

# VOW

Volume 10      Issue 2

Spring 1988

## VOICE OF WOMEN



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The fall retreat of CMD/UUWF at Lake Geneva was a relaxing, freeing weekend. Pat Murray, Lyn Rund, Kay Brickey, and Leigh Lakey and others from the Rockford Church created a special time for us all. Thank you, Rockford women for your valuable contribution to our sharing and coming together.

The conferences held by CMD/UUWF allows us to be together in a special space and time, and each year more and more women realize the joy and sisterhood present at these gatherings. Allerton in June is another time to join in the personal growth, business, and fun that are traditional at our conferences.

It was good to meet so many women new to Lake Geneva and renew old acquaintances. Another aspect I personally enjoyed was being able to introduce those Board members who were there. When you get your district newsletter VOW ( Voice of Women ) please take a moment to look at the back page to become familiar with the officers and directors of the Board.

So many women work hard to help the organization function smoothly. Some of them I'll mention here and the rest in the next newsletter so you can become aware of their responsibilities.

Lyn Rund, Rockford unit, vice-president, works on planning and assisting on conferences. Under the able leadership of past president Marlon Baker, guidelines for the conferences were developed for use by the chairwoman or chairwomen of each event. At times, Lyn serves as acting president in my absence. In this capacity she has performed with enthusiasm and efficiency.

Susan Karcher, Oak Park, secretary, is the backbone of the Board and keeps everyone informed. In addition, she exhibits unusually good organizational skills.

Ruth Davis, Avon, serves as the treasurer, keeps up with membership and all financial aspects of our group. You will notice that the women on the board come from all areas of our district, so they can represent all of you. Please feel free to talk with, or call, any one of us with suggestions or offers of help.

Our Board will meet March 11-12, 1988 in Bloomington. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings or notify us if you would like items brought to the attention of the Board.

Wish you a joyous and peace-filled holiday season.

Love, *Joanne*





### A WOMEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT WOMAN

When it's snowing and I put on all  
the galoshes  
While he reads the paper,  
Then I want to become a  
Women's Liberation Movement woman.  
And when it's snowing and he looks  
for the taxi  
While I wait in the lobby,  
Then I don't.

And when it's vacation and I'm in  
charge of mosquito bites  
and poison ivy and car sickness  
While he's in charge of swimming,  
Then I want to become a  
Women's Liberation Movement woman.  
And when it's vacation and he  
carries the suitcases  
and the bicycles and the playpen  
While I carry the tote bag,  
Then I don't.

And when it's three in the morning  
and the baby definitely needs  
a glass of water and I have to get  
up and bring it  
While he keeps my place warm,  
Then I want to become a  
Women's Liberation Movement woman.  
And when it's three in the morning  
and there is definitely a  
murderer-rapist in the vestibule and  
he has to get up and catch him  
While I keep his place warm,  
Then I don't.

And after dinner,  
when he talks to the company  
While I clean the broiler  
(because I am a victim of  
capitalism, imperialism, male  
chauvinism, and also Playboy  
magazine,)  
And afternoons,  
when he invents the telephone  
and wins the Dreyfus case  
and writes War and Peace  
While I sort the socks  
(because I am economically

oppressed, physically exploited,  
psychologically mutilated, and also  
very insulted,)

And after he tells me that it is  
genetically determined that the  
man makes martinis and the lady  
makes the beds  
(because he sees me as a sex object,  
an earth mother, a domestic  
servant, and also dumber than he  
is),  
Then I want to become a  
Women's Liberation Movement woman.

And after I consider  
Having justice,  
Having equality,  
Having freedom,  
And also having  
To change my own tires,  
Then I want it  
Both ways.

from When Did I Stop Being 20 and  
Other Injustice by Judith Viorst.



### HONORED....

Lorraine Weber, organist for the  
Urbana Church and much loved pianist  
at Allerton for 10 these many years,  
was recently honored by her church  
for her long years of service. They  
sent her to Boston to be a part of  
the "Concert for the Hymnbook".  
Lorraine was one of the members of  
the "bluebook" hymnal commission and  
so was delighted to be a part of  
this exciting weekend.

### WITH SADNESS....

we tell of the death of Lenore  
Foster, a member of First Society in  
Madison and long time member and  
hard worker for the local UUWF  
there. Our sympathy to her family.  
She will be sorely missed.





