



# Voices of Women

## 2008 Spring Conference June 6-8, 2008 Pilgrim Park, Princeton, Illinois

To respect all humanity and the interdependent web is a powerful principle to believe in as UU women. It is one of many principles that we will draw on at the June 6-8, 2008 Spring Retreat in Princeton, Illinois when we gather to explore the themes of **Peace, Sustainability and Environmental Justice** in our lives. We will also explore how UU's are leaders in the global environmental fight to save the planet. Our **key note speaker, Rev. Clare Butterfield, of Faith in Place**, will discuss how her organization works to fulfill its mission to "give religious people the tools to become good stewards of the earth with two great responsibilities common to all faiths: to love one another and to care for Creation."

We know that many women also keep coming back year after year to this retreat to reconnect with old friends and unwind. The quiet and serene grounds of **Pilgrim Park** provide for plenty of opportunity for meditation and reflection, nature hikes, rest and relaxation. The planning committee has also been busy planning plenty of fun social activities for the weekend to help you find creative ways to spend time with friends and meet new people. For those who are looking for a unique challenge, we will be offering an afternoon workshop out on the Pilgrim Park "High Ropes" course this year.

Stay tuned for more details on more exciting opportunities and other workshops. Also look for a call for workshop presenters in mid-February. Applications will be made available on the [uuwomensconnection.org](http://uuwomensconnection.org) website and will be due by May 1. If you have any questions or want to get involved in planning the retreat, contact Patricia Nolan [swimchick72@yahoo.com](mailto:swimchick72@yahoo.com)

*We'll always have Allerton...well, as long as it is held in the hearts, memories and the stories of our organization. We gather in April to celebrate, not only the times at Allerton, but to celebrate 50 years of the continuing, cutting-edge women's programming that it represents. Come. Add a story to the book of memories, as Doris Jones does in this issue. For Allerton Flyer and registration information see pages 4 or 5.*

*The 2008 Spring Conference (successor to Allerton) planning committee will distribute its brochure in April.*

## What about Membership?

- **How much does membership cost?**

Your tax-deductible sustaining membership dues for an individual is \$10 for one year. For 2008, however, there is a special unit rate, which is \$8 per person for 8 or more memberships mailed in together.



- **What do I get for my membership?**

You receive our quarterly newsletter, *Voices of Women*, retreat brochures, UU Women's Connection program mailings, and the priceless satisfaction, which comes from supporting other UU women in our district through scholarships, grants, and programming. Additionally, you pool your resources with other women in the Central Midwest District to support organizations like the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC) in Missouri and Illinois, The Clara Barton Washington Internship for Women.

- **What's the advantage of joining as a unit now?**

If 8 or more women from one congregation send their membership dues in together, the cost of membership is reduced to \$8 per person. **"Eight for eight in '08!"**

- **What if I don't join?**

You may certainly take advantage of UU Women's Connection programs but, sustaining membership dues and scholarship donations keep the UU Women's Connection active and accessible. Retreat registrations pay for retreats, but membership dues pay for scholarships, grants, women's programming, and charitable contributions. In 2007, UU Women's Connection contributed (Continued page two)

2008 only

(**Membership**, continued) \$200 each to the Illinois and Missouri Religious Coalitions for Reproductive Choice (RCRC), \$400 to the UU Service Committee (UUSC), \$200 to the UU Women's Federation (UUWF) Margaret Fuller Grant Program, and \$1000 to the Clara Barton Washington Internship for Women. Sustaining membership dues help continue the UU Women's Connection support of these important causes.

--Cheryl Springwood

### UU Women's Connection Governing Council Contact List

Janice Bailey  
2801 S. King Dr., Ste. 1807  
Chicago, IL 60616  
312-842-0182  
[jjbsilverandmore@yahoo.com](mailto:jjbsilverandmore@yahoo.com)

Diana DeWeese (Treasurer)  
716 S. Douglas  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-546-5834  
[KiDi71@aol.com](mailto:KiDi71@aol.com)

Jennifer Evans (Chair)  
531 N. Woodbine  
Oak Park, IL 60302  
708-386-1840  
[Jenniferevans1@comcast.net](mailto:Jenniferevans1@comcast.net)

Pat Goller VOW Editor, Web Weaver  
1331 W. Glenn Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-787-0687  
[patrandy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patrandy@sbcglobal.net)

Kathy Kline  
2480 W. Main St.  
Decatur, IL 62522  
217-428-1807  
[kkline@insightbb.com](mailto:kkline@insightbb.com)

Patricia Nolan  
1763 S. Alta Dr.  
Lockport, Illinois 60411  
815-838-4195  
[swimchick72@yahoo.com](mailto:swimchick72@yahoo.com)

