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❖ Voice of Women ❖

Winter 1998 Newsletter Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

IN THE DISTRICT

Even though there's sometimes been confusion over the status of UUWF and the Women & Religion Committee, women of the CMD have really been busy this year, not just with conferences and retreats. Many are active in the wider world, making use of their spiritual, organizational and political talents.

Some of our women are active in Prairyerth, an earth-centered UU congregation within the district whose purpose is to bring people into harmony with themselves, each other and the earth through the teachings and traditions of earth-centered traditions. Besides scheduled events, they offer an interesting array of speakers, teachers and workshop leaders. They can be reached through Melinda Perrin at 708.579.5695.

Others are active in the Season for Non-Violence campaign, a series of celebratory and educational programs about the peaceful principles for social change articulated by Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. Events are scheduled between January 30 - April 4, anniversaries of their assassinations.

RCRC (religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice), which we voted to support at last year's annual meeting, held a successful fund raiser in Chicago, featuring mystery writer Sara Paretsky.

Local UUWF and Alliance groups, councils, circles or units, in a multitude of organizational patterns, carry on giving support and opportunities for personal and spiritual growth to all UU women. Women like Janet Nortrom put in long hours dedicating themselves to strengthening and maintaining the Continental organization for us all.

(Continued on page 4)

& FROM BOSTON

Continental UUWF Board vacancies have been filled and a Futures Working Group is busy collecting information in preparation for the UUWF Triennial Convention to be held June 24-25 before the UUA General Assembly in Rochester, New York. Moderator Denny Davidoff, will participate in the morning Triennial session. It will be worth making an extra effort to be to participate in the restructuring and recovenenting of our women's organization. Janet Nortom, Continental program chair, is putting together a whole array of special events, such as a trip to nearby Seneca Falls, site of the historic Women's Rights Convention, a Feminist Theology celebration led by Nancy Vedder-Shults, and a "Gender Justice" panel.

Materials developed by the Futures Group, program details and nominating committee reports will be published in the next two issues of the *Communicator*, to be sent to all members. Janet is proud to announce that our district has three candidates for the Continental Board. And, though she will be leaving the Board after five year's service, we can still have the benefit of Janet's contacts and enthusiasm for UUWF even longer by electing her to the next Nominating Committee.

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VOW IS CALLING OUT!

☆☆ We're sorry to lose her, but our newsletter editor, Bette ☆
☆☆ Rotert, finds herself overloaded with job and family ☆
☆☆ obligations, so we must send out the call for someone who ☆
☆☆ can put together/edit *VOW* twice a year (one issue is in late ☆
☆☆ January/early February, the other in late June/early July). ☆
☆☆ It's much simpler now that we've gone from bulk to first ☆
☆☆ class mail. Using a computer, even without fancy software, ☆
☆☆ is easier than a typewriter and stencils! People can even ☆
☆☆ submit material on disc or via e-mail. ☆

☆☆ Can you help? Or know someone who can? Call Betty ☆
☆☆ Jachim at 708.784.0742 or e-mail to Jachim@msn.com. ☆

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CMD-UUWF 1997 ALLERTON CONFERENCE REPORT

INCOME

Registrations	\$1850.00	
Silent Auction	<u>683.25</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		\$2533.25

EXPENSE

Pre-conference/Planning	\$ 228.65	
Conference Supplies/Equipment	257.07	
Keynote Expense	189.85	
Refreshments	<u>301.54</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>\$ 977.11</u>
NET GAIN		\$1556.14

OTHER DATA

Registrations: 67
 Scholarship Expense: \$625.00
 Scholarship Contributions: \$121.25



CMD-UUWF 1997 LAKE GENEVA RETREAT REPORT

INCOME

Registrations	\$2999.00	
Vendor Fees	225.00	
Silent Auction <i>TOTE BAGS</i>	<u>542.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		\$3766.00

EXPENSE

Pre-conference/Planning	\$ 135.30	
Conference Supplies/Equipment	276.00	
Tote Bags	435.76	
Keynote Expense	1290.00	
Refreshments	<u>91.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>\$2228.06</u>
NET GAIN		\$1537.94

OTHER DATA

Registrations: 93
 Scholarship Expense: \$459.00
 Scholarship Contributions: \$259.00

WISCONSIN, WE NEED YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, TOO!

