



Voices of Women

UU Women's Connection Newsletter

2008 Annual Report

Winter 2008

Good Strides in Difficult Times

By Jennifer Evans, 2007-2008 UU Women's Connection Chair

I am pleased to report on the good strides made in 2008. It feels hopeful that the UU Women's Connection continues to thrive in this historic year of change and economic hard times. It feels hopeful when liberal religious women gather as we do here in the Central Midwest District. I'm glad to have been a part of the UU Women's Connection council, which allowed me a front row seat on all the activity.

For me 2008 was a year that often felt like Council bit off more than we could chew. But in the end we pulled it off. We provided three retreats, and we worked with the Women & Religion committee (W&R) to train-the-trainers (T3) for the *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* curriculum. It's exciting to have a new feminist curriculum and to work with W&R. Now those trainers are out in their own communities facilitating workshops. Look for our ongoing projects with W&R such as *Cakes* at the 2009 District Assembly and possible retreat offerings. Financially, much of the seed money the Connection granted *Cakes* planners will be returned to use in future projects. I am proud to say that other districts have contacted us to learn about our *Cakes* training programs.

The Connection was able to fund a \$500 grant this year to Debby Gaines for her work on a GLBT retreat called *Amazons Awakening*. Find her report on page three.

Vital first-time attendee incentive grants continued to be awarded for retreats this year, as well as the needs based and student minister scholarships and childcare incentive grants. We continue our annual gifts to worthy causes. (See the 2009 budget on page three.)

Our councilors continued offering Margaret Fuller Conversations. Thank you to those churches that so graciously hosted us. I enjoyed meeting different women's groups to find out what matters to them. The Connection offers a good service in re-energizing local women's groups. I wish groups well who spoke of a desire to breathe new life and new diversity into their existing women's groups.

We purchased the video *Ironed Jawed Angels* (the HBO production about Alice Paul and the American suffragette movement) to make it available to members. Don't forget to invite the Connection council to speak or show a movie at your women's group if you're looking for programming. Speaking of media, look for the Fall Retreat panel discussion "What Women Want" to appear on local cable access channels. Great UU public relations!

Thank you to the women of this district and especially fellow councilors for your gifts, donations, time, talents, vision, compassion and membership. A special thank you goes out to those who hosted retreats and contributed to scholarship funds or gave in kind donations. Thanks to council members who put together the Allerton and Lake Geneva events and to the Joliet church for hosting Spring Conference. Farewell to Cheryl Springwood and Trish Nolan and welcome new councilors, Tori and Nicole on page two.

I look forward to the new year with new councilors, officers and all our membership who make the work and the joy possible for the UU Women's Connection.

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Review of 2008 Goals

2008 was a BIG year for the UU Women's Connection including a return to Allerton for a 50th Anniversary celebration, completion of a two year project with CMwD Women and Religion Committee (W&R) introducing Rev. Shirley Ranck's outstanding feminist curriculum rewrite of the popular *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*, \$500 grant to GLBT Spirals in Motion retreat planner, Debby Gaines, and our usual Spring and Fall Retreats, annual gift giving, scholarships, and incentives. Worthy of mention also are the Salon programs provided by Council at congregations who have granted us meeting space for quarterly meetings. (Urbana-Champaign and Hinsdale, Illinois congregations, most recently.) The 2008 Annual Meeting and Council Retreat were held at Seven Circles Heritage Center in Edwards, Illinois.

Other important organizational goals this year were to increase leadership, church liaisons and encourage membership through incentives such as the "8 for \$8 in 2008" offered to formed and forming units in the district, and final selection of a UU Women's Connection logo. (Note the selected logo on page one of this newsletter.)

Plans are afoot to use newly recruited data base coordinator, Vi Lanum of Springfield, Illinois, to assist with a secure online member data base and other online projects this year.

It is always the goal of the UU Women's Connection Council to meet and spend time with women in the district. We do this at our quarterly and other meetings where we seek to not only talk to women and provide programming, but also listen to the heartfelt concerns and needs of women, so we may provide "grass roots" programming that is responsive to those concerns and needs. Consider hosting sometime.

Welcome to New Councilors, who both bring a young working mom's perspective.

Nicole Lisk

Nicole is a member of Eilot Chapel in Kirkwood, Missouri. She was treasurer for the 2006 Lake Geneva Retreat and the CMwD *Cakes Train-the-Trainer* (T3) core-planning group. She has a Master's in Public Administration and works for the University of Missouri-St Louis as a Program coordinator for Career Transition Certification. Nicole lives with a "house full of men"-- significant other, Cory, and two sons, Tyler, 12 years and Connor, 6 years.



Tori Kilhoffer

Relatively new to UU, Tori has been a member of the Bloomington-Normal, Illinois UU Church for two years. She has owned and operated her own marketing company in Bloomington for 14 years. Married to Patrick, the couple has two young sons, Riley, 4 years and Simon, 3 months. Tori was mentored by Cheryl Springwood, Connections departing Vice Chair and will complete the final two years of Cheryl's term. Tori has a degree in environmental engineering.



