

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock

WUG

WOMEN'S GROUP

EVENTS | HIGHLIGHTS | SCHEDULES



Patti Paris
Hundertwasser Green Town

JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026





UUCSR
WOMEN'S GROUP BOARD MEMBERS
JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026

BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Iris McKenna
VICE PRESIDENT Pamela Prendergast
SECRETARY Palma Torrisi
TREASURER Cheryl Schwab

BOARD MEMBERS

BOOK SERIES CHAIR Patti Paris
FILM DISCUSSION CHAIR Lee Geisen
HOSPITALITY CHAIR Renée Silver
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Katherine Miller
NOMINATING CHAIR Leona Handelman
PUBLICITY CHAIR Jill Marcus
WOMEN'S ISSUES Maria Ceraulo
WOMEN TALK DAYTIME Sandra Frank
MEMBERS AT LARGE (VOTING) Maxine Dangler
Diane Mansell
Jo Rymer
Alison Schwabe
Judith Wylie-Rosett

“We need to care about our place in the world and what we add to it—as opposed to thinking about what we take from it.”

—Ava DuVernay

“Hurt people hurt others, but luckily, healed people heal others. Safe people, shelter others. Free spirits, free other’s. Enlightened people, illuminate others. And love always wins. So shine your light of love on all who may cross your path in life, because what you do matters.”

—Unknown

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.



Iris McKenna
PRESIDENT



Pamela Prendergast
VICE PRESIDENT



Palma Torrisi
SECRETARY



Cheryl Schwab
TREASURER



Patti Paris
BOOK SERIES CHAIR



Lee Geisen
FILM DISCUSSION
CHAIR



Renée Silver
HOSPITALITY CHAIR



Katherine Miller
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



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Jill Marcus
PUBLICITY CHAIR



Maria Ceraulo
WOMEN'S ISSUES



Sandra Frank
WOMEN TALK-DAYTIME



Maxine Dangler
MEMBER AT LARGE



Diane Mansell
MEMBER AT LARGE



Jo Rymer
MEMBER AT LARGE



Alison Schwabe
MEMBER AT LARGE



Judith Wylie-Rosett
MEMBER AT LARGE



Elaine Corrao
COMMITTEE
ASSISTANT

WOMEN WE ADMIRE

Wilma Mankiller (1945–2010)

One remarkable Native American woman out of many was Wilma Mankiller, Cherokee. Wilma Mankiller in her teen years took part in the Indian Center of San Francisco. Was a supporter of the Black Panther Party, an activist for the Reclamation of Alcatraz Island.

In 1983 she was appointed the Cherokee deputy principal chief. Two years later she became the First female principal Chief for the Cherokee Nation, the second largest Native American tribe in the United States for ten years. Mankiller paved the way for future Native American woman to hold positions of leadership.

In 1998 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Plans are underway for Mankiller's face to appear on the US quarter. Mankiller will be one of just two Native American women aside from Sacajawea to have a Native American woman's face printed on American currency.



–WinterFlower Robinson

WOMEN WE ADMIRE

Rev. Dr. Natalie Maxwell Fenimore

Rev. Dr. Natalie Maxwell Fenimore, our Lead Minister, celebrated her 12th anniversary with UUCSR on August 1, 2025. She was originally called as our Minister of Lifespan Faith and Education and was called as Lead Minister three years ago. She centers Religious Education (RE) as a core practice of Unitarian Universalism, responding to a call to continually learn and grow how to do the real work that needs doing in front of us, day in and day out.

This year, Rev. Natalie was awarded the prestigious Angus MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

This award is given to someone who has contributed to Religious Education at the local and associational level and has been a leader in Unitarian Universalist Faith Development for all ages. Her centered, transparent manner in complicated situations builds trust in what is possible. Across her work serving congregations, mentoring others, and championing associational change, she has exhibited care, generosity, honesty, and wisdom.

