



2012 UU Women's Connection Council

Debbie Czarnopys-White,
Chair
618-787-2929

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847-498-9333

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309-963-6090

Nicole Nichols, Treasurer
314-569-7103

Juli Cicarelli, At Large
847-797-0634

Diana DeWeese, At Large
217-546-5834

Peggy Patty, At Large
217-636-8875

Recruiting for 2 more
At Large Councilors—let us
know if you want to help with
the work of connecting
women across the district!

Voices of Women

Newsletter of the UU Women's Connection

Spring 2012

~Sign Up NOW for the Spring Retreat—Brochure INSIDE!~

Planning for *Fall Retreat* Well Underway

Join us the weekend of **October 19-21** for our annual Women's Connection Fall Conference! This year we will be meeting at a great new Retreat location - the DeKoven Center in Racine Wisconsin. The Center is within walking distance of Lake Michigan and everything (meals, meetings, and lodging) will be held in one building.

The Keynote speaker will be **Geri Schrab** who will speak on "Accessing Ancient wisdom through Rock Art". Her ideas stem from the knowledge that a woman's body is a macrocosm of Mother Earth's body and that respect for the Earth and respect for woman goes hand in hand.

Geri Schrab is an artist who has traveled throughout North America to explore ancient sacred sites. She states "The focus of my artwork is the study of petroglyphs and pictographs which are images pecked, carved and painted on rock surfaces by the ancient indigenous people of North America. I have found although the style and execution of the original rock art images may vary from area to area, there is an underlying unity. This ancient unity echoes our common heart and essential connection to Mother Earth."

In the year 2012, we think about renewal and honoring our past and what it can teach us.

In the fall of the year we join together and connect to gather inner warmth for the winter to come. **Join us!**

We will offer hands on workshops and meditative ones. If you have a workshop you want to share, please contact the committee.

We look forward to seeing you! This is wonderful weekend to see old friends and make new ones. Want to **CONNECT** with other like minded women? We would love to have your help organizing this upcoming Retreat! Contact us to discuss what you would like to offer to help make this Fall Retreat on the edge of Lake Michigan a great experience for other women like yourself.

Why Be a Member of the UU Women's Connection?

As a council, we've been asking ourselves this question. Here are some of the reasons we came up with:

Juli says, "At our retreats, we come together to celebrate the feminine divine. From women wiser than I, I have learned ways to nourish my spirit, and I have learned to honor myself and other women."

Debbie says, "Being a member provides the opportunity to meet other women who have such a wide variety of life experiences. Learning of their growth contributes to our lives. There are many paths to

growth and spirituality and the UU Women's Connection is a wonderful vehicle for them."

Sage says, "I may be a long time UU, but I am relatively new to the feminine divine. To realize that I didn't have to believe in the male figurehead, or even nothing at all, was eye-opening and even life-affirming."

Lastly Diana very eloquently said, "For me, the Connection—by articles in the VOW, by our quarterly visits to congregations, by our two conferences, by our booth at District Assembly—it's letting women in the district know that they are not alone.

The Connection—we are like worker bees, we cross-pollinate. Women gather and share their values, their beliefs, their practices. As a woman, you can take what you need and share what you have. By being a member, and paying dues, each of us makes it possible for these moments to happen."

Help us make it possible for moments like these to happen—join now for \$10!

The cost of membership will be increasing on July 1 to \$15 for individuals or \$12 each for a group of 10 women or more.



UU Women's Connection

54th Annual Spring Conference

June 1-3 2012 ~ Pilgrim Park Retreat Center ~ Princeton, Illinois

**Featuring: Pam Blevins Hinkle, Enlivener
with Bonnie Ettinger, Keyboard Goddess**

Come! Explore! Find your voice! Be prepared to experience sounds from the sublime to the ridiculous. This weekend is not just about "singing," but learning that when **The Heart Leads** your intentionality creates beauty in the world. When you sing, speak, and act from your heart, there is no room for self-judgment or fear. Choose to raise your voice, move your body, play hand percussion or simply be still and soak up sound/imagery as we experience songs and chants from various cultures and traditions to open the weekend.

Soul Sounds: Pam's Saturday workshop explores a world of melodies and harmonies waiting to be heard. Step with her into The River of Sound and learn to make music spontaneously. The mantra: "There are no wrong notes!" No musical experience necessary.



"Expressing our essential and singular beauty is a sacred task...."

Pam Blevins Hinkle



REMEMBER
YOUR SONG
awakening your creative power

UU Women's Connection

Spring Conference

June 1 – 3, 2012

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

CONGREGATION _____

CONFERENCE FEES

1. Registration Fees - Please check the appropriate registration fee and write the amount in the box:

	UUWC Member	Non-Member
Full Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
Saturday Only (incl registration, use fee, plus lunch & dinner)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95
Saturday Only, plus breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> \$87.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$102.50

\$ _____

2. Room & Board – Please check your room selection and write the amount in the box:

Upper Conference Center – Single (on the main floor, with private bath)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140
Upper Conference Center – Double Preferred Roommate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125
Lower Conference Center (dorm type room with shared bathroom) Preferred Roommate(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Higgins Lodge – Double Occupancy Only (a short walk from the main building) Specify Roommate _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Tent Camping (bring your own tent and bedding)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50

\$ _____

3. Membership Renewal

***The date is on the upper right corner of your mailing label** \$10

\$ _____

4. Scholarship Contribution

Scholarship donations go directly to help sisters in need attend this Conference or the fall Conference. Won't you lend a sister a hand?

