



Voices of Women

Newsletter of the UU Women's Connection of the CMwD

Winter 2010

2010 Annual Report --P. Goller, Chair

Review of the UU Women's Connection 2010 year, begun before the Annual Meeting in November was finalized a few days before Christmas with a council conference call. 2010 was a year of programming highs and another financial blow at Lake Geneva. It's a time for not-for-profits to hunker down, re-evaluate and strategize for the future and UU Women's Connection is no exception. The highlights of the year follow, as does the 2011 budget, which includes continued belt tightening. The next VOW will list 2011 goals and priorities and look at council strategic planning.

 **2010 program highlights:** The Connection awarded a \$500 grant to the Carbondale Unitarian Congregation in late 2009 to bring singing group, Emma's Revolution to Carbondale's Zambia Hospice/Orphanage Project fundraiser in February, 2010. In March the Connection presented a woman's leadership event planned with W&R committee at Third Unitarian Church in Chicago and assistance from the Chicago Area UU Council with a \$500 grant. Called "Women as Agents of Change," it celebrated those who lead in the style of UU foremother, Margaret Fuller. The Margaret Fuller salons conducted that day were the beginning of many salons the councilors would facilitate in 2010, the 200th Anniversary year of Margaret Fuller's birth.

These salons, retreats, other programming and quarterly business meetings took Councilors around the district from the February concert in Carbondale to Third U in Oak Park, Illinois and Beverly U on Chicago's South Side, to Prairie Fellowship in Madison, Wisconsin, and to Alton, Illinois UU Church near St Louis and finally to Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Thanks to the hospitality of congregations we are able to hear the voices of women of the Central Midwest District in 2010 through our traveling quarterly meetings and other projects.

Spring Conference, 2010 and Beyond

With the outstanding work of the Springfield, Illinois planners, a much lauded spring conference with keynote, Teri Freesmeyer took place at Pilgrim Park Retreat Center near Princeton, Illinois in June. "S.P.A. for the Soul" was a relaxing, warm and welcoming weekend. So, we are happy to announce that Teri will be **back by popular demand** with a district-wide committee already at work to plan the 2011 conference, June 3-5, 2011.

For **spring 2012** Council has secured keynote, Pam Hinkle with Bonnie Ettinger for the June 8-10, 2012 conference. Pam is creator, past director of the Heartland Music Fest in Indiana and director of the Indianapolis Women's Chorus; and Bonnie, pianist extraordinaire from ALUUC in Springfield, Illinois are the popular musical duo from Summer Assembly who will guide the weekend. To join planning for the 2012 event e-mail: Connections@uuwomensconnection.org

Lake Geneva Fall Retreat "Good Vibrations" Journey of Personal Intention. By Juli Cicarelli

The weather was crisp, the trees ablaze with color, the lake moved in calm waves. We greeted new and old friends with enthusiastic hugs and began our annual Lake Geneva retreat. The retreat was planned so that from Friday's opening until Sunday's closing, each of us was free to choose how we would spend our time. We were given time to explore how to achieve balance in our busy, hectic lives and share our stories, our joys, problems, and tribulations with UU sisters in a safe, caring and peaceful environment. *Eat, Pray, Love*, presenter, Jennifer Evans of Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois (right) encouraged us to imagine our lives for a year. Continued next page.



Lake Geneva Saturday's opener with Cathy Kline, Makanda, Illinois Councilor, taught us how to use a *balance wheel* to measure our personal balance. Then a *Reiki energy workshop* presented by Debbie Czarnopys-White, Dubois, Illinois, aimed to help us achieve balance, order, and wellness in our lives.

In a *meditation/prayer bead workshop*, presented by Sage Hagy of North Shore, Deerfield, Illinois, we made meditation prayer beads and discussed what the term "prayer" meant to us. *Keepers of the Beat* workshop was presented by Heather Poyner, popular Kenosha, Wisconsin drummer. We made and decorated a frame drum. Drum makers then had an opportunity to use the newly created drums on Saturday evening with Heather and finally to show them off at the Sunday closing.