Rev. Natalie has led with a depth of faith and commitment to the movement through tumultuous times, our great awakening, and into the follow-up work as part of the Commission on Institutional Change. The monumental production of the Commission's report and work widening the Circle of Concern has served as a guide to our era's call to faith and action in Unitarian Universalism. The Chapter Educating for Liberation as well as her engagement at the 2021 Service of the Living Tradition at General Assembly clearly outlines a path in which we can accompany our fears and obstacles with action and hope towards our true selves. Rev. Dr. Fenimore once wrote "I am in love with the Unitarian Universalism that does not yet exist." Your actions seem to ask of us, "Do we want to blow this thing up completely versus what can we do? How can we move forward together?"

Rev Natalie said in accepting this award, "Religious educators have been at the forefront of our faith tradition—teaching, learning, and always challenging and moving us forward. That legacy is present at times of anxiety—times of fear—times when we face the worse. In times like these, our religious educators remain dedicated to truth telling and justice making. We know that all our siblings are holy. We know that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are words that stand for trying to tell the whole truth and attempting to turn the world right. We know that we can be both against antisemitism and against the bombing in Gaza. We know that we can support freedom in our schools and universities and teach critical thinking. Our liberal faith can only survive in democratic freedom—we must work together for that freedom. We must resist all oppression. This faith which religious educators support is love centered, resilient, strong. We go through this fire together. We survive and strive together. We will speak in freedom with compassion. We will say each other's names and not be disappeared."

WOMEN WE ADMIRE

Prior to serving at UUCSR, for over 27 years she served as Director of RE and Minister of Lifespan RE Maryland, Virginia, and NY congregations.

Rev. Dr. Fenimore has supported and mentored countless religious educations throughout her career. She was the first Black woman president of the Liberal Religious Education Association and was a member of the Board of Trustees for both the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and Starr King School for the Ministry. She is an author of UU Religious Education Curriculum and Renaissance Now Sparks modules, meditations, and readings. Her Doctor of Ministry area of study is Theology with an emphasis on story and faith identity development for African American Unitarian Universalists.



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



Iris McKenna, PRESIDENT

As I step into my first year as president of the Women's Group, I'm reminded about the great leadership from past presidents. Many individuals are already providing support to help me get acclimated to the 'behind the scenes' tasks for leading my first Planning Retreat.

Our ongoing functions continued either in person or on ZOOM. Our ministers participated in our activities, and our events were supported first by Lex and now Elaine Correo, as well as the Facilities Staff. The Book Series, Film Discussions, and Women Talk Daytime—discussing topics of interest to women—have provided a welcome avenue for connection and belonging, as many aspects of our lives vie for our attention. The 2024/25 lineup of TGIFs included innovative, inclusive, multi-generational, and wildly popular programs.

The Fall Membership dinner included an informative discussion about the NYS ERA with the Director of the Nassau County New York Civil Liberties Union. The December Holiday Sale was incredibly successful! The December "Cookie Bake" with New Hour, WORC, and EOC was very well attended.

Women's History Month Celebration breakfast featured a guest speaker from Bethany House, an organization that provides support, counseling, advocacy, and networking to homeless women and children. The Worship Service focused on what women's liberation looks like at this moment from different points of view. Our indoor Mother's Day Luncheon was delightful. Our Annual Election Luncheon's guest speaker presented an interesting and informative talk on "The Presidency."

Women's rights and issues continue to be championed by Maria, who tirelessly encourages us to support activities and events centered around celebrations or fighting for our rights.

My vision includes further developing a sense of belonging and connection among members and friends here at UUCSR. My vision also includes exploring vulnerability—getting out of our comfort zones—making that life-giving choice of trying something different. As Speaker and Author Brenee Brown says in her book, *Daring Greatly*, "We love seeing raw truth and openness in other people... but are afraid to show people our kitchen-table self."

The 2025/26 year's TGIF workshops, programs, and events will look like: 'Social Mixers'- making everyone feel welcome; people branching out their social circles a bit and meeting someone new or getting to know someone better; and seeing more volunteers at different events during the coming year. Raise your hand, talk to someone, email, call, and ask, "How can I help?" Vulnerability is indeed courage in YOU. The willingness to show up will make you braver as well as deepen your sense of belonging and connection!

With faith and hope,
Iris McKenna

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.

