

# VOICE OF WOMEN

SUMMER 1996

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 2

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT CMD-UUWF JUNE, 1996

It has been a full year that I have held this office, and I am learning a lot about us. Women of CMD-UUWF are an energetic bunch. Results of our membership survey, distributed to the membership in the winter issue of Voice of Women have given us some specifics. We enjoy our retreats, we get involved in political and religious activities, often through our connections with other organizations. We like to learn from our workshop leaders, to exchange ideas with each other about the issues of our world. Our membership is not seeking more goddess-oriented programs at CMD-UUWF conferences, yet those interested in learning more about the goddess have shown up in significant numbers for training in the curriculum presentation of , and in attendance at the 13 session Rise Up & Call Her Name class. Some of our members don't like the subject and feel it may give those outside our denomination fuel for accusations that we are a cult.

Most of the respondents to the survey enjoy most of our programming, like the times we spend together. Often mentioned was the simple freedom to be ourselves when we gather together. Thank you all for your work, attendance, interest in our group, and for the valuable contribution of your opinions, ideas, and feelings about our organization. It is so nice to have this direction.

Board and committee members have been active in planning for our return to meet with the membership at our annual meeting at Allerton. We are ready to report back to you with information on the organizations we have supported with our CMD-UUWF con-

tributions: RCAR, Clara Barton Camp, in particular.

The fall conference at Lake Geneva provided an excellent program presented by the women of Bloomington, with Rebecca Armstrong's strong keynote leadership. Allerton promises to be another great time together with the treat of Nancy Vedder-Schults, an interesting array of workshops, and another silent auction fundraiser, as well as our annual meeting.

Correspondence and communication with our members has been carried on throughout the intervening 12 months since we last met thanks to the extremely competent efforts of Betty Jachim, Susan Karcher, Bette Rotert, and Janet Nortrum. Our secretary, Betty Jachim, has kept a running chain of letters to board members, people around the district, and she has met with Susan Karcher and Bette Rotert to prepare for the VOW mailings.

Susan completed her last newsletter in July, '95, and retired as editor after 10 years of serving in that role, and she continues to serve as our vice president. Bette Rotert stepped up to volunteer as our new editor at Lake Geneva. She did a fine job on the first VOW of '96.

Lu Krug, Helen Codoret, Janet Collins have played vital roles in bringing issues and information to the broad discussions, and meeting with nomination and budget committees. There are many things to consider in representing a membership numbering in the hundreds, as does ours.

Linda Johnston worked with the Bloomington group headed by Mary

Lou Steadman to plan the fall conference, and also hosted our fall board meeting with this group. Our thanks go out to these folks, and the Avon group, Marion Baker and Ruth Davis, and all of you who housed and fed us, allowing us to enjoy your hospitality as we met.

Irene Sanderson, our treasurer, has kept our accounts in order, paid our bills, and prepared our budget to be presented at the annual meeting. We are very fortunate to have her to handle this responsibility, always prepared with understandable explanations of policy, and documentation to show the picture.

Janet Nortrum represents us as a member of the Continental Board, offering us information about the affairs of the UUWF and frequently the impetus to get involved. She always makes it sound so enjoyable, and when Janet is at the helm it always turns out to be so.

As we winter a new year in the life of CMD-UUWF things look good for us. We have much to talk about together. Survey results show a strong support among us for stands on some issues close to our common bond as women-equality in the workplace for women and other minorities, reproductive rights. We have things to discuss about conference considerations for the future, and a new idea for a mini retreat. Offer your ideas and opinions. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I am looking forward to many good things.

NANCY BABEL

## OUR ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting at Allerton (conference registration reported at 61, representing sixteen units) elected the following new officers and directors:

Vice President Mary Lou Steadman of Normal  
Treasurer Joan Plestina of Frankfort  
Directors Kasey Kephart of Country Club Hills  
Jeanne Fitch of Peoria

Nominating Committee for 1997

Betty Jachim of Indian Head Park  
Doris Knight of Frankfort  
Doris Jones of Champaign

Financial discussions took the most time. The enclosed year end report gives you some idea of the problems. Conference expenses are difficult to compare since, as currently reported, the line items include both actual expenses for the most recent event and seed money advanced for the coming year's event. The Board was directed to investigate and resolve year-end/full-year reporting problems so that future annual meetings will not be bogged down with such details.

### Women's Alliance Celebrate Women's History Month

On March 4, 1996, the Women's Alliance of Third Unitarian Church of Chicago celebrated Women's History Month by giving a complete Sunday Service based on a series of letters that portrayed the personal leadership and service of women in Third Church since the beginning of Women's Alliance in 1868 until 1940. Lois Delloff, Peg Sering, and Ruth Johnston composed the letters from the historical records of Third Church. Introduced by Rose Oplatka, an Alliance president and read by members, the letters pointed out not only how the different projects of the women were so important to Third Church but also how important the church and the Alliance were to their lives. Lynn Garner and Ann Wheat provided beautiful piano music for the service and led the congregation in historic hymns. The Alliance plans to bring the history of women up to date in another church service this next year.

