

2020 MINISTRY TO WOMEN AWARD + LIZ FISHER'S RESPONSE



Worldwide the Butterfly is the quintessential symbol for transformation and rebirth. During this intense transformational moment of the Summer Solstice coupled with a solar eclipse and Venus rising as the Morning Star, plus a stellium of retrograde planets, it is my wish for us all that as we grapple with the many, many racial, social, economic, and environmental injustices currently tearing the fabric of society apart, that the lessons brought by Butterfly Spirit Guide help us on our path of transformation to a loving world. ~ Judith Shaw, June 24, 2020

This booklet is compiled by Elizabeth and Robert Fisher on the occasion of the UUWF Ministry To Women Award presented to Elizabeth Fisher and Rev. Marti Keller. Available in PDF. Contact erfisher@lmi.net or call 1-831-920-2731



Guan Yin, Goddess of Mercy

As a Bodhisattva of Compassion, Guanyin hears and answers the cries of all beings. Here shown with a noble dragon with 5 fingers/toes.

In the lands of the universe,
There is no place where she does not
manifest Herself.

Compassion wondrous as a great
cloud,

Pouring spiritual rain like nectar,
Quenching the flames of distress!

~~ quoted from *The Lotus Sutra* ~~



Hecate or Hekate is an ancient Greek goddess, shown holding a pair of torches and often depicted in triple form (*Hecate triformis*).

She is associated with boundaries, crossroads, entrance-ways, night, magic, witchcraft, knowledge of herbs and poisonous plants, ghosts, and sorcery.

In the post-Christian writings of the Chaldean Oracles (2nd–3rd century CE) she had authority over earth, sea, and sky, as well as a more universal role as the Cosmic World Soul.

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

*recognizes those significant contributions that extend and enhance our mission of
"advancing justice for women and girls, and promoting their spiritual growth."*

We therefore present the

Ministry to Women Award

to

Liz Fisher

In recognition of her exemplary and impactful leadership.

Elizabeth Fisher has studied the feminine divine throughout her life and around the world. Her curriculum, *Rise Up & Call Her Name*, a multicultural, multidimensional educational experience first published in 1995, continues to inform and influence us. Liz has worked as a tireless advocate for Women's Rights as Human Rights and the power of the Shared Leadership model to counter patriarchal, hierarchical societal norms.

We count her as an honored Foremother to UUWF and UU Women & Religion.



Presented June 24, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Sexton', written over a horizontal line.

Claire Sexton, UUWF Board President

**Traditional "Charge of
the Star Goddess"**

I who am the beauty of the green earth
and the white moon among the stars
and the mysteries of the waters,

I call upon your soul to arise and come unto me.
For I am the soul of nature that gives life to the universe.
From Me all things proceed and unto Me they must return.
Let My worship be in the heart that rejoices, for behold—
all acts of love and pleasure are My rituals.

Let there be beauty and strength, power and compassion,
honor and humility, mirth and reverence within you.

And you who seek to know Me, know that your
seeking and yearning will avail you not, unless
you know the Mystery:

for if that which you seek, you find not within yourself,
you will never find it without.

For behold, I have been with you from the
beginning, and I am that which
is attained at the end of desire.

Poem version by Starhawk

Liz Fisher's comments upon her receipt of the UUWF Ministry to Women Award–June, 2020

These two pages summarize my most important influences and beliefs. The eight pages entitled UU Women which follow this page expands on these.

Thanks to both of these women's organizations–UU Women & Religion and the UU Women's Federation–for granting me this prestigious award. I have participated in both of these organizations over several decades. They have provided many opportunities to interact about the powerful nature of the Great Goddess.

In 1993 Dorothy May Emerson edited a collection of Collegium Occasional Papers entitled ***Edge of the Wave: Great Goddess - Fact, Working Hypothesis, or Feminist Myth***. I wrote one of the essays. This collection fed the UU Feminist Spirituality movement. Simply put, many UUs see the Great Goddess as a cosmic connection among all beings. This of course was about the same time I was creating ***Rise Up & Call Her Name***. The power of the Female Divine for me could not be denied.

Briefly, I want to mention the trends in Unitarian Universalism that make me feel I am part of a network of caring, intelligent, social justice advocates who have crafted their own spiritual faith. We should be proud, not apologetic about this.

Lucile Longview was one of the early and most deeply committed feminist activists and a popular speaker on women's issues. She collected her talks and writings from 1980-2000 which Liz

curated into the *The Red Notebook* available on the internet

(<https://lucilesrednotebook.org/>) and available for viewing at the Schlesinger Library, Harvard, in Cambridge. Rosemary Matson was chair of the first UUWR Continental Committee from 1977-1980 and continued her activism in feminism for 35 yrs.

For me, **Feminism** is the equality of women and men and by equality I mean that each individual soul has their own uniqueness and their own right to express that. Feminism also demonstrates qualities of caring, sharing and interconnection which necessarily bring in all of the animals and plants and even the soil of the earth.



