

Voice of Women



Summer/Fall 1994

Volume 16 Issue 2

A Note from the CMD-UUWF President: Paula McCabe

When I first started attending my church, I was attracted by the passionate commitment of many members to social issues and political action. Of course, as someone who had spent a large part of her adult life avoiding conflict, I was often surprised, disconcerted, and perplexed at how passionate two different people could be about opposite sides of an issue! I still respect the forum that our churches and church organizations provide for these types of discussions, as I learn to keep my equilibrium (most of the time!) in their midst.

Last fall at the Lake Geneva conference such a discussion was initiated concerning our district organization's relationship with Continental UUWF. Some women were surprised and concerned to learn that when CMD-UUWF signs up a new member it does not verify that the new member is also a member of Continental UUWF. An attendance list for the conference indicated that quite a few attendees were members (or became members at the conference) of CMD-UUWF alone. Other women were concerned that membership in Continental UUWF not become a prerequisite for joining CMD-UUWF, or local women's alliances. It was felt that the contributions of CMD-UUWF are more visible within the district, so many women are eager to support our district organization. They might not join if they were required to join Continental at the same time. It was also felt that involvement in CMD-UUWF educates women about our continental organization, its long history and many important contributions, and thus facilitates membership growth in Continental UUWF.

Given the strong feelings of both sides of this issue, CMD-UUWF board made this an item of discussion at several board meetings. I also contacted the president of the Continental UUWF, Kay Alert-Maida to discuss the matter. In addition, the board brought this issue before the CMD-UUWF annual meeting in June to discuss with the membership. Here is a summary of these discussions.

1. Not all districts have a district-level UUWF.

2. Continental UUWF will be discussing the possibility of creating a structure wherein there is a provision for district groups, not just individual members and church member groups. (Presently, district groups exist and interact with Continental, although there is no formal provision for this in the Continental structure.)

3. Joining Continental UUWF is not considered a requirement for joining CMD-UUWF.

4. Presently, there are two ways to join Continental UUWF. You may join as an individual and pay a \$25 membership fee. Or, you may join the member group at your church for a \$12 membership fee. It only takes 5 women to form a member group. We have discussed providing a third option to women who do not have access a church member group. Under this

option, you could become a member of CMD-UUWF (our membership fee is still \$5.00) and then join Continental UUWF for \$12.00 CMD-UUWF would then be considered your member group. There's one other district in the UUA which provides this option.

5. If we are concerned that the contributions of Continental UUWF, and the benefits of membership therein, are not visible enough in our district, then certainly it is our responsibility as a UUWF organization to make them more visible. In the future, CMD-UUWF will be providing information to our members and conference attendees concerning their membership status with Continental UUWF. We will also provide an opportunity at our conferences for women to join Continental UUWF, just as we already encourage them to join our district organization.

I encourage you to take on a similar commitment in your church. Promote the work of UUWF. Informational brochures are available from Continental headquarters, from myself or from Janet Nortrom, or Continental liaison. (Addresses and phone numbers in the directory in this and every VOW issue.) Continental UUWF also publishes an annual report which I have found helpful in recruiting new members, as it lists specific actions and accomplishments, as well as summarizing conferences.

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Let the feelings flow, and trust where the flow is taking you.

Melody Beattie

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October 28-30, 1994

CMD-UUWF Fall Retreat

January 27-28, 1995

Womanspirit Winter Gathering

June 3-5, 1995

**CMD-UUWF Annual Meeting
- Allerton Conference**

June 15, 1995

UUWF Pre-GA Day

August 4-6, 1995

Womanspirit Summer Gathering

October 26-29, 1995

UUWF Biennial

**VOW DEADLINE and
EDITOR REQUEST**

Deadline for Winter VOW is February 1, 1995

Editors request. It takes more time than you might expect for me to re-type text into this newsletter. In an effort to streamline this task I am asking for help from each of you who own a computer: please submit a 3 1/2" diskette along with a hard copy of your text. I can import: plain text from MS-DOS (ASCII text), RTF, Microsoft Word for MS-DOS 3.0-5.x, Microsoft Word for Windows 1.x-2.x, Microsoft Windows Write 3.0 & 3.1, Microsoft Words for MS-DOS 2.0 & 3.0 with .WPS extensions, Microsoft Works for Windows 2.0 & 3.0 with .WPS extensions, WordPerfect 5.0 & 5.1, PC-*, and Ami Pro for Windows 1.0-3.0. If you do not own a computer please send in articles either printed or typed.

