

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CMD/UUWF is starting out 1989 with a new editor for VOW, a new brochure and high hopes for a successful and exciting New Year. Lake Geneva, which was so capably chaired by Sandy Drenth, was a stimulating while relaxing weekend in November. It is such a treat to be with all the wonderful, skillful women who are in this District. It is truly rewarding to see all the able, strong women who conduct workshops, lead worship and organize our District conferences. Thank You to all who contributed to Lake Geneva and there were many of you!

Our business meeting at Lake Geneva was not large in numbers, but it was certainly beneficial for the board members to hear from those of you who were there. And for those of you who did not get to Lake Geneva, please let us know your thoughts and wishes. Just contact any board member listed in this VOW.

Another exciting happening is that a new Women in Religions Chair, Peg Carlson, has been appointed by the Central Midwest District Board. We hope to have a very close working relationship between Peg and the CMD/UUWF. She is dynamic and has already held the 1st Women in Religion Conference here in CMD. Congratulations Peg, and we welcome this addition with feelings of anticipation and sisterhood.

One of the things we'd still like to hear about from you is to what should be done about Allerton times. As reported in the last issue of VOW, Allerton House did tell us that there is a minimum weekend attendance of 75, and mid-week minimum attendance of 45. The reason this has not come up before is that Allerton was always held mid-week and we were not aware of minimum attendance

numbers. For those of you who would like to come to Allerton on the weekend, it is imperative that you let us know. We will need to have a commitment of 75 persons in 1990 or we will have to hold the conference mid-week. It is up to you!

Our brochure was available at Lake Geneva and is available in numbers for any individual or group. Please let any board member know how many copies you'd like, and they will be sent. We hope this will be a way of informing women in the District about UUWF and perhaps some groups will form. I, personally, will also come to any church that is interested in starting a UUWF group. Please ask if you have needs or questions.

Another issue that I think is of extreme importance for all of us is the Feminist Theology award. The first award will be presented this year at UUWF Biennial. There is a need for additional funds for this very worthwhile project. Remember, it supports research in feminist theology which is an area which UU's have not been as active in as other denominations. The CMD/UUWF did vote to match funds given to the Theology Award by any local church women's group again this year in the amount of \$225. That means we could end up giving \$450 as a District. Also the Committee welcomes any individual donations, and what worthier cause might we find? See accompanying article in this issue of VOW.

I wish each and everyone of you a most peaceful and growth-filled year.

Jai Bhagwan,  
(I honor the divinity within you)  
Joanne

### HELP YOURSELVES - HELP US LOOK AT THE MAILING STICKER ON YOUR VOW NOW!

It will show the date on which dues are due from your unit or from you individually. Pat Scanlon, 1528 Fontana, St. Louis, Mo 63146 keeps a mailing list for us and the treasurer Ruth Davis, sends her the names of all members who are paid up dues paying members. VOW is mailed only to those people who have paid their dues and a few church officials. (We used to mail too many until the costs became prohibitive.) We will appreciate it if you will contact your women's group treasurer to be sure she is aware if dues might be overdue.

CMD/UUWF sponsors seminars and conferences and creates a bond among our women at an area level. It supports the causes you uphold, financially and with group action. The nominal dues of \$2.00 are much needed and carefully spent to give midwestern women a viable network of caring Unitarian Universalist women. Your support is needed and will be appreciated.

### IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the death of Delores Butler who served as our archivist and also handled the White Elephant Sale at Allerton. We will miss her quiet competence.

A part of me is left in every place  
That I have loved, be it a single tear,  
A dream, the echo of my voice, a step,  
A long last look at faces that were dear.

A part of every place that I have loved  
Is left in me, so neither is the same,--  
The place not I, --and neither can return  
To its simplicity before I came.

-- Elaine V. Emans

GOOD NEWS!  
JO JAMESON OF PEORIA  
IS GOING TO BE THE VOW  
EDITOR

## LAKE GENEVA REPORT

The Lake Geneva fall retreat of CMD/UUWF at Lake Geneva on November 11, 12, and 13 was hosted by the Park Forest UUWF. Attended by 74 women, 2 babies and 4 teens with Renewal as its theme, the retreat featured shuttle bus service, a variety show, group quilt project, UUWF idea sharing, a campfire, group mural and many workshops. Also included were Sunday lunch, meditation, group participation closing worship service, dinner-discussion questions and a CMD/UUWF business meeting.

Rave reviews were given to the committee along with some very good suggestions for '89' committee. We are proud to announce that Laura Parrino from the First Unitarian Church in Milwaukee graciously agreed to chair the '89' retreat. Thank you Laura and First Church.