## Pro-Choice Action Alert for August 26

RCRC (The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice) invites you to join with religious and pro-choice leaders and activists to demonstrate our diversity of faith and solidarity of purpose. We want to express concern for the mental, physical and spiritual health and well-being of women, their families and health care providers. We want to show that pro-choice people are religious or respect people who are. We want to show that religious people support adoption, are single parents and have abortions. We want to show that religious people provide reproductive services, including abortions. We want to proclaim that people of all faiths value families, care for children and trust women to make moral decisions.

**Date:** Monday, August 26 in Chicago

**Location:** First Baptist Congregational Church  
1613 W. Washington Blvd.

### Schedule:

10:00AM Convocation Presenting religious leaders, stories, songs and testimony.

11:00AM Press Conference of leaders of denominations, providers and other pro-choice advocates on the steps of the church/synagogue.

11:30 AM A procession, a restrained, dignified march to the Democratic National Convention headquarters at the United Center.

**How can you participate?** Notify and recruit your activists. Bring your congregations and leaders to the convention. Inform the Coalition of your scheduled activities so that they can compile a program listing all pro-choice events at the convention. Finally, through financial sponsorship, individuals contributing \$100 or more will be listed as faithful witnesses for choice, organizations can be listed as co-sponsors by contributing \$1000.

### Local contact in Velaine Carnall, P.O.

Box 2193, LaGrange, IL 60525, Phone 708-354-2477. Or contact Tracy Fisher at the national office: 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 1130, Washington DC 20005, Phone 202-628-7700,

PLAN AHEAD !!!  
The 1997 Allerton Conference  
June 8-10  
The UU Church of Joliet will  
do the honors.

## Calling Our Circle to Fall Retreat!

Join the circle of UU women at this year's fall retreat November 1,2,3 at George Williams Lake Geneva campus. The retreat will be hosted by Unity Temple in Oak Park, IL. This year's theme is *Women's Circles*, inspired by Christina Baldwin's latest book, *Calling The Circle* and the keynote is Edna Groves, M.S. a member of the Dupage Unitarian Church, founder of Pathways and a student of Christina Baldwin.

Edna will open Friday evening's gathering and will speak about the circle format Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon will be a sampling of various circles and the evening will close with a bonfire and medicine wheel. The popular art room will be back for the weekend and we will end with a special Sunday morning circle with Edna.

Registration forms will be in the mail the beginning of August. As always scholarship money is available by filling out the request included on this page of VOW. Request application material or conference information from Rebecca Rose ( 708-366-4810 ) or Beth Scanlan (708-383-2707). Registration information is available through Betty Jachim (708-784-0742) or Susan Karcher (708-495-6061).

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!**

## MORE INFO FROM LAKE GENEVA PLANNERS

Unfortunately, a combination of factors caused some disappointments with housing assignments last year. Last year's committee has been a great help in trying to see that this won't happen again. A different mix has been reserved (more lakefronts) and other "dorm-type" rooms should solve the problems.

As might be expected, there weren't many responses to the questionnaire printed in last winter's VOW, but the results were quite clear. It's felt that we should NOT provide child care as a part of our conference/retreat programming. Virtually all respondents felt that, except for nursing babies, the presence of small children may "defeat the purpose of a retreat, both for the mother and the rest of us, too". Teens interested in the programs would be welcome. The responses weren't at all hard-hearted; a couple of people even suggested that local groups might be able to help subsidize, with money or time, home-based child care so a mother can be able to really get a break from her family for a short time.

## SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATION

Four grants of up to \$85 each are available. Applications must be postmarked by September 15th.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

My need is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed application to registrar, Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525.  
You will get a response by October 7th.

**CMD-UUWF TREASURER'S REPORT**

JUNE 30, 1996

Irene Sanderson, Treasurer

Final Report  
Fiscal Year July 1, 1995-June 30, 1996

INCOME	Received To Date	Budget
Dues	2200.00	2500.00
Conferences		
Allerton	1700.00	1000.00
Silent Auction	616.55	300.00
Lake Geneva	2793.11	3000.00
Scholarships	10.00	100.00
Interest	236.67	160.00
Miscellaneous	38.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7594.33</b>	<b>7060.00</b>
Reserve Funds		680.00
		<b>7740.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Administration	931.19	725.00
V.O.W.	757.54	1600.00
Conferences		
Allerton	3129.44	1600.00
Lake Geneva	3034.00	2300.00
Gifts & Donations		
RCRC	50.00	50.00
Conference Grants		
Allerton 4@ \$125.00	500.00	500.00
Lake Geneva 4 @ \$85.00	337.00	340.00
Feminist Theology Award	150.00	150.00
Clara Barton Camp	50.00	50.00
Student Ministers Grant	0.00	125.00
Continental UUWF	100.00	100.00
Planned Parenthood	200.00	200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9239.17</b>	<b>7740.00</b>