This will make the job I love to do much more fun and productive. Thanks!!! Your Editor, Susan Karcher

President's message continued from page 1

Many member groups recruit and collect dues for all three groups during their membership drives — church member group, CMD-UUWF, and Continental UUWF. Some of our member groups waive portions of membership dues for women who cannot pay for all three organization. These member groups pay the dues out their own treasuries, and all the members for their group enjoy full memberships in CMD-UUWF and Continental UUWF.

Please consider moving in this direction. Through membership in Continental UUWF, we are connected to a long line of Universalist and Unitarian women who provided leadership in their denomination, in our nation and in social reform movements in America and the world. We are members of a fully autonomous women's organization which is associated with the UUA, UUWF being only one of three organizations to enjoy this special relationship with the UUA. We support the work of UUWF in social relationships with the UUA. We support the work of UUWF in social justice networking, supporting UU women's scholarships, honoring women, promoting collaborative leadership, and offering women's conferences and programming.

I believe this work deserves our full support.

Please feel free to contact me, or any other member of the board, with questions or comments about this matter. I am particularly interested in hearing from women who are interested in joining Continental UUWF through membership in CMD-UUWF.

Keep in touch!

Paula McCabe
President



Central Midwest District
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

1994 Fall Retreat

**WE LAUGH, WE CRY, WE LIVE, WE DIE,
WE DANCE, WE SING OUR SONG**

(Credo by Shelley Jackson Denham)

**Keynote WE LAUGH, WE CRY, WE LIVE, WE
DIE, WE DANCE, WE SING OUR SONG**
(Credo by Shelley Jackson Denham)

Keynote Speaker: Shelley Jackson Denham
Date: October 28-30, 1994
**Place: George Williams College,
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**

Shelley Jackson Denham grew up coming the Summer Assembly at Lake Geneva and is now on staff at The Mountain (a UU retreat center in North Carolina). She has written many songs including Credo.

The purpose of this retreat is to step outside of our everyday lives, and to look at what is moving us to song, to tears, to laughter, to dance. We will honor who each of us is right now - whatever our age, whatever our life experience, whatever joys and sorrows we bring with us.

As we look inside ourselves and share with each other, we will celebrate all that we are and all that we aspire to be. Nurtured by this community of women, we will go away feeling spirit and energy renewed, and ready to carry on!

Workshops include:

1. Exploring the Power of the Dark Goddess - Nancy Vedder-Shults; 2. Creating Healing Circles for Women - Noelle Baker Wisby; 3. Opening Doors and Building Bridges - Mary Gerlach; 4. Storytelling Adventures - Sandra Gutridge Harris; 5. The Madison-Arcatao Sister City Project - Jill Aruguete-Siewart and Danielle Luethje; 6. Creating a Cultural Quilt -

Mary Kay Kamps; 7. Reflecting Our Spirituality In Our Food Choices - Living Lightly On The Earth - Penny Andrews; 8. Living After Loss - Tracy Moraine; 9. Telling Your Own Story - Bobbie Hineline; 10. Women In Our History - Women In Your History - Jennifer McGuire; 11. Experience the Fundamentals of Qi Gong - Georganne Buyze; 12. the Divine Mother Meets the Buddha - Jane Keggi; 13. Yoga for Beginners and Others - Joanne Fought; 14. Filling Up and Spilling Over - Lynn Carlson; 15. Journaling In the Moment - Margaret Alexander; and 16. Singing In the Spirit - UU Musicians. WOW is that a great line up!!!!

The brochure was mailed last week. The registrar is Tracy Moraine, W26ON7751 Jay Lane, Sussex, WI 53089 Phone number (414) 246-3604.

Registration Fee \$35.00 if postmarked by 9/19/94 and \$40 if after 9/19/94.

Special Note: Things to bring - a small decorative bottle with water from a spot that has meaning for you, an instrument, an extra blanket, meditation cushion, and teddy bear for the inner child.