Last year's nominating committee struck out in finding an available candidate from the northernmost area of our district. But we did, at least, get Julie Putman to agree to be on this year's nominating committee, with a special charge to try to recruit someone from Wisconsin to serve on the CMD-UUWF Board. We meet usually only three times a year. Contact Mary Lou Steadman (309.452.9008), Julie Putman (920.830.2944) or Nancy Babel (314.567.3867) to offer your services or to suggest a candidate.

Allerton '98. Lighting our Paths: Sunshine, Moonbeams and Candle Glow

*Oh the weather outside is frightful,
but the thought is so delightful . . .
We have just the right place to go . . .
Let it Glow, Let it Glow, Let it Glow!!*

Though the weather still says winter, and the days are still short, it's time to start thinking about long days, warm hearts and the fun and excitement at Allerton, near Monticello, IL. Join new and old friends at CMD-UUWF's Annual Conference on June 6-8.

Inspired by last year's theme -- Letting Go and Becoming -- we want to continue the ideas germinating from that great conference. We've let go of old baggage. What are the new and wonderful things that we can incorporate into our lives?

In keeping with this thought, back by popular demand, is our keynote speaker, Dr. Gini Jones, a clinical psychologist who recast her own life at age 40, leaving 20 years of teaching by going back to get her PhD. Her practice involves working with those sick and hospitalized, helping all sorts of people cope with change.

Allerton will include other repeat attractions: wonderful meals, Allerton park itself, a former country estate now operated by the University of Illinois. The forty room Georgian mansion in which we'll be housed and hold our meetings is set in 1500 acres, featuring outdoor sculptures, vast formal gardens and miles of trails.



PLANNED WORKSHOPS

Sacred Circle of Clay, Nancy Shoop will demonstrate the spiritual elements of creativity with both hands on activities and demonstrations.
Lighting the Paths of Others: Empowering

Ourselves for Social Justice Work, led by Rev. Mary Moore, will inspire us to social action.

Giving Voice to the Light Within, a workshop on creative writing, led by Rosemarie King.

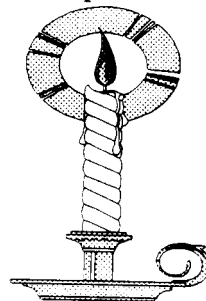
Nature's Pathways, a very special guided tour of the natural wonders of Allerton by Marge Evans.

Stirring the Stars: Tai Chi Exercises for Energy and Vitality with Karen Murley.

Sacred Fire Ceremony, ancient and powerful connections, with Jeannie Abbott.

The Sun: Symbol of Life, an arts and crafts workshop with Christina Smith-Owings.

Candleglow Everywhere, also with Christina Smith-Owings, on new and fascinating ways to make candles.



Sacred Voices Light the Earth, a workshop of sacred songs and poetry, presented by Deonne Orivs, one of those who helped save Allerton.

Lighting the Light of Health, a holistic approach to stress relief, led by Karla Peterson-Cathy.

Playing with the Light, an improvisation workshop with Beverly Felt.

The Struggle to Light the Political Fire, how the right to vote was won in Illinois, and today's meaning, led by historian Kathy Sorensen.

Lighten Up: Moonlight Massage, demonstration on of neck and shoulder massage on 7 lucky people, by Leslie Martin.

Registration materials will be mailed in early April. For a copy (or to volunteer!) please e-mail our Registrars at Cindysnap@aol.com or tl16@webmart.com or leave a message at 217/429-8281.

