



Voices of Women

Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection Newsletter

Fall 2011



29th Annual Connection Fall Retreat

Register Today!

Breathe In and Relax!

Join your sisters on **October 21-22** at the edge of Lake Michigan in **Kenosha Wisconsin**.

Tailor the weekend to meet your own relaxation requirements!

Enjoy the blessings of Community, while experiencing the waterfront delights on the shores of Lake Michigan! Mediate upon the deep blue waters, walk the Labyrinth on the beach, and experience tranquility in the garden parks.

This Kenosha Retreat offers great opportunities for lodging on the shores of Lake Michigan, new inspiring workshops and relaxing strolls in an eclectic resort town. You are encouraged to stay at the Best Western Harborside Inn next to the Lake to receive the best rates for lodging. Call the hotel directly at 262-658-3281 to tell them you are with the Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection Fall Retreat and receive the reduced rate. The hotel provides breakfast, pool, hot tub and high speed internet.

Retreat activities include:

- Sacred movement -- Dances of Universal Peace, fun crafts, and low-impact water aerobics.
- Familiar and new vendors at the Drum Hut with a variety of wares of interest to women.
- Friday night in-gathering includes wine and cheese, and fun activities.
- Saturday morning Reverend Georgette Wonders of the Bradford Church UU www.bradforduu.org will give the retreat Keynote entitled "**She Who Is Not Busy!**" Reverend Wonders is an inspiring speaker who knows the importance of balance in our lives.
- Saturday afternoon great workshops cover a large spectrum of topics from hands-on crafts to various spiritual opportunities.

Saturday workshops will be held in the Bradford Community Church UU located in downtown Kenosha about two minutes by car from the conference hotel. For a full listing of all workshops see the UU Women's Connection website for the brochure and registration form at:

www.uuwomensconnection.org/retreat.php

-- Saturday and Sunday morning at Yoga & Friends Studio will offer yoga classes at a reduced rate of only \$6. (The Drum Hut and Yoga studio are conveniently located across the street from the hotel.)

SATURDAY ONLY participants -- Retreat check-in is at the hotel beginning at 8:30 AM Saturday morning.

-- Meals? The hotel provides breakfast and Kenosha has a number of reasonably priced and locally owned restaurants near the hotel!

Come early or stay late to visit the four great Museums located within blocks of the Retreat!

Chicago-Area Connection Council Summer Quarterly Meeting

The summer business meeting of the UU Women's Connection Council was cooperatively hosted by councilors from North Shore U, Deerfield, Illinois and Countryside UU, Palatine, Illinois. The visit took advantage of opportunities to visit the Chicago Art Institute, ride the Metra from the suburbs and experience first-hand the lives of Chicago-area councilors, Sage Hagy and Juli Cicarelli.



Photo right: Council chair, Diana DeWeese on the train ride to the suburbs discusses the 29th Fall Retreat. Councilor Nicole Nichols is right. **Photo above right:** Kathryn Hillyer, Countryside UU Church is an art teacher, who planned the tour for twenty seven women from both congregations and councilors. The theme of the tour was "Goddesses and Strong Women" displayed at the Art Institute. *Continued on page 2.*



Summer Council Meeting continued. Women looked at paintings and sculpture of women from Kali to Mary Magdalene. The group had fun exploring the museum with this specific theme; for many of us it tied into things we had learned in the *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* classes. After lunch at the museum it was a short Metra ride to Sage's home where Council convened business and enjoyed dinner prepared by our hostess.

A special thanks to Councilor, Juli Cicarell of Countryside UU who planned the weekend. Thanks, also, to Councilor, Sage Hagy and other women from both congregations who helped make our visit special.

Juli reports that Diana, who read the book, *Thunder Cakes*, to Countryside's children as part of the Religious Education program held at the same time as the adult service, "must have been a babushka in an earlier life." "Babushka" is Russian for Grandmother. Diana read the story in character and costume and kept the children's rapt attention. Not an easy task! Juli wonders, "Was she was an actor in an earlier life?"

Think Spring!
2012 Spring Conference
June 1-3, 2012



After a few years of hoping and planning some councilors finally will get their wish for a musical spring conference in 2012 with

Heartland Music Fest's creator/director, Indianapolis Women's Chorus' creator/director, and Summer Assembly's own fun choir leader, **Pam Blevins-Hinkle**.

Pam's fascination with the bridge that music can provide to help women find their "authentic voices" moves early stages of planning. ("Voice" doesn't have to mean "singing voice.") Don't miss this one. Mark your calendar for June 1-3, 2012.

Join us at Pilgrim Park Retreat Center near Princeton, IL for this laid-back, inexpensive retreat with its beautiful natural setting. For more information check our website and Face Book. connections@uuwomensconnection.org

Photo above: Pat Reed, (Morton Grove, IL) center, standing, with other 2011 Spring Conference participants in the Pilgrim Park Chapel.

Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry with your girlfriends.

--Laurie Kuslansky

Understanding Dances of Universal Peace

by Debbie Czarnopys-White



The Dances of Universal Peace are based on individual experience and not concepts or premises. We come to know for ourselves -- peace, joy, harmony and unity; to experience more of ourselves and more of others. The Dances of Universal Peace offer a safe way to be open with other people; creating trust on a deep level. The Dances of Universal Peace are healing and revitalizing. We feel more LIFE.

These are slow moving circular dances which all can learn. These simple dances, which can be great fun and yet profoundly moving, are inspired by the wisdom and sacred phrases of the worlds' spiritual traditions. Essentially they are a form of celebration and meditation through sacred sounds and devotional movements. Through dancing together in a circle and singing sacred phrases, we create an atmosphere of peace and unity.