CMD-UUWF Allerton Conference 1994

On June 4-5-6 approximately fifty UU women from Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin gathered together at Allerton House in Monticello, Illinois. This beautiful mansion and grounds (which are lush green, lined with evergreens, many different sculptured gardens, old and wise trees, statues from different part of the world, paths to follow, deer and other animals, and a quiet elegance all its own) were the conference site of the 1994 Annual Business meeting and conference of the CMD-UUWF.

Our theme was "Expanding Our Horizons" and our keynote and workshop leader was Pat Connelley. Pat has an extensive background as a therapist. Among her many areas of expertise are geriatric nursing and psychiatric therapy. On Saturday evening our topic was "in the company of woman" to share our experience, wisdom, pain, and joy. At the end of the evening we danced with streamers out on the terrace to the beat of drums. It was magical.

On Sunday morning, Pat led us with the topic as "Self preservation, regaining natural instincts." At the final ceremony we gathered around the candles and objects of special meaning to each of us (that we had placed on an altar we made Saturday). We then, one by one, reclaimed these special objects and shared our story with the group. When we finished, we blew out our candle and rejoined the larger circle.

The rest of the time was filled with a variety of workshops, the Hester Huff Reception, the Silent Auction, workshop sessions, and informal stimulating conversation with old and new friends alike. There were times to take a walk, take a rest, walk in the beautiful gardens, or read a good book in the beautiful surroundings.

I especially want to thank the Peoria group for hosting the Hester Huff reception. The table was beautiful. We took time for sharing our experiences of discovering Unitarian Universalism.

I would be remiss not to thank our Workshop leaders which also shows the variety of topics available for participants:

1. Milwaukee Group - Clothesline Project Against Violence Toward Women,
2. Ruth Johnston - UFO's is there a Great Cover up?,
3. JoAnn Franzac - Introduction to Meditation,
4. Betty Jachim - Aging and Other Concerns,
5. Betty Jachim - Money Matters,
6. Carol Lytle

Broading Self Understanding Through Personality Types- Introduction to the Myers Briggs Type Indicator; 7. Lee Brigman - Compulsive Eating; 8. Lynn Lidburg - The Expressive Arts, 9. Mariam Wirth - P-Flag Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 10. Beverly Feldt - Taking Space in the World-the Body Language of Personal Power, 11. Pat Skogen - Folk Dance (she also did a general session we all enjoyed).

I also wish to thank Sandy Drenth, Betty Jachim, and Susan Karcher for their patience and help. We hope even more of you out there will attend next year. It will again run from noon on Saturday through noon on Monday, June 3-5, 1995. Next year's chair is Nancy Babel from St. Louis, MO (address in directory). I am sure she would appreciate a call if you have any suggestions or workshops you might want to lead.

And last, but not least, my thanks to Rossann Baker-Priestley who did a great job as registrar!

Doris Jones, 1994 Chair

Hester Huff Honor Roll 1994 Recipient

The Hester Huff Recognition Roll was established in honor of Hester Huff who stood for all the things for which the UU's in CMD stood for through the years. She was instrumental in planning the merger of the Unitarian and Universalists - she held in her lifetime nearly every office in the district. I (Doris Jones) began attending Allerton in 1964 and she was the first person I met as she was registrar, a job which she did for many years. Hester had a tremendous sense of humor and was respected by all of us.

In keeping with the Hester Huff tradition, this year's person certainly fills the bill. She is Janet Nortrom! Janet is president of the Milwaukee unit which she attends and where she has been a member of the church for 24 years. She has served on many committees in her church such as VP of the Board, Sunday school teacher, Chair of Worship Committee, Finance and Canvass Committee. The list goes on and on including founding several woman's rights groups and the gay/straight group call Interweave.

At the district level she has co-chaired the Fall Lake Geneva Conference twice and has been a presenter at many groups within the district. At the Continental level she is a member of the Board and is a presenter/trainer of the "Rise Up and Call Her Name" program. At the local level she is active in many groups such as the Audobon Society, Historic Society, NOW, World Federation, and Planned Parenthood to name a few. Her personal philosophy is to "stay involved" and she does just that. Congratulations!!!

Highlights of the 1994 CMD-UUWF Annual Meeting

Susan Karcher was elected Vice President. Irene Sanderson is our new Treasurer. Helen Cadoret and Lu Krug were elected to two-year terms as Directors.

