

Voices of Women

UU Women's
Connection logo
selection will be
announced
Spring, 2007

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection

Winter 2006

2006 Annual Report

AS the UU Women's Connection approaches the end of its first year as a new Illinois nonprofit 501 (c) (3) and successor organization of the CMwD-UU Women's Federation, it is fitting that this fourth quarterly issue of the *Voices of Women* be our annual report to members.

Our membership continues to embrace and financially support the purposes of the UU Women's Connection: *to facilitate better communication among UU women's organizations and individual members in the CMw District; to stimulate interest in aspects of the UU movement and problems of the world through annual conferences and other means; to serve as liaison between the women of the district and the larger UU movement.*

It is through dues, silent auctions, book sales and donations that UU Women's Connection continues to provide outstanding programming for women of the CMwD, including fall and spring conferences, supplemental programming, quarterly *Voices of Women* newsletters and website. www.womensconnection.org

July 1, 2006 saw the launching of UU Women's Connection website. This powerful tool is pushing 900 "hits" as *VOW* goes to press at the end of November. It has proved invaluable in promoting the fall conference and our other work--another way to "connect" with women of the CMwD.

In 2006 UU Women's Connection continued to provide needs-based grants and scholarships for retreats and conferences. We continue to offer grants to ministerial students. In 2006 we also offered ten first-time attendees grants at retreats, as well as childcare grants for caregivers. These budgetary line items along with scholarship donations made by retreat participants have made it possible for most

women who apply for scholarships to receive them and attend Connection retreats.

UU Women's Connection continued to provide gifts/donations to organizations such as Illinois RCRC, UUSC, Clara Barton Internship and Margaret Fuller Awards. We also have a Social Action line item in our budget to award small grants to CMwD social action project creators--congregations, organizations or individuals.

A first grant was awarded to SIU-Edwardsville senior, Sara Carpenter for Project Dirty Laundry, which was highlighted at the 2006 General Assembly in St Louis and gave the UU Women's Connection a format to promote our social action granting program and other important work. In April the Connection maintained a booth at the CMwD Annual Assembly in Madison, Wisconsin.

In the final quarter of 2006 UU Women's Connection governing council held it's first Annual Meeting in Springfield, Illinois. See the 2007 budget, Meeting summary, 2007 officer designations as well as 2007 UU Women's Connection goals in this issue.

2006 has been a productive year, yet not without organizational concerns that are reflected in goals set for 2007. Let us celebrate a good year and continue to work for a bright future. Many thanks for your continued support and goodwill.

--Pat Goller, 2006 Governing Council Chair

UU Women's Connection wishes to thank and recognize our *pro bono* attorney, **Kathryn Vanden Berk**, whose specialty in law is nonprofits. We are so grateful to be the recipients of her expert advice and patience. Kathryn saw us through the writing of the bylaws and the federal and state applications that have brought us to our Illinois nonprofit 501(c) (3) status.
www.nonprofitlawchicago.com

2006 Annual Meeting Summary

Jennifer Evans, vice chair, facilitated the 2006 Annual Meeting held in Springfield, Illinois. Others present were: Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh, Diana DeWeese, Pat Goller, Betty Jachim, Kathy Kline, and Cheryl Springwood.

2005 CMwD-UUWF Annual Meeting minutes were read and approved. They will be kept in our records as a matter of historic continuity and acknowledgment of our roots. July quarterly council meeting minutes were read and approved, as were minutes of a Special Budget Meeting. (6/05)

Council recognized and thanked retiring councilwomen, Pat Baker and Betty Jachim and introduced and welcomed new members, Diana DeWeese and Kathy Kline.

2007 Officers and Councilors were designated as follows:

- Jennifer Evans, Chair
- Cheryl Springwood, Vice Chair
- Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh, Recorder
- Diana DeWeese, Treasurer
- Pat Goller, Councilor-at-large
- Kathy Kline, Councilor-at-large

Betty Jachim, retiring treasurer, presented a draft budget of \$14,065 based on the last full year's budget (6/05- 5/06) (Note: a Special Council meeting was called in June to approve an interim budget from the end of the UUWF fiscal year (6/05) to the beginning of the UU Women's Connection fiscal year. (1/06)

Councilors approved a \$200 Missouri RCRC donation and increased the communication line to cover a fourth VOW and website expenses. UUSC (UU Service Committee) donation was increased from \$200 to \$400, bringing the overall total budget to \$14,590.

Efforts to contact Wisconsin RCRC have not yielded a response this year so a donation will not be made in 2007. Councilors continue to recognize the importance of the work of these fine organizations in the CMwD.

Fall and spring conference lines reflect equal IN and OUT amounts, as retreats are not expected to make a profit. Councilors noted that the 2005 fall retreat brought in an unusually high return because there were many day-only participants and because of the

committee's use of personal frequent flyer miles to save on keynote travel expenses.

The next quarterly meeting of UU Women's Connection governing council will be January 19-20, 2006 at UU Decatur Fellowship.