Liz Fisher, Lucile Longview, and Rosemary Matson (l-r) at a planning circle over lunch, 2000

Feminism is the uniting force among all of us who make up this beautiful planet. As feminists we form deep and abiding connections with all of these beings and with ourselves as well. This makes life so much more worth living.



Metaphysical viewpoints enjoy a healthy following also. These raise the issue of the relationship between Science and Religion. Can these co-exist and perhaps support one another?

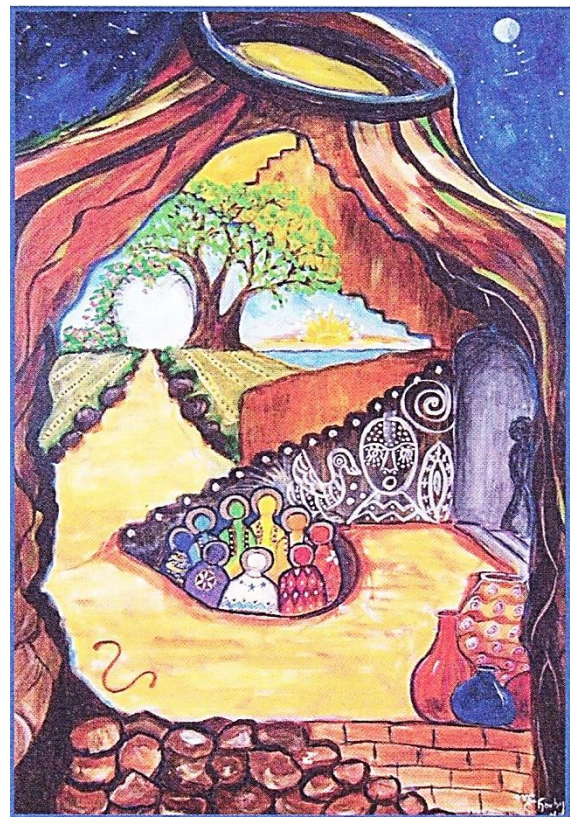
Anti-Racism has been at the center of progressive attitudes expressed on the earth. We realize that racism is not a valid concept. We need to understand, to accept and to value the differences among people. This reverses the damage done by the *melting pot* ideal designed to foster free thinking but which often created cultural amnesia instead.

Many of us have explored a variety of spiritual approaches that fall under “Shamanism.” **Paganism** and **Earth-based spiritual and philosophical beliefs** use some of these, which have ancient roots, focusing on the inter-related web of all existence. Interest both inside the Unitarian Universalist Movement and in other sectors in this viewpoint has increased as the environmental movement has grown.

Creative problem solving that supports the inherent worth and dignity of every person is the goal of **human rights advocacy**. I value human rights because of its liberal ideals and because this movement also believes in the sanctity of each person’s soul.

All of this calls in a **Touch of Magic** as we realize our own growth and evolutionary potential, finding each of our own individualities. Unitarian Universalism is a powerful support for this exploration, integration and Shared Participation.

In Sisterhood, Blessed Be, Liz



Into the Deep I Go ... (c) Maryruth Chorbajian 2011, from We'Moon 2020



Ministry to Women

2020

Elizabeth Fisher

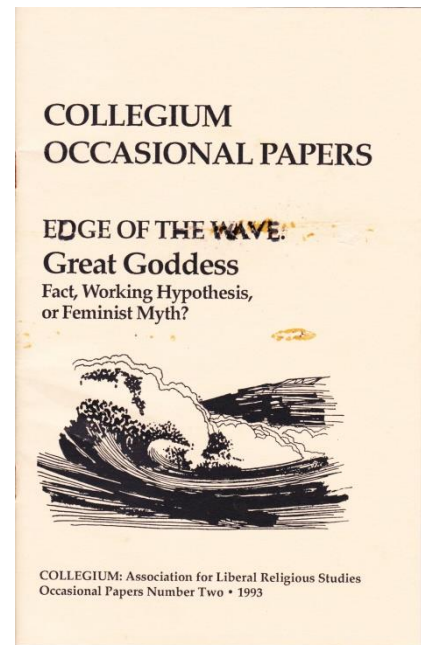
Rise Up and Call Her Name

Advocate for multicultural women's spirituality, women's rights, and the *Shared Leadership* model to counter patriarchal, hierarchical structures.

Liz Fisher's "Thank You" comments and reflections following her receipt of the Ministry to Women award, June 24, 2020

Thanks to both of these women's organizations—the UU Women & Religion and the UU Women's Federation—for selecting me as recipient of this important ***Ministry to Women*** award. I have participated in both of these organizations over several decades. They have provided numerous opportunities to interact with other group members about the powerful nature of the great Goddess. In 1993 Dorothy May Emerson edited a collection of Collegium Occasional Papers entitled ***Edge of the Wave: Great Goddess - Fact, Working Hypothesis, or Feminist Myth***. I wrote one of the essays "Weaving Strands into Whole Cloth."