We colored mandalas, sacred circles with intricate designs, which symbolize the beauty and impermanence of life. Saturday night saw us doing puzzles, playing board games, and chatting into the night. A "Star Party" on Saturday evening, had some of us gazing into the heavens and hearing about the history of Yerkes Observatory. Other opportunities included a boat trip on the lake or serious time sleeping, reading or walking, bird watching or just following our own instincts.

Sunday's closing was bittersweet. We played drums and other rhythm instruments, sang and chanted. Finally, we took time to remember and honor Emily Meter, (North Shore planning leader in 2007 and many other times) who just months before she died summoned the strength to come to Lake Geneva for the 2009 Fall Retreat. We closed our circle, being thankful for a weekend of joy, sharing, and healing, and looking forward to meeting again.



Fall Retreat Financials: The programming success of the fall weekend was a demonstration of the talents and cohesiveness of Councilors. But when the fall retreat invoice arrived from George Williams before Christmas, we knew that an impending conference call would ask for a vote to stay or leave George Williams Retreat Center.

Though it is not surprising after the struggles of the last few years, the falling numbers and difficulty in enlisting planners, **we are sad to announce that we will not return to George Williams Retreat Center.** Council no longer feels a reasonably priced weekend for women can be provided at

George Williams without raising registration fees. Not disheartened though, we have opted instead to seek another other type of programming, perhaps a number of smaller programs, trips or events. Even another retreat location is possible. Councilors will be discussing many options before and at the first quarter business meeting in March when we return together to Williams Bay for the weekend to brainstorm and strategize with the leadership of newly elected officers: Diana DeWeese, chair; Debbie Czarnopys-White, vice chair, Tori Kilhoffer, recorder and Nicole Nichols, treasurer; new councilors, Sage Hagy and Juli Cicarelli and returning councilors, Pat Goller and Cathy Kline.

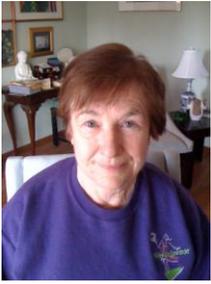
RETREAT CENTER OFFER: As a way to recoup some of the loss at George Williams in 2010 and in honor of our 28 years at the retreat center, center officials have offered to allow the council to return for a weekend to use slots that were reserved and paid for at the 2010 fall retreat, but were not filled. *We have other slots available to members, planners, wise women or helpers who would like to join us in a weekend of relaxation, brain storming and to give voice to ideas in strategic planning sessions with the council.*

OUR OFFER: SEND YOUR REQUEST BY FEBRUARY 15. Since the Connection has already paid for the all-inclusive weekend, we offer these free or for a voluntary donation. ***It is our hope that if you wish to join us that you have an interest in the Connection's work and future. Please express that in your request letter to us.*** This all inclusive (room and meals) weekend is scheduled for March 18-20 at Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Where do you apply to join us March 18-20? **connections@uuwomensconnection.org** All requests and ideas will be considered and honored, but there are a very limited number of slots so, please respond quickly.

If your ship doesn't come in, swim out to it

-- Jonathan Winters

Juli Joins the Connection Council in 2011



Welcome to long time Connection supporter, Juli Chicarelli. Married 45 years to Jim Chicarelli, the couple has two grown children, Jill and David. They are the proud grandparents of Leroy, “the best six year old in the world,” according to Grandma Juli.

Because Juli’s and Jim’s son, David is developmentally disabled, she spends much of her time fighting the state of Illinois, which, she says, is woefully behind the rest of the country in providing services for the disabled.

Juli is a member of Countryside UU Church in Palatine, Illinois, where she is participates in Social Action, Sacred Movement Group, and Religious Education. Juli helped organize a program called "Making the Most of Our Money", which pairs low income parents with financial advisors who serve as mentors. Juli, an educator, helped develop the children's program at Countryside. RE Committee members are now working to organize the program so that it can be used by other UU churches. For fun, Juli hangs around with other Goddesses, takes watercolor classes, and cares for Fudgickle, her mischievous chocolate lab/beagle, and her wild cat, Lion King.

