

C M D U U W F NEWSETTER

October 1972

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The 20th Anniversary celebration of our local UUWF this month made me conscious not of ages but took me back to my first membership. It was in the Clara Barton Guild in my home church in Kansas in the 30's. I'm not a convert, I'm a third generation Universalist.

I didn't "get religion" till after I was married and we attended a Baptist revival as a part of Don's duties in the City Ministerial Alliance. What I saw and heard that night, made me realize how important our Church was and what our heritage meant. Through the years I have never forgotten how far removed our thinking is from other denominations.

Remember when we used to put dimes in red cardboard stockings as our Christmas gifts to the Clara Barton Camp? Then came baseballs to the Joslin Camp. Our Stockton unit sends craft items each year to the gift shop at the camps. I know they are not the only ones who do this, having lived there perhaps it's closer.

Thanks to our Margaret Harris. She brought me a Clara Barton Centennial plate. She attended a meeting of the UUWF Continental Board last week in Boston.

The Rockford "Footbridge" announced that they are having their second Book Bin this fall. Hinsdale had the first one, then 3rd Unitarian, then Geneva and Rockford makes four. Is any other group trying this? I think we have all been most successful and books can go round robin beautifully. We feel we have "circulating Libraries". We all buy freely and resell next year.

As I get yearbooks from the units and read about their programs, I wish I could get to all the meetings. Joliet's October meeting is a report on Allerton complete to the pattern of Karen Perrino's kaftan.

Betty

ALLERTON REPORT

The spirit of Clara Barton prevailed at Allerton this year. Women have always campaigned and sacrificed for their beliefs. Mildred Berry's keynote address on Human Liberation emphasized not only a value for women with individual rights to equality, but also when women are liberated, men also will be free. Only then will there be human liberation.

Mildred Berry explored the subject of women's responsibility in liberation, and the importance of women's work to be taken seriously. Women must be willing to carry the added responsibility in management and to support other women in high positions.

Are the qualities in American heritage worth preserving? The most important quality to a good life is to hold oneself in value, before expecting to be held in value by others. There is nothing more important than an infant discovering who he is. A computer cannot do this. Have we exploited human nature as we have polluted nature?

Dr. Berry's subject was thought provoking and led to lively discussions held late into the night.

"Is Rational Religion Obsolete?"

Anthony Perrino, minister of the Rockford church, suspects it might be, despite his own feelings. He spoke in depth on this subject Wednesday night. We seem to be entering an age of astrology, the "kooky", and the new consciousness beyond the rational. Artists and authors dwell on the theme, "life is absurd." If we can't return to fundamentalism, where do we go from here? Our hope is that perhaps we can eventually understand and accept as truth what now appears to us irrational.

CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

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October 1972

Margaret Harris, from First Church and UUWF Continental Board member, spoke on the responsibility of women in the church, district, denomination, and her opportunity for greater impact.

She gave us a brief resume of the new Executive Director of the UUWF in Boston, Elizabeth Scarlotos. She replaces Connie Burgess who retired this year.

Margaret is a veteran of Allerton. This year she pitched in at the last minute to assist Marjorie Cooper on the program. I know how much this cooperation and valuable assistance meant to Marjorie.

Among new ideas tried at Allerton this year was the "Auction on Values". Rose Kasulas was moderator. We each had \$1,000.00 to bid on twenty such items as:

1. A chance to rid the world of injustice and disease;
2. The perfect love affair;
3. A chance to live to 100 without illness.

It was fun and interesting to hear the varied choices and reasons afterwards during discussion. Number 1. was most popular, and "The Presidency" didn't get one bid!

Another of the newer concepts was the free choice of small workshops;

1. Program and projects.
2. Denominational Goals.
3. Relation of Unit to the Church.
4. Arts

and Crafts; 5. Tape of Margaret Mead on her speech to the YMCA association of Professional Director's Triennial Conference in Atlanta Georgia, April 1972.

Pbyllis Brenning reviews Dr. Meads Speech:

A secret unit of the Internal Revenue Service is working to infiltrate private agencies and to provoke them to illegal activity. As a result, private organizations in America are .."very deeply threatened....probably as they never have been threatened before in our history."

She said, too, that there is a period gap -not a generation gap - which will exist until "most of my generation has been pushed off the other end."

