



CMD-UUWF

Communications Chairperson:

Marion Y. Baker

1110 Walnut

Western Springs, IL 60558

Phone (312) 246-3217

January, 1980

Volume II Issue I

Greetings to All!

FALL BOARD MEETING IN BLOOMINGTON BIG SUCCESS

Bloomington was the scene of the CMD-UUWF Fall Board Meeting. On November 16 and 17 participants from St. Louis, Kirkwood, Ottawa, Champaign, and Western Springs met at the Bloomington Church.

In addition to offering a meeting place, people of the UU church extended home hospitality and superb meals. The committee members who made all this possible were Jet Jacobs, Clarise Jefferson, Wanda Hoover, Lucile Davis, Alicia Young, and Tobe Easton.

On Friday evening, members who were able to arrive early discussed many ideas as to how the District organization could help units in the local churches.

Among these ideas were:

(1) ENLARGEMENT OF VOW'S MAILING LIST

It was agreed that each name added to the "dues paid" list would receive all regular mailings of the CMD-UUWF. These names would also be forwarded to the Messenger for its mailings.

(2) WHAT ABOUT A TALENT BANK? In line with the needs of local units, help with programs was discussed. Lorraine Weber expressed willingness to work up a simple annotated list of individuals, including programs that might be available along with the addresses and phone numbers. Such a list could be a real help in establishing a UUWF network of available programs.

If you have a program that has been a success and that you are willing to

share with a nearby unit (or perhaps not so nearby), please send the information to Lorraine Weber

810 S. Race

Urbana, IL 61801

Give a brief description of the program and other vital information.

If your unit needs fresh programs, write to Lorraine and tell her what, where and when you need such help. Realistically, this resource list probably would be most useful for your 1980-81 plans.

Let's give this idea a good try. Surely each unit will have at least one program that it might share.

(3) LET'S PLAY "PASS IT ON" IN OUR COMMUNICATIONS! One way that each of us can help is to "share the mailings" that come to us or to our churches.

Especially, keep your eyes open for mailings that come in but have no special person claiming them. Get these into the hands of someone who will appreciate them.

It's a real waste to have materials gather dust and finally land in the waste basket, sometimes without even having the staple removed. A little individual responsibility can accomplish wonders and at no cost.

(4) WHAT ABOUT DRIVE-IN CONFERENCES?

The possibility of mini-conferences involving clusters of churches that were within reasonable driving distance from each other was considered.

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Fall Board Meeting - continued

Saturday, November 17 was devoted to the formal business meeting, with Pat Scanlon presiding.

A budget for 1979-80 was approved. This budget included the expenses for the Allerton Institute, the printing and mailing of the District UUWF newsletter, board meetings, and a new project which comes under the heading of "Extension."

The latter is to be considered by a special committee made up of Pat Scanlon, Irene Riehl, Carol Nudo, and Jean Ann Funk. Their preliminary report will be presented at the March board meeting.

It is hoped that some tangible steps will be ready for approval at our annual meeting at Allerton. If you have ideas which you would like to have considered by this committee, do get in touch with any of its members.

Along this same line of thinking, the Board asked Marion Baker to write to the Church of the Larger Fellowship to secure the names of the CLF UUWF who live in our District. Isolated UU women might well be happy to know of our District organization and of the Allerton Institute.

Another move to get our District organization beyond the comfortable confines of its Allerton activities was instituted when the Board members agreed to contact all the units that had no representation at last year's CMD UUWF Conference.

An urgent plea from Tobe Easton: She desperately needs your membership lists from the last year or so. Many of the District's records were stolen from her car soon after she received them.

No one can imagine why anyone chose to steal the UUWF's financial statements, but the fact remains, they did. Now Tobe urges you to send in any information which you may have. She doesn't want to "bug" you, but she does need your help in recreating those membership records.

Make it your responsibility to check with your local treasurer to see if your 1979-80 dues have been mailed in.

Send to Tobe Easton
609 N. School Street
Normal, IL 61761

Clarise Jefferson's Report

The CMD is very fortunate to have a Continental UUWF Board member from this district. And a busy lady she is.