What Else is New for 2009? Goals for the coming year include:

- Recruitment of up to nine councilors as allowed by UU Women's Connection bylaws,
- Look at smaller conferences, with lower fees, sliding scales and alternative ways of approach to payment and planning,
- Consideration of traveling workshops prepared for local congregations and working as a clearing house for "out-of-the-box" programming offered by many local congregations,
- Continued membership incentive programs and
- Possible spring musical mini fest themed "Singing the Journey"

Women “Connecting” for 50 Years 2008 retreats reviewed in photos



50th Anniversary Celebrants in the Allerton Retreat Center Library, Monticello Illinois. Kathy Kline, Decatur, Illinois Planning Chair.



2008 Spring Retreat at Pilgrim Park: Breakfast circle. Planners: Joliet, Illinois UU Women



Lake Geneva Fall Retreat: Planned by The Women’s Connection Council. “Peace of (cup) Cake” decorator and planning chair, Jennifer Evans (right) with Connection 2008 vice chair, Cheryl Springwood.

First Retreat for Spirals in Motion

Thanks to a grant from the UU Women's Connection, *Spirals in Motion* was able to hold its first official retreat, **Amazons Awakening**, with special guest, Jennifer Berezan. This retreat had a special focus: to provide a safe place for connecting with other lesbians who are seeking spiritual growth and a community of like-minded women, while providing an opportunity for personal growth, relaxation and fun! The weekend was a success. In addition to participating in many wonderful activities during the weekend, all of the women made new, meaningful connections.

Debbly Gains, Rockford, Illinois

2009 UU Women’s Connection Budget

INCOME	
Dues	\$3,000
From Reserves	5,885
IN-Fall Conference 2008	2,500
IN-Spring Conference 2009	
Silent Auction & Book Sale	200
Other IN-Spring Conference	2,500
TOTAL IN-Spring Conference 2009	2,700
Interest Earned	25
Scholarship Donations	500
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 14,610
EXPENSES	
Administrative	
Board Travel	400
Conference Regis. Reimbursement	500
Copying	50
Meeting Expense	400
Phone & Communication	20
Supplies	50
Other Administration	50
Conference Grants	
Lake Geneva-4 grants @ 100	400
Ministerial-2 @ \$100	200
Spring-4 @ \$100	400
Gifts And Donations*	2,000
Incentive Grants- (5@50 first & 3@40 child care)	740
OUT-Fall Conference 2008	300
Out-Fall Conference 2009 - Deposit & Seed Money	3,900
OUT-Spring Conference 2009	2,700
Social Action Grants	500
VOW, Web, PR	2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 14, 610
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 14, 610



*Gifts And Donations - Detail

UUA-Clara Barton D.C. Internship	800
Illinois RCRC	200
Faith Aloud (formerly Missouri RCRC)	200
Wisconsin RCRC	200
UUWF-Margaret Fuller	200
UUSC	400
Total	\$2,000


2008 Annual Meeting Summary:

The UUWC Governing Council met for the 2008 Annual Meeting on October 25 at Seven Circles Heritage Center near Peoria, IL. Five council members were present.

The minutes of the 2007 annual meeting were confirmed approved, and the goals that had been set for 2008 were reviewed. The calendar for next year's council meetings was planned.

The financial report was discussed, and the budget for 2009 was made and approved. Council officers and new members were approved; and portfolio assignments were discussed. Goals for 2009 were set.

Kathy Kline, Recorder

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www.uuwomomensconnection.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



***Go placidly amid the noise
and haste, and remember
what peace there may be
in silence. – Desiderata***

Is it time to renew membership dues/support?

It is, if your mailing label shows a date earlier than November 2008.

Include recent update below and check made to "UU Women's Connection" to Treasurer, Nicole Lisk, 1461 Meadowside Drive, St Louis, MO 63146

NEW FOR 2009: "9 for \$9 in 2009." Register units of nine or more in 2009 for only \$9 each. Individual memberships are \$10.



Membership/Mailing List Update

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-mail _____

CHURCH/GROUP _____

2009 UU Women's Connection Calendar

February 20-22..... Winter WomanSpirit (W&R)
Peoria, Illinois UU Church

February 28-March 1... 1st Quarter Meeting
Springfield, Illinois

April 24-26..... CMwD Assembly
Waukesha, Wisconsin

May 9-10..... 2nd Quarter Meeting
St Joseph, Michigan

June 5-7..... Spring Conference
Pilgrim Park
Princeton, Illinois

July 18-19..... 3rd Quarter Meeting
Carbondale, Illinois

November 13-15..... Lake Geneva Fall Retreat
Connection Annual Mtg.



Councilor's Annual Retreat date and location
to be announced soon