A Poem Praying for Us Then and Them Right Now, (As Revised) by Judy Chicago:

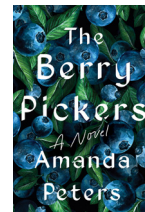
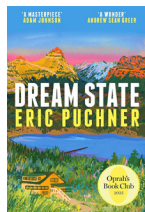
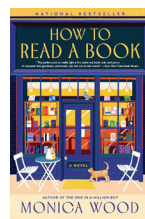
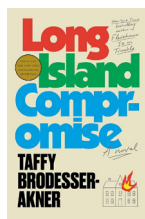
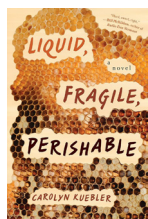
*And then all of what has divided us will merge.
And then compassion will be wedded to power.
And then softness will come to a world that is often harsh and unkind.
And then *(all humans) will be gentle.
And then *(all humans) will be strong.
And then no other person will be subject to another's will.
And then all will be rich and varied.
And then all will share equally in the earth's abundance.
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old.
And then all will nourish the young.
And then all will cherish life's creatures.
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the earth.
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again. Amen.*

WOMEN'S GROUP BOOK SERIES

An opportunity to gather and discuss recently read books. A new book has been chosen for each month. **Third Fridays, monthly, at 3:30 PM, currently being held on Zoom until further notice.**

***Please note December 19 is multiplatform—Office Conference Room and via Zoom—THIS DATE ONLY.**

FRIDAYS	BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR	LEADER
September 19, 2025	<i>Liquid, Fragile, Perishable</i>	Carolyn Kuebler	Judie Gardner
October 17, 2025	<i>Long Island Compromise</i>	Taffy Brodesser-Akner	Patti Paris
November 21, 2025	<i>How to Read a Book</i>	Monica Wood	Lee Geisen
December 19, 2025*	<i>A Dream Life</i>	Claire Messud	Leona Handelman
January 16, 2026	<i>The Lion Women of Tehran</i>	Marjan Kamali	Judy Douenias
February 20, 2026	<i>My Friends</i>	Fredrik Backman	Patti Paris
March 20, 2026	<i>Dream State</i>	Eric Puchner	Maria Ceraulo
April 17, 2026	<i>The Lost Story</i>	Meg Shaffer	Patti Paris
May 15, 2026	<i>The Berry Pickers</i>	Amanda Peters	Lee Geisen
June 19, 2026	<i>The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post: a novel</i>	Alison Pataki	Palma Torrissi



MEETINGS & EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

ANNUAL FALL MEMBERSHIP DINNER

Saturday, October 4, 2025
6:00 PM

HOLIDAY DECORATING WITH RE AND OTHER GROUPS TBD

Sunday, December 14, 2025
12:30–2:00 PM

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BREAKFAST & WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 15, 2026
Breakfast: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Sunday, May 10, 2026
12:30 PM

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING & LUNCHEON

Sunday, June 28, 2026 12:30 PM

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

See Women's Group emails and *Quest* calendar for WG Board Meetings date and time.

ON-GOING PROGRAMS

FILM DISCUSSION SERIES

The idea of a film discussion series began during the height of the pandemic and the birth of the wonderful Zoom app. Many of us missed getting together in person and decided to watch a film that was on Netflix or Amazon prime. We select the films with input from attendees, watch it whenever it's convenient and discuss it on the third and fourth Friday of the month online. Films and Zoom link are posted in the *Quest*. Join us. Lee Geisen, Women's Film Discussion Facilitator

THANK GODDESS IT'S FRIDAY

We offer a wide range of fabulous Friday evening get-togethers focusing on spirituality, community, service, and women's issues. Enticing programs featuring stimulating activities 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!

DECEMBER HOLIDAY SALE—Sunday, December 7, 2025

Come browse at the Women's Group Annual Holiday sale to pick up an unexpected gift and benefit a local charity during the holiday season. We need your help! We are collecting costume jewelry, pocketbooks, scarves, pottery, children's clothing and toys, holiday decorations, kitchen utensils, and items once precious to us. Please place them on the designated cart next to Elaine's desk (next to the downstairs Conference Room) by Sunday, November 30. Thank you!

