



Voices of Women

Newsletter of the UU Women's Connection

Summer/Fall 2010

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you...

We are ever grateful to the women's groups and congregations of the CMwD for their generosity and help when councilors meet to carry on the business of the UU Women's Connection. This Summer/Fall version of the VOW is no exception to our need to express gratitude all around the district. After all, our travels allow us to not only conduct the quarterly business of the Connection but give us an opportunity to "really hear" women's voices. Thank you first, to the Spring Conference planning committee from ALUUC in Springfield, Illinois: Meg Schnake, Brenda Wade,



Mindy Miller, Kelly Anderson, and Diana DeWeese. **Shown here with keynote, Teri! Freesmeyer, left, are Barbara Carraway and Pat Reed at the Saturday**

evening open mic. The wonderful, welcoming, relaxing weekend, June 4-6 at Pilgrim Park near Princeton, Illinois was so well received that participants asked for a "do-over" with Teri for the June 3-5, 2011. **Best comment about the weekend:** *I am leaving here knowing something about every woman here. Never before at many wonderful retreats has that ever happened.* Thank you so much to planners who took such good care of the many details of planning that made it an exceptional weekend of "radical hospitality" and downright good fun!

Quarterly meeting at Prairie U in Madison Wisconsin.



Thank you to Dorothy Krause of Prairie UU Society, to our home hospitality hosts and to Robin Proud, (Center of photo with councilors from left: Tori Kilhoffer, Diana

DeWeese, Cathy Kline and Pat Goller) whose Margaret Fuller impersonation, made Fuller's 200th birthday come alive on Sunday, May 23rd, Margaret Fuller's actual 200th birthday. On Saturday councilors visited First Unitarian Society in Madison for a Flower Communion service, and took an amazing hike around the capitol building to experience Madison Farmer's Market. Saturday evening council facilitated a Margaret Fuller Conversation Salon and on Sunday experienced the music, talent and heart of the small Prairie congregation.

Finally, we wish to thank our most recent (August 13-15) hosts at **First Unitarian Church of Alton, Illinois.** The Renegade Women's chalice group gave us meeting space, home hospitality, joined in our 10th Margaret Fuller Conversation in her 200th Anniversary year. Twenty plus women joined the circle and spoke their hearts and minds with us. The spectacular castle-like building, a converted and historic Catholic Church building steeped in history, mystery and beauty has been a high light of Council travel this year. Sunday sermon, "Eat, Pray, Love" delivered by Rev. Khleber Van Zandt after the weekend opening of the new movie with the same name was a special treat. The photo above is a random shot of one of the outstanding French stained glass windows of the Alton church. Council is especially grateful to Janice Joiner of the Renegade chalice group for her sponsorship.



2010 Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva We know you are wondering about the annual fall retreat on the shores of Lake Geneva. After many stops and starts, the Council is working, as we speak, on plans for this year's fall retreat and you can expect something great again this year. See page 2 for the story.

The blank page is only pretending to be blank. Everything that ever happened is hiding underneath it. -- Margaret Atwood

Fall Retreat: Pickin' up on "Good Vibrations"

When driving to Williams Bay on Lake Geneva for the 2009 fall retreat with new councilors, Debbie Czarnopys-White (DuBois, Illinois) and Cathy Kline (Carbondale, Illinois) our route took us through the town of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. (It is a pretty little town with interesting antique and art shops, restaurants and other sites...and the best vibrations.) We have never spent any time there because we are always in a hurry to get to the retreat center at Williams Bay or are on our way home on Sunday. The idea of venturing out to "see the sites" was born then and expanded into our "Good Vibrations" theme for 2010.

Everything has a vibration, even rocks, lake water, starry nights, forest habitat and well, shops in Lake Geneva. Don't forget, drumming, music, hugs, massage, starry sky, etc. Silence is also a vibration, as is making a joyful noise. Much healing can come if we set our personal intention to find and listen to these vibrations. We can raise our personal vibration given intention and using the tools offered at the Lake. It's about setting the *intention*. So, we join our sisters at George Williams/Aurora University Retreat Center at Williams Bay as we find our joyful, vibrational paths. Join us at Lake Geneva, November 5-7. Register early as we still have a very limited number of rooms. Private rooms are especially rare...so if you want the privacy return the registration quickly so you can be guaranteed the room you want along the Lake front. Brochures will be mailed the last week of September will also be posted on our website: www.uuwomensconnection.org

Where do you find the vibrations of your being? ... At water's edge or forest's mossy floor, in the immensity of the night sky or the whisper of fall breezes? Let religion be up to others...Faith is up to us. Come. Journey to yourself.

Spring Conference Reading Suggestions

<i>The Help</i>	Kathryn Stockett
<i>The Ringing Cedars of Russia</i>	Vladimir Megre
<i>Native Wisdom for White Minds</i>	Anne Wilson Schaeff
<i>A Woman's Guide to a Simpler Life</i>	Anne Wilson Schaeff
<i>Noah's Compass</i>	Ann Tyler
<i>The Namesake</i>	Jhumpa Lahiri
<i>The Overcoat and Other Short Stories</i>	Nikolai Gogol
<i>Sex Wars</i>	Marge Piercy
<i>A Revolution From Within</i>	Gloria Steinem
<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i>	Garth Stein

Women's Equality Day: Time for Constitutional Guarantee of Women's Rights

NOW press release:

August 26, 2010

As students return to school this week, many will open their history books to learn that 90 years ago today women were given the right to vote when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was signed into law. The history books will explain how this event began to radically transform the role of women in our society. Today, women have more opportunities than ever before. For the first time, more women attend and graduate college than men, and women now make up half the workforce. In recent years we have witnessed Nancy Pelosi become the first woman elected Speaker of the House of Representatives; we've seen Hillary Clinton come closer to winning a major party nomination for president of the United States than any woman before her; and now, for the first time, we have three sitting female U.S. Supreme Court justices. Despite these historic milestones, women are still denied the one thing that would make us truly equal to men -- equal protection of the law, which all men receive thanks to the 14th Amendment.