2010 UU Women’s Connections Council

- Diana DeWeese—Vice Chair.....217-546-5834
- Pat Goller—Chair.....217-787-0687
- Tori Kilhoffer—Recorder.....309-963-6069
- Cathy Kline—At large.....618-457-7885
- Nicole Nichols—Treasurer.....314-569-7103
- Debbie Czarnopys-White—At large.....615-787-2929

Councilors who begin their terms in 2011:

- Sage Hagy—North Shore U Church, Deerfield, IL.
- Juli Chicarelli—Countryside UU Church, Palatine, IL.

MEMBERSHIP: It is important that membership normally gained or renewed each year at the fall retreat, be maintained. If your membership date, indicated on the address label is earlier than December 2010 consider clipping and sending the renewal form on the back of this mailing with your sustaining membership dues.

2011 Working Budget

UU Women's Connection		2011 Budget
Category Description		
INCOME		
Dues	\$	1,800.00
From Checking	\$	1,190.00
IN-Fall Event 2011	\$	3,000.00
IN-Spring Conference 2011	\$	4,000.00
Interest Earned	\$	25.00
Scholarship Donations	\$	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	10,515.00
EXPENSES		
Admin.		
<i>Board Travel</i>	\$	400.00
<i>Conference Registration Reimbursement</i>	\$	400.00
<i>Copying</i>	\$	5.00
<i>Meeting Expense</i>	\$	200.00
<i>Phone & Communication</i>	\$	5.00
<i>Supplies</i>	\$	50.00
<i>Other Admin.</i>	\$	15.00
TOTAL Admin.	\$	1,075.00
Scholarships	\$	500.00
Incentive Grants (child care \$40 each)	\$	240.00
OUT-Fall Conference 2010	\$	-
Out-Fall Event 2011	\$	3,000.00
OUT-Spring Conference 2011	\$	4,000.00
Social Action&Grants	\$	200.00
Vow, Web, PR	\$	1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	10,515.00

Scholarship Donations: The Connection receives generous scholarship donations with fall retreat registration that has enabled us over the last 10 years to refuse NO woman who wants to attend because she lacked funds. It is through the generosity of sisters, that we are able to continue to offer program/retreat scholarship and childcare grants in 2011. Scholarship donations may be sent to treasurer, Nicole Nichols, whose address appears on the back of this issue. Won't you help a sister? Donations are tax deductible

As a money saving measure the Connection will begin sending the 2011 VOW newsletters as an e-letter. If you don't have an e-mail or would prefer to get a hard copy by snail mail, please let us know before the next newsletter in March. Thank you for your help and patience with this important project. Call: Debbie Czarnopys-White 618-787-2929 to receive your newsletter as hard copy.

Best of times or worst of times, these are the only times we have. --Art Buchwald



UU Women's Connection

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Springfield, Illinois 62704

www.uuwomensconnection.org

Time to renew your membership? *It is, if the date on your mailing label shows a date earlier than December, 2010. Include recent update below, make check payable to "UU Women's Connection" and send to treasurer, Nicole Nichols, 1461 Meadowside Dr. St Louis MO. 63146*

Individual memberships are \$10. Units of 10 women save with a free membership for the tenth name.

Membership/Mailing List

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CHURCH/ORGANIZATION: _____

2011 "Get Connected" Calendar

Feb. 25-27 Winter Women's Spirit
UU Fellowship of Elkhart, In.

Mar. 18-20 Connection 1st Quarter Mtg,
George Williams Retreat Center, Williams Bay, WI.

Apr.29-30 CMw District Assembly
Chateau Hotel and Conf. Center, Bloomington, IL.

May/June Connection 2nd Quarter Mtg.
Location and date to be announced.

June 3-5 Spring Conference
Pilgrim Park Retreat Center, Princeton, IL

June 22-26 General Assembly-UUA
Charlotte, North Carolina

Aug. 5-7 Summer Women's Spirit
Renora Lodge, Watervliet, MI.

Aug or Sept. Connection 3rd Quarter Mtg
Location and date to be announced.

Oct or Nov. Connection 4th Quarter/Annual
Mtg Location and date to be announced.