\$ _____

5. Late Fee – if mailed after May 23, 2012 \$20

\$ _____

TOTAL CONFERENCE FEES

- Please add the amounts in each of the boxes above: \$ _____
This is the Total Amount Due.
- Subtract the amount enclosed with this form: \$ _____
At least 50% of the total must be included with your registration form.
- This will be your amount due at the retreat: \$ _____

**On the Electronic list? Email us to discover your membership renewal date. Connections@uuwomensconnection.org*

Please REGISTER ONLINE on our website, www.uuwomensconnection.org
or mail completed registration form with payment to:

Gretchen Ohmann, P.O. Box 1021, Benton Harbor, MI 49023-1021

Make checks payable to: **UU Women's Connection**

Questions?? - Call Gretchen – 269-369-1114 or email – registrar@uuwomensconnection.org

OTHER NEEDS/REQUESTS (We will try to do our best to accommodate.)

- Steps are a problem
- Mobility/stamina problems
- Dietary concerns/restrictions Please list _____
- Vegetarian meals preferred Indicate type of vegetarian _____
- Other Please list _____

Open Mic : Share your passion in song, dance, poetry or music! Time limits will be applied.

What talent(s) are you sharing? _____

ROOM/BOARD INFORMATION

- Rates listed are per person for the entire conference period, Friday evening through Sunday morning.
- Meals included are Friday dinner (6-7 p.m.) through Sunday breakfast.
- Check-in time is 4 p.m. Friday. Room checkout time is 10 a.m. Sunday.
- Sheets, pillow, blanket, towel and washcloths are provided (except tent camping – you will need your own tent and bedding).

There are a limited number of rooms in the Upper Conference Center, so send in your reservations early!

SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATION

The UU Women's Connection budget funds four grants of up to \$100 each.

Additional \$40 grants are available to help with childcare expense. *Note: On-site childcare is not available, though nursing babies are welcome.*

Applications must be postmarked by May 5. These go fast!

You'll get an answer to your request within 10 days.

My need is _____

My home church/group will provide _____

An additional scholarship is allocated for ministerial students. Please list school name and degree sought.

Spring Conference 2012 ~ June 1-3 ~ Pilgrim Park Retreat Center ~ Princeton, Illinois

Workshops offer a variety of ways to explore and find YOUR unique voice through dance, song, crafting, journaling and more. Sign up on arrival.

Do-It-Yourself Activities will provide opportunities to make a Song Bracelet or Mendhi Hands, Dye a Silk Dancing Scarf (\$10) or Walk the Labyrinth, Visit with Sisters, Hike, Nap, Day Dream, Read, get a massage or spend time in the music, sights and sounds of nature.

Pilgrim Park offers a limited number of modest accommodations and well prepared, simple food. See enclosed Registration form and Register early.

Motel accommodations may also be secured at two locations near the retreat center. Rates are very modest. Eat with Sisters at the Retreat Center. **For More Motel Info** Contact Diana DeWeese at kidi71@aol.com. Phone: 217-546-5834

Book Exchange/Sale Hardbound and soft bound book donations are sought for our bargain book tables. There is a special emphasis this year on Musical books, sheet music. CDs, etc.

Silent Auction Bring your gently used items to contribute to the Connection's only fund raiser! Musical gadgets and instruments are especially encouraged this year, as are any other treasures you would like to share. The auction begins on Friday and ends Saturday Evening.

Don't miss Open Microphone!!

Massage Nadine Johnson will be our massage therapist. This is the third time Nadine has done massage at a Connection retreat.

NEW THIS YEAR: On-line registrations are available at our website or simply download the registration form:

www.uuwomensconnection.org

Register before May 23rd to avoid penalty.

See **Scholarship information** in the registration form, included in this issue of the *Voices of Women Newsletter*. **Apply Early.**

Direct your registration questions to Registrar, Gretchen Ohmann at 269-369-1114 or e-mail registrar@uuwomensconnection.org



Greening of UU Women's Connection. Saving trees and more.

Thank you to the many members and friends who are helping us go green by subscribing to the Connection's new e-mail list serve, *Voices of Women*. (VOW) We still however, continue to send many "snail mail" brochures and newsletters in this time of ecological concerns and increasing postage. For information and an invitation to subscribe to the VOW list please make your request known to us by e-mailing:

connections@uuwomensconnection.org



Why not friend UU Women's Connection on Face Book?



Want to renew your membership on line with Pay Pal? Click on the link at the bottom of our home page at:

www.uuwomensconnection.org



UU Women's Connection

1461 Meadowside Drive

St. Louis, Missouri 63146

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 March 2012. Include recent update below and make check payable to "UU Women's Connection."*

Send to the Connection Treasurer, Nicole Nichols, 1461 Meadowside Dr., St Louis MO 63146

Units of 11 register for \$100 in 2012. Register a unit of 10 members, get the 11th membership free!" Individual memberships are \$10.

Membership/Mailing List

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CHURCH/
ORGANIZATION _____



2011 "Get Connected" Calendar

- June 1-3..... Spring Conference, Princeton, IL
- August 18Quarterly Council Mtg, Racine, WI
- October 19-21Fall Retreat, Racine, WI
- November 2-3.....Council Annual Retreat, Athens, IL
- November 3.....4th Qtr. Council Mtg. Springfield, IL