

Report to the UUA Board

January, 2007

In November, I joined a trip to New Orleans with 20 other dedicated souls, most from the Winchester, MA, congregation, led by Rev. Mary Harrington, to contribute what we could to the recovery efforts. I will write more about this trip at a later time, but suffice it to say, New Orleans is recovering one house at a time, one volunteer at a time. Government in general has abdicated its responsibility.

It is both heartening and disheartening to witness the pace of the recovery – heartening because there is a lot of activity and people are determined, disheartening because it is so slow and so much uncertainty remains. Everyone has a story to tell, and it is important for them to tell it as often as they need to. We are still struggling to determine where UUWF can assist in this effort.

I would like to continue by thanking so many of you who helped us last year by referring volunteer personnel to UUWF and by contributing money and other support. The results of your efforts on our behalf are tangible and, as a result, we have added several new board and committee members and look forward to adding more. I would like to particularly thank Ed Wilde for referring Rev. Meg Barnhouse to us. Meg will join the board in July as Vice

President/Communications and is hard at work with us now. I have applications for volunteers to share with you again this year as we continue to expand our volunteer base.

I hope you all enjoyed our November newsletter, which highlighted Meg's credentials and those of Catherine Onyemelukwe, our Vice President/Development and new chair of our National Development Council. In that role, she is ably assisted by Barb Brown, also current APF chair and member of the President's Council; Denny Davidoff, who needs no introduction; Rev. Alison Miller, minister of the Morristown congregation; and Phyllis Rickter, past UUWF president and incidentally, mother of Paul; as well as several UUWF board members. This talented group has finished a strategic plan and development of a new brochure, and will be well into next year's campaign by the time you read this. Their skills and enthusiasm for our mission should produce exciting results! We are currently searching for software to support this activity and increase the capacity of our exciting grants program.

The Communication Committee is well-staffed, and has been active, participating in several calls, assisting with writing assignments. You can see the results of their efforts both in our most recent newsletters and in our website (newly redesigned at www.uuwf.org). These accomplishments have been made possible in part through the grant we received last year from the Veatch Program of the

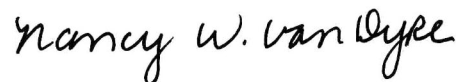


Dr. Riane Eisler will receive UUWF's Ministry to Women Award at this June's GA.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. We plan to apply for funds again this year to further enhance our capacity for fundraising and volunteer development.

Finally, plans for our GA presence are well underway. We are very excited to announce that Dr. Riane Eisler will be the recipient of our prestigious Ministry to Women Award. During a UUWF workshop, she will make a major presentation related to her new book, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics*. Some of you may remember her as the author of *The Chalice and The Blade: Our History, Our Future* and *The Power of Partnership and Tomorrow's Children*. Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, "*The Real Wealth of Nations* gives us a template for the better world that we have been so urgently seeking. As practical as it is hopeful, this brilliant book shows how we can build economic systems that meet both our material and spiritual needs. It illuminates the way to a bold and exciting new future." We will also be feature Riane at a very special donor reception.

Also in the works is a repeat of our very successful Leadership Breakfast on Sunday and workshops featuring our Grants Program and the Margaret Fuller Grants Program. We look forward to greeting you all there!



Nancy W. Van Dyke, President