Hope to see you in June!

The Decatur, IL chapter of UUWF: *Anne Reeser, chair; Cindy Giesing & Kathy Kline, registrars; with Julie Hester, Joyce Throneburg, Leslie Martin, June Allison, and Amy Stockwell.*

(Continued from page 1)

When you think of these and dozens of other ways women serve us and our wider connections, I hope you'll take time to consider whether there is someone you feel should be honored, someone you feel is worthy of being nominated for the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition (forms on a later page).

Perhaps you can become more directly active in helping continue CMD-UUWF's work by taking on the role of VOW editor, offering yourself or someone else as candidate for the CMD Board, or by suggesting a possible alternative site for our Annual Meeting and Conference. Details can be found elsewhere.

We can't thank the Decatur, IL unit enough for planning the coming June 6-8 Allerton Conference. Nor can we forget the fantastic 1997 Lake Geneva Fall Retreat that the Geneva and Elgin units cooperatively and most successfully organized and implemented.

If you weren't there, you missed a perfect demonstration of the use of circle process. There was an amazing cohesiveness to the entire program. Jennifer Armstrong performed flawlessly as keynote, using her vast story-telling and musical talents. Everything flowed beautifully, down to the details: their beautiful logo design, a great tote bag and having two wonderful masseurs on hand. The presentation of the Samhain ritual was handled with sensitivity and care, allowing those who didn't wish to participate the opportunity to gracefully exit or "pass".

We are indeed blessed to have such women willing to share their skills. They deserve our sincere thanks.

One final item of joy and concern, on January 31 a wonderful memorial service was held at the Geneva, IL church for Betty King, a mainstay in the early days of Allerton. She was a great Universalist champion who is remembered with love.

From your Mouth...

to Their Ears



As you can see, the logo for the Fall Lake Geneva Retreat was indeed stunning. And the tote bags imprinted with it were great in size, shape and quality. Some of the participants wished that T-shirts had been available. Well, now they are.

The t-shirts have a light grey background, with the design in purple, shaded to enhance the separate generations. Sizes are S, M, L and XL. The cost is \$12. The committee hopes to just break even. Profits, if any, will be contributed to the CMD-UUWF scholarship fund.

For more information or to order, contact Rebecca Hanna, 1495 Banbury Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174, phone: 630.377.3984.

FALL 1998 Preview

Mark the weekend of October 30-November 1 on your calendars now. Plans are in the works for the annual CMD Retreat at George Williams College in Lake Geneva. The Rockford UU's are bringing singer/songwriter Jennifer Berezan in from Berkeley, CA to lead a weekend of music, healing and women's sacred history. More on Jennifer and the Conference later...

DO WE NEED MORE *RISE UP OR CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN* TRAINING SESSIONS?

If so, when is the best time of the year to do it? Where should we hold them? Which group/church is willing and able to have us there? Contact Janet Nortrom at 414.964.3764 or nortromj@aol.com. She's offered to connect interested parties.

*Hester Huff Roll Of Recognition
Nomination Form*

Complete this form and send it to Joann Fought, 501 North Glenwood, Peoria, IL 61606
Entries Must Be Postmarked By May 15, 1998

1. Nominee: _____
Address: _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

2. Church: _____
Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

Re-nomination: If complete materials have been submitted on a candidate, please re-nominate adding only current material. The committee will review the earlier material in the files.