## ALLERTON

Jo Jameson and Carol Lowe as co-chairs for this years Allerton conference and annual meeting of the CMD/UUWF announce the following:

The Peoria unit is delighted to announce that Jean Peterson, Director of Women's Studies at the University of Illinois will be the keynote speaker.

Some well know CMD members who will present workshops include:  
Anita Schiavi ( massage ) and  
Carol Albee ( self-esteem ).

Other subjects include:  
Healing Hands  
"EAT" a book about Eating Awareness  
Crystal Healing

Theme for the conference will be  
"Crystal Gazing: the Facets of  
Woman"

Save the dates... June 14 - 16

Complete information and  
registration forms will be included  
in the April issue of VOW. Carol  
Nudo will act as registrar.

### PROGRAM IDEAS

"Living the Interdependent Web" a  
curriculum with video mailed to  
every church and society about our  
principles and purposes

Share a special sandwich on a  
sandwich tray for a get to gether  
this year, furnish salad and  
dessert.

Women's relationships

Favorite pieces of poetry

Christmas customs, shared from other  
families or cultures

History of Christmas

A wrapped ornament exchange

How we perceive ourselves

Antiques

A children's book fair, sell  
children's books, records, and books  
on parenting  
a great fund raiser

Transitions: Making Sense of Life's  
Changes

Time Management

a dish towel tree for the church  
or kitchen gadgets or books or

---

dealing with the holidays,  
how to make the real meaning clear  
what we feel we have to do

a unit retreat, several churches  
have there own retreats. ( Unity  
Temple and Rockford for example ).  
The warm feelings and good  
relationships built in this smaller  
grouping, often spark even greater  
enthusiasm back home at church and  
in the UUWF meetings.

gifting a nursing home or particular  
needy family brings a wonderful  
Christmas  
but Isn't it sad, that these same  
folks are lonely and needy all year  
long. Maybe we need to start a new  
tradition of adopting a family or  
person at St. Patrick's Day, or  
Valentine's Day, or the Fourth of  
July. Why not ?

Oak Park's Unity Temple sponsored a  
day of drama, discussion, art, and  
ritual called HER HOLINESS: MAIDEN,  
MOTHER, AND CRONE. It was offered  
by Limina, a not for profit group  
which explores and celebrates  
women's lives. There is a fee  
charged, but it sounds interesting.



## THE MAILING LIST

Over the summer I reworked our mailing list, and set it up in a way that it will do more for us. On the label where there is a month and year, that shows when your dues expire, the letter C means you are on the list out of courtesy and the letter L means you are a life member of Continental UUWF. Anyone who is a UUWF life member is not required to pay CMD/UUWF dues, but those who choose to, we gratefully accept the money.

I have a notation of your unit or society affiliation which I got from an old dues list and in some cases by guessing. By next summer, I hope the mailing list will be more accurate. With the new system, names can be pulled out by units so we can send a copy to the respective unit to be updated and returned to Ruth Davis with your dues. We will be able to keep track of individual members and their dues. My intent is to make paying dues easier for all of us. Dues are \$ 2.00 per person and should be sent to Ruth.

My computer does not make mistakes, but I do. In working with over 620 names - there are some errors. Please let me know about any errors on your label. I have not intentionally left out anyone who has paid their dues, but in working with so many names, I have lost a few people. Please let me know who I lost, so that I can get them back on the list.

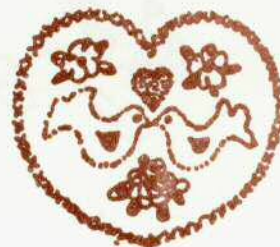
Each issue of the newsletter has a deadline. If units could let me know a month before that deadline; who has moved so we can keep the newsletter expenses to a minimum; it would be helpful. With the last newsletter we did a callback and 44 newsletters came back - 33 of them had the change of address which cost \$7.26 and 11 the forward notes had expired at a cost of \$ 2.42 for a total of \$9.68. It would be great not to have to spend your dues on doing a callback.

Pat Scanlon

## AN OPEN LETTER

Jan. 21, 1988

Clarice Jefferson  
313 Oakdale  
Normal, IL 61761



Dear Clarice,

Thank you for your many long years of service for the UUWF. I have long admired and respected you and your work for us, for the district as well as the UUA as a whole. You can be proud of what you accomplished. You put your heart and soul in whatever you have done. No one can ask for more! We welcome you "home" with love and open arms. It's good to have you with us again.

