

Voices of Women

Fifty Years and Counting

Champagne toasts heard April 20th in the familiar, yet modernized surroundings of the Robert Allerton Retreat Center in Monticello, IL:

To ...

- *50 years and the women those years represent.*
- *To Robert Allerton.*
- *To the next 50 years.*
- *To all the Allerton planning committees.*
- *To Pat who dreamed up the concept of returning at 50 to celebrate.*
- *To Sisterhood!*

Sisterhood, like the CMwD-UUWF, has changed. UU Women's Connection is adapting and working hard to not just survive for another 50 but to continue the most valued aspect of the two organizations, which is to provide opportunities for CMwD UU women to connect in varied and meaningful ways.

Time at Allerton afforded participants an opportunity to say and record memories of a pretty amazing era for women, when, coming into their own power as women, they were inspired to provide cutting-edge programming that voiced new ideas, addressed urgent needs, sometimes discussed "taboo" subjects and supported the courageous women who populated the time.

Participants joked during the official group photos in courtyard entry, "Nametags were to be worn so the women present could be identified in photos 50 years from now." Over the weekend women reminisced about the times and named the "stand out" women of the Allerton days. Among participants were many women who planned, attended or provided programming, both serious and silly at retreats from 1958 to 2000.

Thank you to Allerton planners and those who attended the celebration. Much laughing. Much connecting. Much fun. Much more to come.

A **Memory Scrapbook** begun at the Allerton 50th will be featured at coming retreats and offers opportunity to add to the scrapbook. **Like to order a conference photo CD?** It is available for a small handling fee of \$3.00 and may be requested from VOW editor, Pat Goller. **See Council contact list in this issue.**

A **special Allerton** tip of the hat to Joanne Fought (three-term CMwD-UUWF president) who planned the 50th Celebration worship and to Councilors Kathy Kline, who headed the planning committee and Diana DeWeese, Women's Connection treasurer who kept the financials of the weekend. Council realized the dream of returning without breaking the bank! Photos of the weekend may be found at:

www.uuwomensconnection.com

Spring Conference Report

Jennifer Evans, UU Women's Connection Chair



Joliet IL's Clara Barton Guild Spring Retreat Planners with Keynote Speaker, Rev. Clare Butterfield. (Second from left)

Our third year at Pilgrim Park was enjoyed by a small but mighty group of UU women from around the district. The friendships and intimacy that developed and grew are destined to become fond memories reminiscent of Allerton.

Sandra Costa and Janet Adams (both right, in photo) did a beautiful job with the in-gathering and Sunday worship. They set a nice tone to a weekend devoted to caring for our planet.

Saturday workshops were food for the mind and spirit. I attended one on Water by Janet Nortrom (Milwaukee, WI) that I found soothing. Bonnie Gudat (Peoria, IL) worked with others in the soil to teach the principles of cloning houseplants and improve indoor air quality. Some watched and discussed videos on green faith projects.

The natural setting of Pilgrim Park enhanced the experience for Sue Thom's Walking Meditation and Janet Adams' hiking workshop. Did anyone see slime mold working cooperatively on these walks? Guess you had to be there!

We made our own fun in the evening with open mic, mandala coloring and the *Go Goddess* board game. Nearly everyone got in on the open mic. Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh displayed talents that I hadn't seen before. Thanks for the fun, Dorothy. Hope the raccoons enjoyed our s'mores fixings at the fireside too. Why should we have all the fun?

A hardy thank you goes out to our host planners, UU Church of Joliet, IL for making it such a great weekend. We also thank Rev. Clare Butterfield for her thought provoking keynote on *Emergent Theology and Environmental Justice*. She got us talking and thinking. If you missed it, check out www.FaithinPlace.org to find more about Clare's Community Ministry work. Thanks to Janet Adams, Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh, Sandra Costa, Patricia Nolan, and Susan Thom for putting together an outstanding UU Women's weekend.

A **lovely surprise** happened after the close of Spring Conference during the UU Women's Connection quarterly business meeting. Tori Kilhoffer (Bloomington-Normal, IL) agreed to join the UU Women's Connection Council. Thank you to Tori for answering this call to leadership.

 **Pen Pal Update** There are still names on our Life, Hester Huff and Clara Barton member list who could use a pal.

Won't you consider connecting with our living history? For more information about how to begin, contact any UU Women's Connection councilor or e-mail Connection@UWomensConnection.org.



CAKES for the Queen Train-the-Trainer

Project UU Women's Connection year long project with CMwD Women and Religion Committee for the re-introduction of Rev. Shirley Ranck's updated feminist curriculum *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* is being realized in St Joseph MI, St Louis MO, Oak Park and Peoria, IL and Milwaukee WI. Would you like to present this curriculum in your congregation? Plan to attend one of the remaining trainings in June, July or November 2008. For dates see the calendar in this issue and for registration and other information about the trainings contact the planners through the *Cakes* e-mail: CakesTraining@uuwr.org or www.CakesfortheQueenofHeaven.org blog.

