



Voices of Women

Newsletter of the UU Women's Connection of the CMwD

Winter 2009

2009 Annual Report

Making Connections in 2009

Diana DeWeese

In 2009, the council held quarterly meetings around the district traveling from one end of the district to another and had the joy of meeting UU women in the context of their congregations. We have benefited greatly from the sharing of ideas, hopes and calls to action expressed in those conversations.

In February we met in Springfield, Illinois and helped with ALUUC's Fantasy Auction, an annual fundraiser. In May we went to St. Joseph, Michigan and conducted a Margaret Fuller conversation. In August we traveled to Carbondale, Illinois and facilitated a session from the *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* curriculum. At Sunday services we presented the congregation with a banner created from the quilt squares created by the women in the *Cakes* session.

Dues + Donations ==>"pass it forward"

In the past decade, UU Women's Connection has provided almost \$29,000 in conference scholarships, incentive grants, social action grants, gifts and donations to organizations such as UUSC, Clara Barton Washington Internship, Margaret Fuller Grants Program, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin) and others. This generosity is dependent on the financial support of UU Women's Connection members and make it possible for us to support UU women and organizations that daily make a difference in the lives of women in our world. **If you are not a member, please consider becoming a one. If your congregation doesn't currently have a unit please consider forming one.**

Goals 2009 and 2010

- *Spring Conference to be a music festival with, possible keynote Pam Hinkle*
Status – on hold Pam Hinkle, music director of the Indianapolis Women's Choir expressed interest in beginning a CMwD choir and a tentative date was set. (Continued Page 2 Column 1)

Que sera, sera...

The future is not ours to see.

The night sky, including the wonder of a nebula and the brilliance of the Milky Way pointed out at nearby Yerkes Observatory on



Saturday evening, didn't outshine the fun and talented planning team from Unity UU Temple, Oak Park, Illinois headed by Jennifer Evans. Committee members from left to right above are: Rosalyn Lutz, Cathy Busking, Marge Harmon, Rosemary Sammons, Regina Janszyn, Jennifer Evans, Carol Di Matteo, and Judith Plum. Not pictured are Carrie Bankes and Janet Holden.

The warmest, most beautiful weather in a decade at the fall retreat was one of the stars of the 2009 weekend as well, but also couldn't outshine the line up at the open mic on Saturday evening including: Anna Fermin (of *MOMSthatROCK - Concerts for a Cause*, a featured social action project headed by Anna of Chicago and Becky Aud-Jennison of Springfield). A mystery, talented Kenyan story telling and singing duo, a classical flute, a dancing yogi, singing angel, planning committee's humorous rendition of *Que sera*, Diggerydoo-ers and Chicago folkie keynote, Rebecca Armstrong were featured. Rev Armstrong's keynote address, *Living the Golden Year's without the Gold* and the array of workshops available on Saturday gave participants an opportunity to de-stress and take a break from the many changes in their lives and in the world at this time. Wondering about the location of next year's retreat? *See page five.*

Goals 2009 and 2010 *continued from page one.*

Later Pam realized she had a conflicting commitment. Now we have learned that CMwD may be planning a choral festival and we will support those efforts.

- **Establish a clearinghouse of workshop resources for congregation program planning committees. Status - ongoing**

We continue to gather workshop resource materials. This is an ongoing activity. The availability of these materials will be posted on our website.

- **Acquire a database coordinator and put database on the website. Status - completed**

We thank Vi Lanum, Springfield, Illinois who during the past year has been maintaining our membership database and preparing to transfer it to our website. Now that the database has been transferred all councilwomen are able to access membership information in a password protected format.

- **Outsource website work. Status - ongoing work**

The website content and style development is still being done by councilwomen. We will continue to search for Connection members to assist with this goal.

- **Experiment with payment options for Spring Conference. Status - ongoing**

The registration forms for the spring and fall conferences were modified to allow partial payment of registration fees with the balance due at the conference. The concept was well received by members. The council will continue the payment option for 2010 conferences and will make the registration form more user-friendly.

- **Membership dues for units – 9 for \$9 in 2009. Status – ongoing**

The unit membership dues rate has been a successful program. We will continue the program by offering “10 members for \$10 each and the 11th member is free”.