At our November Board Meeting she brought us news from the continental organization and the CMD Annual Meeting in Wausau, Wis. While in Wisconsin she met with units in that state, bringing them direct contact with our continent-wide organization.

Among the items that she emphasized was the Clara Barton Camp for diabetic girls. The financial needs of this camp are admittedly staggering . . . but the needs of the girls it serves are such that the UUWF is committed to its continuing operation.

\$ \$ \$ \$'s are needed in order to keep the physical set-up in acceptable condition and the program at its high level of excellence.

If your unit has never studied this outstanding service project, excellent materials can be secured from headquarters. There are also several in this district who know the camp and its history well. Our Resource List should have their names and other vital statistics.

If your unit has already decided to support the Clara Barton Camp, be sure that your checks are made out to the camp. In this way you can be certain your monies will be used for the project intended.

Clarise also recommended individual memberships for those who feel they are not getting regular information through the local units. This reminded me that I had neglected to renew my individual membership.

I really have missed those direct mailings and the news they contain. Have you sent yours in? It's a fine way to keep on the country-wide news network of the UUWF and at the same time support the program as a whole.

"IT'S A GIFT TO BE FREE..."

Lorraine Weber brought a progress report of the 1980 Allerton Committee. The theme for this June's meetings (used as a headline here) should spark all sorts of mental activity.

June 10-12 will find us all viewing this idea from dozens of angles....A gift from whom? What sort of a gift? Do I want it? If I don't want it, what do I do with it? If I haven't received that gift, what can I do about it? FREE? What do you mean by free? How free?... and so on and on. Some heady stuff could evolve, it seems to me.

While we are talking about this coming Allerton Institute, it is appropriate to report that much informal discussion dealt with the problem of distance that had to be traveled by some. Those who came from long distances not only experienced a certain financial drain but arrived exhausted from the many hours on the road.

One suggestion that might help with the energy drain was for those who came from a long distance to arrive Monday night.

Since Bloomington is just a short way from Allerton, the women of the Bloomington Church offered home hospitality to those who would find it easier to arrive the night before the conference began.

This generous offer could make it possible for the trip from Wisconsin to be less of a survival test and a great deal more fun. Get in touch with Tobe Easton if this arrangement appeals to you.

Remember...June 10-12

Allerton Park

"IT'S A GIFT TO BE FREE..."

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: Allerton Committee for 1981 is Approved!

No wonder your Board members left Bloomington in a mild euphoria. The Hinsdale UUWF Units offered to head up the 1981 Allerton Conference. The offer was accepted unanimously.

Knowing ahead of time who is to be responsible has many obvious advantages. If any of you and/or your units wish to take a turn at designing this district program, just make your wishes known to your Board. It's a strenuous experience, of course. But the resulting growth and strength more than make up for the time and energy expended.

BLOOMINGTON Survived!

Brace Yourselves, AVON!

In line with the newly reinstated policy of contacting as many local units as possible, the Board has been "inviting themselves" to different towns where there is a UU society. In order to save travel expenses, those towns approximately halfway between St. Louis and Chicago have been so "blessed." And to help establish stronger feelings of belonging, the Board members have been "encouraging" offers of home hospitality.

This all leads up to the fact that on the evening of March 7 and during the day of the 8th the CMD UUWF Board will be meeting in Avon. It is hoped that the members will renew old acquaintances and add some new names to their UUWF circle. These Board Meetings are open to interested people, and the participants would be delighted, if dazed, to have concerned visitors join in the discussions. Consider yourself invited...if an invitation is what you are waiting for.

FROM HERE...AND THERE...AND
EVERYWHERE....

GENERAL ASSEMBLY....GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It isn't too early to mark your calendars for the UUA-GA which will be held at the Albuquerque Inn and Convention Center in Albuquerque, NM.

The date: June 13-18. This does come hard on the heels of our UUWF Conference in the Central Midwest District. Undoubtedly there will be some of us who will work both meetings into our calendars.

The 1980 GA theme: "Touching Our Heritage--Enriching Our Tomorrows." Keep a sharp look-out for registration and program details.

