



Voices of Women

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Spring 2020

2020 UU Women's Connection Council

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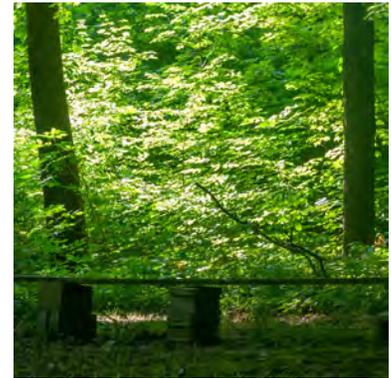
Recruiting for Councilors — let us know if you want to help with the work of connecting women across the District!

2020 UU Women's Connection Retreats

The UU Women's Connection Council made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Spring Retreat at Pilgrim Park because of COVID-19 and the uncertainty about group gatherings.

We continue to plan to hold an intimate weekend retreat in August at Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center, Watervliet, Michigan, and will notify you when registration is available.

This fall we are excited to return to the Dekoven Center in Racine, Wisconsin. Nan Lundeen, an award winning journalist from St. Joseph, Michigan, will be the keynote.



Woods at Ronora



In her keynote address, Nan will address our climate crisis through poems and essays and she will share photos of Mother Earth's stirring beauty. She will conduct a workshop on how to be effective advocates of Mother Earth. The nitty gritty of our workshop involves brainstorming, writing, and sharing pieces to advocate for Mother Earth. We may consider blog posts, letters to the editor, social media comments, scripts for short talks, and emails or scripts for phone calls to elected representatives. We'll look at basic structures for a variety of genres.

SISTERHOOD

Now is a very meaningful time to reach out to the sisters we've met on our retreats or maybe some back in our own congregation. Having received a call, card or email, I can share that it's been heartwarming and reminds me that we're not just connected at retreat times but all the time. It might be a good practice to continue after this period of separateness finally ends. If you have a retreat list of members, consider using that. If not, contact me and I'll try to help with a phone number or email address. This is what Sisterhood can be all about – please join me ladies and help enrich someone else's life as they enrich ours.

RECONNECTING WITH YOURSELF AND OTHERS

During our retreats, we often find ways to find our “inner child”. We now have the time as a special opportunity to do just that. Since I've been staying home more with my husband and his dementia, I'd already started looking for things to do that would “feed me”. While keeping a close eye on him, I can go through a book every day or two. I'm a fanatic fiction reader, as well as a nature lover, but I've been gravitating to the historical fiction type books of Julie Garwood, Christina Skye and the like. I've also gotten into paranormal and “other” books and was fortunate to find books offered on-line. A favorite site is <https://novels77.com>. Yep, found it for the first time yesterday and finished the book about 11:15 last night. I'm hooked! I'd also been hitting lots of used book sales and already have collections of authors like Robyn Carr, Heather Graham, Catherine Anderson, Elizabeth Lowell and, of course the all time fave, Nora Roberts. So between what I already have and finding some of the missing series' books on-line, looks like a big step forward in holding on to my sanity.

I can share that I've also heard from friends from the past via, text, phone, or email. These voices from the past become so much more meaningful and encourage me to do the same to/for others.

Other things to do:

- Find a finger labyrinth on-line and walk it with your fingers. It's a pretty rewarding self practice or you might want to invite others to do the same and just connect and share afterwards.
- Coloring or other crafting is always good.
- I like to play my Outlander CDs – VERY, VERY LOUDLY.
- For those who have musical instruments like Native American flutes, drums, rattles or other, pull them out and play them. It doesn't have to be for long periods of time, just a reconnection.
- This can be a special bonding time with animals. Of course, you'll probably spoil them and have to continue your spoiling after this period of distancing is over but that's not a bad thing anyway.
- Journaling – about gratitude, memories, plans for the future, whatever comes to mind.
- Cleaning house – This is NOT on my list of things to do but may be for some of you.

It could be an opportunity to finish that long-awaited project. As for me, back to reading!

Debbie Czarnopys-White

Notes from UU Women's Connection's Annual Meeting, December 15, 2019

The Officers for 2020 are Debbie Czarnopys-White (Chair), Kathy Salzano (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Miezio (Treasurer) and Pat Hyams (Secretary).

The 2020 budget was approved. The Council amended the proposed budget to remove the Social Action line, to add \$2000 to pay for technical support for the website, website registration and hosting and a \$600 line item was added to pay for advertising UUWC events. The Council agreed to review the financial status of UUWC at the 4th quarter meeting of 2020. If a surplus exists at that time, the Council members will continue with financial support of organizations that support women.

The Council set the 2020 Calendar for UU Women's Connection

- Spring Retreat – Pilgrim Park Camp and Conference Center, Princeton, IL, May 29 - 31, 2020
- Summer Retreat – Ronora Lodge & Retreat Center, Watervliet, MI, August 21-23, 2020
- Fall Retreat – DeKoven Center, Racine, WI, October 9-11, 2020

The Council set the Direction and Element that will be honored at the Spring and Fall Retreats:

- Spring, 2020 Pilgrim Park Spirit
- Fall, 2020 DeKoven Center Above and Below



Our New Council Woman! Janet Adams

Returning to the Council this year is our past Treasurer, Janet Adams.

I am both pleased and proud to have been asked to rejoin the UU Women's Connection Council after taking a year off as our by-laws require. Being retired it's nice to have something to do that is worthwhile and a joy. The group of women that make up the council are such a pleasure to work with even though that group changes almost every year. I look forward to once again serving you, the women of our region, not in the capacity of Treasurer as Kathleen is doing just fine in that position, but helping to plan and carry out our retreats and helping with any other tasks that need doing, such as updating our membership database. I'd also like to extend an invitation to any of you needing support or resources in these trying times to reach out to me or any of the Council Women. We will do our best to help you if we can. Our email addresses are on page one. Blessings to you all!"



UU Women's Connection

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2020 "Get Connected" Calendar

August 21 - 23`Summer Retreat
Ronora Lodge, Watervliet, MI

October 9 - 11.....Fall Retreat
DeKoven Center, Racine, WI