Women's Group also periodically offers a Saturday or Sunday program. Be sure to check the Quest or the UUCSR calendar for more information or for any changes in our schedule. Give your spirit a lift by attending one or all of our innovative programs.



CALENDAR EVENTS/MEETING 2025-2026

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 16, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, September 19, 2025	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, September 19, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Thursday, September 25, 2025	6:00 PM	League of Women Voters Candidate Night
Friday, September 26, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 4, 2025	6:00 PM	Women's Group Annual Fall Membership Dinner
Tuesday, October 7, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, October 17, 2025	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, October 17, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Tuesday, October 21, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Thursday, October 23, 2025	6:00 PM	League of Women Voters Candidate Forums
Friday, October 24, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 4, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, November 7, 2025	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, November 21, 2025	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, November 21, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Friday, November 28, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 2, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, December 5, 2025	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Sunday, December 7, 2025	9:00 AM	Women's Group December Holiday Sale
Saturday, December 13, 2025	11:00 AM	Cookie Baking and Arts & Crafts
Tuesday, December 16, 2025	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, December 19, 2025	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, December 19, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Friday, December 26, 2025	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

JANUARY

Friday, January 2, 2026	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Tuesday, January 6, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, January 16, 2026	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series

Friday, January 16, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Tuesday, January 20, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, January 23, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 3, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, February 6, 2026	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Tuesday, February 17, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, February 20, 2026	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, February 20, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Friday, February 27, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

MARCH

Tuesday, March 3, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, March 6, 2026	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Sunday, March 15, 2026	9:00 AM	WG Breakfast Celebrating Women's History Month
Tuesday, March 17, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, March 20, 2026	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, March 20, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Friday, March 27, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

APRIL

Friday, April 3, 2026	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, April 17, 2026	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, April 17, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Tuesday, April 21, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, April 24, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

MAY

Friday, May 1, 2026	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Sunday, May 10, 2026	12:30 PM	Mother's Day Luncheon
Friday, May 15, 2026	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, May 15, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, May 22, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion

JUNE

Tuesday, June 2, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, June 5, 2026	7:00 PM	Thank Goddess It's Friday
Tuesday, June 16, 2026	12:00 PM	Women Talk Daytime
Friday, June 19, 2026	3:30 PM	Women's Group Book Series
Friday, June 19, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Friday, June 26, 2026	7:00 PM	Women's Group Online Film Discussion
Sunday, June 28, 2026	12:30 PM	WG Annual Meeting & Election Luncheon

*See Women's Group emails and *Quest* calendar for Women's Group Board Meetings date and time.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Gravity is what keeps us on the ground. As our civil rights seem to rise up and disappear into thin air, many of us are finding difficulty with feeling grounded. Many find that it's a struggle to just hang on.

There are forces that help us hang on. As a former Science teacher, I keep returning to Newton's third law: for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Sometimes, it comforts me after a particularly devastating bit of news. For the beginning of another year for our Women's Group, I offer some examples of ways that so many are defying the gravity that threatens to sink our spirits and send us into despair.



Maria Ceraulo

The recent **Good Trouble** rally brought to mind some of John Lewis' words: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Never ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble. We will find a way to make a way out of no way."

Lots of us are making a way out of what appears to be no way. We need to defy the forces that make Planned Parenthood lose federal funds, jeopardizing their ability to operate. Two hundred health centers may close! In spite of this, they vow to continue. Truly, they and all the thousands they serve are hanging on.

The organization, **Pregnancy Justice**, is a force in the opposite direction. They successfully got charges dropped for a woman who had a miscarriage and faced felony charges. In another instance, a woman taking medication the doctor recommended faced child abuse charges. Another woman was charged with involuntary manslaughter after a stillbirth. We join them in the belief that every mother deserves dignity, support, and the right to parent without the fear of criminalization. At a time when pregnancy is even more dangerous in America, this organization is truly defying gravity.