* * * * *

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Our Continental UUWF sponsored an exhibit and hospitality suite at the National Conference of NOW in Los Angeles, in October? And that Betty Cyrus was among those who attended that conference and (wo)-manned the suite?

The UUWF has a wide and rich variety of program helps? These excellent materials would be most helpful for units or fellowships in planning their programs. Just write or call headquarters in Boston and help will be on its way.

The UUWF Gift Catalog lists "attractive and useful items for gifts... for yourself...(for) money raisers, for your unit or district organization.

There are memberships called Clara Barton Sisterhoods? They are newly established, so don't be surprised if you haven't heard of them. We will talk about them later.

MEN'S COLUMN

Dave Arnold, Rockford UU Church, recently commented in their local newsletter that the G.A. and District organizations had agreed not to meet in non-ratified ERA states.

For the last two years this policy has been followed when planning for denominational meetings. Dave had a question about the fact that our District Annual Meeting had had no ERA Workshop in 1978 and only one in 1979.

His closing statement is one we all might think about: "It seems that we spend the energy to establish a policy but not to follow up to make a positive impact for passage of ERA."

How about it? Is the District UUWF missing an opportunity to contribute to our denominational profile? If we have not been asked to help here, why not?

What have you done about the ERA? This week? This month? This last year? Now is the time for ACTION...not in 1982. It'll be too late if we wait till then.

Jack Mabley, Chicago Trib. columnist, wrote recently, "I have visited some of the fabled mansions of America...(and) I am a little chagrined that it took me all this time to find this...unique park so close...the Allerton Mansion is...a conference center...not a museum..."

This isn't news to us, but isn't it fun to have a popular writer confirm our choice of conference sites? And it's also a good selling point for possible new participants.

* * * * *

'TIS A GIFT TO BE FREE

ALLERTON '80

Can you picture in your mind . . .

The serenity of strolling among the giant trees . . .

The luxury of living in an elegant mansion . . .

The stimulation of thoughtful discussion . . .

The beauty of an oasis-park set amid the corn fields
of Illinois . . .

The pleasure of gourmet meals, which you didn't prepare
and don't have to clean up . . .

The inspiration of joyous music and shared worship . . .

The satisfaction of increased knowledge . . .

The contentment of doing only what you choose to do . . .

The joy of being . . and caring . . and loving . .
and sharing.

These, and more, are the gifts we offer to U.U. you at the Allerton Conference.

Please start making plans now, if you haven't already, to attend Tuesday,
June 10th through Thursday, June 12th.

The program committee has made some exciting plans which include seven work-
shops which all deal with current problems, concerns and dilemmas. Topics
will be: Patient Rights & Hospices, The Environment, Corruption & Politics,
Federal Funding (Boondogle or Blessing), Schools, Welfare Systems, Women in
Politics.

And if that's not enough, also included will be: Drama, Music, Business,
Crafts, U.U. Displays, Films, Dancing, and more.

Registration forms have been sent to each of you. Remember the June 1 deadline
for early registration.

Unitarian Church of Bloomington
1613 E. Emerson Street
Bloomington, IL 61701

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President, UUWF
Unitarian Church
875 Lake St.
Oak Park, IL 60301

CMD-UUWF Board

President: Pat Scanlon
1528 Fontana
St. Louis, MO 63141
314-434-3314

Secretary: Pat Gnagey
1260 Ottawa Avenue
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-1533

Treasurer: Tobe Easton
609 N. School
Normal, IL 61761
309-452-3105

Directors:

Jean Ann Funk
3 Harwood Lane
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-965-1370

Carol Wike Nudo
166C Rue Des Chateaux
Bethalto, IL 62010

Communications Chairperson: Marion Baker
Allerton Co-Chairpersons:

Carol Wike Nudo

Marion Baker
1110 Walnut
Western Springs, IL
60558
312-246-3217

Irene Riehl
2312 Fairview Drive
Alton, IL 62002
618-462-7201

Lorraine Weber
810 S. Race
Urbana, IL 61801
217-367-4501