This was about the same time I was creating ***Rise Up and Call Her Name***, finding so much about Women-honoring, Earth-based Traditions around the world. This collection fed the UU Feminist Spirituality movement. The power of the Female Divine for me could not be denied.



Simply put, many UUs see the Great Goddess as a cosmic connection among all beings.

Rise Up & Call Her Name: A Women-honoring Journey Into Global Earth-based Spiritualities was launched at UUA General Assembly in June 1994 after being tested by 35 groups who answered a questionnaire and provided feedback on the content and format. At GA, displays were set up, multi-cultural themed altars were created, and participatory and experiential sessions were held.



Briefly I want to mention the trends in Unitarian Universalism that make me feel I am part of a network of caring, intelligent, social justice advocates who have crafted their own spiritual faith. We should be proud, not apologetic about this.

Feminism Is the Uniting Force Among All of Us

For me, feminism is the equality of women and men. By equality I mean that each



In my study surrounded by artifacts, among these are Chagall's art and the picture of Lucile Longview, a great influence upon me. Her insight and intelligences were so sharp and informing.

individual soul has their own uniqueness and their own right to express that. Feminism also demonstrates qualities of caring, sharing and interconnection which necessarily links all of the animals and plants and even the soil of the earth. As feminists we form deep and abiding connections with all of these beings and with ourselves as well and this makes life worth living.



From January, 2015 to February 2018 Liz wrote a monthly column for [Nature's Path](http://www.riseupandcallhername.com) which was part of PATHEOS, the premier on-line destination to engage in the global dialogue about religion and spirituality. Each column weaves spiritual perspectives with pressing contemporary issues. Profusely illustrated and easy to read. Go to: www.riseupandcallhername.com



The Healers by Jen Delyth



Bev Allen, Liz Fisher and Meg Bowman at Pacific Central District W&R Retreat. Meg brought books, exciting fun (here a puppet) and a sense of history to the gatherings. (1990s)



Lucile Longview, one of the drafters of the Women & Religion Resolution in 1977, and Liz Fisher at Rosemary Matson's home around 1985, conferring about the future of the Women's Movement



Liz Fisher and Rosemary Matson at Rosemary's home in Carmel Valley, California 2012. As a proud Humanist, Rosemary was a constant ally.

The Great Goddess arrived in the 1980s at UU Women's gatherings and remains to this day

Shirley Ranck and Liz Fisher, June 1994, at UUA General Assembly, Ft. Worth, TX at the launch of the *Rise Up & Call Her Name* curriculum. Shirley Ranck is the author of *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, the first program published by the UUA which gave participants the opportunity to study spirituality cross-culturally. She deeply supported *Rise Up* and its broadly multicultural, rich visuals and variety of psychological and spiritual information and activities.



Rev. Shirley Ranck and Liz Fisher

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven and Rise Up & Call Her Name



This is the cover spine of the original *Rise Up*. The image "Africa: Maasai Spirit Quest" is by Betty LaDuke.

These two programs challenged hierarchical leadership but also introduced the Circle Model of group interaction, used in many Women's groups, both UU and across the nation. They cover history, global similarities and differences among cultures and how Western Cultures can better relate and co-exist peacefully. By hierarchal we often mean top down direction while shared leadership means collaboration, cooperation and creative alternatives. I received this award, in part, for the curriculum which was first released in 1995 and has been continually in use ever since. One of the facets of these courses is that they are experiential and participatory with the upshot of having fun. They are multidimensional and have aided many to resolve difficult personal dilemmas as well as have helped energize numerous congregations.



San Francisco Women & Religion Task Force that I first joined in 1983; Rev. Bill Schulz president of UUA attended our meeting and social hour once. He gave the keynote for the District in 1987 about "How Feminist Values Will Save the World."

Racism has been at the center of our anxieties

When we become aware of individuals with unique elements and opportunities, we realize that racism is not a valid concept. We need to understand, to accept and to value the differences among people. This does not mean just skin color or facial



Attendees of the 2016 Finding Our Way Home Retreat for Religious Professionals of Color

looks but it means the soul. As we interact with “different races” we find unique and amazing expressions

that come from each individual depending on

“their race.” By bringing these together we have formed ourselves as the human family that has so much richness and ability to trade and to enhance one another's expressions of self and what they can create and offer to the entire human race. For me, racism is one of the things that humans need very badly to eliminate from their existence.

Shared UUA Multicultural Leadership



Liz with Carol Walker, a leader of the Sojourner Truth congregation in Washington DC. Carol was a tester of the curriculum and provided invaluable critique at the early stages of development.

“Every person has value as a member of the human family. The suffering caused by racism must be ended if we want to create fair and loving communities. We work to end racial discrimination and in justice, starting within ourselves and moving out into the world around us. We support multiracial, multiethnic congregations and advocate for stopping racist policies like mass

imprisonment and attacks on voting rights. Our multicultural ministries will continue until there is peace, liberty, and justice for all.” (UUA Multi-cultural Leadership from UUA website.)



