

*(I know you will agree that these women are inspiring and the article shows we have so much in common - Ed)*

Dear Joy,

Thank you for the league letters, and for publishing my letter in January/February 2017 League letter.

I would like to let you know that we the Unitarian Women in North East India have our own women league named Seng Kynthei Unitarian Union North East India (Women League Unitarian Union N.E. India). It was founded in 1980 and I was the secretary for 29 yrs. (1980-2009). I handed over the secretarial work to another of our members after the league was strong and healthy.



In case of finance, all the women's wing in all respective churches here in the north east of India contribute every year as much as we can. We have the Executive and Board meetings once a year during the annual conference. Our Women's league has different awareness programmes conducted in these rural areas relating to social life like Health, Education, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Violence, etc. We conduct awareness programmes in the villages especially, because most of our women do not know what to do. We have our own Doctors, Nurse and Educators and sometimes we invite experts from outside to help us. The government also helps us in giving medicines free of cost and sends their doctors to help us. It was a great help to our people, both Unitarians and Non-Unitarians.

Regarding my church, in Madan Laban Shillong, our women's league is very strong. We raise funds by conducting activities such as food fest, fete etc. We are going to celebrate the 125th birth Anniversary of the church and have already formed a celebration committee on how to celebrate it. But it was sad that within two months, i.e. in January and March we lost our strong leaders of our church. Anyway, we did not lose hope as the Youth members of the church are showing signs that they are able to fill the gap. We trust in God Almighty to help us

*I enjoy reading your league letters and I learn so much and it has helped me to run the women's wing in my church.*

Joy if it is possible, I would like to request you to publish regarding the women wing here, so that your women wings would know something about the Unitarian women in North East India.

Thanking You,

Love, Malti Rani

*The following article arrived too late to include in the last LL*

### **WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION (WAC-UNA)**

I have continued to attend WAC-UNA meetings which are held at the International Maritime Organisation, 4 Albert Embankment, London. The UNA-UK is run by a Board of Trustees. while WACUNA and UNA-UK branches are independent. They give inputs largely at biannual policy meetings.

The present Chairperson of WAC-UNA is Sally Spear, the Hon Secretary is Rubi Bhattacharyya and the Hon Treasurer is Judy Lever. Rubi visited India in May 2016 and July 2016. There she visited a school run by mothers who provide vocational training and use music therapy to bring out the best talent of the children. WAC-UNA's bank balance is £893.75. The talks at the meetings have been interesting. In February Amanda Owen spoke on women's health.

In June Suzanne Long, a WAC-UNA executive member, together with Francisco Yarmo of Action Aid and Barbara Cleary of UN Women led an interesting discussion about gender equality.

In November, Lesley Abdela MBE, (founder of the all-party '300 campaign' for women in politics), Dan Wheatly a sociologist and Laura Hart, outreach assistant for UNA-UK talked about peace and values. They stressed the need for women to be included in Peace and Development decision making.

In March, the subject was 'Africa, The Role of Women in Building a Peaceful and Secure Life for All'. The speakers were Marie-Lyse Numuhoza who spoke on behalf of Diaspora women, that is, women outside Africa and Rainaton Sow, Executive Director of 'Make Every Women Count'. She was concerned with African women in leadership roles and with the implementation of human rights for women in Africa.

The meetings are worthwhile and stimulating.

*Susan Wildman*

Women's League Representative to WAC-UNA  
May 2017