. Proceeds went to benefit organizations that help women and girls. We have had two very successful theatrical productions, a staged reading of The Vagina Monologues and an all-girl musical revue A: My Name is Alice which included Religious Education students. One of our galas featured music by Fanny Mendelssohn, sister of the famous Felix Mendelssohn. It was performed by Julliard musicians.

We produced a PowerPoint this year during the time of COVID. The PowerPoint, Suffrage at 100, was produced to celebrate the anniversary of the 19th Amendment and featured Women's Group members. It was recorded and is available to watch on our website.

Proceeds from our yearly Holiday sale were donated to a non-profit organization that works to meet the needs of women and children.

Our members crafted our Women’s History month Worship Service this past March. It was titled, The Genesis of the Exodus. We remembered how our ancestors migrated to seek something better. Families of today continue to try to escape violence, poverty, and despair at great peril. As people of the Unitarian Universalist tradition, we are committed to helping those in need and to encouraging what is good in this world to grow and thrive.

The Women’s Group functions under its own Bylaws, but it is responsible to the Board of Trustees. It elects its own officers. Women’s Group provides support for women in personal, spiritual and life transition issues, and sponsors educational and cultural programs to enrich women’s lives. We are actively engaged in the advancement of women’s issues, such as pay equity, reproductive freedom, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

We continue with our intellectually stimulating and lively monthly Book Discussion Group, TGIF Programs, as well as our Fall Membership Meeting, Holiday Sale, Worship Service and Breakfast, and our Mother’s Day Luncheon. We end our year, with the Annual Election Meeting and Luncheon.

We hope that you find, on our new calendar, many things that you will enjoy. All are welcome!
AIM FOR THE STARS...
JOIN THE WOMEN’S GROUP!

Artwork by Kagaya
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, July 16, 2021</td>
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<td>Women's Group Book Series</td>
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<td>Monday, July 19, 2021</td>
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<td>Sunday, October 3, 2021</td>
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<td>Women’s Group Fall Membership Meeting &amp; Luncheon</td>
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<td>Women Talk Daytime</td>
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<td>Friday, November 5, 2021</td>
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<td>Thank Goddess It’s Friday</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 17, 2021</td>
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<td>Women Talk Daytime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 5, 2021</td>
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<td>Women’s Group Holiday Sale</td>
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<td>Cookie Baking with New Hour &amp; WORC</td>
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<td>Friday, December 17, 2021</td>
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*See Women’s Group emails and Quest calendar for Women’s Group Board Meetings date and time.
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<td>FEBRUARY</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
<td>Wednesday, March 2, 2022</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sunday, March 27, 2022</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Women's History Month Breakfast</td>
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<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Friday, April 1, 2022</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 8, 2022</td>
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<td>Sunday, June 12, 2022</td>
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<td>Women's Group Annual Election &amp; Meeting Luncheon</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 15, 2022</td>
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<td>Women's Group Book Series</td>
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*See Women’s Group emails and Quest calendar for Women’s Group Board Meetings date and time.
MEETINGS & EVENTS YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & LUNCHEON
Sunday, October 3, 2021 1:00 PM

COOKIE BAKING WITH NEW HOUR & WORC
December 11, 2021 10:00 AM

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH BREAKFAST & WORSHIP SERVICE
Sunday, March 27, 2022
Breakfast: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM

MOTHER’S DAY LUNCHEON
Sunday, May 8, 2022 12:30 PM

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING & LUNCHEON
Sunday, June 12, 2022 12:30 PM

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS
See Women’s Group emails and Quest calendar for WG Board Meetings date and time.

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

BOOK SERIES
An opportunity to gather and discuss recently read books. See page 14 for book schedule. Third Friday of the month at 3:30 PM

WOMEN TALK DAYTIME
A discussion group that covers current events, on the First Wednesday of the month and different interests, life concerns, and other issues on the Third Wednesday of the month. Topics are emailed to participants. Participants bring lunch. First & Third Wednesday of the month - 12:00 PM

Like a bird on the wire, Like a drunk in a midnight choir, I have tried in my way to be free.

Bird on a Wire by Leonard Cohen

Collage by Patti Paris
THANK GODDESS IT’S FRIDAY

Fabulous Fridays for Get-Togethers • Events for Fun, Renewal and Brain - Food!

Enticing programs featuring stimulating and brainy speakers to kindle your mind, plus musical nights and drama to entertain you—what better way for you to happily spend your Friday nights than with the Women’s Group! In addition to Friday nights, we will also periodically offer a Saturday or Sunday program. Check The Quest or the UUCSR calendar for more information and any changes in our schedule. Give your spirit a lift by attending one of our innovative programs.