Rise Up & Call Her Name display at GA Ft Worth TX June 1994

Shared multi-cultural leadership reverses the damage done by the *melting pot* ideal designed to foster free thinking but which



often created cultural amnesia instead. Creative problem solving that supports the inherent worth and dignity of every person has been enhanced by the use of *Shared*



These shields were created by our group from Starr King School for the Ministry and Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley to take to Beijing China for the 4th World Conference on Women, September 1995.

Leadership. As a pro-feminist anti-racist, I value human rights which also believe in the sanctity of each person's soul and sharing each of their gifts, talents, and insights. The

curriculum I wrote with Linda McKay published by the UU Service Committee showcasing the UN Platform For Action was ***Gender Justice: Women's Rights are Human Rights***. Along with my life partner Bob Fisher we were Co-Regional Coordinators for the Service Committee for 3 years.

International Women's Movement



UN Women's Conference Logo

I learned so much when attending the United Nations Fourth World Conference in Beijing about the values of the individual and the need for cooperation among the broad range of interfaith people. The part I attended was more like a fair where women showed off what they were accomplishing in their homelands. It was enlightening and bonding to be with so many who were improving their home country situations. It enlarged and clarified my commitment to women's leadership.

See my Beijing slideshow at: www.riseupandcallhername.com



Broad View of Spiritual Outlooks

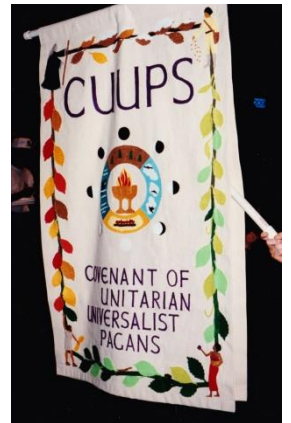
Metaphysical viewpoints enjoy a healthy following also. These raise for Unitarian Universalists the issue of the relationship between Science and Religion. Can these co-exist and perhaps support one another? An ongoing question.

Many of us have explored a variety of spiritual approaches that fall under “Shamanism.” These practices can play into a wide range of feelings and actions all designed to strengthen community



Liz at a sacred well fed by an underground spring

connections. Another important UU practice is Paganism and Earth-based spiritual and philosophical beliefs which focus on the interrelated web of all existence. They often tie to indigenous beliefs from a variety of groups. These have ancient roots. Interest both inside the UU Movement and in other sectors in this viewpoint has increased as the environmental movement has grown.



All of this calls in a Touch of Magic. I recall the importance of Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz because it's an image of a girl being self-assertive. We realize

our own growth and evolutionary potential, discovering each of our own individualities. UUism and the UU Women's Federation in particular is a powerful support for this exploration, direct participation and Shared Leadership.



Liz at the Wayfarer Seaside Chapel in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 2019

In this time of Women claiming their freedom and power we must use all of the tools we have, drop any fear society puts forth to intimidate us, and be joyful. The **Ministry to Women** award encourages my passion and commitment. I hope it does yours too since we are all doing the same important ministry to women, needed now more than ever.

All the best, in Sisterhood, Elizabeth Fisher





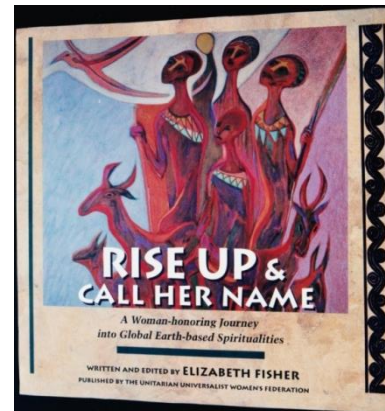
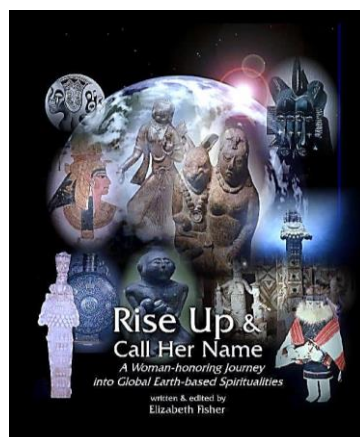
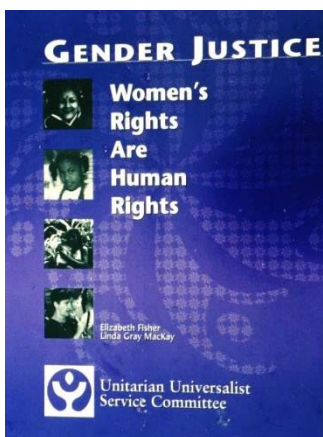