"Words are not peace. Thoughts are not peace. Plans are not peace. Peace is fundamental...to all faiths, all religions, all spirituality."
 --Samuel L. Lewis.



2011 UU Women's Connection Council

Diana DeWeese, Chair.....	217-546-5834
Debbie Czarnopys-White, Vice Chair.....	618-787-2929
Tori Kilhoffer, Recorder.....	309-963-6090
Nichole Nichols, Treasurer.....	314-569-7103
Pat Goller, At Large.....	217-787-0687
Sage Hagy, At Large.....	847-498-9333
Juli Cicarelli, At large.....	847-797-0634
Peggy Patty, At large.....	217-636-8875

How Do We Grow the Connection's Resource Library? Shopping at GA, of course!

The Connection is expanding its lending and resource library. Any woman who wants to borrow a curricula or other resource below should request it at:

connections@uuwomensconnection.org

Diana DeWeese, who spent some quality time at General Assembly this year in Charlotte, NC shopping for new curricula and other resources for the Connection's growing resource library expanded the list of offerings. So if you are looking for a woman-centered program here are some of the gems she found at GA this summer:

The Goddess Diaries – a CD created by Carol Lee Campbell, the Diaries as an experiment after years of working as a women's advocate in the DC area. Inspired to produce a show about real women's lives she asked women in her community to write down their stories and then tied them together through a common thread: the agricultural seasons of the year. Borrowed from the ancient Western European calendar of equinoxes, solstices and cross-quarter days, each monologue represents a specific time in the growing/harvest season and each season becomes a metaphor for life events.

The Water Ritual by Carolyn McDade and Lucile Longview – the script for the original workshop service *Coming Home, Like Rivers to the Sea: A Woman's Ritual* – distributed at the 1997 General Assembly of the UUA in Phoenix, Arizona.

Return to Wholeness, The New Book of Crone Stones by Carol Lee Campbell. Accompanying the book is a set of crone stones created by the author.

Rise Up and Call Her Name a donation from Councilor, Juli Cicarelli, of the sourcebook for – a woman-honoring journey into Global Earth-based Spiritualities written and edited by Elizabeth Fisher. Juli also donated ***The Queen of Myself*** by Donna Henes

As mentioned in the Summer VOW, the Connection Resource Library also includes:

Unraveling the Gender Knot – Challenging the Systems that Binds Us – by Barbara Schonborn, Alison Campbell, and Rosemary Matson – a Study Guide for the book - ***The Gender Knot – Unraveling our Patriarchal Legacy*** by Allan G. Johnson, which can be purchased through the UUA Bookstore online. The course examines ways the patriarchal system in which we live affects girls and women, boys and men.

Becoming Women of Wisdom – Marking the Passages into the Crone Years – a curriculum in thirteen circles – by Melody Lee with Karen Edwards and Dorothy May Emerson. The curriculum is designed to prepare women to take on the important role of Wise Women in their communities.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Part 1 - In Ancient Times, and Part 2 - On The Threshold -- Rev. Shirley Ranck's popular women-centered religious education curriculum for adults and older youth. Revised in 2007.

Also worth mentioning from the resource library are two films:

Sisters of '77 – the film. Twenty thousand people from across the U.S. gathered in Houston, Texas on an historic weekend in November 1977 for the first federally funded National Women's Conference, aiming to end discrimination against women and promote equal rights. Notables were former first ladies Betty Ford and Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalyn Carter, and women of all ages, ethnicities, and political backgrounds. Combining footage of the conference and interviews with influential women's leaders such as Barbara Jordan, Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Eleanor Smeal, Ann Richards, and Coretta Scott King, ***Sisters of '77*** is a fascinating look at that pivotal weekend in 1977.

Iron Jawed Angels – Award winning film directed by Katja von Garnier, tells the inspiring true story behind the women's rights movement in America. Hilary Swank stars as Alice Paul, a fiery female who is determined to see the day when women are granted the right to vote. Paul's determination eventually helped to change the tide of history forever. Co-starring Angelica Huston, (as Carrie Chapman Catt) Frances O'Connor, Julia Ormond, and Molly Parker, the film is an engaging tribute to an oft-forgotten moment in American history.

Greening of UU Women's Connection.



Saving trees and more.

Thank you to the many members and friends who are helping us go green by subscribing to the Connection's new e-mail list serve, ***Voices of Women. (VOW)*** We still however, continue to send many "snail mail" brochures and newsletters in this time of ecological concerns and increasing postage. For information and an invitation to subscribe to the ***VOW*** list please make your request known to us by e-mailing:

connections@uuwomensconnection.org



Why not friend UU Women's Connection on Face Book?



UU Women's Connection

1331 W. Glenn Avenue

Springfield, Illinois 62704

www.uuwomensconnection.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time to renew your membership? *It is, if the date on your mailing label shows a date earlier than November 2011. Include recent update below and make check payable to "UU Women's Connection." Send to the Connection treasurer, Nicole Nichols, 1416 Meadowside Dr. St Louis MO 63146*

Have you moved? Changed e-mail addresses?

Let us know so you won't miss a thing?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

E-MAIL _____

Please send me an invitation to subscribe to the new VOW electronic list.

CHURCH/ORGANIZATION _____



"Get Connected" Calendar

- October 21-22 Fall Retreat in Kenosha, WI.
- November 4-6 Council Annual Retreat, Athens, IL.
- November 5 Connection Annual Meeting, Athens, IL.
- June 1-3, 2012 Spring Conference, Princeton, IL.



Want to renew your membership on line with Pay Pal? Watch for details on our website SOON.

www.uuwomensconnection.org

...one of the great modern dating sadnesses: everyone is so used to the comforting glow of the computer screen that no one can go so far as to say "good morning" in public without being liquored up.
— Amelia Gray, [AM/PM](#)