YOUR YEARLY DUES PROUDLY SUPPORTS NON-PROFITS SUCH AS:

YOUR WOMEN’S GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Membership in UUCSR Women’s Group also includes membership in the following organizations:

• Center for the Women of New York

• National Organization for Women (NOW)

• Planned Parenthood
WOMEN’S GROUP BOOK SERIES

An opportunity to gather and discuss recently read books. A new book has been chosen for each month. The list of the books for the year is listed below or with the Women’s Group liaison. **Third Fridays, monthly, at 3:30 PM, currently being help on Zoom until further notice.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAYS</th>
<th>BOOK TITLE</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>LEADER</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 17, 2021</td>
<td>Anxious People</td>
<td>Fredrik Backman</td>
<td>Judy Douenias</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15, 2021</td>
<td>The Girl with the Louding Voice</td>
<td>Abi Daré</td>
<td>Lee Geisen</td>
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<td>November 19, 2021</td>
<td>The Beekeeper of Aleppo</td>
<td>Christy Lefteri</td>
<td>Renée Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 17, 2021</td>
<td>The Four Winds</td>
<td>Kristin Hannah</td>
<td>Ruth Barrie</td>
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<td>January 21, 2022</td>
<td>The Devil You Know</td>
<td>Charles M. Blow</td>
<td>Ursula Salamone</td>
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<td>February 18, 2022</td>
<td>Wish You Were Here</td>
<td>Jodi Picoult</td>
<td>Patti Paris</td>
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<td>March 18, 2022</td>
<td>Matrix</td>
<td>Lauren Groff</td>
<td>Maria Ceraulo</td>
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<td>April 15, 2022</td>
<td>A Slow Fire Burning</td>
<td>Paula Hawkins</td>
<td>Diane Mansell</td>
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<td>May 20, 2022</td>
<td>A Burning</td>
<td>Megha Majumdar</td>
<td>Judy Douenias</td>
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<td>June 17, 2022</td>
<td>The Cellist</td>
<td>Daniel Silva</td>
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WOMEN’S ISSUES

Everything Old Is New Again

Again? I asked myself. Am I going to read about this again? I thought it was resolved. I thought we’d finished with this. Like many of us living this long, we thought Johnson’s Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, and sex. We thought passing the ERA was a natural, inevitable progression.

We thought that Roe v. Wade would protect a pregnant woman’s ability to have an abortion without excessive government restriction. More recently, we thought the Me Too movement would provide a strong signal to predators and possibly reduce the numbers of victims of sexual harassment and assault.

We thought. We thought. We thought.

As we begin a new year at UUCSR, I find that being exhausted and disheartened is not an option for me. There’s just too much to do. One of the most restrictive laws in the nation, the Texas Heartbeat Bill, bans abortions as early as 6 weeks into pregnancy, effectively overturning Roe v. Wade in Texas. It even enables private citizens to sue providers and others who HELP the women, enabling them to collect damages of at least $10,000! Another rally took place recently to protest its enactment. This old issue is new again.

On Women’s Equality Day, August 26, yet another rally was held for the Equal Rights Amendment—after about 100 years of struggle.

As residents of New York State, we have witnessed the resignation of the governor after allegations of sexual harassment. The man who accomplished marriage equality, $15 minimum wage, even laws against sexual harassment, had to step down. The man with three daughters, some visible on his daily TV appearances, was disgraced. This is a new, tragic manifestation of a very old problem.

New York Chief Judge Janet DiFiore swore in Kathy Hochul as the first woman to be New York’s governor while her husband held the Bible. At the ceremony, DiFiore wore a gown once worn by Judith Kaye, the first woman to serve as chief judge in the state. Hochul wore white, possibly acknowledging or paying tribute to the women’s suffrage movement. Sexual harassment has not ended. With women in leadership, we can clearly be optimistic again.

With all these issues surfacing over and over again, we can sometimes feel discouraged and even hopeless. However, some developments are truly new and wonderful. We can rejoice at our accomplishments but need to rev up our engines for the fight to end the old, endless struggles. We can and must persist. Join us.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN’S FEDERATION

UUWF is a continental membership organization that advances justice for women and promotes their spiritual growth. It is an independent non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Inheritor of a proud tradition, UUWF was formed in 1963 through consolidation of the Association of Universalist Women (founded in 1869 and believed to be the first organization of lay church women in the United States) and the Alliance of Unitarian Women (1890).

**Purposes**
- Affirm the inherent value of each woman within our community;
- Affirm the importance of women’s voices in our religious quest;
- Link hearts and minds in service of women’s truths;
- Pledge action against the religious roots of sexism;
- Pledge to support the diversity of religious feminisms;
- Work to raise consciousness of the linked nature of oppressions;
- Seek justice for all women in the struggle to transform institutions of oppression;
- Highlight and celebrate women’s achievements – past, present and future.
MEMBERSHIP
All are welcome in the UUCSR Women’s Group programs and activities. Men are encouraged to join and take part in the activities and programs too. As you know due to COVID last year’s Women’s Group membership fee was waived, however the Women’s Group was able to offer numerous virtual programs and will offer both virtual and in-person programs this year. Please renew your membership or join for the first time and help the WG to support activities that—

• Help guarantee reproductive justice for women
• Help stop the abuse of women and children
• Help secure pay equity for women
• Help provide affordable day-care and sick-leave for mothers
• Help to advance the rights of women
• Help women and children seeking immigration status

Monthly WG activities include: TGIF programs, Book Series discussions, Women Talk Daytime meetings and the WG Board meeting—open to all.