A person defying gravity is Debra Lynch, a nurse practitioner who prescribes abortion pills. Her service is called: **Her Safe Harbor**. In spite of legal risks, she is prescribing and sending pills to patients in states with abortion bans. She moved to one of eight states that had the clearest protections. Her risks, however, pale by comparison to patients living in those states and needing an abortion.

In September, students in France will begin to have sex education in schools. They are defying the gravity that results in ignorance, unwanted pregnancies, sexual assault, etc. The people have waited for 25 years for this, having needed to sue the government for not implementing its own laws. Facing opposition from more than 100 Senators and continued lawsuits, it looks like it will finally happen this fall. They have definitely made a way out of no way.

Talk about hanging on, the thousands of women who are victims of domestic violence no longer have The Safe Center in Nassau County to provide counseling, advocacy, and legal services. Long ago, our own congregation funded this organization. After it closed in March, there was an investigation, revealing that there was no abuse of funds. Assurances have been made that no services have lapsed. We really hope that another shelter will soon do this work in Nassau County.

As the song goes, we're hanging on. We're hanging on with people and organizations that are defying gravity by possibly getting into good trouble and specifically supporting those who are doing the work. Our Women's Group has a long history of doing just that. Join us.

WRITE! EMAIL! CALL!

Shout your message for Equal Rights, Peace, Justice & Compassion!

New York State's U.S. Senators

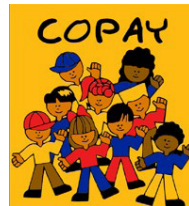
Senator Charles Schumer
313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
schumer.senate.gov

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
531 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510
gillibrand.senate.gov

Go to the League of Women Voters website www.lwvofnassaucounty.org
for elected official contact information.



YOUR YEARLY DUES SUPPORTED THESE NON-PROFITS IN 2024-2025



WOMEN'S GROUP MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026

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. 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
- Participate in programs to preserve natural resources and prevent climate change

Monthly WG activities include: TGIF programs, Book Series discussions, Women Talk Daytime meetings, Film Discussion Series, 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

Your Women's Group Membership includes:

- Center for the Women of New York
- National Organization for Women (NOW)
- Planned Parenthood

HOW TO JOIN WOMEN'S GROUP

Membership dues are \$30.

Please join on-line with a credit card at the following link: **WGFall25-26**

Or you can write a \$30 check, per person, payable to UUCSR and add Women's Group 25–26 Membership in the “memo” line. Your dues entitle you to a full year of membership—from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. 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: Elaine Corrao. 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 Elaine Corrao, Women's Group Committee Assistant, at 516.472.2933 or email ecorrao@uucsr.org

WE ARE GLAD YOU HAVE JOINED US!

OUR HISTORY

The first Meeting of Women's Group was held on January 16, 1963. It was held at the North Shore Unitarian Church, with forty-one 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).

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 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 featuring experiences related by our members as well as an additional service on reproductive justice. 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.