"When we are dead there won't be any generation gap "because we are talking about a period gap" of those born before and those born after World War II.

She cited that war not because of the war itself, but because of the great change it brought about. "They understand because they were born into the computer world of post World War II and we understand because we try to pay attention and learn like a migrant learns the language"

"They know how it feels to be born in a world where everybody feels the threat of annihilation; of space, of Lee Harvey Oswald being shot on television, and the whole world participating in the deaths of Sn. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We entered that world as adults. We never knew it as children."

The 70 year old Dr. Mead said there are no models for either youths or adults a situation she says is "unprecedented in history."

On the IRS, Dr. Mead urges people to unite to fight the infiltration which she likened to secret police in Russia before the revolution. She said it is especially important for a broad-based organization like the YMCA to resist because it could not be intimidated so easily as smaller organizations who get..."a Telephone call in the night."

She said an IRS representative would call the treasurer of an organization which was the "seat of citizen activity," and threaten to lift tax-exempt status. "It's no good to say it won't happen to you because it will. It's important to realize now how serious it is."

PB

Hester Huff showed slides of Allerton past. Hester was at the first institute which was held at Herrick House in Elgin. Since then it has been held at Allerton for 15 consecutive years. Hester hasn't missed one! We also have her to thank for the lighter salad-type lunches this year!

New ideas are always welcome, but what would Allerton be without Lorraine Weber's sing-a-long evenings? In has become an Allerton institution!

At the business meeting, the following officers were elected: Hester Huff, Secretary-Treasurer; Robin Sprietsma and Susan Spangler, directors. Continuing officers are: Betty King, President; Marguerite Cohen and Maves Bell, directors. Robin Sprietsma was appointed Allerton Chairman; Maves Bell, Chicago Area Chairman; and Betsy Davis, Communications Chairman.

After two full days of discussion, learning, thinking, and fellowship, Tony Perrino ended the 15th Allerton Institute Thursday morning with the final worship service. We began with singing "Morning has Broken". Tony gave a tremendously inspirational critique of e.e. cumming's life and poems. Everyone went home richer in spirit and thoughts.

Thank you, Marjorie Cooper, for a great job well done. It is only people like you who can overcome obstacles and last minute curves, putting together a smooth program, and wear a cheery smile!

Allerton in Peril

While we enjoyed the 15th Annual CMDUWF Conference at Allerton this year, we must be aware of the fact that all this is being threatened by the Army Corp of Engineers and the proposed dam for the City of Decatur.

Allerton House itself is in no danger, but should this dam be build, acres of park land would be flooded. The Committee on Allerton Park, composed of concerned citizens in the area, and the Environmental Defense Fund have brought the matter into the courts. To date the corp has made no offers to buy land with money appropriated by the federal government for the project.

Any one interested in the entire matter should read "Battle For The S'ngamon" It is very well written, very interesting and available from the Committee for \$2. Also, needless to say, court costs are high and the committee would appreciate donations. This would be a good project for any individual or unit.

Committee On Allerton Park
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CHICAGO AREA MEETING OCT 25

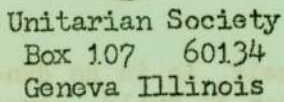
The Fall Chicago Area UUWF meeting will be held at the Evanston Church, 1330 Ridge Ave., on Wednesday, October 25. Registration will be at 10:00, with lunch served at 12:15 for the sum of \$2.00.

Margaret Hallie Huyck, assistant professor of Psychology & Education at the Illinois Institute of Technology will be the speaker. The general topic of the presentation will be "New Lifestyles for Women", with special emphasis on volunteer work as an option. Dr. Huyck will present some of the issues involved in the current debate within the women's liberation movement regarding various kinds of volunteer work, how volunteerism challenges the traditional status, how it affects the sense of self esteem and competence in women.

A preview of the Evanston Women's Alliance Bazaar is being given for your enjoyment. The bazaar officially opens the following day.

A babysitter will be available, so don't let the little ones keep you home. There was talk at Allerton to publish an Allerton Cookbook. Please lets try to get this project off the ground. Bring your favorite recipe to the meeting.

We hope to see all of you there!



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CMD UUWF
NEWSLETTER

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