



Voice of Women

Winter 2000

Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

Greetings from the Vice President

At the risk of sounding repetitious and boring, we still need candidates for officers, to wit: President, one year; Vice president, two years; Treasurer, two years. The nominating committee consists of Rosemary Sammons at 708.345.1981, Jet Jacobs at 309-828 -6685 and Jeanne Fitch at 309.454.2285. We are cheerfully accepting nominations from the floor. Remember that expenses related to board meetings plus postage and telephone calls and such are paid from the treasury. And believe it or not, board meetings are fun!

And on another note, I recently looked through the CMwD Directory with its list of churches and committee chairs within each church. I noticed that while some churches don't list UUWF, they do list other things. So I started a list. *(It doesn't include all of the churches in our district.)*

Seven listed UUWF; 7 women and religion [W&R]; 4 listed a women's group [WG]; 2 had Alliance; 9 didn't list any groups; 5 had both UUWF and W&R; 7 W&R and WG; 2 UUWF, W&R and also WG.; 3 both W&R and WG; one UUWF, Alliance and WG; and 1 had wg and an alliance.

I don't know what it all means, but it's something to think about.

yours on the journey
Jeanne Fitch

Everything the power of
the world does is done
in a circle.

—Black Elk

Lake Geneva Report

The Lake Geneva conference will always be especially meaningful to me. After all, it was my first conference (just a few short years ago); particularly kindred spirits were the hosts; PLUS it took place over Samhain. And if I remember right, it was a lovely, crisp fall weekend, the campus was flooded by golden maple leaves and it did not rain until the last day.

A hard act to follow 2 years (plus one weekend) later! The date change wasn't the only thing that was new. We met in a new, larger space to accommodate the increase in attendance due to the Saturday-only option and the well-known keynote, Sonia Choquette, who also led a special workshop for an additional fee. Hats off to the women of North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois, for being risk-takers and trying something new. But I have a confession--I missed sitting in a circle at Cratty, like I did in 1997. *(Actually, circles mean more to me every day, and anyone who heard Margot Adler in Milwaukee this past January will have had the pleasure of learning of another type of circle--the restorative justice circle!)*

Nevertheless, the conference, titled Intuitive Living in the Femillennium, had all the usual good stuff to offer. There were great vendors offering everything from jewelry to massage to dolls to books.

Workshop choices included explorations in meditation, tarot, intuition (of course!), and shamanic journeying among others. Add the famous great food, yoga in the early mornings, an art room filled with an abundance of materials from nature, a bonfire plus "sharing" on Saturday night all in the lovely setting on Lake Geneva and you have a successful conference.

See you in November!
SCV

Gender Justice Action Group

We're proud and pleased to announce the formation of a new social action group: the Gender Justice Action Group (GJAG). The group grew out of a series of workshops created by the UUSJ (UUs for Social Justice) called "Gender Justice." They featured women's issues. However, in recognition of the truth that all issues of inequity are interconnected and that gender-related issues have much in common, GJAG was created to take action on gender-related issues affecting men and G/L/B/T persons *as well as women*. We hope to bring together men and women of all sexual orientations to foster greater understanding of gender-related issues and to work together to effect change. We welcome **all!** For more information, call Pam Godbout (UUC) at 708.481.9019 or email her at abercat@earthlink.net.

Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist UUWF of Racine, Wisconsin
3rd WomanSpirit Faire & Bizarre
Sunday, May 7, 2000 Noon to 5 p.m.
Admission \$1

Bring the family and friends to the Flatiron Village Mall, 1661 Douglas Avenue (Hwy 32), Racine, Wisconsin 53404 on May 7. Parking is in the rear. Why?

Shake, rattle and drumroll on percussion instruments from around the world. Or bring your own to two drumming circles to be held at the 3rd WomanSpirit Faire & Bizarre at the Flatiron Village Mall in Racine's near north side, just off Highways 32 and 38.

Recreation therapist Nancy Frenk from Crystal Lake, Illinois, will lead circles at 12:15 and 4:15 p.m. She will bring frame drums, talking drums, cabasas, agogo bells, shekere and many more from around the world. Musical talent or experience is not required. "Everything around us is a rhythm. Life is a rhythm. The first thing we heard while in the womb was the heartbeat of the mother," said Frenk, who leads

drumming circles in senior communities in the Chicago area.