Laura may need some help from churches beside her own, so if you'd like to volunteer your services just let her know.

Thanks so much to all the members of the '88' Fall Retreat Planning Committee, and for the support people who helped make the retreat such a success. We had wonderful cooperation and great adhesion. Thank you to all 74 women who attended the retreat. You all helped to make it special and unique'

Best of luck to Laura and the '89' Fall Retreat Planning Committee.

## BIENNIAL CONVENTION

UUWF, the only continental membership organization for UU lay women features its Biennial Convention, "Healing Connections: Journey Toward Wholeness" June 19-21, 1989 at Yale University, just prior to General Assembly. We will focus on healing wounds caused by divisions of gender, race, class, sexual orientation, etc.

UU women leaders Rosemary Bray McNatt, Kim Crawford Harvie, Lucile Longview, Judith Walker-Riggs, and Linda Harris May will participate in the keynote panel. There will be time for small group sharing, community building, and personal and spiritual rejuvenation. Biennial is a great place to meet like-minded women. And you won't want to miss the PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST OF THE FEMINIST THEOLOGY AWARDS. Early registration deadline is May 15.

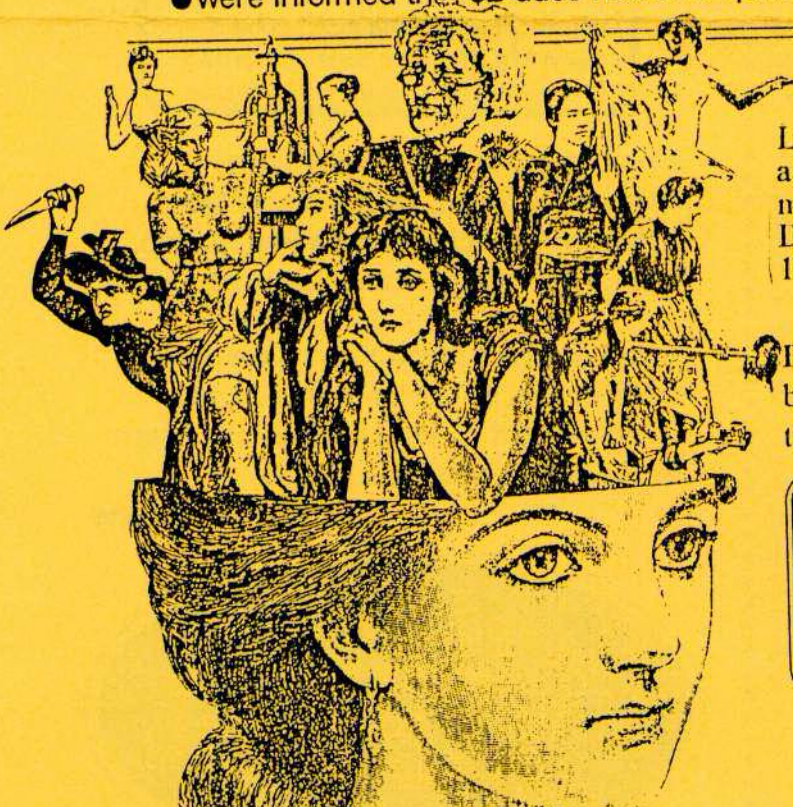
More info: UUWF, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108; (617) 742-2100

A CMD/UUWF Brochure is now available to any UUWF member or anyone interested in forming a UUWF group. Any board member can supply you with as many copies as you might like. The Spring Board Meeting will be held in Hinsdale March 3-4. If you have anything that needs attention, please let any board member know.

## BOARD BRIEFS

### AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING CMD/UUWF:

- decided all board matters will be determined by concensus.
- sent a resolution strongly urging that the CMD Board appoint a Woman and Religion Chair and provide funding for that position.
- planned completion of CMD/UUWF brochure.
- appointed Pat Johnson Chair of the CMD scholarship committee.
- considered a possible raise in dues.
- asked Clarise Jefferson and Mary Leung to compile a bibliography on women's resources.
- were informed that \$2 dues had been paid by 533 members.



### LOST & FOUND

Lost on the Fall Retreat '88' 1 black Guess with a diamond-shaped plaid pattern in the front, size medium. If found, please contact Sandy or Debbie Drenth (312) 479-2679, Rt. 4, Box 120, Elmwood Ct., Mokena, IL 60448.

Found on the "87" fall retreat one deep raspberry mohair sweater. Contact Sandy Drenth at the above address and/or phone number.

In the sweetness of friendship, let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures, for in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed

Kahlil Gibran