



Some people go to priests, others to poetry, I to my friends.  
--Virginia Woolf

# Voices of Women

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection

Spring 2007

## 2007 Spring Conference

### **Connections: The 7<sup>th</sup> Principle in Action**

June 8-10, 2007

Pilgrim Park Camp and Conference Center

Princeton, Illinois (Near Starved Rock State Park.)

### **Keynote Speaker: Ruth Gnagey, PhD**

*Retired thirty-year veteran of outdoor and environmental education turned UU minister graduated from Meadville Lombard Seminary at age 66. She is now affiliated with the UU Congregation of Bloomington Normal, Illinois and with her husband winter minister at Hildago County UU Fellowship and All Souls UU Church of Brownsville—both in Texas.*

A variety of workshop offerings include one presented by youthful members of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois **Peace and Justice Kids:**

Ariana Miller and Rachael Hile-Broad.

Connect this June with women of the CMwD

*Intergenerationally, spiritually,  
interpersonally and with the environment.*



### **Unity Temple UU Congregation Offers Adult Religious Education Curriculum: *Parents as Spiritual Guides***

by Roberta and Christopher Nelson. Based on the belief that children's religious education should not be restricted to Sunday school, this six-part program brings spiritual growth into the home, where the communion and rituals of family life can support the "dynamic process of faith development." Available through the UUA bookstore for your congregation.

[www.uua.org/bookstore](http://www.uua.org/bookstore)

### Meet the 2007 Chair...



**Jennifer Evans**, UU Women's Connection Council Chair, pictured with children Daniel (8), Mary (5) and husband, Bill Jones.

On leave from her social work career, Jennifer is no ordinary "stay-at-home" mom. She is a Kindergarten parent volunteer helping with daughter Mary's classroom celebrations, a story reader and Reading Workshop games facilitator. She also volunteers for Daniel's second grade class serving as "social director" by helping with parties and celebrations. If that is not enough she is also active at Unity Temple UU Congregation in Oak Park, Illinois where the family lives.

**Welcome to Council** The UU Women's Connection is pleased to announce that **Janice Bailey** of Chicago has answered a call to leadership on the council as its seventh member.\* Janice, a native of New Orleans, member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship has participated in district retreats since 1991. She is the mother of three, Charley of Waukon, IA, Chellene of New Orleans, LA and Christopher of Chicago and grandmother of five.

Janice, a working artist, has been employed by the Women's Business Development Center in Chicago as Bookkeeper, Facility Manager and Counselor for sixteen years. The WBDC offers one-on-one counseling in all aspects of business development, management and entrepreneurial training for women.

\* UU Women's Connection bylaws call for up to nine council members.

## Historical Highlights: VOW's 40 Years

2007 *Voices of Women* quarterly newsletters will celebrate the publication's long history with excerpts from articles in past VOW issues dating from 1966. The first edition, dated October 1966, calls for suggestions for naming the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation Newsletter.

Called CMD UUWF Newsletter until 1979 when the *Voice of Women* name was introduced and became official. It wasn't till 2005 the name became plural, *Voices of Women*.

This issue's *Historical Highlight* is taken from the November 1967 newsletter in an article about the June 1968 Allerton Institute:

*When the UUWF Institute opens June 18 it will be the 10<sup>th</sup> year at Allerton and the 11<sup>th</sup> year for the institute. The first was at Herrick House near Joliet in 1958. Until 1964 when it was operated by an interim committee, it was a project of the Association of Universalist Women of Illinois. Since 1965 it has been operated by the District (UUW) Federation thru a committee appointed by the board. Hester Huff has been registrar since the beginning and will serve again in 1968.*

Always on the cutting edge, even nearly 40 years ago, the February 1968 newsletter announced the Allerton Institute theme: "*The Ultimate Decision—Abortion, a Public or Private Concern.*" Keynote speaker was Dr. Lonnie Myers, Chair of the Illinois Citizens For Medical Control of Abortion. May 1968 UUWF newsletter's pre-Allerton recommended reading was a book called *Abortion* by Lawrence Lader, Beacon Press, 1966, \$1.95. (Editor's note: Lader's book is credited with launching the abortion rights movement and was cited eight times in the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. Mr. Lader who spent his life as an activist speaking out on abortion and contraception issues died in 2006 at 86.)