Bring a little spending money too!

More than 30 artists, vendors and entertainers will exhibit goddess and earth-centered creations centered on women's spirituality, which can help women believe in themselves and in the strength of their spirit. An "aura" photographer, tarot readers, massage therapists, musicians, Maypole and folk dancing, book and bakery sales focus to enhance that spirit. A children's art area is also included.

This is definitely a family event.

All are welcome. Admission is only \$1. Door prizes will be awarded. Parking is available in the rear lot off High Street.

Need more information?

Just call Sharon Burdick at 262.634.6906.

!!!Our Allerton 2000 DATES HAVE CHANGED!!!!

Mark Your Calendars

Friday noon thru Sunday noon

June 2-4

The theme of the CMwD-UUWF Allerton Conference this year is...

********She Who Follows Her Own Star********

(Keynote Speaker is yet to be determined due to a change in plans; look for complete info in the mail very soon!)

Join your hosts, the Unitarian Church of Bloomington, on
the spectacular grounds of Allerton Park

***Save August 4-6 for Camp
Renora***

***Never been to Renora?
There's no time like this August!***

***Been before?
See you by the pond
or in Grace-in-the-Woods!***

look Out FALL 2000

Plans are in the works for the
annual CMD Retreat at George
Williams College in Lake Geneva.
Brought to you this November by
the Peoria UU women.
Further details will follow.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMENS FEDERATION**

will be held during the Allerton Conference to hear reports, adopt a budget and to elect a vice president, treasurer, two directors and a nominating committee. We will also be working on bylaw revisions. **This year's nominating committee encourages your active participation in the process.** We would especially like to get representation from Wisconsin. Interested? Any suggestions for the above named offices? **Contact Jeanne Fitch at 309.454.2285 or at jeanfitch@aol.com, Jet Jacobs at 309.828.6685, or Rosemary Sammons at 708.345.1981 with candidates names as soon as possible.**

Prairyerth's 2nd Annual Living Treasures of North America Heritage Awards

— Honoring Ray Schulenberg & Jim Gillihan —

April 15, 2000 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston

Last year two Native Grandmothers in their eighties were honored as "Living Treasures." This year the designation goes to two men for their lifelong commitment to bringing people into harmony with the Earth and restoring health to all. The \$55 registration for the day includes continental breakfast, lunch and workshops. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the Opening Ceremony at 9:30 a.m., followed by morning workshops, lunch and the afternoon honoring program of stories about the lives of Ray Schulenberg and Jim Gillihan interspersed with music of UU Troubadour Jim Scott, presentations and responses. The Closing will be a pipe ceremony led by Jim Gillihan. Vendors will be present. The following eight workshops are planned:

- * *Our Generation: Roots and Wings*, two men on growing up Indian in contemporary America
- * *Songs for the Earth*, with our featured singer/songwriter
- * *Earth Rhythms: African Hand Drums*
- * *Eat Your Weeds*, on edible plants in the urban/suburban yard
- * *Herbs of Our Elders*, an herbalist shares her knowledge of the healing properties of common plants
- * *Healing Predators/Restoring the Earth*, a wildlife rehabber/educator, with her kestrel, explaining the importance of predator birds to a balanced eco-system
- * *The Return of Navaho Boy*, a filmmaker showing and discussing his Sundance Film Festival hit
- * *Effects of Genetically Engineered Plants on the Bio-Sphere*, a forum

For more detailed information, call Prairyerth at 708-579-5695 or email at Prairyuu@aol.com

James Gillihan

James Gillihan, a highly respected man of Cherokee heritage, was made the fourth Keeper of Sitting Bull's Pipe in 1978 by Fool's Crow of the Lakota Nation. Although trained as an archeologist, Jim worked on Illinois and Missouri road crews as he became uneasy about the destruction of Native burial grounds. He has served as director the Natural History Museum of the University of South Dakota, Cultural Preservation Director for the state of South Dakota and as the governor's liaison to the traditional Lakota People.