Cheryl Springwood (Vice Chair)  
1208 S. Broadway  
Normal, IL 61761  
309-454-9453  
[cspringwood@yahoo.com](mailto:cspringwood@yahoo.com)

***First Quarter Council meeting and a Margaret Fuller Conversation Salon will be held at the Hinsdale Illinois UU Church on March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. For information about attendance or to give input into the work of the UU Women's Connection contact any Councilwoman above or email the Connection at:***

***[connections@uuwomensconnection.org](mailto:connections@uuwomensconnection.org)***

***Thank you to Ruth Davis and also to her daughter, Emeline Davis, who recently made a donation to our organization in her mother's memory. Ruth was remembered on her passing in last summer and in recent VOWs as the 1982 Hester Huff recipient and board president from 1991-1993. Her daughter, remembering Ruth's fondness for Allerton, asked that the \$500 gift be used at Allerton or its successor.***

***Pen Pal Program*** Thanks to Emily Meter of North Shore UU in Deerfield Illinois who during the planning of the 2007 Lake Geneva Fall Retreat spent some time on the phone connecting with members on the mailing list who have special membership designations, "HH", "CBS" and **Acronym?** below.)

Emily was curious about the member designations on the list and made a call to become reacquainted with a friend of her mother's for whom Emily babysat in the 1950s and 1960s. Diana Banta (LG registrar) overheard the conversation and suggested the pen pals project.

Laurels to both Emily and Diane for this outstanding idea and its introduction at 2007 Lake Geneva fall retreat. To receive the name and contact information of one of these designees contact us: [connections@uuwomensconnection.org](mailto:connections@uuwomensconnection.org) Contacts are made through snail mail, email or phone. Choose what works best for you and your pen pal.

### **What's in an Acronym?**

**Betty Jachim , Unity UU, Oak Park, Illinois**

Seeing **CBS** beside a member's name doesn't mean she's a TV reporter/agent. It means her UU women's group has honored her with enrollment in the Clara Barton Sisterhood, named after our Universalist foremother and founder of the Red Cross. This special designation is open to UU women 80 or older. For more details and/or an enrollment form, go to [www.uuwf.org](http://www.uuwf.org)

Another symbol, **HH**, is used for recipients of the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition, which was established to commemorate the exemplary role model who served as registrar and coordinator of the first of several Allerton Conferences. Till 1998, one of the highlights of the annual Allerton Conference was recognition of a district UU woman for her service to our organization, her church and community. Her name was added to the honor plaque, which she was entitled to keep until the following year's recipient was named. Interestingly, one year's recipient was a group, Chicago's Third Unitarian Alliance, whose women stayed together though their congregation split.

Finally, the **LIFE** title indicates a person who supports the UUWF organization with a single minimum contribution, which confers life membership. The UU Women's Connection continues to honor and thank these women with complimentary copies of all our newsletters.

**In Memory of Lorraine Bays Weber**, who passed away in January 2008. Lorraine, a member of the Champaign-Urbana Illinois UU Church, was official pianist at Allerton for many years. She attended most every Allerton Institute and served as an organist for the C-U Church at times. She was a grand lady and will be missed. Here Doris Jones of the C-U congregation and Allerton regular reminisces about Lorraine:

*She could play any popular (or religious) song that you mentioned and would sit at the piano and play without music for a sing-along late into the night most years. She also played for worship services. One year I remember that a huge thunderstorm knocked down large trees in the park all around us after dinner. She asked me to gather everyone in the library where we lit candles and sang around the piano for over an hour before the power came back on. Some of the ladies were very nervous to say the least and lined up one by one to use the only phone to call their hubbies or significant others. Those were the days before computers or cell phones. Lorraine was crowned Miss Allerton and was a Hester Huff recipient.*

## Historical Highlights: VOW's 40 Years.

### 2000-2008: Making History.

Pat Goller, VOW Editor

This is the final Historical Highlights column. I have to admit that I am relieved. 40 years of *Voices of Women* produced at a pretty constant rate of at least two per year, and more as time went on, condensed into four columns is difficult at best. With the good reportage all those years aside, I still recognize that these VOW's do not tell the complete story. People do. I have extrapolated these historical highlights from 2000-2008 VOW's and my own 13 years experience as retreat planner, UUWF board member, Task Force Co-convenor, as *Ad hoc* council member and, finally, as the UU Women's Connection Council Chair for the founding year of incorporation in 2006. I feel almost too close to it all to write these. What follows is one story -- mine -- with a major attempt at brevity. (Not one of my long suits)

The last VOW Historical Highlights column had 2000 President *pro temp* (and VP) Jeanne Fitch (Bloomington-Normal, Illinois) appealing for a president to step forward. In late 2000 Joanne Fought was convinced to complete the final year of the term. It was term number three for Joanne, (1987-1991) but who better to lead the organization through the agonizing decision to leave and begin looking for a site to replace the beloved Allerton venue where our history began 50 years ago this year.