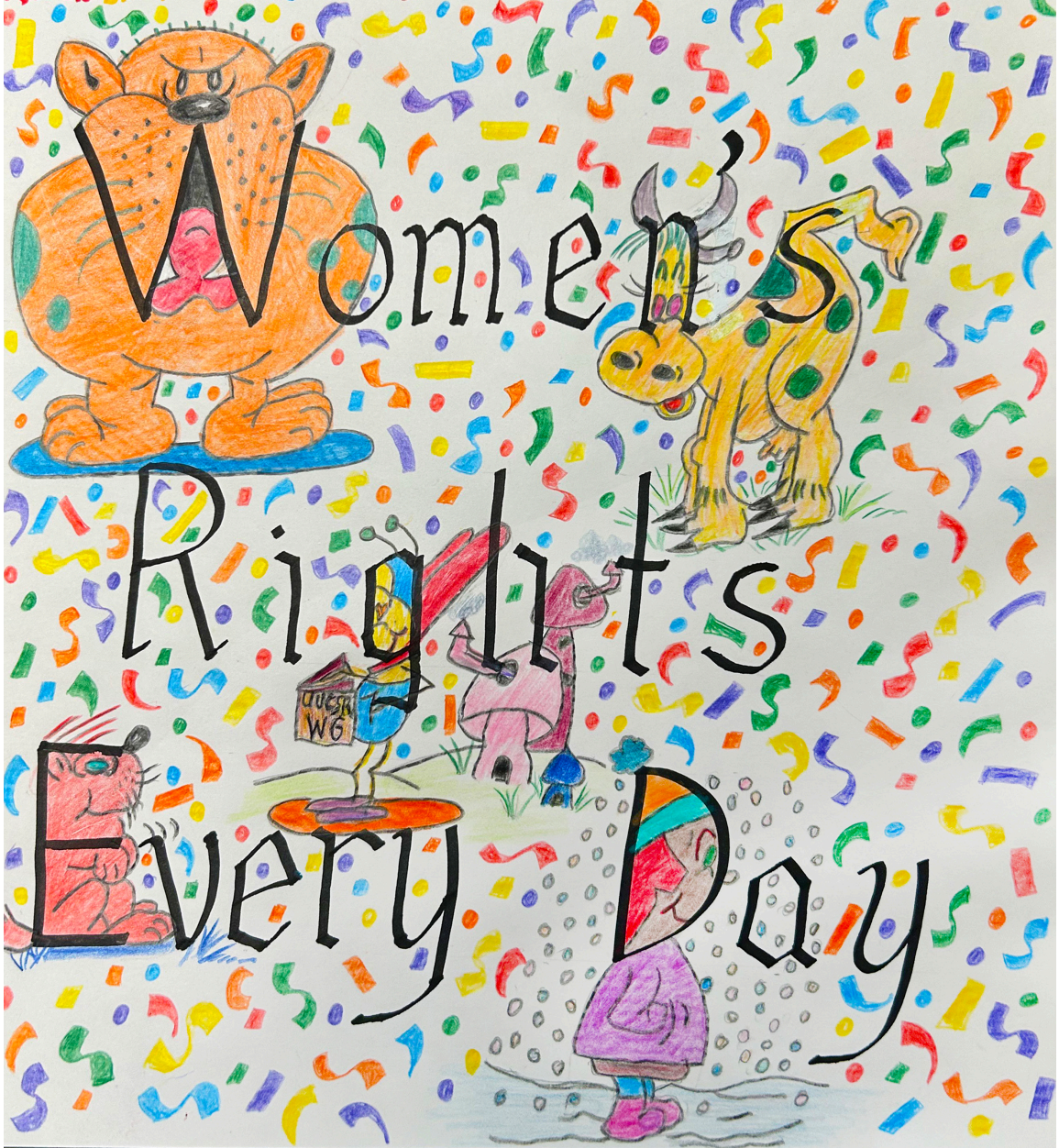
The Women's Group functions under its own Bylaws, but it is responsible to the Board of Trustees. It elects its own officers. Women's Group provides support for women in personal, spiritual and life transition issues, and sponsors educational and cultural programs to enrich women's lives. We are actively 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 and Film Discussion Groups, our TGIF Programs, as well as our Fall Membership Meeting, 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!

CELEBRATE



Defying Gravity

I am a feather, floating, tumbling, drifting through the air.
Defying gravity.
Forces that will bring me down.
Try as you will, throw life's burdens and circumstances, shoot your arrows
But I will not hit the ground.
Memories that cast shadows.
Time marches on, bringing wrinkles of age sketched into my brow
Pulling, pulling me down,
Telling me I've lost my crown.
I am a feather, light, but strong, lifted by angel's wings, guided by their beautiful song.
Embrace the current, my sisters
Accept the dips, they do not define you. They are only blips

Dreams may shatter, but tomorrow, the sun will rise.
Gravity cannot stop what is truly mine.
I am like the Phoenix
I will rise to the sky,
On high.
Drifting, dancing in the wind
Feathers don't die.
I am a feather, tiny but strong.
I am not as delicate as you think,
So don't get me wrong
I soar with each tomorrow, knowing I will win life's race
Defying gravity at my own pace.

by Regla WinterFlower Robinson

Harmony in Diversity

QUILT BY RENÉE SILVER



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation at Shelter Rock
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