- **Recruit two more council members. Status – ongoing**

We gained two new councilwomen whose terms begin in January 2010 – Debbie Czarnopys-White, Dubois, IL and Cathy Kline, Makanda, IL. (See the spring *VOW* for their biographies.) We would love to expand the council to the full 9 members allowed by our bylaws and we look to Michigan, Wisconsin or Indiana for geographic diversity. Thank you to Jennifer Evans, Oak Park, IL and Kathy Kline, Decatur, IL whose terms will expire at the end of 2009.

In addition to the on-going goals already listed, the council will have the following goal for 2010:

- **To partner with the CMwD Women and Religion Committee in a joint venture to celebrate Margaret Fuller’s 200 birth anniversary and honor CMwD UU women in leadership.**

(See inserted flyer and right column: **What Goes ‘round....**)

2009 Grant Report:

Emma’s Revolution Concert-Feb.13th

The UU Women’s Connection in November announced the award of a \$500 grant to the First Unitarian Fellowship of Carbondale, Illinois.

While in Carbondale for our 3rd Quarter meeting in August, Council had an opportunity to learn more about the fellowship’s Zambian HIV/AIDS partnership with Ranchod Hospice and Orphan Care in Kabwe, Zambia for which an Emma’s Revolution concert will raise monies.

Join us in Carbondale: Saturday February 13, 2010 for a performance by "Emma's Revolution" to benefit the Fellowship’s Zambian HIV/AIDS Partnership. The concert and a silent auction will benefit HIV/AIDS services of Southern Illinois, as well. *See the enclosed flyer for details and ticket information.*

What Goes ‘round...

The Connection has applied for and expects to receive a \$500 leadership grant from the Chicago-area UU Council for a project planned with the district Women and Religion Committee in 2010. The project seeks to honor “UU Women as Agents of Change.” This program, March 20, 2010, will be held at Third Unitarian Church in Chicago and seeks to honor a woman from each of the district’s congregations who has stepped up to leadership in the style of Margaret Fuller, a crafty and original UU foremother. Plans for the day include a series of Margaret Fuller Conversation Salons around the subject of leadership, lunch, entertainment and more.

Watch the mail in January and think about a woman in your congregation to honor—one who steps up and out of her comfort zone with creative leadership style and projects that inspire and lead in the tradition of Margaret Fuller. Honorees will attend free of charge and other supportive women may attend for a registration fee of \$15 which includes lunch, entertainment, salons and more. Nominate your congregation’s female “agent of change.” Details, nomination form and specifics will be sent to each congregation in January. On-line registration is planned. See the inserted flyer in this issue for details and contact information.

This time like all times is a good time, if we but know what to do with it.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson



pat humphries & sandy o

emma's revolution



February 13th 2010 Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship 301 West Elm Street Carbondale

To benefit their Zambian AIDS Partnership with Ranchod Hospice and Orphan Care in Kabwe, Zambia.

<http://www.cuuf.net/programs/Zambia/Zambia.html>

Part of the proceeds will also be donated to HIV/AIDS Services in Southern Illinois.

The silent auction, wine and finger food reception will be held from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM followed by the concert. The Silent Auction will contain items from Africa as well as donations from local Artisans.

Advance tickets: \$15.00 and \$10.00/students. Available at the door: \$18.00 or \$10.00/students.

For further information please contact Carla Feldhamer at hospice88@aol.com or 618-201-4947.

emmasrevolution.com

"If I can't dance I don't want to be part of your revolution." —emma goldman



Celebrate UU Women as Agents of Change!

Come to Chicago for a

Women's Leadership Day

Learn their
stories,

Share your
stories!

March 20, 2010

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Third Unitarian Church

301 North Mayfield, Chicago, Illinois

Celebrate Margaret Fuller's 200th Birthday Anniversary
by nominating your congregation's own female agent of change.
Get involved in Margaret Fuller Conversations on creative leadership.

Contact: connections@uuwomensconnection.org
womenandreligion.org/index.php/cmwdwr-news/116-change
uuwomensconnection.org



A joint project of CMwD UU Women's Connection and
CMwD Women and Religion



2010 Fall Retreat Location

Mark your calendar and be prepared to set your sails for Williams Bay, Wisconsin next November 5-7, 2010. The board at George Williams/Aurora University Retreat Center has agreed to allow us another year at the retreat center. While this might not be on going the Connection is happy to have at least one more year to find a suitable retreat location for this popular fall retreat.

