

# VOICE OF WOMEN



CMD-  
UUWF

SPRING 1987  
VOL. 9  
ISSUE 3

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here it comes...my last message through V.O.W. as your U.U.W.F. District president. I want to say all sorts of appropriate things, but some way "Thank you for everything," "It's been a peak experience for me," "Good wishes to you all," etc. etc., just don't cover it. So you will have to substitute whatever you feel I should be saying.. whatever you come up with will be "right" for you.

You've shared a mighty busy time in my life, and I hope the U.U.W.F. has sustained you as much as it has me. Each of you will have had your own special memories of our U.U. women's organization. Of one thing I am sure, those special memories will be warming and sustaining in a way that no other memories can be.

This is enough time spent in looking back-- now is the time to turn toward our future. Now we need to think about our direction for the next few years.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| June 5,6,7        | Allerton Conference<br>Monticello, IL.  |
| June 22-27        | General Assembly<br>Little Rock AR.   |
| July 11-18        | Midwest Leadership<br>School, Beloit, WI.                                     |
| September 19      | RE District Conference  |
| October 3         | Philosophest, Deerfield   |
| October 17        | CMD District Conference<br>"Conflict Management Im<br>the Local Congregation" |
| November 6-9      | CMD Annual Meeting<br>Evanston, IL.   |
| November 13,14,15 | Annual CMD-UUWF Fall<br>Conference, Lake Geneva, WI.                          |

## REMINDER

The Hester Huff Role of Recognition nominations are due May 15th. Check the Winter edition of V.O.W. for the nomination form.

## GOOD-BYE

This is the last edition of V.O.W. that Susan Karcher and Gail Perr will be producing and editing. Susan has been a part of the staff for seven years and Gail for five. We have enjoyed doing V.O.W. and wish the new staff, whoever it may be, Gook Luck!





Pres. report cont.

Like it or not, we must be sure that our women's federation is heading in a direction of our choosing. It takes tremendous time, thought, and energy to plan and execute a program for our diverse membership.

"Strength through diversity" is a cliché in U.U. circles-- and we believe it to be a cornerstone on which our religious life rests. But saying the words is only the tiniest beginning. Living that concept is another matter, entirely. The next time someone comes up with an idea that is totally new to you-- or one that you have resisted for many years, check your tolerance for diversity.

Whatever your response, it may well indicate how dedicated you are to diversity. Possibly there is good reason for a given response. But be sure to consider all available evidence before your decision is made.

The path towards "strength through diversity" is narrow and frequently treacherous. But it is also rewarding. The company you will meet is usually stimulating. The views opened to you are often rewarding, and the freedom that you will claim as your own will be forever prized.



I want you to know that I will welcome the opportunity of being "just a regular member" of C.M.D.-U.U.W.F. There are many rewards in serving on our board-- make no mistake about that. I will miss having the excitement of our meetings, and the diversity of our various board members. Their enthusiasm and loyalty will never be forgotten.

With new members joining the board roster, and with your new president's creative leadership, great things lie ahead for our district U.U.W.F.. Be aware, as we plan, that we are laying the foundation for the 21st century. We will have spanned parts of 3 centuries. Our beginnings have been recognized as pioneering in the women's movement. The 1900's were a time of stabilization and growth.

Today, as a new century beckons, we need once again to carefully check our direction. Too much frenzied activity will deplete energies; too little challenge will sap our enthusiasm. Either state can stunt effectiveness.

With these things in mind, let us join hands and greet our future. The theme of this year's Allerton program sums it up for me: "Come on in, the water's fine."

Affectionately,

Marion Y. Baker





COME ON IN! THE WATER'S FINE

ALLERTON CONFERENCE

JUNE 5-7, 1987

Mail to: Bonnie Olson 1091 Kinmonth Dr. Joliet, IL 60433

Enclosed check for \$15.00 (registration fee).

Payable to CMD-UUWF Due Date MAY 26, 1987

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

1. Personal preferences: Please check

\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_ Other dietary restrictions  
\_\_\_ Non-Smoking \_\_\_ Smoking

2. Roommate preferences: \_\_\_\_\_

3. This is my \_\_\_\_\_ time attending an Allerton Conference.

4. Please indicate your room preference:

\_\_\_ Single in Main House (3 available) \_\_\_ Double in Evergreen Lodge  
\_\_\_ Double in Main House \_\_\_ Double in Gate House  
\_\_\_ Triple or more in Main House \_\_\_ Quadruple in Gate House

5. \_\_\_ Unit member \_\_\_ Individual member



## Keynote

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Trust, Dare and Be is the theme of CMD-UUA District Executive Denise Tracy's speech at the CMD-UUWF Allerton Conference. Taken from a quote by William Ellery Channing:

"Trust, dare and be; infinite good is ready for your asking; seek and find. All that you can claim or need is that you should become, in fact, your highest self, fulfill, then you ideal."

