

Voice of Women

Winter 1996

Volume 18 Issue 1

A NOTE FROM CMD-UUWF PRESIDENT NANCY BABEL

The beautiful white flakes of snow are falling outside my window, and I am loving it. One of the special treats of living in the Midwest is that each season changes the landscape so that one time of year, and there are other things, like ice and bitterly cold winds, that make me glad to move on.

The new year brings the promise of winter gatherings, such as Womanspirit, that make this a very special month. This is one of the events I have not yet been able to personally attend, but that I continue to hear is one of the best activities going. Maybe I can go next year, but I will think of the time you who are there are having and still be glad that such good energy is being enjoyed and generated.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the fall conference at Lake Geneva, and it was wonderful. Rebecca Armstrong provided solid leadership throughout the weekend with her impressive presence, and call to honor ourselves as women and spiritual beings. The art activities were an ongoing beehive producing very happy campers who spontaneously would share their handbound books, or other nicely done gifts for themselves or others as we talked over lunch or in the dorm. A workshop on caring for family members with terminal illnesses provided a welcome opportunity for sharing personal struggles that we often don't bring up otherwise, and learning about resources or personal systems we've developed to handle the business end of the medical service experience.

A UUWF retreat is such a welcome break from the normal routine that each time I return I am blessed with a new faith that I can indeed handle whatever life brings my way, and that no matter how busy life is, if it is at all possible, attending Lake Geneva, Allerton, Camp Wyman, or any of the many places we get together as UU Women, is certainly well-worth the drive and the time away from home responsibilities. Every time I go to one of these events I meet someone else I never even knew before, and find some common thread of experience.

Which brings me to suggest, that there is another way to get to meet with other UU women, and that is to serve on the board, or help coordinate one of these fabulous conferences. That is what we will be doing on March 1 and 2. The board will be hosted by the women in Avon, Ill. for a meeting to conduct business, and to discuss plans for

Allerton '96 with Rossann Baker-Priestley, the coordinator.

If you have some ideas for us to consider for general business, or for Allerton, or if you would like to present a workshop or work in some other way on this event, please let one of us know. We are always glad to have new ideas

Enclosed in this newsletter is a survey. Please complete and return it, so that we can make our organization as representative of all members' interests as possible. I know, it's a chore, but we'd love to hear from you. Have a wonderful time this winter. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months. If there is something I told you I would do, and didn't yet, please call me at 314-567-3867, and tell me about it. I moved into a new apartment from my home after Allerton, and I am not fully on top of all the paperwork, but I want to be. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Nancy



FOLLOW-UP ON GIFTS

The Annual Meeting Highlights in the summer issue of VOW related some of the concerns about CMD_UUWF's philosophy/policy towards recipients of donations funded via our budget. The Board was charged to examine the questions raised at the Annual Meeting and make more information available to the Budget Committee finalizing the proposed budget at Allerton.

The first question raised concerned the proposed allocation to RCAR (Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights). First, what is the organization? Should we continue to support it? And some doubted that it still exists. Then, while on the topic, it was noted that the pro-choice point of view is under serious attack and our support is needed. This discussion led to a proposal to donate \$200 to Planned Parenthood.

An objection was raised about this, not because of the merit of the organization or its programs, but on principle. The argument is that, since CMD-UUWF's financial resources are limited, our funds should only be used to support programs, causes and operations that have UU control,



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sponsorship, or direct affiliation. This point of view holds that individual UUWF members can and should contribute to such "outside" charities and causes. On the other hand, many felt that the Planned Parenthood was a vital women's issue on which UUWF has long been in the forefront.

Finally, this same non-affiliation question was raised regarding our contribution to the Clara Barton Camp for Diabetic Girls. The establishment of our regular contribution dates back to the days when the camp was under Continental UUWF's direct control. However, it was noted that the same relationship no longer exists. (Follow -Up On Gifts, Cont. from the previous page)

What has the Board found out? First, the easiest to resolve was RCAR; it has been renamed. The new organization, to which we pay dues (the \$50 in the budget), is RCRR (Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights). As for the Clara Barton Camp, it is true that UUWF no longer directly controls its operations. The land, which includes the home of our Universalist foremother, Clara Barton, Still Belongs to the UUWF, but is leased long-term to the Clara Barton Diabetes Center, which runs the camp itself, with some Universalist trustees on its board. Of course, it's known that Planned Parenthood is a totally non-UU organization. But, it might be noted that UUA curricula such as AYS have made use of Planned Parenthood materials.

Your board would like to have your views on these matters. Please respond via the Membership Survey.



EARLY BIRD REMINDER!