In 2003 outgoing UUWF board president Karen Tajbl charged a newly formed task force to meet the desires of membership related to structure and organization and to deal with the crisis in leadership. By the July 2003 task force meeting it was clear that, though some changes were needed, the astounding consensus was to continue and to develop a plan to work with three focuses. Sue Thom, task force recorder, reported these crucial areas as: *Structure, Communication and Programming*. It is important to note that wonderful programming continued at the Lake Geneva Fall Retreats and the Spring Conferences during this period. The task force, *ad hoc* Council and, finally, our reorganized UU Women's Connection -- with its council form of governance relying on consensus and shared leadership, new bylaws, incorporation as a Non-profit 501 (c) (3) -- accomplished its work.

I will leave out the details of a seven year search for a new "Allerton" Spring Conference location, the two years of bylaws rewriting, non-profit incorporation, revision of the retreat guidelines, search for leadership at council level and enlistment of conference planning committees. One exciting new endeavor during this time, a granted program called "Peace Works for All" birthed our present grants program. Other goals since our first official meeting have been set, are in process or have been reached in this, the Connection's third year.

By the Summer 2003 VOW the task force set a course to work with structure, communication and programming and to develop and distribute a questionnaire asking members to prioritize areas of need. It was no surprise that the item of prime importance was "Continuing retreats." Even some members who couldn't attend the two annual conferences wished to continue supporting the idea of women getting together at accessible, affordable retreats. "*We know the value of nourishing our spirits, our bodies, our souls and our minds. We enjoy—we need—being together with like-minded women!*"

Joanne Fought notified membership in 2000 of the decision to leave Allerton with these words: *I know that loving memories, beautiful spaces, life-time friendships and lasting traditions are part of Allerton, but they remain intact, although the lovely buildings, spectacular grounds and accommodating staff will be missed. We need to grieve, but also carry the caring, fun-loving best features that were part of the Allerton time to our new location.* I think I am beginning to understand the importance of the Allerton idea.

Now coming full circle as we return to Monticello to celebrate our history with pride and look again to a bright future during and after the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, it is worth mentioning our continued support of the Continental UUWF through annual gifts to the Clara Barton Washington Internship for Women and use and promotion of various other UUWF programs

In the Spring 2005 VOW the *ad hoc* council of seven set about to *renew the organizational vision and present recommendations at the 2005 Annual meeting in June* with the following requirements for inclusion: *Continued inspirational, accessible, affordable retreats and conferences, additional educational activities, continued gift giving for worthwhile causes and continued support for scholarships and grants.* A new name was recommended, "UU Women's Connection of the Central Midwest District" and after a bylaws rewrite, a myriad of applications, federal and state, the first Council meeting of the UU Women's Connection convened in January 2006. That, as they say, is history.

Won't you consider being a part of this developing story through your membership, leadership, program planning, contributions to VOW, and/or website work. Let's make more history together. If you have a story you would like to share, please send it to:

[communications@uuwomensconnections.org](mailto:communications@uuwomensconnections.org).

# Celebration

1958-2008

# 50th Anniversary!

Join us for a one-time event at the Robert Allerton Mansion and Park to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the inception of the **Allerton Institute!**

- ❖ Discover for yourself the “Allerton Experience”
- ❖ Reunite with enduring friends
- ❖ Reminisce and reconnect
- ❖ Make new friends
- ❖ Wander the beautifully landscaped grounds

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** we will gather at the Robert Allerton Mansion, near Monticello, Illinois, beginning at 4:00. The evening will include creating music, connecting with women from across the Central Midwest District, enjoying a delicious dinner, sharing memories, engaging discussions, discovering the lovely grounds of Allerton Park, and playing board games with girlfriends late into the night. Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> will begin with breakfast or perhaps an early walk, some coffee and companionship. We will worship together and celebrate being in this place at this time in our lives! After lunch, inspiring folk singer **Pat York** will provide our keynote entertainment. We will bring our new memories with us when we part company at 3:30 Sunday afternoon.

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## Honorary Planning Committee...

