



## Report to the UUA Board

April, 2007

As I'm writing this, I look at the wintry mix outside and hope that you are inside and warm. Haven't we all just about had enough? I hope as you read this we are now looking outside and enjoying Spring in Boston!

We just finished our UUWF board meeting in Boston, the first weekend in March. It was a time of transition as we welcomed three new board members and prepared to take leave of three others, including me. I will be leaving the board after GA – completing nine years of service. And what a time it has been! I have had the privilege of participating in a revolutionary process of change and am happy to report that we are well on our way to becoming a fully self-sustaining grant making organization. We are currently in the process of exploring regranteeing opportunities with selected foundations. Now, it is time for the organization and for me to make a change. Linda Lu Burciaga will be a spectacular president and has already begun to take on her new responsibilities.

A popular feature of our board meeting, which we initiated last year, is lunch with representatives of local organizations with whom we plan to collaborate. At this meeting we also included women who had expressed an interest in UUWF and wanted to learn more, and several who are doing discrete tasks for us or serving on our committees. We were pleased to have Kay Montgomery join us and look forward to hosting Bill Sinkford, when his schedule permits. Also with us for early morning coffee were two community ministers with whom we are forming affiliation. These contacts do so much to heighten mutual interest and enthusiasm as we exchange ideas and the guests network with each other.

The board is filled with renewed enthusiasm and ideas and is getting a head start on the activities for next year. We are also planning for a wonderful GA and are excited about the opportunity to honor Dr. Riane Eisler with our Ministry to Women award. You will remember that she wrote *The Chalice and the Blade*, which was so well received. As she explored a history of civilization from different points of view, she posited new ideas about "partnership" and "caring economics," which she has since explicated further. Her new book, *The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics*, has just been released and you can buy a signed copy at GA! Learn more about Riane and her compelling work by visiting her website at [www.partnershipway.org](http://www.partnershipway.org). I was pleased to hear the Rev. Gail Geisenhainer speak about the need for this type of economic system in a recent sermon at the Shelter Rock congregation on Long Island.

We hope you are coming to GA and will be able to join us for Riane's workshop on Thursday afternoon and for a donor reception that evening from 6:30-8:00. We are also reprising our popular Leadership Breakfast, scheduled for Sunday this year before the worship service. We promise to have stimulating conversation and presentations as well as good food. You will learn more about our very exciting grants for this year. After all, there has to be something enticing to get people out at 7:00 am on Sunday, June 24!

Last week, several board members, Executive Administrator Ellen Spencer and I had a wonderful conversation with Ned Wight and Eileen Jamison Tyrer from the Veatch program. They expressed hearty approval of our progress toward substantial membership and grant making and we are hopeful that we will receive a second Veatch grant this year. Life is good at UUWF!

And now, one last thing – a bit of homework – I will be emailing you forms and applications for you to complete to refer women you believe would be willing to join our efforts to advance justice for women and girls through education and advocacy. We continue to look for volunteer personnel to work with us in this crucial effort. We work hard and we also have a good time, so go out and get us those names! For extra help, ask Ed Wilde how he did it.\*

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support and encouragement. It has been invaluable, not only on an emotional level, but also for your ideas for program and personnel. Your dollars have also helped us immensely. It has been my privilege to sit with you for the past six or seven years, and the ideas and connections I've made here have helped speed us on our way. Special thanks to Bill, Gini and Kay for all their help and advice, letters of support, and so much more. You've all made my job much easier.

*Nancy W. Van Dyke*

Nancy W. Van Dyke, President

\*We are very grateful to Ed for recommending Rev. Meg Barnhouse, our incoming Vice President/Communications, as a prospective volunteer.