The proposed by-law amendments were adopted. Doris Jones and Lu Krug were elected to serve on the new Nominating Committee; in the absence of a third candidate, the President was authorized to appoint the third person to the 1995 Committee.

A \$6960 budget was adopted. In addition, the treasurer is to use \$165 of existing funds to make \$525 available to provide for potentially larger, more realistic grants to each conference: three grants of up to \$100 for Allerton and three grants of up to \$75 for Lake Geneva.

In light of the heavy fiftieth anniversary emphasis on reenactments of the Normandy D-Day landings, Jet Jacobs initiated a petition to our Representatives encouraging visions and talks of peace.

Final conference attendance count was 49.

Nancy Babel of St. Louis will Chair Allerton 1995; the dates are June 3-5.

Adopted 1994-95 Budget

ADOPTED 1994-95 BUDGET

INCOME	
Dues	\$2500
Conference Refunds	
Allerton	\$1000
Lake Geneva	\$3000
Allerton Silent Auction	\$ 300
Interest	<u>\$ 160</u>
TOTAL	\$6960
EXPENSE	
Administrative Expense	\$ 725
VOW (newsletter)	\$1600
Seed Money	
Allerton	\$1600
Lake Geneva	\$2300
Gifts and Donations	
RCAR *	\$ 50
Conference Grants **	\$ 360
Matching Funds FTS ***	\$ 50
Clara Barton Camp	\$ 50
Student Minister Grant****	\$ 125
Continental UUWF	<u>\$ 100</u>
TOTAL	\$6960

*Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights

**To be augmented by \$165 funds on hand

***Feminine Theology matching grants

****To attend a CMD conference or retreat

**DUES/MAILING LABELS
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

CMD-UUWF annual dues are \$5.00. They may be paid through your local unit or on registration at the Allerton Conference or the Lake Geneva Retreat. In any case, the date at the upper right of your mailing label indicates when your next dues payment is expected. (Note that though you may have paid your local treasurer in, say, September, she may not have sent a report until later. In that case, the date on the mailing label will be one year after the report date.) Another option is for women to join as individual members by sending \$5 to the CMD-UUWF treasurer.

Membership in CMD-UUWF does not automatically confer membership in Continental UUWF. In some Alliances or UUWF's the dues collected cover CMD, Continental and local dues; the treasurer reports and passes the dues on to CMD and Continental. If your group does not operate that way, you can join Continental UUWF as an individual. Another option is to form a cluster of five or more and qualify for the reduced group dues rate. Need more information? Let us know.

Please help us keep our mailing list up to date between dues times. We don't want you to miss a single VOW issue or notice of other women's programming. (We sometimes share labels with other UU groups.) Please help in another way by reporting deaths (It's hard on families to keep getting mailings.) Everybody moves sooner or later. Even the your mailing list coordinator, after 33 years, will be moving in September; so send address changes to the VOW editor this time.

**DUES/MAILING LABELS/CHANGE OF
ADDRESS CONTINUED.....**

MEMBERSHIP/MAILING LIST UPDATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

ADDRESS CHANGE? Y___ N___

EFFECTIVE DATE

(Mail to: Susan Karcher, 1431 South Lombard Avenue, Lombard, IL 60148)

DUES \$5.00 PAYMENT? Y___ N___

Make check payable to CMD-UUWF
(Mail to: Treasurer - Irene Sanderson,
5005 North Palisades Road
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217)

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
CONTINENTAL MEMBERSHIP? Y___ N___**

(Mail to: Paula McCabe,
1339 Deane Boulevard, Racine, WI 53405)



UUWF Continental Board Liaison News from Janet Nortrom

"Dismantling Racism" Racial Justice Diversity Training: A long Memorial Day weekend took me to Boston, along with 10 out of 12 of our Continental UUWF board members. We met with the UUA Diversity Task Force Team, Mel Hoover, Director, UUA President John Buehrens, District Administrators, ministers, and a ministerial student, UUA staff, R, UUA board members, psychologists and a time from the national Crossroads Racial Diversity Team.

At a time when violence is all about us, I felt my commitment as a white UU privileged person needs to be looked at more closely, both myself and our society to help dismantle racism if we are to survive. I will gladly share this very transformative weekend.