Ministry to Women

2020

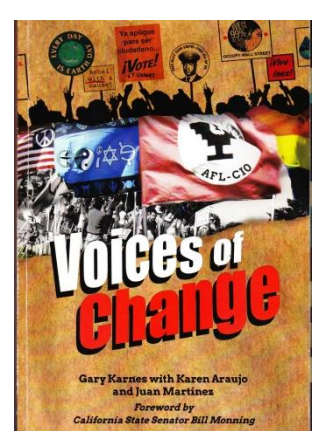
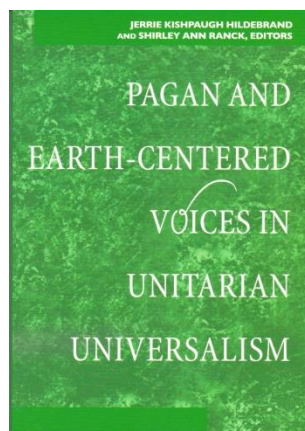
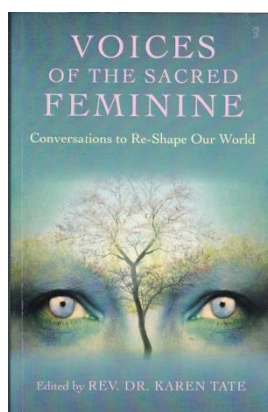
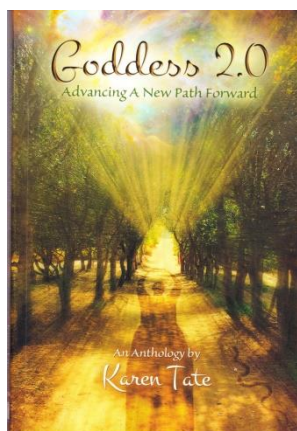
Elizabeth Fisher
Rise Up and Call Her Name
 Advocate for multicultural women's spirituality, women's rights, and the *Shared Leadership* model to counter patriarchal, hierarchical structures.

Rev. Marti Keller
 Working for women and children's causes; leadership at Planned Parenthood; combines social justice with the pastoral and spiritual; commitment to anti-racism and intersectionality in UUWF's approach to women's issues.

The Ministry to Women Award honors individuals or organizations that have ministered to women in an outstanding manner. The award recipient is selected by the UUWF Board of Trustees and the award is presented at General Assembly.



A sampling of publications with essays / articles by Liz





Presentation of the **Ministry to Women Award** to **Liz Fisher** and **Rev. Marti Keller**, who have long served our faith in their efforts and activism towards women's justice and nurturing women's spirituality, at the UU Women's Federation Annual Breakfast, June 24, 2020



Unitarian Universalist Women and Religion

A few thoughts from Liz Fisher about the UU Women's Movement



Liz Fisher at The Church of the Wayfarer, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, 2019



Liz Fisher at the Botanical Gardens, University of California, Berkeley, October, 2007 on her 60th birthday

As I look back over my 72+ years of life in this body I am amazed at all I have experienced, thought and felt. During my years from early 1980s to the present, Women and Religion has been my nourishment.

As Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826-1898) of the 19th century taught so well, the early societies that proceeded patriarchy have a profound message for us.

The purpose of Women and Religion is to *proclaim our ancestral stream of concern for fair, compassionate, kind, and most of all, mutually supportive inclinations*. This tendency is to be blended with the contemporary concerns of positive modeling of non-violent co-existence and protection of the natural world – plant, animal, stone and star.

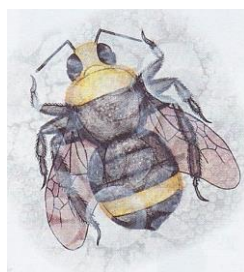
Gretchen Ohmann has been the network keeper linking several generations and many women, allowing all to find places in the web. Her generosity and response to my critical need is further proof of the real spirit – social, physical and group conferencing – I have always felt with Women and Religion. Welcome and Blessings to Twinkle, the new co-convener of UUWR with Gretchen and success with the Minerva Potlucks and the creation of an online gathering. Great Idea!

I have to call out Shirley Ranck – a role model for kind sustenance and stalwart holding of the message of this movement. She kept the light for all of us as well as others living and passed. A special thanks to Rosemary Matson, Lucile Longview, Caroline Finch, Emily Champagne and Meg Bowman who taught me that women's rights are human rights, as well as to Geri Kennedy and Barbara Schonborn for their uplifting attitudes.

There have been men throughout the years who have been sympathetic too, particularly my devoted partner, Robert Fisher, who has fully backed the W&R movement and been my chief promoter, and who so impeccably cared for me during my last months. We share the worldview of Taoism / Wabi Sabi that: “nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect.”

I have for some time been creating and sharing expressions of my observations, feelings, insights and wisdom. I have also published the efforts of others, especially in the *Rise Up* curriculum. I made available some of these at www.RiseUpandCallHerName.com. I believe the Universe has intelligence which is available and willing to participate in each of our adventures. It is called LOVE.

July, 2020 Pacific Grove, California



UUWF Ministry to Women 2020 Award

My Reactions and Feelings about the Honoring Service

Deep and heartfelt Thanks to those who planned and delivered the beautiful message. It means so much to me, especially at this time of turmoil on all levels in the world.

My commitment to the improvement of women's situation both within the UU churches and administration and the wider society has been the center of my group work, my individual search, and my advocacy. Enclosed is a booklet about the particulars of my work that justifies the award.