Nomination Information

Number of years member of church/UUA:

Principal church activities or services:

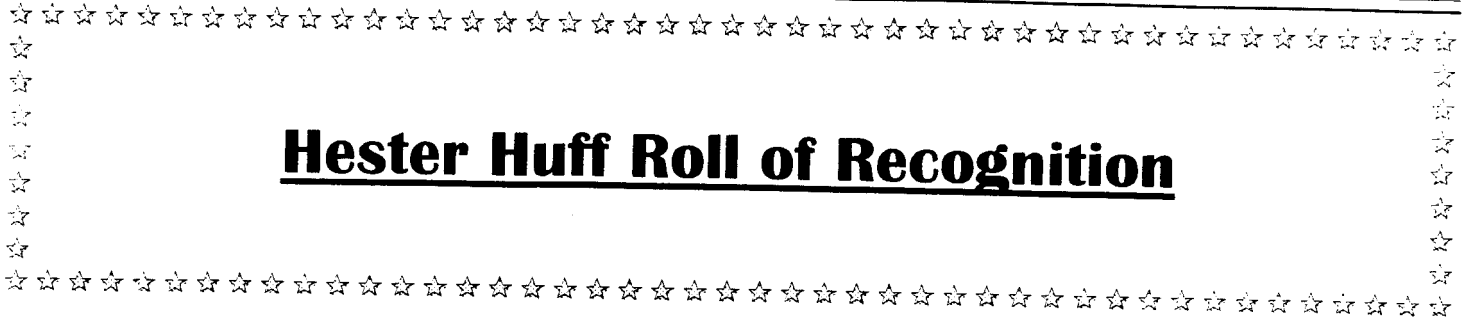
CMD-UUWF activities or services:

UUWF or UUA denominational services or activities:

Community activities or services:

Personal or religious views of nominee which support nomination:

Attach additional page(s) or letter(s) to support nomination, as desired.



Hester Huff Roll of Recognition

Information

The Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation wishes to recognize an outstanding Unitarian Universalist lay woman for service in the Central Midwest District. To this end the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition was established in memory of a dynamic CMD-UUWF woman.

Nominations

Nominations may be made by individuals or UUWF units. These nominations, which may be made throughout the year, must be made in writing and received by May 15 of the award year.

Committee

The nominating committee making the final selection will be composed of the three most recent Hester Huff recipients. The Chair shall be the longest standing member of the Hester Huff nominating committee. The present CMD-UUWF Board members are exempt from this committee, but are responsible to find a replacement to the committee if a vacancy occurs. The award may not be given to any women currently serving on the selection committee or current CMD-UUWF Board members.

Job Description

The committee will solicit nominations from Central Midwest women's groups and individual Unitarian Universalist women. They will provide a nomination form. If the nominating committee chooses, they may notify the winner before the Allerton Conference. A letter will be sent by the committee to invite past Hester Huff recipients to the Allerton Conference.

Award

The recipient's name will be engraved on the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition plaque, the last recipient will have the new winner's name engraved. This plaque will remain into he recipient's possession for one year. The recipient will also be given a certificate of recognition made by the nominating committee. The presentation will be at the annual CMD-UUWF conference held at Allerton.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMENS FEDERATION**

will be held during the Allerton Conference to hear reports, adopt a budget and to elect a vice president, treasurer, two directors and a nominating committee. This year's nominating committee encourages your active participation in the process. We'd especially like to get representation from Wisconsin. Interested? Any suggestions for the above named offices? **Contact Mary Lou Steadman (309.452.9008), Julie Putman (920.830.2944) or Nancy Babel (314.567.3867) with candidates names as soon as possible.**

HELP!!! ALTERNATE SITE SEARCH

“Praemonitus, Praemunitus!” is an old Latin phrase meaning forewarned is forearmed. As you may have observed, our Allerton dates have become less predictable in the last few years. In the past we often had a lively discussion on whether to hold Allerton mid-week or on the week-end. We had a choice.

But in the recent past, we’ve more or less had to schedule our event on a space available basis. The simple fact is that the University is using Allerton more often and we seem to be getting squeezed out. If it weren’t for our long standing use of Allerton we, as an outside group, probably wouldn’t have much of a chance at holding our conference there at all.

The handwriting, as they say, is on the wall. So, we need to be prepared for the worse. What if, at some future Allerton meeting, when we check the calendar, we find there is no room for us?