"When history books and the media celebrate women's successful fight for the right to vote, they often imply that women now have constitutional equality," says NOW President Terry O'Neill. "The fact is, sex discrimination against women is not unconstitutional, and statues prohibiting it have no constitutional foundation. It is time to write women into the Constitution by ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment."

The Equal Rights Amendment, or ERA, was drafted by suffragist leader Alice Paul and introduced in Congress in 1923 to fix the deficiency of the 14th Amendment by providing the constitutional foundation that women have equal protection under the law. The ERA passed Congress in 1972 but failed to be ratified by three-quarters of the state legislatures. Every year since 1982, the ERA has been reintroduced in Congress and repeatedly shot down. Opposition to it has been consistent and vitriolic.

"For far too long this nation has deprived women of a constitutional guarantee of equality," says O'Neill. "But our progress has clouded this fact. We must educate women that they do not have the same rights as men in this country. We must work together to re-ignite a movement of advocates who refuse to accept second-class status for women."

We can start by calling on our representatives at the state and federal level to advance the ERA. Last July, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) sponsored the reintroduction of the ERA, and more and more states are considering ratifying it. Women can do their part by voting in 2010. We must vote for candidates who believe that equality is a basic human right -- candidates who believe in reproductive freedom, who support equal rights for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgendered people, who are dedicated to eliminating racism and violence, who promote economic justice, and who believe that women must be included in the U.S. Constitution. Only then can we achieve equality for all.

Hello and Good bye.



Hello and welcome to new UU Women's Connection Councilor, Sage Hagy from North Shore Unitarian Church (NSUC) in Deerfield, Illinois. Sage, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist is also a seventh generation UU with roots traceable to Josiah Ballou. A ten year member of NSUC, she has been active on the Women's Committee, helped plan yearly NSUC retreats and women's breakfasts, co-led the planning committee for the UU Women's Connection 2007 Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva featuring Shelley Jackson Denham.

Sage has also served NSUC in other volunteer roles, including the Caring Committee, canvass and capital campaign committees, and regular ushering. She successfully recruited her husband, Jim into volunteer roles, most recently as the immediate past president of the Church. This spring, she accompanied Jim to China and London, where he designed and taught new law school programming for Beijing University and New York Law School. She is now experiencing her latest adventure, her first grandchild, Hazel, born August 12, 2010.



Good bye dear friend and fellow councilor, Janice Bailey, who after 30 years in Chicago has headed back home to her recently refurbished house in the Garden district of New Orleans, Louisiana.

About three years ago after she adopted three grandchildren and experienced many changes in her life, she began planning her trek home. A silversmith and jewelry artist, nothing could hold back this loving grandma and all have been thriving in a small condo with views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline.

In July after a detour through Springfield to see the Abraham Lincoln Museum and visit councilors, Diana and Pat, she moved on with cat and kids, car and the rest of her life in tow. She is settling into her home town. The kids are in school and music lessons, her large extended family lends support; there is a yard for play,

growing tomatoes and flowers and porch sittin' time to admire her newly painted cheerful yellow house. Years of planning and months of packing made her dream come true. Thank you, Janice for your four years of service to the Connection. We are sad that you are gone, but happy you realized this longtime dream.

Councilor Vision Quest. We haven't called it that in the past, but councilors have gathered yearly for a retreat since we adopted our new name and by laws. These weekends we are free to brainstorm about our volunteer work with the Connection in a different setting and without the need to carry on the ordinary Connection business that keeps us so busy during the year. We were fortunate to have an invitation by Shelley Jackson Denham to visit The Mountain Retreat Center near Highlands, NC when she keynoted our 2007 time at Lake Geneva. So over the Labor Day Holiday four councilors and one of our wise women, Claire Karcher of Beverly U in Chicago, IL will take a trek to The Mountain. We plan to "not plan" but to contemplate the future of the UU Women's Connection, the work of and with women and our personal place in it all.

If you think our work might interest you, consider a three year term or more. We travel around the district and have an opportunity to meet and get to know many UU women. No experience necessary!

Find out more. E-mail us with "Question?" in the subject. connections@uuwomensconnection.org

UU Women's Connection Council

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Contact any of the Councilors below by phone or e-mail: connection@uuwomensconnection.org



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time to renew your membership? *It is, if the date on your mailing label shows a date earlier than November, 2010. Include recent update below, make check payable to "UU Women's Connection" and send to treasurer, Nicole Nichols, 1461 Meadowside Dr. St Louis MO. 63146*

Individual memberships are \$10. Units of 10 women save with a free membership for the tenth name.

clip and mail.

Membership/Mailing List
Have you moved? Let us know so you won't miss a thing.
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
Phone: _____
E-MAIL: _____
CHURCH/ORGANIZATION: _____

2010 Connection Calendar

September 2-7..... Council Vision Quest and Retreat
The Mountain Retreat Center, Highlands, NC.

November 5-7.....Lake Geneva Fall Retreat
George Williams/Aurora Univ. Retreat Center,
Williams Bay, WI.

November 6.....4th Quarter Council/ 2010Annual
Meeting, Williams Bay, WI.

2011.....God willing and the creek don't rise!

TBA...2011 Quarterly meetings....How about hosting
us? Have programming, will travel.

June 3, 4, 5.....Spring Conference at Pilgrim Park,
Princeton, IL. **Back by popular demand keynote,
Teri! Freesmeyer.** All new program!

Check out the Connection blog: Pushing the Edge
www.uuwomensconnection.org