*For an instant, I felt as though Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton -- everyone who'd fought for women's right to vote and for the empowerment of women in politics, in their professions, and in their lives--were there with me in the room. Those women were the ones who had done the heavy lifting, and it was as if they were saying, At last we have a seat at the table.*

--Nancy Pelosi

## Council Meeting Locations Sought

UU Women's Connection Council of seven meets quarterly to coordinate and carry out the work of the organization. Connection members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings.

In 2007 a goal set by councilors to be more "connected" with the women in the CMwD takes us out and about in the district more for quarterly council meetings and Sunday visits to service and coffee. Might your church women's group host us once this year? We can provide programming or simply meet to talk and listen.

April 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday, we will join women of Unity Temple UU Congregation for a potluck Meet and Greet. Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM, we will conduct the quarterly business meeting at the temple in Oak Park, Illinois. Their members will provide home hospitality on Friday.

To inquire about hosting the council, to request programming or just to give input to UU Women's Connection work contact any of the councilors listed on the back page of this issue. Or email us at:

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

**CMwD Assembly:** April 13-15, 2007  
Oak Brook Marriott, Oak Brook, IL

*Congregations Alive!*  
*Embodying a Story that Matters.*

Keynote Speaker: Alice Mann  
of the Alban Institute

Register on line: [www.cmwd-uua.org](http://www.cmwd-uua.org)

## Common Western Grace:

*Bless this food we are about to receive.  
Give Bread to those who hunger,  
and hunger for justice to us who have bread.*

--*The Zen of Eating* by Ronna Kabatznick, PhD

UU Women...

## Speak Out! Act Up!

*A column highlighting social activism and raising awareness of the many paths to action. Know a UU woman who makes her voice heard? Send information to Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh.*

**Charlotte Droogan** is not a woman who spends much time sitting down or hesitating to speak out. She was a woman of action when she came to the Joliet Illinois UU Church, as a 30-year veteran of Red Cross volunteer work.

While at the Red Cross Charlotte taught first aid, developed a disaster program in her town of Bolingbrook Illinois, and chaired the Disaster Service for Will County. She also taught the *Home Alone* program and *First Aid for Little People* to children, a natural since Charlotte was until last year a third grade teacher.

When the Red Cross began HIV/AIDS education, Charlotte jumped in, and that's about the time she became an active UU. She and Joliet minister, Janet Emmons, began an AIDS support group, which served a dozen members in a five-year period.

Charlotte served on the Social Justice and Music/Worship Committees and helped educate the congregation about white privilege, Amnesty International, and child labor. She also laid some groundwork that helped pave the way for Joliet's Welcoming Congregation Committee.

In 1994 Charlotte began working with the Night Ministry in Chicago. A couple of nights a month she was hostess on their bus, which traveled to spots where homeless people gathered. She served coffee, conversation and condoms; read stories to children in the summer; and even drove the bus.

Charlotte Droogan lives out the first principle which honors the dignity and worth of every person. It was a short jump from her Catholic upbringing emphasizing that "we are our brothers and sisters keepers," once she made the connection.



*In today's integrated world economy...eradicating poverty may contribute as much to U.S. security as eradicating terrorism.*

--Lester R. Brown, Earth Policy Institute

## 2007 Lake Geneva Fall Conference

**SAVE THE DATE:** Nov. 9-11, 2007

The Planning Committee of North Shore Unitarian Church (in Deerfield, IL) has announced that composer, lyricist and singer,

**Shelley Jackson Denham,**

will be keynote speaker for what promises

to be a musical weekend. Check

UU Women's Connection

Website for info as planning proceeds.