Total On Deposit at Tompkins State Bank		Balance Forward	06/30/95	10301.39
		Income		7594.33
				17895.72
06/30/96	<u>8656.55</u>	Expenditures		9239.17
		Balance	06/30/96	<u>8656.55</u>

**CMD-UUWF PROPOSED 1996-1997 BUDGET**

**INCOME**

	Proposed Budget
Dues	2500.00
Conferences	
Allerton	1500.00
Silent Auction	300.00
Lake Geneva	3000.00
Scholarships	100.00
Interest	200.00
Miscellaneous	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7600.00</b>
Reserve Funds	990.00
	<b>8590.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Administration	1000.00
V.O.W.	1500.00
Conferences	
Allerton	1800.00
Lake Geneva	3000.00
Gifts & Donations	
RCRC	50.00
Conference Grants	
Allerton 4@ \$125.00	500.00
Lake Geneva 4 @ \$85.00	340.00
Feminist Theology Award	150.00
Clara Barton Camp	50.00
Student Ministers Grant	100.00
Continental UUWF	100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8590.00</b>

**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 Fall Retreat. Another option is for women to join as individual members. Note that the date at the upper right corner of your mailing label indicates when your next dues payment is expected.

**WILL YOU/HAVE YOU MOVED?**  
Don't miss a single issue of VOW or notice of women's programming. Also, Please let us know if someone's name should be removed from our mailing list due to death, discontinued membership, or relocation. Thanks!

**MEMBERSHIP/MAILING LIST UPDATE**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL DUES PAYMENT Y\_\_ N\_\_  
(Send a \$5.00 check, made payable to CMD-UUWF, to treasurer Joan Plestina, 516 Aberdeen Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423)

ADDRESS CHANGE Y\_\_ N\_\_  
EFFECTIVE DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Send updates to Secretary, Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525)

**CMD-UUWF 1996-97 DIRECTORY**

<sup>#5</sup>  
PRESIDENT: Nancy Babel (314-567-3867) 1218 Oxford Hill Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146

VICE PRESIDENT: Mary Lou Steadmann (309-452-9008) 5 Ardith Dr., Normal, IL 61761

SECRETARY: Betty Jachim (630-784-0742) 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

TREASURER: Joan Plestina (815-469-0271) 516 Aberdeen Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423

DIRECTOR: Janet R. Collins (314-225-4712) 836 Potoison Dr., Manchester, MO 63021

DIRECTOR: Jeanne Fitch (309-692-6923) 4620 W. Hetherwood Dr., Peoria, IL 61615

DIRECTOR: Linda Johnston (309-662-3188) 2920 Capen Dr., Bloomington, IL 61704

DIRECTOR: Kasey Kephart (708-799-9428) 19152 Pine Dr., Country Club Hills, IL 60478

VOW EDITOR: Bette Rotert (847-362-1208) 30 Lindon Ln., Vernon Hills, IL 60061

ALLERTON 1997: Bonnie Olson, (815-723-1847) 1091 Kinmonth Dr., Joliet, IL 60433

Sheila Young, (630-759-0224) 15 South Fernwood Dr. Bolingbrook, IL

LAKE GENEVA 1996: Rebecca Rose (708-343-2490) 8123 Lake St. North Ave, River Forest IL 60305

WOMEN & RELIGION CHAIR: Nike Mendenhall (217-228-0822) 2830 Cabot Rd. Quincy, IL 62301

CMD ADMINISTRATOR: Helen Bishop (708-343-3478) 1701 S. 1st Ave, Suite 310, Maywood, IL 60153

**CONTINENTAL UUWF:**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mari Macks (617-742-2100) 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

PRESIDENT: Arlene Johnson, Tulsa, OK

BOARD LIAISON: Janet Nortrom, (414-964-3764) 3332 N. Woodborn, Shorewood WI 33211

### 1996 Hester Huff Recipient Helen Johnson

This year's Hester Huff winner at the June Allerton conference is Helen Johnson. Helen is a member of both the 1st Unitarian Society of Milwaukee and United UU Church of Mukwanago. She was most recently seen on the cover of UU World driving one of the trucks that took supplies to El Salvador.

Helen was born in St. Louis in 1915 making her 81 this September. Her father was a physician and her mother a high school teacher. She graduated from Washington U with a degree in sociology. She was married in 1935 to an architect, had 4 children, 4 grandchildren and was widowed in 1971. Over the years she has been active in AFS, Girl Scouts, PTA, League of Women Voters, served on the CMD-UUWF Board in 94-95 and was a presenter on Women of El Salvador at Allerton.

Her present memberships include World Federalist Association of Milwaukee, United Nations Association of Waukeshaw, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Peace Action Committee, UU Service Committee, United for Diversity, Social Action Committee of UU Mukwanago.

Her Present "Jobs" include Peace, WAVE, Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club, Audobon, SEWUUC board member, Project Equality Board, Interaith Council, and docent at Milwaukee Art Museum.

**CMD-UUWf Newsletter of the  
North Shore Unitarian Church  
2100 Half Day Road  
Deerfield, IL 60015**

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