The activities I have done that explain my receiving the Ministry to Women 2020 Award are: authoring and editing *Rise Up & Call Her Name: A Woman-honoring Journey into Global Earth-based Spiritualities*; advocate for multicultural women's spirituality, women's rights, and the *Shared Leadership* model to counter patriarchal, hierarchical structures.

The second section of this book is the actual text of the various parts of the liturgy. It was a moving ceremony. I thank the UUWF Board for putting together the service and for Claire Sexton's generous presentation of the award. I am very grateful for your efforts. Here are my feelings during the ceremony and my response to the message and the elements.

Technically, I was surprised at how well Zoom worked. It was very effective. I felt like I was encircled and embraced. It was so nice to hear the toning and singing. I was extremely engaged by the circle of voices led by Gretchen—the toning and the raised hands in a gesture of blessing were most heartfelt.

The liturgy was beautiful. I have offered a few highlights on the reverse side. The emphasis on women claiming our voices was the message I want to hear. The more women claim their rightful place in society and use their voices to say what they believe and how they want to shape social relations, the more life on earth will improve.

Elizabeth Fisher, Author, Activist
"Devoted to the Values of the Great Goddess"

A decorative border of red ladybugs with black spots is arranged in a rectangular frame around the text. The ladybugs are positioned along the top, bottom, and sides of the page, creating a border that is approximately 20 ladybugs wide and 30 ladybugs high.

Highlights of the Service

Offered by Rev. Terry Cummigs: VOICES RISING FROM WITHIN THE SEA

Ritual and Reading for the UUWF Ministry to Women Award, 6-24-2020

Speaking of the two recipients, Liz Fisher and Marti Keller:

Who were these women, who stood up against the tide? They were the ones who worked for justice, for suffrage, for reproductive freedom, for marriage equality, for equal rights, for black and brown bodies. Liz and Marti are prominent among them.

Liz and Marti, we have heard you. We will ride on your shoulders. We form a circle around you to hold you in love.

You will never fall silent, because we will add our voices to yours.

Now back at the sea, the sacred water insured that the tide did not wash over all the shells, or dash them all on the rocks. The sacred water touched some of the hidden shells, so the silence was not complete.

We will continue your work within this faith we have chosen. The tide of injustice will founder on the rocks of progress that are your legacy.

May all who have gathered together, be forever held in grace and love.

Offered by Rev. Twinkle Marie Porter-Manning: PROPHETIC WOMEN'S BLESSING

Marti and Liz you are among the prophets who rose as the waters rose. Your work and your wisdom and your legacy shall live in sacred memory.

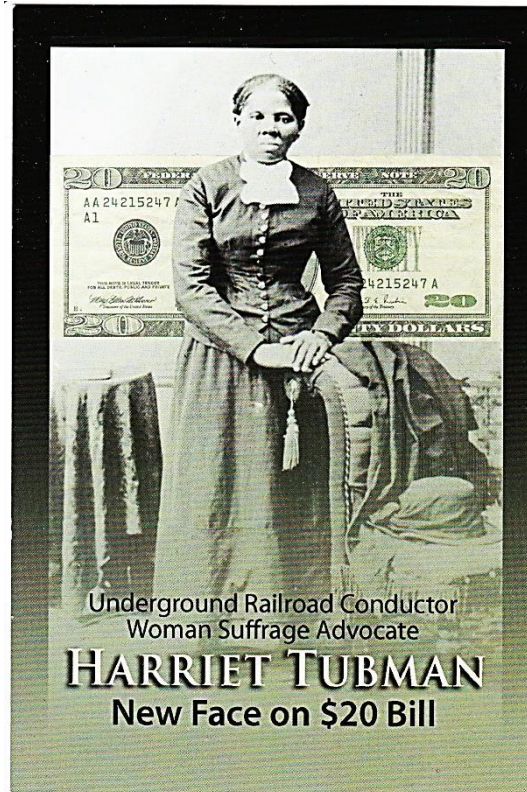
May we collectively uplift and support each other on our journeys.

May we continue to speak and to serve with prophetic wisdom.

May justice prevail.

May love reign.

And may we be blessed, ever as we continue to bless the world with our works.



*LITURGY FOR THE 2020 MINISTRY TO WOMEN
AWARD RITUAL*

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION
ANNUAL BREAKFAST, JUNE 24, 2020**