The keynote address will focus on how we as contemporary women with our various beliefs, styles of living and skills can fulfill our ideals and ourselves. When transcendentalist Margaret Fuller heard William Ellery Channing's works she became a living soul and a citizen of the world.

## Workshops

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Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, an 1985 long-run bestseller is out as a Fawcett Crest paperback. The tale is narrated by Offred, a woman swept up in a theocratic coup in the late 1980's. She is a Handmaid (a la Genesis 30:1-3). Why? Many factors (pollution, nuclear accidents, devastating venereal diseases) have caused a fertility crisis in the Republic of Gilead and she's been designated a national resource as a proven breeder. As the story unfolds, we learn of the rigid class structure based on sex and function, color-coded to emphasize each role. Each category has its pluses and minuses. The story is a straightforward blend of recollections, musings and the details of her daily life as the Handmaid Offred, literally "of Fred," the Commander to whose house she is posted. Even if you haven't read the book, you'll enjoy charting and discussing the rich collection names, phrases and cited "scriptures." If you have had a chance to read it, we hope you'll share your discoveries with us.

\*The workshop leader is Betty Jachim from Franklin Park, IL.

Changing Values: A New Perspective - The workshop will consist of background material on basic mosaic law as it impacts on daily life today, the reasons for its development and a review of the participants values. This will be largely a discussion group.

\*The workshop leader is Ruth Davis from Avon, IL.

Kinaesthetic Imagery - KI (Kinaesthetic Imagery) is an aesthetic slide medium which results in self-created simulations. It involves the physical and mental interaction between participants and wall sized environments which can be created and manipulated by the participants themselves. This holistic experience is produced by mixing color and light (from homemade slides), sound (from music, voice or nature), and movement (from participant an/or special effect filters). Workshop will include a KI demonstration with complete slides, followed by a step-by-step slide production group task, and exhibition of the final product.

\*The workshop leader is Nancy Babel from Glendale, Mo.





1987 CMD-UUWF ANNUAL ALLERTON CONFERENCE  
Allerton Park, Monticello, Il. Friday - Sunday  
June 5, 6, & 7, 1987

Not just a church women's group  
But a Federation of Unitarian Universalist women  
Not only asking for your support,  
We are here to be a friendly port in the storm.  
Not simply a place to air your troubles,  
UUWF is a national organization  
with resources to inform members  
and motivate action.  
A proud history of women coming together  
with unique talents, concerns and ideas.  
What we have to offer, you can't get anywhere else.  
Don't be afraid to join us.  
We're here for you - We are you!

UUWF - "sharing a vision  
sharing a dream  
touching our lives  
like a deep flowing stream."  
COME ON IN! THE WATER'S FINE.

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Keynote Address: "Trust, Dare, and Be"  
Keynote speaker: The Rev. Ms. Denise D. Tracy  
CMD-UUA District Executive



## Workshops...continued...

Journal Writing for Amateurs - For those who always dreamed of trying to but never got started. Unpressured encouragement provides a basic start for your own journal.

\*The workshop leader is Pat Murray from Rockford, Il.

Discovering Your Fourth Dimension - Some basic concepts about human energy fields will be illustrated with Kirlian photos. A role play will show how thoughts of centering affect the emotional reaction of a volunteer; then participants will experience with a partner how thoughts affect the balance and stability of their body and emotions. Ample time is planned to allow for experimentation in pairs using a pendulum to observe how thought affects chakra energy activity, and then to share observations with the group and answer questions about how chakras reflect and affect our well-being. Partners will use muscle testing to find which chakras need attention, and following a grief meditation on self-love, will re-check their chakras. Using a divining rod, we will conclude with a demonstration of how thoughts of fear or love affect the range of the energy field.

\*The workshop leader is Carol Albee from Alton, Il.

Trade Winds - Have you ever wondered about the programs of other U.U. churches? - Have you ever wished for new money-raising ideas? Have you ever longed for creative ways to strengthen "tried and true" value systems? Have you ever wondered how other Boards work at other churches? Have you ever wondered how other Religious Education programs are doing? Or, have you ever thought "Am I the only one who feels this way?" This workshop is for you.

Denise Tracy will lead a workshop on feedback. You'll find out more at Allerton.

Other workshops are in the works, details at Allerton. Also, a biographical sketch of each of our speakers will be included in the Allerton packet.

## Saturday Evening Program

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Anne Foster from the Rockford church will present "Fashion Fun for the Family." She will trace the history of clothing from early time to the 1960's. She is an expert on textiles, has taken seminars at several museums and has been active at the Rockford Museum Center for the past few years.



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1986 - 1987

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