2009 UU Women's Connection Council

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2010 Spring Conference Planners and Keynote Announced

Save the date **June 4-6, 2010** for your pilgrimage to beautiful Pilgrim Park Retreat Center, near Princeton, Illinois. A planning committee headed by Meg Schnake and Brenda Wade of the Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation in Springfield, Illinois promises a spa-like experience with keynote, Teri Freesemeyer, Metaphysician, Teacher, Spiritual Tutor, Coach, Author, Massage Therapist, Healing Artist, Energy Practitioner and Toe Reader! Yes, "Toe," not "Tarot." Teri has more than 22 years in the spa, healing arts industry. Get ready to discover some fantastic ways to implement the important spiritual practice of self-care and nurturing. Enjoy a weekend of pampering, fun and sister-time as you learn to maintain the innate gift of your own life force energy. Connection website will have news as planning proceeds. www.uuwomensconnection.org

2009 Annual Meeting Summary:

Kathy Kline, Recorder

The UU Women's Connection governing council met on Nov. 7 at the Lake Geneva Retreat, with seven councilors and fourteen members present. A discussion was held about alternate locations for future fall retreats if George William's College is unavailable. The minutes from the 2008 annual meeting were approved, 2009 goals reviewed, 2010 goals set, outgoing councilors thanked, officers elected, new councilors approved, the financial report reviewed, and the proposed 2010 budget set.

2010 UU Women's Connection Budget

INCOME

Dues	\$3,000.00
From Checking	\$1,535.00
IN-Fall Conference 2010	\$2,700.00

IN-Spring Conference 2010

Silent Auction & Book Sale	\$200.00
Other IN-Spring Conference	\$2,800.00

TOTAL IN-Spring Conference 2010 \$3,000.00

Interest Earned	\$25.00
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Misc Scholarship Donations	\$500.00
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TOTAL INCOME \$10,760.00

EXPENSES

Admin.

Board Travel	\$600.00
Conf Reg Reimbursement	\$500.00
Copying	\$50.00
Meeting Expense	\$200.00
Phone & Communication	\$20.00
Supplies	\$50.00

TOTAL Admin. \$1,420.00

Conference Grants

Lake Geneva-4 grants @ 100	\$400.00
Ministerial-2 @ \$100	\$200.00
Spring-4 @ \$100	\$400.00

TOTAL Conference Grants \$1,000.00

Gifts And Donations	
Incentive Grants	\$240.00

(3@40 child care)per retreat	
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OUT-Fall Conference 2009	\$100.00
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Out-Fall Conference 2010	
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Deposit & Seed Money	\$2,700.00
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OUT-Spring Conference 2010	\$3,000.00
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Social Action&Grants	\$500.00
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Vow, Web, PR	\$1,800.00
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TOTAL EXPENSES \$10,760.00

Print newsletter vs. e-mail Newsletter

In 2010 out of financial concerns and a desire to save postage and use less paper we are preparing to e-mail our newsletter and retreat brochures to those members who don't mind. We have been collecting e-mail addresses from members/friends. Now we are almost ready to test the feasibility of staying in touch with you the 21st century way. **Let us know if you prefer paper. Call a councilor listed or e-mail: connections@uuwomensconnection.org**



UU Women's Connection
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www.uuwomensconnection.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Time to renew your membership? It is, if the date on your mailing label shows a date earlier than November 2009.

Include recent update below, make check payable to "UU Women's Connection" and send to Treasurer, Nicole Nichols, 1461 Meadowside Dr. St. Louis MO. 63146

Individual memberships are \$10. Units of 9 or more can save by paying only \$9 each in 2009.

Membership/Mailing List Update

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CHURCH/GROUP: _____

Clip and send.

2010 Connection Calendar

- Feb 5-7.....1st Quarter Council Mtg.
 Beverly Unitarian Church
 Chicago, IL
- Feb. 26-28.....Winter Woman Spirit 2010
 First Unitarian Society
 Milwaukee, WI.
- March 20....."Women as Agents of Change"
 Third Unitarian Church
 Chicago, IL
- May 21-13.....2nd Quarter Council Meeting
 Prairie UU Society
 Madison, WI
- June 4-6..... Spring Conference
 Pilgrim Park Retreat Center
 Princeton, IL
- Aug. 13-15.....3rd Quarter Council Meeting
 First Unitarian Church
 Alton, IL.
- Nov. 5-7.....Lake Geneva Fall Retreat
 Williams Bay, WI
- Nov. 6.....4th Quarter/Annual Meeting
 Williams Bay, WI



Council annual retreat date and location TBA