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

## Meg Barnhouse Returns

Organizers at the Congregational Unitarian Church of Woodstock, Illinois, announce the return of **Meg Barnhouse**, popular 2005 UU Women's Connection Lake Geneva Conference keynote speaker.

Joined by fellow author, radio personality and minister, **Pat Jobe**, the two promise a hilarious and heartwarming evening of musical performance titled:

### **Mango Thoughts in a Meatloaf Town**

**...Musings for the Questioning Soul.**

Saturday, May 5, 2007, 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Park Place, 405 W. Woodstock Street

Crystal Lake, Illinois

**Concert tickets:** \$40 per person. Includes appetizers, dessert, dancing and cash bar.

**Pre-concert Dinner and Concert Tickets:** \$100. This gourmet *Tip Top Bistro* dinner with the performers includes meal, drinks, dessert and conversation beginning at 5:30 PM. Seating is limited to 40.

Call for further information about the concert or limited seating dinner: 888-323-8678

Or see the Congregational Unitarian Church of Woodstock website [www.cucw.org](http://www.cucw.org) for more information about the performers or reservations.

## VOW's New Look:

### Final Call for Logo Submissions

UUWF and Connection leadership determined during transition and reorganization that a whole new look for the *Voices of Women* newsletter was in order. One key element in the new look for our newsletter and organization was creation of a logo with which we could identify as UU women, one representing the "connectedness" of UU women in the district and world and one that "connects" our history, present and future.

Meanwhile communication portfolio councilors have been working to produce a fresh new look, interesting columns and themes for VOW, but one thing is still missing...the logo.

While the newsletter continues to evolve in positive ways, we also continue to look for a symbolic logo that says who we were, are and will be in the future. The logo that appears on the front of this issue is the latest submission. Others are printed below with it.

Council has "vowed" to make a selection by the spring conference in June. There, we will announce our choice. So if you have an idea for something new and fresh and appropriate, please make your submission so we may see it before the end of April. If you have an opinion about any of the logos below give us your comments and ideas. Remember to judge by content and not the clarity of the drawings, which can be cleaned up when the selection is made.



## Banner Project Celebrates Women

Women of the UU Women's Connection have begun the creation of a quilted banner. The finished banner will be used at district and other UU gatherings. Work on this project progresses through the efforts of crafty women who attend the spring and fall conferences and with expert quilting advice from Clarise Jefferson, Bloomington Normal, Illinois UU Congregation.

If you wish to begin a square and need materials and specifics, please contact Councilor Cheryl Springwood for details. Or get your materials for appliquéd, painted or embroidered square at the Spring Conference, June 8-10 or Fall Retreat November 9-11.

### Margaret Fuller Conversation Salon

Thank you to the women of the Decatur, Illinois UU Fellowship who hosted a Margaret Fuller Conversation Salon during UU Women's Connection quarterly meeting weekend in January.

We met for potluck and conversation on Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> to contemplate and discuss questions such as:

**What are we UU women thinking today? What were we born to? What do we talk about? Read about? What are we passionate about? Silent about?**

For more information about hosting a Margaret Fuller Conversation contact Jennifer Evans or visit the Conversations site on the UUA website listed in LINKS below.

### Get Connected. Try these LINKS

[www.uua.org/Awards-grants/conversations.html](http://www.uua.org/Awards-grants/conversations.html)  
Margaret Fuller Conversations info.

<http://www.toddletoons.com/index.htm> Colorful site with 12 games for babies 10 months to 3 years. Parental help needed.

[www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org) "The Mountain" Retreat and Learning Center, Highlands, NC. Offers unique programs and camps for youth, seniors and every age in between.

## Good Reads for Kids and Parents

### Books for the little ones.

*Goodnight Moon* classic by Margaret Wise Brown, offers a special bonus: it is full of rhyming words and contains almost all the sounds of the English language. Good for infants-age 5.