Sponsored also by Unitarian Universalist Women & Religion

Ghost Singer and The Speaker
Stoneware, Peter Jones © 1989



UUWF Breakfast

10 minute prelude w/music	VIDEO	Gretchen Ohmann
2 min - Chalice Lighting + Invocation/prayer	LIVE	April Rosario
2 min - Opening words	LIVE	Claire Sexton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of the Board + Staff• Key awards description		
2 min – Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley Award	LIVE / slides	Claire
10 min - Recognitions of, and Ritual for, Marti & Liz	LIVE	Claire
Ritual intro and Reading	LIVE	Rev. Terry Cummings
Toning – raising a circle of voices for Liz and Marti	LIVE	Gretchen
Blessing	LIVE	Rev. Twinkle Marie Porter Manning
1 min silence leading to a brief musical piece	VIDEO	Gretchen
2 min - Sermon Award intro	LIVE	Rev. Beth Dana
20 min – Sermon	VIDEO	Marta Varee Pearson
2 min intro to Q&A and what happens next	LIVE	Claire
ASK – Join / Donate to UUWF	VIDEO	Rev. Nancy Reid McKee
10 min - Q&A (put questions in chat)	LIVE	Claire & Beth w/ Marta
1 min - Closing words + 1 min - Closing prayer	LIVE	Terry
10 min - break out rooms	LIVE	Claire
People come back to main room		
1 min - thank yous	LIVE	Claire
Sing “How Could Anyone”	LIVE	Gretchen

Voices Rising from within the Sea, Rev. Terry Cummings,
Ritual and Reading for UUWF Ministry to Women Award
6-24-2020

And so, the waters that were brought from many places, that were mixed together and blessed, eventually returned to the sea.

It was the sea that carried those sacred waters until they washed ashore again, in foam and bubbles, carrying millions of tiny shells, rising, rising, opening up as if to speak, as the sanderlings and plovers dodged between the waves to find them.

The unseen shells are the women that were washed away by the hard waters that drowned their voices, leaving them broken and unheard. The shells appear to be miming words in the surf as pockets of air and sand open and close above them. Drowned out by the noise and a power not of their making or choosing, each tiny shell finds refuge among the grains of sand. The gulls, the terns, circle overhead, making sure they remain quietly out of sight.

Now back in the sea, the sacred water ensured that the tide did not wash over all the shells, or dash them all on the rocks. The sacred water touched some of the hidden shells, so the silence was not complete.

Some of the shells stood up before the tide and the hovering wings.

Who were these women, who stood up against the tide?
Who were these women, whose cries were louder than the seabirds?

They were the prophets who rose as the waters rose. They were the prophetic sisterhood who served on a frontier long ago, whose work and legacy lives on in sacred memory.

They were the ones who worked for justice, for suffrage, for reproductive freedom, for marriage equality, for equal rights, for black and brown lives.

They were, are, and will forever be the generations of prophetic women of Unitarian Universalism—the women who always do the work that is needed when no one else will do it. Women like Liz Fisher and Marti Keller.

Because of them, women's voices can sometimes be heard above the din.

As their time to return to the earth and sky draws near, we form a circle around two of them now. Now it is our turn to hold back the tide. To heed the prophetic voice that calls to us from within, to make sure our own voices are heard above the roar of the dangerous sea.

Liz and Marti, we have heard you. We will ride on your shoulders. We will follow your lead.

We form a circle around you now to hold you in love.

You will never fall silent, because we will add our voices to yours.

We will continue your work within this faith we have chosen. The tide of injustice will founder on the rocks of progress that are your legacy.

Closing Words & Prayer

Many of us know what it is like to feel the touch of hard wet sand by the ocean at low tide.

For those that have never experienced that, I'm going to ask you to imagine that you are traveling on a mixture of wet clay and mud. Firm enough to hold you up without sinking, yet soft enough that you leave a trail behind you as you go.

The sand is cool to the touch, and small pools of water lie here and there, fed by tiny streams of water. There are some stones, some half shells left scattered around, and here and there pieces of seaweed resembling overcooked collard greens.

Now imagine that you have traveled over the wet sand to the ocean's edge, it seems like 100 yards or more from where the waves of the ocean are licking at your feet, to the safety of the higher ground where the dry sandy beach rises from the sea.

As you look out to see you can see the horizon, where the sea ends, and the sky begins.

It is the dark hour before the dawn. You can feel the ocean breeze coming in off the sea. The tide is about to turn and come back in again. If you don't move back the water will start to cover you.

Slowly it gets lighter as the first rays of the dawn sunlight begin to appear above the horizon. The dawn is claiming the tide for its own. The light intensifies and the dark blue night gives way to the blue day.

The light reveals that there are objects being carried by the sea. A piece of a buoy that fell from a fishing boat. Pieces of driftwood from trees far afield. And some plastic bottles, abandoned who knows where to find their way here.

The buoy, the driftwood, the bottles, are the children who have no homes. The children who are hungry. The children who are abandoned.

As you move back from the incoming tide, the abandoned children of the ocean follow you on the crests of the rollers, the waves gathering energy as the rising tide is pulled by an invisible moon.

Eventually you are back at the rising sand again, the sand of the low tide is now covered again by the sea.

You make your way back up the sand, you turn your back to the sea, and your voice is joined by all of the other voices, male, and female, trans and non-binary, all sharing a moment of prayer and silence together.

I ask you now to join me in sharing that moment of meditation or prayer.

Great spirit, we who have spent this time together, lifting up the voices of women and woman-identified people in our Unitarian Universalist faith, we now give thanks.