Mark your calendar now! The 1996 CMD-UUWF Lake Geneva Retreat will be held Friday evening through Sunday noon, on November 1-3. A group from the Unity Temple UU Congregation in Oak Park is doing the planning. The theme will be **Women's Circles**. Those familiar with Christina Baldwin's *Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture* will recognize the concept.

Please note survey questionnaire concerning children at our retreats in this newsletter.

Your respond helps us plan accordingly.



UUWF-PRE-GA 96 in Indianapolis, June 20th will feature "Women of all ages". The intergenerational gathering will start with breakfast honoring all women. After breakfast, participants can choose to do facilitator training in "Rise Up and Call Her Name" or join a tour that includes Madam Walker's Museum, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and a stop at the Indi Speedway Museum. Watch the Communicator for registration or call Janet Nortsrom 414-964-3764



"RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME" TRAINING

The "Rise UP and CALL Her Name" training for those who want to facilitate the curriculum in their church is being offered March 22 and 23 1996 at UU Country Side Church, Palatine, IL. To register, write to Joanne Fought, 501 N Glenwood, Peoria, IL. 61606 (309-676-6849) or Janet Nortrom, 4332 N. Woodburn St., Shorewood, WI 53211 (414-964-3764). The \$35 cost includes handouts, lunch and snacks. Home hospitality is available.



REPORT ON THE BIENNIAL MEETING IN MINNEAPOLIS

The Biennial meeting in Minneapolis in Oct. 1995 had many CMD-UUWF women involved as participants and workshop leaders. The theme "Women Bringing Justice to the Work of Theology" attracted many of our CMD activists. Linda MacKay from our UUSC office presented a report on the Beijing Conference at a workshop titled "Women's Rights are Human Rights". One of the most well attended workshops at Biennial was titled "Promoting Our Family Values: Feminist Responses to the Radical Religious Right, presented by Bev. Meg Riley, Director of the UUA Office of Washington D.C.

This workshop was impetus for the formation of the new "UU's United for Diversity" a grassroots organization that is working to identify "Religious Right" infiltration into so much of our political and school systems. If you are interested in knowing more about "United for Diversity" there is a brochure included in this mailing.

THE FABRIC OF OUR LIVES

CMD-UUWF 1996 Allerton Conference
Sunday, June 9th through Tuesday, June 11th
at Allerton House, Monticello, Illinois

Come celebrate our rich intergenerational heritage with our keynote speaker and facilitator, Nancy Vedder-Shults, Ph. D., of Madison, WI, where she's taught Women's Studies at the University since 1975. Nancy is well known in UU circles as a recent recipient of the Feminist Theology Award. As musical consultant for the *Rise Up and Call Her Name* curriculum, she researched goddess chants from around the world. Her 1993 recording, *Chants for the Queen of Heaven*, is widely acclaimed and appreciated. Nancy's work, rooted in ritual, story and song, as well as in feminist theology and scholarship, serves as a firm foundation to lead us toward empowering ourselves as women in body, mind, spirit and emotions.

The quilt image will be used to draw together the many facets of our lives. Whether you are a mother-daughter team, an employee-employer team, a friendship team or an individual, there will be something for everyone as we address needs for

- **The Head** -- through book discussions *How to Make an American Quilt* by Whitney Otto and *The Stone Diaries*, by Carol Shields; through table topic discussions, thought-provoking speakers and workshops;
- **The Hand** -- through small quilting projects to work on during the conference and to take home;
- **The Heart** -- rejuvenating the spiritual beings within us by sharing stories of mother/daughter, grandmother, special persons/relationships and participating in worship services that blend the quilting theme with religion and spirituality.

As if this weren't enough, plans also include a staging of *Quilters*, the Hester Huff Award celebration, the best ever Silent Auction and enough TLC for everyone to last the year. Working with suggestions from past conferences we plan to

- provide a balance of personal renewal with social concerns
- bring back the concept of grouping by clans/circles/clusters
- hold a new participant orientation
- return to 9:00am workshops
- have a craft project that can even be worked on during business meetings.

BUT . . . for all of this to come about, we need your additional ideas and your participation. Does the preceding outline bring to mind a workshop you'd like to share? Would you like to participate in *Quilters*? Or, be hostess for a social event? To volunteer your ideas and/or yourself, please contact Rossann Baker-Priestley: 159 East Grove, Galesburg, Illinois 61401, or (309)343-2490.

Most of all, we need you! . . . And, don't forget to start putting aside items for the silent auction. Remember, in addition to all the usual variety of white elephants, we ask you to bring at least one nicer item for bidding. See you in June!