Jim currently serves on the Indiana Native American Council. Refusing to take any recompense for his healing work with Sitting Bull's Pipe, Jim supports his wife and son as an antique and fine arts appraiser. In 1998, Jim was recognized as a Spiritual Leader by the Prairyerth Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Ray Schulenberg

Ray acquired his love of plants from his mother on a 120-acre Nebraska farm. During college he began learning the Sioux language, which led to work with the Indian Service and visits with Blackfoot, Mandan and Hidatsa tribes. A 20-acre plot on the Iowa Reservation in Nebraska was his first effort to try to heal the wounded land. (Years later Ray added 264 adjoining acres and donated the entire restoration to the Nature Conservancy.) After earning a BS in Horticulture at the age of 34, Ray became Curator of Native Plants at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Pioneering many techniques of prairie planting, he restored 55 acres of farmland into native prairie, the Schulenberg Prairie. Ray considers his final 10 years at the Arboretum as Curator of the Woody Plant Collection his greatest contribution. He rehabilitated the collection, improving an already prestigious collection, making it as correct, complete, meaningful and accessible as possible.

CMD-UUWF 1999 ALLERTON CONFERENCE REPORT**INCOME**

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Registrations | \$1660.00 |
| Silent Auction | <u>384.05</u> |

TOTAL INCOME

\$2044.05

EXPENSE

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Pre-conference/Planning | \$ 20.62 |
| Conference Supplies/Equipment | 320.47 |
| Keynote Expense | 339.25 |
| Refreshments | <u>21.54</u> |

TOTAL EXPENSE\$ 701.88**NET GAIN**\$1342.17**OTHER DATA**

Registrations: 43

Scholarship Expense: \$160.00

Scholarship Contributions: \$80.00

**CMD-UUWF 1999 LAKE GENEVA RETREAT REPORT****INCOME**

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Registrations | \$5320.00 |
| Vendor Fees | 385.00 |
| Note Cards/Songbooks | 420.00 |
| Childcare Fees | 35.00 |
| Extra Workshop Fees | <u>1190.00</u> |

TOTAL INCOME

\$7350.00

EXPENSE

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Pre-conference/Planning | \$1396.33 |
| Conference Supplies/Equipment | 1682.64 |
| Note Cards/Songbooks | 298.43 |

\$468.50

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Keynote Expense | 1200.00 |
| Childcare | 125.00 |
| Extra Workshop Expense | <u>1178.00</u> |

TOTAL EXPENSE\$5880.40**NET GAIN**\$1469.60**OTHER DATA**

Total Registrations: 162

(includes 42 one-day participants)

Scholarship Expense: \$484.00

Scholarship Contributions:

RCRC HAS BEEN BUSY!

Pro Faith . . . Pro Family . . .

Pro Choice . . . Join Us . . .

The Religious Choice for Reproductive Choice

voice mail: 773.509.6374

RCRC (Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice) in Illinois has taken an opportunity to counter some of the extremist "anti" advertising in McHenry County with the above info on a billboard . . . and another one can be found in Springfield, for our legislators to see. On that front, RCRC, Planned Parenthood, YWCA, AAUW, ACLU, League of Women Voters and many other concerned groups are strongly supporting Illinois HB3201. Currently the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act only requires a hospital to provide written and oral information concerning the possibility of pregnancy resulting from sexual assault. It does not require hospitals to inform a rape victim about emergency contraception or provide the medication if it is requested. HB3201 would **require** all hospitals that provide emergency services to sexual assault victims to provide that information and emergency contraception (most commonly a special dose of ordinary contraceptive pills taken within 72 hours of intercourse).