We give thanks for this time to share, to learn, and to listen.

We are grateful for the prophetic voice of Mara Varee Pearson.

We are grateful that we can support the work of April Rosario.

We have been blessed by the lives of Liz Fisher and Rev. Marti Keller.

May all of them, and all who are gathered here, be forever held in grace and love.

As we depart from this gathering, we will take with us new connections, renewed faith, and firm courage to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

May our faith and courage guide us and sustain us, as we work for justice, fairness, and peace in our congregations, in our communities, and in our world.

May it be so. Amen.

Toning – raising a circle of voices for Liz and Marti

Note from Liz: I was extremely engaged by the circle of voices led by Gretchen – the toning and the raised hands in a gesture of blessing were most heartfelt. I was deeply touched.

Prophetic Women's Blessing

by Rev. "Twinkle" Marie Porter-Manning, Interfaith Minister & Co-convenor of UU Women & Religion

Marti and Liz, you are among the prophets who rose as the waters rose.
Your work and your wisdom and your legacy shall live in sacred memory.

We, and our daughters, and our daughters daughters for generations to come shall follow your lead, shall rise above the tide.

We shall bless your name and your work and hold sacred that which you have brought into being.

We thank you. We bless you. We are part of you. And you of us.

Woman.

Women. As we center back into this time, this place. Inhale and exhale.

Let us move our bodies, adjusting as needed, rolling our shoulders, tilting our head from side to side, planting our feet, stretching our fingers, feel back into our bodies. Inhale and exhale, fully.

Presence and present. Conscious and aware.

May we always remember to name and thank our feminine prophets.

And accept the torch, the cup and the mantle when it is passed to us.

May we ever claim our sacred right to be women.

May we intuitively identify with and pursue our unique divine callings.

May we collectively uplift and support each other on our journeys.

May we have the courage to face uncertainty with grace.

May we continue speak and to serve with prophetic wisdom.

May justice prevail.

*May **love** reign.*

And may we be blessed, even as we continue to bless the world with our works.

Amen and Blessed Be.

May it be so.



Written especially for Elizabeth Fisher and Rev. Marti Keller in a woman-honoring ceremony as they were presented with the **Ministry to Women Award** on June 24th, 2020 during the **UU Women's Federation** Annual Breakfast. May be shared freely with attribution to author. www.TwinklesPlace.org

The Five Virtues of Hecate...in Tarot

By Susa Morgan Black

I was intrigued by the Five Virtues of Hecate chosen by the members of the *Covenant of Hecate*. As a Tarot reader, I endeavored to find those virtues reflected in the Tarot (Smith-Waite deck). It is interesting to look into the Tarot and find reflections of Hecate in the Major Arcana. This is what I came up with:



Compassion

Compassion – III The Empress

“Compassion includes love – it is the agape of the Greeks, a fullsome, non-sexual love.” Sorita d'Este

Hecate rules three realms, Sky, Earth and Sea. Here, we see Her as a queen of the Earthly realm, with compassion for all living things. The Empress is the Queen of Queens, and thus, rules all four realms – Air, Fire, Water and Earth.

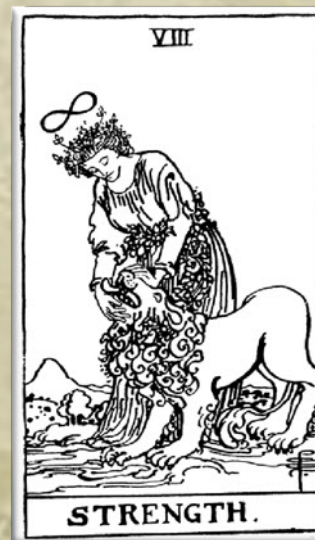


Courage

Courage – VIII Strength

“Courage (which used to be called Fortitude)” Sorita d'Este

Hecate is sometimes depicted with lions, or in lion form. Here, She displays Her courage by fearlessly, and lovingly, opening the lion's mouth.





Temperance

Temperance – XIV Temperance

“Temperance is what we call self-control and self-discipline today. It includes commitment, as a necessary element of self-discipline.” Sorita d'Este

Here we see the Archangel Michael, pouring the waters of life. And yet I can see Hecate, too, the ultimate alchemist, teaching her Devotees the elements of magic.



Justice

Justice – XI Justice

“Justice includes Truth, Integrity and Cosmic balance, as well as the narrower meaning of what is just and fair.” Sorita d'Este

One of Hecate's tools is the dagger (which can be a sword), used to cut through to the truth of the situation and bring integrity and balance. This is very much Her card.



Wisdom

Wisdom – V Hierophant

“Wisdom – this is the core of our work with Hecate. Its alternative name was Prudence (Prudentia) – the neo-platonists saw Wisdom as the highest virtue, the essence of all the others.” Sorita d'Este

I had difficulty choosing between the Hierophant and the High Priestess, but the crossed keys won me over. Here we see a figure who knows the secrets of the universe, and is willing to teach those who are dedicated to the truth.