Let’s start collecting possible alternate site information NOW! For a true Allerton alternative, the obvious target area should be somewhere in central Illinois. It’s not likely we can find such perfect

accommodations in the same price range, but there might be some other retreat center, camp ground, state facility, college campus, or even a small town motel complex that would be right for us in June.

Where do your churches, women’s groups, or other non-UU organizations hold their meetings? We’d like to know about them so we can have a possible back-up site ready, just in case we need it.

Be creative! Send us you leads to check out. Contact any board member or e-mail me at Jachim@msn.com. We certainly hope we never have to give up Allerton.

Betty Jachim

NEWER VIDEO TITLES AVAILABLE

Available to all UU women’s groups for \$10 rental fee to cover postage, handling and replacement costs: Heroes, Growing Up Female and Strong; The Songs Are Free, Bernice Reagon Johnson (1994 UUWF Ministry to Women awardee); The World of the Goddess, Maria Gimbutas; and Equality: A History of the Women’s Movement in America. Contact Janet Nortrom at 414.964.3764 or nortromj@aol.com



CMD-UUWF ANNUAL DUES ARE \$5.

They may be paid through your local unit or on registration at the Allerton Conference or the Lake Geneva Fall Retreat. Another option is for women to join as individual members. Note that the date at the upper right hand corner of your mailing label indicates when your next dues payment is expected. FYI, if you pay via your unit, the date entered is based on when we received the membership list from your local treasurer or membership coordinator.

WILL YOU/HAVE YOU MOVED?

Don’t miss a single issue of VOW or notice of women’s programming. Also, please let us know if someone’s name should be removed from our mailing list due to death, discontinued membership, or relocation. Thanks!



MEMBERSHIP/MAILING LIST UPDATE	
NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____

CHURCH	_____
GROUP	_____
=====	
INDIVIDUAL DUES PAYMENT	Y ___ N ___
<small>(Send \$5 check, made payable to CMD-UUWF, to treasurer Joan Plestina, 516 Aberdeen Road, Frankfort, IL 60423.)</small>	
ADDRESS CHANGE	Y ___ N ___
<small>(Send updates to Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525.</small>	

CMD-UUWF 1997-98 Directory

President Betty Jachim (708.784.0742), 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Vice President Mary Lou Steadman (309.452.9008), 5 Ardith Dr., Normal, IL 61761

Secretary Pat Baker (314.434.3314), 1528 Fontana, St. Louis, MO 63146

Treasurer Joan Plestina (815.469.0271), 516 Aberdeen Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423

Director Joyce Becker (847.608.9457), 651 Lancaster Circle, Elgin, IL 60123

Director Jeanne Fitch (309.692.6923), 4620 W. Hetherwood Dr., Peoria, IL 61615

Director Kasey Kephart (708.799.9428), 19152 Pine Dr., Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Director Sheila Young, (630.759.0224), 15-S Fernwood Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

VOW Editor Could your name go here??????????

Allerton 1998 Contact Anne Reeser (217.875.5716), 2651 Twin Oaks Court #65, Decatur, IL 62525

Lake Geneva 1998 Contact Janice Henningsen (815.397.4721) 120 St. Louis Ave., Rockford, IL 61104

CMD Administrator Helen Bishop, (708.343.3478), 1701 S. 1st Ave., Suite 310, Maywood, IL 60153

Women & Religion Chair Nike Mendenhall (217.228.0822), 2830 Cabot Road, Quincy, IL 62301

Continental UUWF President Arlene Johnson, (918.747.3714), Tulsa, OK

Continental UUWF Board Liaison Janet Nortrom, (414.964.3764), 4332 N. Woodborn, Shorewood, WI 33211

Voice of Women

**Central Midwest District
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
6341 Blackhawk Trail
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**

2/99

BETTY JACHIM
6341 BLACKHAWK TRAIL
INDIAN HEAD PARK, IL 60525