HB3201 passed the House by 76-42 and is stuck in the Senate Rules Committee. We need to contact our local Senators to urge getting it released to the floor of the Senate, where it is felt it has a decent chance of passing. Email barrages are **NOT** seen as effective methods of lobbying, but letters are. Accessing the web site www.pro-choiceillinois.com can help you bridge the gap between the computer and your legislator's mailbox. Through that web site, a hard-copy letter will be generated and delivered to the designated person. Be sure to visit the site, as there's a **lot** more to it. **If you're in/near Springfield and would like to help with RCRC's work, they'd love to hear from you. Call them at 773.509.6374.**

Another RCRC/Planned Parenthood event held on February 16th was a half-day consultation, "On the

Forefront of Faith and Sexuality," to which clergy from many denominations were invited, held at the UU Church in Oak Park. Sessions featured the following topics: new developments in reproductive health that have implications for faith and ministry; curricular and pastoral materials for congregational use on sexuality and reproductive health; briefings on the impact of hospital mergers on health care; and information on legislative initiatives that serve victims of rape and incest. There will also be a presentation by Debra Haffner, President of SIECUS (the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States).

A couple of other web sites of interest:

www.religionproject.org where you can get a copy and/or add your name as an endorser of the *Religious Declaration on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing* printed in the February 25th edition of the New York Times; **www.SIECUS.org** (see above); and **www.teenwire.com**, a Planned Parenthood site for teens.

Trust in yourself.
Your perceptions are often
far more accurate
than you are willing to
believe.

—Claudia Black

Recommended Books

Hanna's Daughters by Marianne Fredriksson
Three generations of women from the title's Hanna, born in 1871 in the rural backwoods of Sweden to the present day urban Sweden. Many think this is the best novel they've read in years.

Elegy for Iris by John Bayley
A beautiful memoir of the 40+ year marriage of British author Iris Murdoch, now being masked by Alzheimer's, and her husband, John Bayley.

The Box Garden & Small Ceremonies by Carol Shields
Two short, "paired" books featuring the same family, some of the same incidents, but told from the points of view of two sisters.

A Place of Your Own by Edward Searl
A guide to creating a personal space, a home altar, with 52 weekly devotions by this UU minister who's quite comfortable with his feminine side.



CMD-UUWF ANNUAL DUES ARE \$5.

They may be paid through your local unit or on registration at the Allerton Conference or the Lake Geneva Fall Retreat. Another option is for women to join as individual members. Note that the date at the upper right hand corner of your mailing label indicates when your next dues payment is expected. FYI, if you pay via your unit, the date entered is based on when we received the membership list from your local treasurer or membership

CIRCLING/BEING IN CIRCLE

In the Circle Process,
when people sit and speak from their deepest part,
no matter how wounded
nor much anguish and tears,
they are at that moment,
sitting in their own circle of power.

They need to be witnessed and respected
for their willingness to go so deep,
be so vulnerable.

What is required as witness
is to sit in our own circle of our own power
owning our own pain/fear,
be fully with our feelings,
not projecting them outward.

Our stories need to be heard,
not fixed.

—from *Ceremonial Circle* by Cahill and Halpern

MEMBERSHIP/MAILING LIST UPDATE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH _____

GROUP _____

CMD-UUWF 1999-2000 Directory

Acting President Jeanne Fitch (309.454.2285), 1200 E. College, Apt. 336, Normal, IL 61761

Secretary Pat Baker (314.434.3314), 1528 Fontana, St. Louis, MO 63146

Treasurer Mary Lou Steadman (309.452.9008), 5 Ardith Dr., Normal, IL 61761

Director Joanne Fought (309.676.6849), 501 N. Glenwood, Peoria, IL 61606

Director Sheila Young, (630.759.0224), 15-S Fernwood Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Director Shari Robinson, (309.344.0170), 566 N. Broad, Galesburg, IL 61401

Director Karen Tajbl, (847.270.3576), 7 Glenbrook, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

VOW Editor Could your name go here????????? **Editor needed for next issue of VOW**

Allerton 2000 Contact Linn Hinds 309.821.9111) 53 Vermont Ave., Bloomington, IL 61701

CMD Administrator Helen Bishop, (708.343.3478), 1701 S. 1st Ave., Suite 310, Maywood, IL 60153

Women & Religion Chair Carol Hosmer, (630) 279-2304, 726 South Monterey Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181

Continental UUWF Board Liaison Patsy Sherrill Madden, (314) 522-3218, 4131 Castleman Ave., St. Louis MO 63110

Continental UUWF Administrator Ellen Spencer, (617) 724-2100, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

Voice of Women

**Central Midwest District
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
6341 Blackhawk Trail
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