Affectionately,

NOTE: I know that I speak for many of us here in the CMD - that's why the "open letter". PM

MEMO...   
From The Treasurer

## ABOUT THOSE DUES

Dues for UUWF/CMD are \$ 2.00 per year. How do you know when they are due? Look at the mailing sticker on your VOW. There are two numbers. The first is the month of the year when dues are due. The second is the year when they are due. Presidents and treasurers should take note, also individual members. The work of the district and your VOW are worthy of support. And...the treasurer hates to send late dues notices!

Ruth Davis





### FEMINIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIPS

At the Allerton Annual Meeting of the CMD/UUWF, it was voted to use CMD/UUWF funds to "match" gifts from units and individuals up to a maximum of \$500.00. Since 55% of ministerial students are women, it is indeed a worthy cause.

Sooooo.....

If you or your unit makes a gift to the fund, a "matching" amount will be sent to the fund from the district treasury. Let the district treasurer know the amount of your donation and presto-double your gift. How better can you support Feminine Theology?

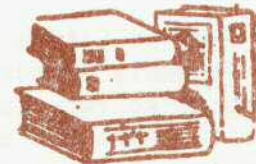
note from the editor....

Why doesn't your unit plan one special activity this year, just to raise these special monies? Women helping women, a special gift to us all!



from Paul Tillich, in his book, The Shaking of the Foundations

"We cannot force ourselves to accept ourselves. We cannot compel anyone to accept himself or herself. But sometimes it happens that we receive the power to say 'yes' to ourselves, that peace enters into us and makes us whole, that self-hate and self-contempt disappear, and that ourself is reunited with itself. Then we can say that grace has come upon us."



### BOOKS BOOKS and more BOOKS

from the reading list about the district....

Waterland by Graham Swift.  
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood  
The Forgotten Beasts of Old by Patricia McKillip  
The Color Purple by Alice Walker.  
The Awakening by Kate Chopin  
Love, Medicine, and Miracles by Bernie Siegel.  
America Inside Out, At Home and Abroad, from Roosevelt to Reagan by David Schoenbrun  
Glass People by Gail Godwin  
The Culture of Narcissism by Christopher Lasch  
Me: the Narcissistic American by Aaron Stern  
Lord Jim by Joseph Conrad  
A Room With A View by E. M. Forster  
A Christmas Memory by Truman Capote  
When Lovers Are Friends by Merle Shain  
Stones for Ibarra by Harriett Doerr.  
City Love, Country Love by Nadine Gardiner  
The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende  
Women Who Love Too Much by Robin Norwood.



## IALRW LITERACY PROJECT

The IALRW (International Association of Liberal Religious Women) is sponsoring a literacy project for women. It has been demonstrated by literacy program evaluations, that teaching disadvantaged women from Third World Countries how to read and write can have an enormous influence on the quality of their lives and the lives of their families. By combining literacy with vocational training, we are helping to make a change in their daily lives feasible which impacts on their hope for the future.

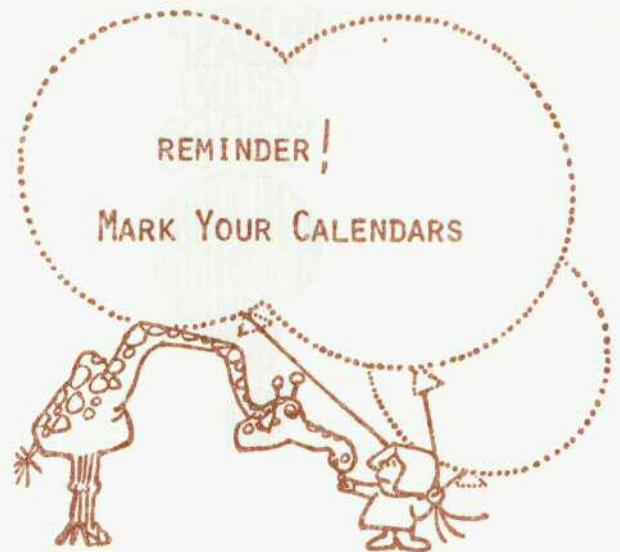
A slide show at Little Rock (General Assembly) made the value of this program so very apparent. \$30.00 will teach one woman for one year. In four centers outside of Calcutta, India. Can you think of a bigger bargain in helping people?