Hester Huff Roll of Recognition

Information

The Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation wishes to recognize an outstanding Unitarian Universalist lay woman for service in the Central Midwest District. To this end we establish the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition.

Nominations

Nominations may be made by individuals or UUWF units. These nominations throughout the year must be made in writing by May 15.

Committee

The current nominating committee making the final selection will be composed of the three most recent Hester Huff recipients. The Chair shall be the longest standing member of this Hester Huff nominating committee. The present CMD-UUWF Board members are exempt from this committee, but are responsible to find a replacement to act on the committee if a vacancy occurs. The award may not be given to any women currently serving on the selection committee or current CMD-UUWF Board members.

Job Description

The committee will solicit nominations from Central Midwest women's groups and individual Unitarian Universalist women. They will provide a nomination form. If the nominating committee chooses, they may notify the winner before the Allerton Conference. A letter will be sent by the committee to invite past Hester Huff recipients to the Allerton Conference.

Award

The recipient's name will be engraved on the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition plaque, the last recipient will have the new winner's name engraved. This plaque will remain into the recipient's possession for one year. The recipient will also be given a certificate of recognition made by the nominating committee. The presentation will be at the annual CMD-UUWF conference held at Allerton. The Committee keeps the Hester Huff sashes and sees that they are at Allerton each year. The Allerton Planning Committee appoints a group to be in charge of the reception or may choose to do it themselves, including table cloth, decoration, food, drinks, and corsages (optional).

Hester Huff Roll Of Recognition Nomination Form

Complete this form and send it to Pat Baker, 1528 Fontana Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146

Entries Must Be Postmarked By May 15.

1. Nominee: _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2. Church _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

Re-nomination: If complete materials have been submitted on a candidate, please re-nominate adding only current material. The committee will review the earlier material in the files.

Nomination Information

Number of years member of church: _____

Principal church activities or services: _____

CMD-UUWF activities or services: _____

UUWF or UUA Denominationally services or activities: _____

Community activities or services: _____

Personal or religious attitudes of nominee which support nomination: _____

Use additional page(s) or letter(s) to support nomination and attach as desired.

Should we include children at our women's retreats?

As we began planning the upcoming Fall 1996 CMD-UUWF Retreat at Lake Geneva, the Unity Temple Women's Connection also began a lively discussion on this issue. Even within our smallish planning circle, there is considerable diversity of opinion and a lot of questions.

Have we been avoiding an integral reality of our lives by excluding our kids? Have we been excluding some women who would like to participate by failing to offer childcare and/or children's programming?

On the other hand, can we indeed create the proper spirit of a retreat if our children are there? Is it possible to truly get away from it all (the goal of many women on retreat) if we are faced with the distractions of children, either our own or others'? Is it fair to the children to bring them to an adult-oriented event?

Practically speaking, do we have the money and energy to offer programming for a sufficiently wide age range? What age range should we cover? Who might be willing/able to provide childcare, at what cost? If children are included, do we schedule intergenerational activities? If programming and childcare are offered, should the additional cost be shared among all participants or should women who bring their children pay the significantly higher cost?

As we continue planning the Fall Retreat, the UTUUC Women's Connection would like to consider your thoughts and feelings on some of these questions. Please fill out the following brief survey and return it to Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Women's Connection, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60301.

For each statement below, please indicate your opinion by circling the appropriate number, 1 - 5.	Strongly Agree				Strongly Disagree	No Opinion / Does Not Apply
We should provide childcare and children's programming at the Lake Geneva retreat.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
We should provide either childcare or children's programming (<i>circle one</i>) at the retreat.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
We should allow women to bring their children, but childcare and/or kids' activities should be left up to them.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
We should exclude children from the retreat altogether.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I could not/would not attend the retreat unless I could bring my child(ren).	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I could/would attend the retreat without my child(ren), but I would prefer to bring them.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I would bring my child(ren) to the retreat.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I wouldn't plan to bring my child(ren), but it would be fine for others to bring theirs.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I would attend the retreat if children were present, but it would detract from the experience.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I would not attend the retreat if children were present.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
If childcare and/or children's programming are offered, we should all share in the added cost. I would be willing to pay an extra \$_____.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
If childcare and/or children's programming are offered, women who use them should pay for them.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
I am able and willing to offer a children's program. <i>If you circle 1, 2, or 3, please include your name, address, and telephone number:</i>	1	2	3	4	5	NA

My children's ages: _____
(Please circle those that might attend)

Suggestions for programs: _____

Comments, Questions, Suggestions, Relevant Experiences, etc. _____

Thank you for sharing your opinions!