Sandy Drenth  
Joanne Fought  
Bonnie Gudat  
Betty Jachim  
Doris Jones  
Doris Knight  
Janet Nortrom  
Bonnie Olson  
Rosemary Sammons  
Mary Lou Steadman  
Clarise Jefferson

To give your input to planning  
contact: Kathy Kline, Chair  
[kkline@insightbb.com](mailto:kkline@insightbb.com)



## Register Now...

Generous contributions by members of the UU Women's Connection have enabled us to reduce the cost of registration for this celebration to **\$20!** We hope this generosity, combined with four scholarships, will allow more women to attend this special celebration! Register by the deadline: **March 20, 2008.**

Also available: **Sunday Only** participation option for worship, gourmet lunch, snacks and special musical performance by Pat York, Carbondale Illinois UU Church.

[www.patyorkmusic.com](http://www.patyorkmusic.com)

ALLERTON 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - - APRIL 19-20, 2008  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_ GRANT REQUEST? \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DAY/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DAY/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUNDAY-ONLY PARTICIPANT FEE**

\$58 includes usage fee, snacks and lunch.

**SUNDAY "Take Home" BOX SUPPER**

Add \$15

**ROOM/BOARD**

Private Bath / Single Occupancy - \$198

Shared Bath / Single Occupancy - \$180

Private Bath / Double Occupancy - \$180

Shared Bath / Double Occupancy - \$168

**Roommate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10 UUWC MEMBERSHIP DUES/RENEWAL**

(New member or if renewal date is 04/08 or earlier)

**HOW MUCH SHALL I SEND?**

REGISTRATION: \_\_\_\_\_ \$20

SUNDAY-ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY "Take Home" Box Supper: \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM/BOARD: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP/DUES: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to UU Women's Connection*

**OTHER NEEDS/REQUESTS** (We will try to do our best to accommodate. Please note: There are 3 first-floor rooms in the Mansion. They will be filled on a first-come basis. Others with mobility or stamina concerns will be located in accessible accommodations.)

Steps are a problem \_\_\_\_\_ Mobility/stamina problems \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary concerns/restrictions \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian meals preferred \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list type.)

**SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATION**

The UU Women's Connection budget funds four grants of up to \$100 each. *Note: On-site child care is not available, though nursing babies are welcome.* **Applications must be postmarked by March 20th.** You'll get an answer to your request within 10 days.

My need is \_\_\_\_\_

My home church/group will provide \_\_\_\_\_

I would like UU Women's Connection to provide \_\_\_\_\_

**Send form, fees to treasurer, Diana DeWeese, 716 S. Douglas Ave, Springfield, IL 62704 by March 20.**

*(Full refund if cancelled **before** March 20th deadline.)*

You'll receive a confirmation letter and map. Questions?

Contact Pat Goller at 217-787-0687 or email: [connections@uuwomensconnection.org](mailto:connections@uuwomensconnection.org)

UU Women's Connection  
c/o Pat Goller  
1331 W. Glenn Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

[www.uuwomensconnection.org](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org)

**Return Service Requested**

**Allerton 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration flyer and registration form is enclosed.**

*Come. Come, whoever you are.  
Stranger, worshipper, lover of leaving,  
It doesn't matter.  
Ours is no caravan of despair.  
Come, even if you have broken your vow  
a thousand times. Come.  
--Rumi, 13<sup>th</sup> Century Sufi poet of love*

**Is it time to renew membership dues/support?**

It is, if your mailing label shows a date earlier than 2/08.  
Be sure to include a check for \$10 payable to the UU Women's Connection. (Or join with a unit. See details inside)

Send updates and checks to UU Connection Treasurer, Diana DeWeese, 716 South Douglas Ave. Springfield, Illinois 62704

**Membership/Mailing List Update**

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH/GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

***Your sustaining membership support makes UU Women's Connection programs possible.***

**2008 Calendar**

March 15-16 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr, Council Meeting & Margaret Fuller Conversation Salon Hinsdale Illinois UU Church  
April 19-20 Allerton 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
April 26 Begin *Cakes* Train-the-Trainer (T3)\*\* Workshops at CMwD Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri  
June 6-8 2008 Spring Conference Pilgrim Park, Princeton, Illinois  
June 14 *Cakes*T3 Workshop Berrien UU Fellowship St. Joseph Michigan  
November 6-8 Lake Geneva Fall Conference Geo Williams/Aurora Retreat Center Williams Bay, Wisconsin  
November 15 *Cakes* T3, Peoria Illinois UU Church  
TBA 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Council Meeting (Apr-Jun)  
TBA 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Council Meeting (July-Sept)  
TBA 2008 Annual Meeting/Council Retreat, 7 Circles Heritage Center Edwards, Illinois

\*\* Full *Cakes* T3 calendar will be available soon at our website: [www.uuwomensconnection.org](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org)