Mail tax-deductible contributions to Pat Luciano, Director of Development, IALRW, North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society, Plandome Road at Westgate Boulevard, Plandome, New York, 11030 or call 516-627-6560 for further information. Make checks payable to IALRW Literacy Project for Women.

Send your name, address, UUWF unit, located in \_\_\_\_\_.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

from Roger Fritts, minister of the Evanston church, "It is good to celebrate our victories, even if they are very small victories."



## FALL RETREAT 1988

Start thinking about the 1988 Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva. The '87 retreat was great and we all want to thank the Rockford church for sponsoring it.

The Park Forest Women's Federation will be sponsoring the '88 retreat and we're already in full swing planning lots of wonderful workshops and activities. The dates will be Friday November 11th - Sunday, November 13th.

Our theme will be RENEWAL. There will be many activities to choose from. Let's get all our UU sisters together at Lake Geneva in '88.

Watch the VOW for an update on our plans and registration information. Mark your calendars now!

NOV. 11 - 13, 1988

Park Forest UUWF



## HELP

CMD/UUWF purchased a full set of Continental UUWF program materials in March of 1987. At Allerton Conference last June, this set of booklets was placed on the large "Grand Hall " table to that participants could review the materials to see if they would be useful to their unit's programs.

Women are urged to use these materials free, but the CMD/UUWF Board is concerned that some materials were taken without listing who took them. We want to have them for loan to the largest possible number.

The following program booklets are missing with no record of who borrowed them.

ROOTS OF OUR STRENGTH: A heritage of Unitarian and Universalist women, by Susan Gitlin-Emmer.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH LIFE by Rev. Betty Pingel.

SALVAGING OUR PAST edited by Ellen Spencer

WOMEN'S STORIES: Hearing ourselves into existence

HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE ANYWAY: Revisioning women's history

WOMEN IN A PATRIARCHAL CULTURE: friendships, love, and spirituality

If you have any of these programs or know where they are, please let Ruth Davis ( Box P, Avon, IL 61415 ) know if they are being used. If they are being used now, you do not need to return them until you are through ( 4 month limit ). If you used them and are finished, please return them to the above address.

All of our program materials are free for you to use with no cost but return mail. If you wish a complete list refer to your spring VOW or send to the above address for a copy.

Any and all help will be appreciated.



I am led through life's labyrinth  
By a slender thread of faith.  
It stretches taut behind me,  
Tracing the turns of my haphazard path.  
Though I cannot see it,  
The thread extends before me,  
Guiding me to an unknown end.

Life's labyrinth admits no light.  
I step out into darkness,  
Not knowing if the ground will meet  
my foot.  
First one step, then another.  
Unseeing, holding tightly to my  
thread,  
I advance with the slow toll of my  
weakness.

So much depends on the thread of my  
faith,  
This frail line winding through  
life's labyrinth.  
Whatever course I follow it has  
marked,  
It alone supports me on my way.  
And what emerges from life's  
labyrinth,  
The minotaur or me....  
All hangs on my fragile thread of  
faith.

By Kathy Fuson Hurt,  
Quest, Meditation Manual for 1986





1987 - 1988  
CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

President	Joanne Fought 501 N. Glenwood Peoria, IL 61606 309-676-6849	Directors:	Nancy Babel 823 Victoria Glendale, Mo 63122 314-821-7211
Vice President	Lyn Rund 117 N. Bridge Rockton, IL 61072 815-624-2003		Mary Leung R R # 1 Bloomington, IL 61701 309-663-6695
Secretary	Susan Karcher 154 N. Humphrey Oak Park, IL 60302 312-383-8456		Di Lovitt 456 Florence Webster Grove, Mo 63119 314-961-8674
Treasurer	Ruth Davis P. O. Box P Avon, IL 61415 309-465-7551		Chris Schmidt 2416 E. Edgewood Ave. Shorewood, WI 53211 414-961-2200

VOW Editor

Pat Murray  
2314 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61104  
815-398-2408

Computer Mailing List

Pat Scanlon  
1528 Fontana  
St. Louis, Mo. 63146  
314-434-3314

Pat Murray can also be reached at the Unitarian Church, 4848 Turner St., Rockford, IL 61107 or by phone 815-398-6322. Please send notices and articles to her for the next issue. DEADLINE..... March 1st.



the UNITARIAN CHURCH  
4848 TURNER STREET  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61107



Non-Profit Org  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**Paid**  
Rockford, Ill.  
Permit No. 1576

TIME VALUE MAIL — PLEASE EXPEDITE