GA 94-Ft. Worth, Texas

Our UUWF ministry to women award reception and lecture for Bernice Johnson Reagan of "Sweet Honey and the Rock" was well attended by CMD-UUWF members, Pat Ulman, Helen Johnson, Jean Kapusick, and Janet Nortrom. The Feminist Theology awards went to: 1. Irene Baros-Johnson, M. Div. for "Contributions of Text and Texture: Lucretia Mott and Unitarians"; 2. Lyn Burnstine for "Anita Truemen Pickett: Free-Thought Preacher" and 3. Shirley Ann Ranck, Ph.d., M. Div. for "Feminist Theology for the 21st Century."

Bren Chambers and Marilyn Van Veersen, shared their music and signing skills for "The Women's Anthem."

A noon march in Ft. Worth for "Choice" and "Religious Freedom" was led by Continental UUWF President Kay Aler-Maida, Helen Johnson, Denny Davidoff, UUA Moderator, and UUA President, John Buehrens and a host of other UU's from throughout the country. Our UUWF banner was carried with pride. Many receptions and programs built around our new UUWF curriculum, "Rise Up And Call Her Name" (Liz Fisher editor) provided many outstanding presentations. Many other excellent workshops, worships, and leadership opportunities were held and we can share them with our UUWF women's groups and our congregations.

Helen Johnson (Mukwonga Church, Wisconsin) and I organized beginning and ending worship services and an ingathering, besides providing a workshop on UU's Acting to stop Domestic violence and

I would encourage all women in the district to attend a General Assembly and to come a day early to the UUWF Pre GA Day, which will build around the Ministry to Women Award. Start planning now, I am working on this continental gathering, hoping other CMD women will join in.

I celebrated with 100 other CMD-women at the "Summer Womanspirit" retreat at Ronora Camp, at Watervliet, Michigan earlier this month. A fun, learning meeting with women, full of earth-based spiritualities.

Other notes:

The Womanspirit conference will be held in Evanston, Illinois on January 27-28, 1995 (look in this issue for more information). The UUWF Biennial will be held on October 26-29, 1995 in the Minneapolis area. Plans are being made to hold training sessions in the fall for the "Rise Up and Call Her Name" curriculum.

Peace and Hugs,

Janet Nortrom

Quote:

"for where women have cast their lives in the terms that they and not others have set for them, their stories of struggle will speak to us of inspiring human achievement and bravery"

by Cynthia Grant Tucker

1994 Womanspirit Summer Gathering

In lush meadows among groves of massive trees, gathered the women of the CMD and beyond at Camp Ronora in Watervliet, Michigan at the First Annual Summer Womanspirit in early August, 1994. The gathering was sponsored by the CMD Women and Religion Committee. Every accommodation filled and even spilled over into tent camping for a weekend of leading workshops, teaching lodges, ceremony, and ritual. The gathering was filled with laughter and joy in sharing the quality of women's experiences and friendships.

This spirit of UU women came together in celebration of our religious belief system in honoring diverse religious teachings and honoring Mother Earth in her many guises and ourselves in diversity.

From sunrise at a dawn celebration to a starshine ceremony our connections were celebrated in song, meditation, dance, drumming, and contemplation.

Children of participants, girls and boys ages from two weeks to sixteen years, successfully integrated into camp life and made us all richer by the experience.

The committee planned a wonderful weekend with workshops and Teaching Lodges on spirituality, creativity, herbal first aid, women's life cycles, rattle making, and story telling. At a new moon ceremony we gladly gave to the council fire our unwanted ways, tied into string knots and let them go.

On Saturday night we welcomed maidens (new and old), honored care givers and wise women who treated us to some humorous crone lessons. Our Medicine Wheel closing on Sunday morning included a blessing for the children and a sharing of our experiences over the weekend. We learned ways in which to integrate various learnings into our church life.

Next year's date for the Womanspirit Summer Gathering are August 4-6, 1995. Save the dates.

By Lindsay Olsen & Marilla Missbach

The 1995 Womanspirit Winter Conference

The Women & Religion Committee Central Midwest District present SING! THE BODIES ELECTRIC. The 1995 Womanspirit Winter Conference theme: A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN & THE EARTH.