Fanciful stories by Mem Fox. Good self esteem builders for 3-7 year olds.

*Sleepy Bears*

*Boo to a Goose*

*Hattie and the Fox*

### Poetry For Children

*Whoever You Are*, Mem Fox K-Grade 3, Beautifully illustrated poem identifies differences of skin color, homes, schools, ways of life, language, but affirms that love, laughter, pain and tears are all the same to everyone.

*A Child's Calendar*, John Updike, Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman A poem and illustration for every month on the calendar.

*A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children*, Caroline Kennedy & Jon J. Muth

*Nibble, Nibble*, poems for young children by Margaret Wise Brown, Illustrations by Leonard Weisgard

*Poems to Read to The Very Young*, selected by Josette Frank, Illustrated by Dagmar Wilson

*Poetry for Young People*, Robert Frost

### Books for Parents and Families

*A Kid's Guide to Giving*, Freddie Zeiler. Teaches families how to select charities. Lists more than 100 kid friendly charities.

*Music Lessons. Guide Your Child to Play a Musical Instrument (And Enjoy It!)* Stephanie Stein Crease. Filled with practical advice for parents, music educators and kids.

*Packaging Girlhood: Rescuing Our Daughters from Marketers' Schemes*, Sharon Lamb, Ed.D. and Lyn Mikel Brown, Ed.D. Advertising for clothes, music, books on TV and other media bombard girls with messages focused on beauty, shopping, fashion and boys. Authors show parents how to understand these influences and give guidance in talking about these negative images to help girls make positive choices.

*How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*, Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. Internationally acclaimed experts on communication between children and adults, offer "an additional kernel of information or inspiration to help you carry on with the most important job in the world."



*Filling a bookcase is like gathering a social circle.*

--May Lamberton Becker

## Book Review

by Jennifer Evans

*Child Honoring: How to Turn This World Around* edited by Raffi Cavoukian and Sharna Olfman with a forward by the Dali Lama is a wonderful read for anyone looking to make changes in our current systems. It resonates with the UU 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence. It's a must read for policy makers and the ever growing 2008 presidential candidate pool if they really want to make a difference. And we're talking about the big issues here like saving the planet by honoring the smallest and most vulnerable human inhabitants.

The book is a collection of essays from authors in psychology, education, economics, business, government, and religion. It offers a child-first plan toward a more sustainable world by rethinking the status quo. Contributors include: Penelope Leach, Riane Eisler, Matthew Fox, Barbara Kingsolver, Mary Gordon, Ronald Colman to name a few.

You might be wondering if co-editor and contributor Raffi Cavoukian is "Raffi" the children's entertainer. Yes he is. He has come up with a lovely Covenant for Honoring Children. With his gentle, peaceable manner he's on a serious mission.

The child development essays remind Westerners that a baby's cry is a song not an irritant to be controlled or managed. I enjoyed Mary Gordon's solution to bullying in her "Roots in Empathy" essay about a Canadian elementary school program. A significant part of the class uses a parent and infant pair as an empathy model.

When Riane Eisler writes about how women's status in a culture is an indicator of the quality of life for that entire culture, I found myself saying out loud "I told you so." It's good to have that kind of statistical validation.

Barbara Kingsolver writes a sweet story about eating ethically which ties in nicely with the current issue of UU World.

Reading the essays on economics made me wonder about consumerism, parental leave, consumption, longer workweeks and why we think it's an acceptable model. *Child Honoring* is the kind of book that I hope to be able to sit down with a cup of coffee and discuss with the women in our district someday.



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Membership/Mailing List Update	
Have you moved? Let us know so you won't miss a thing.	
Name	_____
Address	_____
	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
Church/Group	_____

**Time to renew membership dues/support?**

**It is, if your mailing label shows a date earlier than 01/2007. Be sure to include a check for \$10 payable to UU Women's Connection with the above information.**

**Send updates and checks to Treasurer Diana DeWeese, 716 South Douglas Avenue, Springfield, IL 62704.**