The WG also sponsors fun special events. Being a WG member includes a courtesy ticket for admission to the following events:

* Annual Fall Membership Meeting and “Luncheon”
* Women’s History Month Breakfast
* Annual Membership Election Meeting & Luncheon
* Annual Mother’s Day Luncheon

Being a Women’s Group member also entitles you to a discounted admission to attend the annual Mother’s Day Luncheon.

HOW TO JOIN WOMEN’S GROUP
Membership dues are $30.

Please join on-line with a credit card at the following link: https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=696375ea-0524-4a96-abfa-89feb67568e6

Or you can write a $30 check, per person, payable to UUCSR and add Women’s Group 21–22 Membership in the “memo” line. Your dues entitle you to a full year of membership—from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. As well as a yearly membership in the UU Women’s Federation.

Mail your check with your name, address, phone number and email address to UUCSR, Attention: Sharyn Esposito. Thank you and WELCOME!

If you have questions about becoming a Women’s Group Member please call Katherine Miller, Women’s Group Membership Chair, 516.446.5286 or email kmns45@yahoo.com. If you can’t reach Katherine you can call Sharyn Esposito, Women’s Group Liaison, at 516.472.2960 or email sesposito@uucsr.org.

WE ARE GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED US!
Remembering Ann Jawin
by Maria Ceraulo

At Queensborough Hall, after a meeting with the women of the Center for the Women of New York, I remember watching her walking, haltingly, and with considerable effort, down the hall—alone. I marveled at her strength, determination, perseverance, grace, and class even after so many others might have given in to old age, ailments, and sheer exhaustion. Not Ann.

Ann contributed to our Women’s Group meetings with much sage and valued advice and support. I thought she was always right. She arrived in spite of the great effort it took for her to get here considering her advanced age and distance to travel. Her concern was always for women’s equality.

On a personal level, she invited me to, and I attended many of her meetings of veteran feminists, her walkathon to raise money for her building at Fort Totten, her annual luncheons honoring some of the “good guys” in the struggle for equality. I think of her often, particularly since we have a new scandal with our Governor. I wonder what she would think and say. She helped with my personal struggles and sometimes lamented that I never had enough time for her.

There are so many awards that she received. She received the Susan B. Anthony Award by the National Organization for Women NYC, The Lifetime Achievement Award from the Queens Courier, the mayor’s award for Outstanding Volunteer. With the Center, she helped organize the Women’s March in NYC in January of 2017. Ann ran for public office, authored “A Woman’s Guide to Career Education, Scholarships, Grants and Loans.”

A number of years ago, our Women’s Group went to Seneca Falls to visit the National Women’s Hall of Fame. Ann joined us – wouldn’t miss it. We were so glad to have her and nominated her to be showcased among other women inductees.

In Dec. 2019, Ann opened the new headquarters of The Center for the Women of New York at Bayside’s Fort Totten Park. This newly renovated building will provide women with career training services, free legal clinic and referral services, financial clinic and support for victims of domestic violence. We’re proud to state that this effort was advanced by a Large Grant from our congregation. It took years and years of grit, determination, and perseverance. Ann lived to see it happen. We were delighted for her and for this achievement.

Truly a woman of distinction, she was always lovely to look at: tastefully dressed with makeup, jewelry, and her unmistakable red hair. Living alone until the very end, she accepted help only a very short time before she died. At 97 years of age, she left us.

Our Women’s Group recognizes that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. Some of those shoulders belonged to Pat Luciano, Sydelle Lopez, and Vicki Spielman. We are grateful to have had them in our lives to learn from, to guide us, to model and to love.
DO NOT GRIEVE, DO NOT MOURN

My name was called, I had to go.  
Had to leave without saying good-bye, but on angels wings I flew to the sky.

Mourn me for a while, if you must,  
Cry a few tears – but then I want to hear the cheers.

Memories and stories we shared through the years.

DO NOT GRIEVE, DO NOT MOURN

We will be together again,  
Do not fear,  
Until then, know my spirit is near.

I am the wind in your hair,  
The kiss of sunlight on your cheek,  
The raindrops that fall from the sky,  
The colorful butterfly, that darts by.

DO NOT GRIEVE, DO NOT MOURN

Life was just a steppingstone  
I am free of all pains and strife,  
It happened as soon as I took flight.

I want to hear your laughter, watch you live your best life every day,  
The creator has allowed you to stay.

DO NOT GRIEVE, DO NOT MOURN

A joyous reunion will be had by all,  
Each one in time will be called.

Wipe your eyes, dry the tears  
One day, one year…

We will “see” each other again,  
So do me a favor, let the heaven sing of my arrival.

Cast your eyes upward, and smile,  
Do not grieve, do not mourn.

Written by WinterFlower Robinson

The Final Word is Love
— Dorothy Day
“I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees.”

HENRY DAVID THOREAU