MEMBER SURVEY

In response to the President's column:

1. What approaches would you like to take in the area of abortion rights, equal rights or other issues affecting women?
2. Are there concerns you would like to see us address at our conferences, by providing workshops, keynote speakers or opportunities for political involvement?
3. What are the three things you like best about being a member of this organization?
4. What has disappointed, bothered or unpleasantly surprised you as a participant in this organization?
5. Would you be interested in
 - a. ☐ Serving on the board?
 - b. ☐ Presenting at a conference? If yes, how?
 - c. ☐ Writing a column for the newsletter?
 - d. ☐ Helping with planning and organizing a conference?
 - e. ☐ Other (explain)

In response to the Follow-up on Gifts column in this month's VOW, we'd like to include your opinions on gift/contributions in our report at the 1996 Annual Meeting. This is one way to be heard, even if you can't get to Allerton. Feel free to add comments.

1. I believe CMD-UUWF should continue/discontinue supporting RCRC through its membership dues payment.
2. I believe CMD-UUWF should continue/discontinue support of the Clara Barton Camp for Diabetic Girls.
3. I believe CMD-UUWF should/ should not limit its contributions only to those programs, causes, organizations, etc. that are directly sponsored, controlled or affiliated with UU churches and/or groups.

Even if you can't reply by our next Board meeting (March 1 in Avon, Illinois), we'd like to hear from you. Please mail your opinions to our secretary, Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525 as soon as possible.

DUES/MAILING LABELS CHANGE OF ADDRESS

CMD-UUWF annual dues are \$5.00. They may be paid through your local unit or on registration at the Allerton Conference or the Lake Geneva Fall Retreat. Another option is for women to join as individual members. Note that the date at the upper right corner of your mailing label indicates when your next dues payment is expected.

WILL YOU/HAVE YOU MOVED? Don't miss a single issue of VOW or notice of women's programming. Also, please let us know if someone's name should be removed from our mailing list due to death, discontinued membership, or relocation. Thanks.

MEMBERSHIP/MAILING LIST UPDATE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH _____
GROUP _____

INDIVIDUAL DUES PAYMENT Y ____ N ____
(Send a \$5.00 check, made payable to CMD-UUWF, to treasurer Irene Sanderson, 5005 North Palisdes Road, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

ADDRESS CHANGE Y ____ N ____
EFFECTIVE DATE _____

(Send updates to Secretary, Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Editorial News

Welcome to the first issue of VOW prepared by Bette Rotert of the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois.

In this issue you'll find information about the 1996 Allerton Conference program, along with an application for scholarship/grant consideration.. The detailed Allerton brochure will be mailed in early spring.

You'll also find information about the Hester Huff Award to honor an outstanding UU woman. Do you have a candidate? If so, be sure to use the enclosed nomination form to let us know about her.

SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATION for the 1996 CMD-UUWF Allerton Conference

Four grants of up to \$125 are available.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

My need is _____

Mail completed application to registrar, Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525. Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 1996.

CMD-UUWF 1995-1996 Directory

President-Nancy Babel (314-567-3867) , 1218 Oxford Hill Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146
 Vice President-Susan Karcher (708-495-6061) , 1431 S. Lombard Ave., Lombard, IL 60148
 Secretary-Betty Jachim (708-784-0742) , 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525
 Treasurer- Irene Sanderson (414-964-5026) , 5005 N. Palisades Rd., Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
 Director- Helen Cadoret (314-725-1739) , 6363 Alamo, St. Louis, MO 63105
 Director-Janet R. Collins (314-225-4712) , 836 Potoison Dr., Manchester, MO 63021
 Director-Linda Johnston (309- 662-3188) , 2920 Capen Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704
 Director-Lucile Krug (414-962-1394) 2695 N. Whal Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211
 VOW Editor-Bette Rotert (847-362-1208) 30 Lindon Ln. , Vernon Hill, IL 60061
 Lake Geneva 1996 Chair-Rebecca Rose (309-343-2490) 159 E. Grove, Galesburg, IL 61401
 Women & Religion Chair-Helen Hughes (708-343-3478) 23500 Western Ave. Park Forest, IL 60466
 CMD Administrator-Helen Bishop (708-343-3478) 1701 S. First Ave. Suite 310, Maywood, IL 60153
 Continental UUWF
 Exec. Director-Mairi Meeks (617-742-2100) 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108
 President-Arlene Johnson, Tulsa, OK
 Liaison-Janet Norstrom (414-964-3764) 4332 N. Woodborn, Shorewood, WI 33211

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 2100 Half Day Road
 Deerfield, IL 60015

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