Trainer full-day workshop cost is \$30. The curriculum may be purchased for \$40 at workshops or on line at www.uuwr.org.

Summer Reading/Movies recommended by 2008 Spring Conference attendees.

<i>Animal, Vegetable, Miracle</i>	Barbara Kingsolver
<i>Founding Mothers</i>	Cokie Roberts
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	Mark Haddon
<i>Bluebeard</i>	Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
<i>Galapagos</i>	Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
<i>Season of the Snake</i>	Claire Davis
<i>History of Love</i>	Nicole Krauss
<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>	Chimamanda Adichie
<i>Purple Hibiscus</i>	Chimamanda Adichie
<i>Floor of the Sky</i>	Pamela Joern
<i>Housekeeping</i>	Marilynn Robinson
<i>Prodigal Summer</i>	Barbara Kingsolver
<i>Swim Against the Current</i>	Jim Hightower
<i>Three Cups of Tea</i>	Greg Mortenson and David Relin
<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Jeannette Wall

Movies

Into the Wild
Bella
Lars and the Real Girl
Death at a Funeral ("hilarious")

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So What's Up for Fall at Lake Geneva? UU Women's Connection Council women are happy to finally announce they are planning the fall retreat at Lake Geneva's Aurora University campus and retreat center in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Theme and keynote are being negotiated and will be announced shortly on our website and through the district. Stay tuned and hold on to your hat. Outside the box, maybe even above the glass ceiling is where we are aiming. **SAVE THE DATE** November 7-9, 2008. Watch for the brochure in mid-September. Check our website for updates.

Hinsdale Alliance Thanks for the hospitality and generosity of Hinsdale women who hosted the Council for its quarterly meeting in April. The women's fellowship of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Illinois is called the ALLIANCE and is part of the National Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, as well as the UU Women's Connection of the CMwD. *Historical note: Prior to the UU merger, "Alliance" was the title for Unitarian women's groups.*

Long one of our member "units" the Hinsdale Alliance has been committed to contributing to the health and growth of women's services in the district over many years. In the forefront of the women's movement Hinsdale's own Velaine Carnall, 2008 Alliance President, was key to the early work of RCRC (Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice) and with her late husband initiated escort service at Planned Parenthood facilities in the Chicago area. She continues this volunteer work today. UU Women's Connection continues to support RCRC in Illinois and Missouri with annual donations.

Would your congregation like to host a future quarterly UU Women's Connection Council Meeting? We like to get around to share ideas and suggestions with one another. We can even present a demo program. Contact any councilor listed on this page, if interested.

Historic Moment While the VOW and Connection do not endorse political candidates this summer issue couldn't go to the printer without acknowledging the "one for the history books" nature of the Democratic primary this year. Illinois Senator Barack Obama and New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton provided African Americans and women breath-taking historic firsts in the 15 month campaign. Senator Clinton tap, tap, tapped on that ultimate glass ceiling for all women. Much work is yet to be done on behalf of women, but a sense of possibility, indeed, hope for women and girls is in the air. We, however, are not picking glass shards from our hair just yet, so VOW is calling for a much needed conversation on gender issues and inequalities and asking you, "what are you doing to advance women's causes these days?"

--VOW Editor

*When a man gets up to speak, people listen, then look.
When a woman gets up to speak, people look; then if they
like what they see, they listen.* -- Pauline Fredrick

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www.uuwomensconnection.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Weather means more when you have a garden. There is nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in around your green beans.

--Marcelene Cox

Is it time to renew membership dues/support?

It is, if your mailing label shows a date earlier than June 2008.

Include recent update and check made to "UU Women's Connection" to Treasurer, Diana DeWeese, 716 S. Douglas, Springfield, IL, 62704.

Units of 8 or more may take advantage of this year's break on dues and submit \$8 per member. Include membership list and contact information for each woman.

Membership/Mailing List Update

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-mail _____

CHURCH/GROUP _____

UU Women's Connection 2008 Calendar

June 21	<i>Cakes T3, Unity Temple UU Oak Park, IL</i>
June 25-29	GA 08 Fort Lauderdale, FLA
July 26	<i>Cakes T3, Eliot Chapel, St Louis, MO</i>
August 16	3 rd Quarter Council Meeting
November 7-9	Lake Geneva Fall Retreat, Aurora University Retreat Center, Williams Bay, WI
November 15	<i>Cakes T3, UU Church of Peoria, IL</i>
November 22	<i>Cakes T3, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, WI</i>
October 25-26	Annual Meeting/Council Retreat 7 Circles Heritage Center Edwards, Illinois

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