UUWC 2007	<u>Budget</u>
Income	
Dues	3000.00
From UUWC Checking	3880.00
IN-Fall Conference	5000.00
IN-Spring Conference	2000.00
Interest Income	60.00
Scholarship Donations	250.00
Silent Auction & Book Sale	400.00
TOTAL Income	14590.00
Expense	
Administrative Costs	1200.00
Conference Grants	
Lake Geneva-4 @ \$100	400.00
Ministerial-2 @ \$100	200.00
Spring-4 @ \$100	400.00
Incentive Grants	740.00
(5@\$50 & 6@\$20/retreat)	
Gifts And Donations	
Clara Barton Internship	1000.00
Illinois RCRC	200.00
Margaret Fuller	200.00
Missouri RCRC	200.00
UUSC	400.00
OUT-Fall Conference	5000.00
OUT-Spring Conference	2000.00
Social Action/Grants	1000.00
Communication/ VOW&website	1650.00
TOTAL Expense	14590.00

2007 Goals

- Facilitate better communication with district congregations through visits, pulpit education and meetings with women's groups.
- Establish a leadership recruiting process and form; ease the way to leadership on the council.
- Seek permanent location for the spring conference in Central Illinois.
- Invite and meet with the CMwD Women and Religion Committee to discuss a common project.
- Develop a contact list of UU Women's Connection liaisons in district congregations.

Lake Geneva Fall Conference 2006

MY BODY: LIVE. LOVE. LAUGH.

Congratulations to the hardworking and creative ALUUC retreat planning committee, who hosted an outstanding weekend at beautiful Lake Geneva and a special thanks to planning co-chairs, Rhiannon Gurley and Ceceilia Haasis for many hours of volunteer time.

Engaging keynote speaker, Judy Piazza, who spoke in her keynote address of healing with sound, wowed participants with her musical talent throughout the weekend. Her performances during the keynote and *Be Your Bold Self Coffee House* and epiphany-worthy late hour Native American flute solo were exceptional. Judy sums up her experience at the UU Women's Connection Retreat on Lake Geneva this way:

Imagine coming to a place where the gentle, nurturing, loving ways of the feminine surround you, embrace you as you exit your car.



Imagine feeling fed by women passionate about what they have to offer, so much so that you are infected and affected with experience, skill, and knowledge.

Imagine lapping shore waters so healing, with the sound of brisk wind and rustling leaves under feet as you walk sure-footed on Mother Earth around the lake's edge, a path ensured by native peoples who had the forethought to look ahead seven generations and beyond.

I arrived home feeling blessed, affirmed, enriched, and clear headed. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it all.

For more information about Judy Piazza visit her web site: www.resonanceandrhythms.com

Photo: (left to right) Diana DeWeese, LG06 Registrar and Rhiannon Gurley, LG06 Co Chair.

Newly Designated Councilors

Diana DeWeese, Treasurer, has been UU for almost 20 years serving in leadership positions at ALUUC, (including board president) past president of Planned Parenthood Springfield-Area, registrar for LG00 and LG06 Retreats. Diana is a member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. She and husband Kurt live in Springfield, Illinois with daughter, Marissa, who is a high school sophomore. Son, Kyle, attends SIU-Carbondale. Diana is currently Assistant Deputy Director for the Illinois Bureau of Energy and Recycling.

Kathy Kline, Councilor-at-large has been a UU since 1993, serving on committees and as board secretary for the Decatur Illinois Fellowship. In 1995 she was "turned on" to feminist spirituality by training to be a Rise Up and Call Her Name curriculum facilitator. Her first Allerton retreat was in 1998 when she was registrar on the local planning committee of Decatur women; and has regularly attended spring and fall retreats since then. Kathy is enjoying her 11th year in a second career as a library assistant for the Decatur Public Library, after working in social service agencies for 15 years.

2007 Communication Goals Two of the five 2007 goals seek to connect council with the women in the district. We will offer programming for women's or other groups, pulpit education for the whole congregation about women's issues and other visits to connect with you in 2007. Another goal seeks to establish a Connection liaison within each congregation who will keep women apprised of our retreats and other programming and services. Interested? Contact VOW editors Pat Goller or Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh.

2007 Retreat News

Spring Conference 07 will be held at Pilgrim Park in North Central Illinois near Princeton, June 8-10. Bloomington Normal UU women are planning. Further details TBA on the website www.uuwomensconnection.org, in district news and in the next VOW.

Fall Retreat 07 continues at Lake Geneva, Aurora University Retreat Center at George Williams Bay, Wisconsin, November 9-11. Other details TBA.

UU Women's Connection
C/o Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh
PO Box 3974
Joliet, IL 60434-3974

www.uuwomensconnection.org

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2006 Governing Council

Pat Baker (2006) *
1528 Fontana Dr.
St Louis, MO 63146-3831
314-434-3314
Tellinguu@mac.com

Dorothy Brown-Brumbaugh (2007) *
PO Box 3974
Joliet, IL 60434-3974
815-726-8869
DBB8869@hotmail.com

Jennifer Evans (2008) *
531 N. Woodbine
Oak Park IL 60302
708-386-1840
jenniferevans1@comcast.net

Pat Goller (2008) *
1331 W. Glenn Ave.
Springfield, IL 62704
217-787-0687
patrandy@sbcglobal.net

Betty Jachim (Treasurer) (2006) *
6341 Blackhawk Trail
702-784-0742
bjachim@sbcglobal.net

Cheryl Springwood (2007) *
1208 S. Broadway
Normal, IL 61761
309-454-9453
cpringwood@yahoo.com

* Terms end 12-31

Membership/Mailing List Update

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Church/Group _____

Time to renew membership dues/support?

It is, if your mailing label shows a date earlier than 12/2006. Be sure to include a check for \$10 payable to UU Women's Connection with the above information.

**Send updates and checks to 2007 Treasurer
Diana DeWeese, 716 South Douglas Avenue,
Springfield, IL 62704.**