The theme of this conference on the mind/body/Earth/Spirit connection reflects our growing need to reexamine our attitudes about ourselves and our relationship with the Earth. It will involve workshops on the latest in physical exercise, nutrition, ecology, meditation techniques, wellness training, art therapy, and massage, as well as show us how our attitudes were formed, the effect of our beliefs on society, our planet, and ourselves, and what we can do to create a transformative new vision.

Keynote speaker: Charlene Spretnak author of *The Politics of Feminist Spirituality*, *States of Grace*, *Lost Goddesses of Ancient Greece*, *Green Politics*, *The Spiritual Dimension of Green Politics* and leader in many feminist spirituality and Green Movement organization.

SAVE THE DATE! January 27, 28, and 29, 1995 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston. Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and watch your mail for registration flyers.



UUWF Women's Video Library

The Continental UUWF has secured 17 films on video from the National Film Board of Canada. They were the result of the 1992 Ministry to Woman Award to Studio D, the women's section of the National Film Board of Canada. Donna Read's *Full Circle* is also available now. These films are available to all UUWF members and member groups free of charges, except for \$5.00 for postage and handling fee. Our hope is to continue to help "Transform Thoughts" provide opportunities for women's groups to get together and view the films and have discussions that will free up women and empower them to become agents of change for society. They are excellent for district/local program ideas and good publicity for your women's group. Videos can be available for a two week period. The tapes are 1/2" VHS format and the running time is listed at the top of each description. Two videos can be rented each time. The tapes will be located in the central part of the country to help secure the tapes more readily. Janet Nortrom, Continental UUWF Board member, will be the distribution point. Please contact her for more detailed information about each video. (or contact Susan Karcher and she will mail you a complete listing, with time, director, producer, description, and order form. See inside for address.)

Videos available are: *Adam's World*; *After the Montreal Massacre*; *Behind the Veil: Nuns*; *The Burning Times*; *The Company of Strangers*; *Forbidden Love: The Unshamed Stories of Lesbian Lives*; *Goddess Remembered*; *Making Babies*; *Making Perfect Babies*; *Not a Love Story: A Film about Pornography*; *Sisters in the Struggle*; *To a Safer Place*; *Toward Intimacy*; *Wise-crackers*; *Women in the Shadows*; and *Full Circle*.

Order Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 UU Society Affiliated with/Women's Group _____

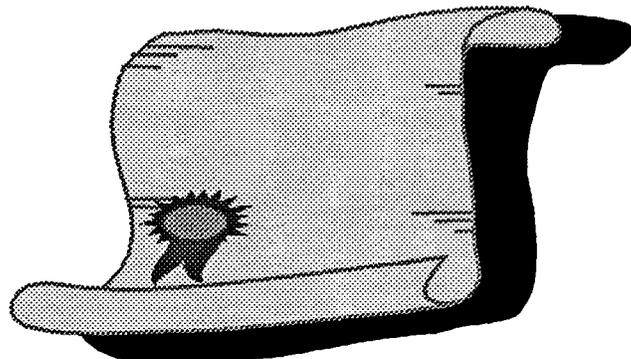
Video(s) requested: _____

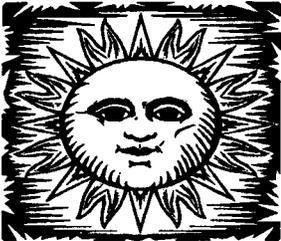
Date of request: _____

Please allow two (2) weeks. If you have suggestions for future videos, please list them on the back. Send all requests to Janet Nortrom, UUWF, 4332 N. Woodburn Street, Shorewood, WI 53211 (414) 964-3764

CMD-UUWF 1994-95 Directory

President - Paula McCabe (414) 637-6083
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 5005 North Palisades Road
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 128 Berry Street, Park Forest, IL 60466
Women & Religion Chair - Fran Reynolds
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 Columbia, MO 65203
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 114 S. Marion Street, Oak Park, IL 60302
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 Executive Director - Mairi Meeks**
 both at (617) 742-2100, Boston, MA 02108
Continental Board Liaison - Janet Nortrom
 (414) 964-3764, 4332 N. Woodburn, WI 53211





**CMD-UUWF
V.O.W. Newsletter**

**UU Church in Oak Park
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Oak Park, IL 60301**

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