

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Key Activities

- **Participated in [Read Aloud Day](#) at Beardsley School** with TUCW folks 10/19 This was the 32nd annual Read Aloud Day in Bridgeport.
 - **Preparation for Gallery Walk** 10/21 including reminder telephone calls to invitees/food/supplies/plans.
 - **Prepared and sent Thank You** e-mail including transcribed NOTES to participants in Gallery Walk.
 - **Preparation for Hosted Coffee Hour** (noon) Cancelled due to lack of participants.
 - **Local Elections November 7th** occupied a lot of my time the past couple of months. Our [library ballot initiative](#) passed despite opposition by Mayor Ganim and the DTC. Insurgent candidates also won election by large margins. A good day!
 - **Review and edit Minutes** from October BOT Meeting
 - **Worked at [Black Rock Food Pantry](#)** 11/4 prepared list of Top 25 Items Food Pantries Need Most for area organizations.
 - **Attended Voices Café** Brother Sun Concert 11/5.
 - **Registered for UUA New England Region Workshop [What We Sing is Who We Are](#)** at All Souls' UU Church in New London, CT 11/18.
 - **Prepared Agenda** for November BOT meeting. Researched Linkage policies.
 - **Participated in TUCW Women's Group** Brown Bag Lunch 11/12 and discussion of #MeToo concerns,
 - **Prepared materials, reports, packet items and education session** for November BOT Meeting.
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Board Reflections

We are nearing the mid-point in our Board year making good progress on our 3 goals for this transitional year in our new governance model: 1) revise and adopt Board-CEO Linkage Policies, prioritize Ends, adopt a monitoring calendar; 2) expand and enhance linkages with Moral Owners; and, 3) continue to write and revise governing policies. All good – perhaps because these were not really stretch goals.

The thing that concerns me most as I think about leaving Board service is that I know from experience the hardest part of transitioning to a new governance model is to keep it on the path to maturity and competency. The Board really must commit to continue education, practice and refinement of policies and practices for the health of the congregation and support of our Senior Minister and the staff.

We are a Board of only 9 and it has been a challenge to make sure everyone has the right amount of work to do. It is tempting to let some take on more projects than others (especially if she'll get them done the fastest) to ease up on others who may be struggling. But we have yet to devote a chunk of time to having the conversation about expectations of our Board as a whole as well as individuals. What should we do about the person who's great at saying no and the one who can't say no?

At our meeting in November I hope we can really dig into our Governance Practice Policies – they are the means we as a Board agree to – as we continue conversation with Rev. John on monitoring, specifically metrics and time frames. Let's do this! *Lynda*

In Memoriam

The Rev. Robert Nelson West, president of the UUA from 1969 to 1977 led the Association through its most tumultuous years, died September 27, 2017.

West averted a UUA bankruptcy dealing with a debt he didn't know about when he was running for office. He set and followed rules for a balanced and sustainable budget, made the drastic staff reductions that a balanced budget demanded, for calmed internal struggles in the Association, and left his successor a strengthened Association. He faced ferocious backlash from people angered by the staff reductions, and many black UUs felt betrayed by his proposal to change the timeline from four to five years for the distribution of \$1 million the 1968 General Assembly had [promised to the Black Affairs Council](#). Amid these internal challenges, he picked up the phone one day to learn that the Nixon administration was threatening him and the UUA because he had approved Beacon Press's publication of a book version of the [Pentagon Papers](#).

"What we do now would not be possible without Bob West's preservation of our Association," said former UUA President William G. Sinkford, because in the midst of all the turmoil he faced, Bob established the Office of Gay Concerns, authorized the UUA's first religious education curriculum on sexuality (precursor of OWL), and launched a newspaper that was sent free to all members of all UUA congregations with the aim of strengthening the new denomination through stories that all UUs shared – the UU World.