



CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems good to have the church year started again and be back "home" with many UU friends. Returning to church in the fall is always a special time to greet old friends, catch up on what has happened during the summer and just be thankful to have a place where there are so many like-minded people.

Also as a new beginning for the church year, it is a time to take stock concerning where we are and where we want to go as individuals, as women, as church members and as members of the larger American society. It is a little like the New Year when we make resolutions, but the weather is much better now.

As I think ahead of the many opportunities we have to interact with the stimulating and interesting UU's, it fills me with pleasure.

Lake Geneva, Womanspirit and next year Womanquest and Allerton give us many chances to increase our contacts with many other mem-

bers of the UU family. It nourishes my soul and fills me with gladness to be at these gatherings.

I hope each one of you has the opportunity to participate in at least one of these exciting retreats. Each smaller group within the denomination offers closer, more intimate and rewarding experiences that facilitate our personal growth. Come try us.

I want to introduce two new board members to you. They and Pat Baker, our new secretary, were elected at Allerton. Helen Seely is from Rockford and Lorraine Weber lives in Urbana.

The names of all officers and board members, as well as committee heads, are on the back of VOW. Please take a minute to become familiar with them and please remember we are your representatives on the board. If you have any questions, please call anyone close. See you at Lake Geneva. Blessed Be, Joanne

We, the willing, lead by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long, with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing. ---Unknown



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\$ DUES, DUES, DUES \$

The date on which dues are due from  
\$ your Unit is shown on your VOW \$  
\$ mailing sticker. Check with your local \$  
\$ Unit treasurer if you have any questions \$  
\$ because we want to be sure that you \$  
\$ continue to receive your copies of Vow. \$  
\$ Our treasurer, Ruth Davis, will be happy \$  
\$ to accept \$2.00 per member at any time. \$  
\$ Her address is listed on the back of \$  
\$ this issue.

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ALLERTON MEETING BRIEFS

Conference rates will be in effect at Allerton beginning in 1990. This will entail an increase in room rates and cost of meals, but there will be other changes which will be advantageous to the group.

An archivist is needed for CMD/UUWF. Anyone interested should contact a Board member.

Nominating Committee members for 1990 are; Elise Cade, Chicago, Mina Riddle, Oak Park, and Gay Semanko, Bloomington. A treasurer, vice-president, and two directors are to be nominated. Suggestions are welcome.

The treasurer, Ruth Davis, reported on the UUWF Units that have paid dues. They are Avon, Beverly, Bloomington, DuPage, Emerson, Joliet, Madison, Milwaukee, Oak Park, Peoria, Quincy, Racine, Rockford, St. Louis, Second Unitarian (Chicago), and Third/Beacon.

A donation of \$100 was made to Meadville/Lombard Seminary from a total budget of \$3625.

The subject of increasing CMD/UUWF dues to \$5.00 was discussed.



## CALENDAR

1989

- Sept. 29-30 CMD/UUWF Board Meeting  
Peoria, IL
- Oct. 21 CMD Leadership Conference  
"In Search of Church Excellence"  
Second Unitarian Church, Chicago
- Oct. 27-29 UUWF Fall Retreat  
Lake Geneva, WI
- Nov 4 Avon Quilt Show and luncheon
- Nov. 10-12 CMD Annual Meeting  
Rockford, IL

1990

- Jan. 26-29 Womanspirit Conference  
CMD Women and Religion  
Oak Park, IL
- April 20-25 UUA Womanquest Convocation  
Lake Geneva, WI
- April 21 Ministry with Women "The Spiritual  
Journal of a Feminist"  
Wesley Foundation, Urbana, IL
- June 12-14 UUWF Allerton Conference
- June 20-27 General Assembly  
Milwaukee, WI

## WOMEN & RELIGION

By Peg Carlson

Until this year, Central Midwest District was one of the last UUA districts without a Women & Religion Committee as part of its structure. Last January, a CMD W&R Committee was formed, representing all five areas of the district. Please feel free to contact us with comments, suggestions, etc. We welcome your input as an essential part of our process.

The success of this committee is due in part to the support of the UUWF, both CMD/UUWF and individual units (especially Deerfield and Oak Park, IL). This collaborative relationship has created a solid base for the new CMD W&R Committee and strengthened the UUWF as well. Do we need both groups? Many of us think so, including Continental UUWF President Phyllis Richter:

"The UUWF, being autonomous, can often deal with outside groups in a way that the Women & Religion Committee cannot. The Women & Religion Committee, being a part of the structure, can relate to the Board and staff in a way not possible for a group outside that structure. More important than these reasons, however, is the opportunity for both groups to network more broadly than one could do to further the issues that are important to UU women. Perhaps someday the place of women will be so secure in our homes, churches, and in the larger community that we won't need to speak so urgently of our needs."

Come celebrate with us on January 26-28 for the second annual CMD W&R Conference: "Womanspirit '90: The Sacred Dimension of Women's Experience."

- \*Wonderful, welcoming worship Friday evening
- \*Keynote with the dynamic Elizabeth Dodson Gray
- \*Workshops for body, mind, and soul
- \*Evening womancircles and coffeehouse: Songs, storytelling, etc.
- \*An inclusive Sunday worship service with Elizabeth Dodson Gray
- \*Home hospitality both nights--Childcare available Saturday.

The W&R Committee will also be giving a workshop at the Annual meeting on November 11th in Rockford, IL, during which we will dialogue with you about the needs and dreams of UU women.

Mark your calendars now and join with us as we "Celebrate Our WomanSelves!"

In Sisterhood, the CMD W&R Committee:

### FEMINIST THEOLOGY AWARD

The Feminist Theology Award was established almost four years ago. Its purpose was to identify "the dynamic energy of Unitarian Universalist women leaders of thought." Even though the goal of establishing a \$200,000 endowment for the awards has not been achieved, the Women's Federation decided to make awards this year. Six women were chosen as initial recipients. Included in this list is our District Executive, Rev. Denise Tracy. Denise co-authored "Wellsprings of our Feminist Faith", a book of essays. Congratulations, Denise.



### Feminist Theology Awards: Help Build the Bouquet

Support the work of women scholars and theologians in our denomination. Your contributions to the Feminist Theology Awards before December 1 will be matched by the Veatch Foundation.

Please help. Send your gift today:

Feminist Theology Award  
UU Women's Federation  
25 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108

It occurred to me when I was thirteen and wearing white gloves and Mary Janes and going to dancing school, that no one should have to dance backwards all their lives.

---Jill Ruckelshaus

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ Zip/  
Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_





## UUWF CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM

Several programs for UUWF Units are available through the UUWF office in Boston. Unitarian Universalist women leaders are prepared to present programs in:

- Women's spirituality
- Feminist theology/theology & ethics
- Women's life transitions
- UU women's history
- Intergenerational issues
- Women's leadership models and leadership training

Host groups are responsible for the leader's expenses, honoraria, and any other costs associated with the program.

For additional information, contact:

Mairi Maeks  
Program Director/Executive Director  
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation  
25 Beacon St. Boston, MA .02108

For information via telephone, call Mairi or Dorothy Rogers at (617) 742-2100.

Let me use the precious gift  
of time to learn and live  
and love more...  
Help me look  
for something beautiful  
and special in each day...  
Let me live life to the fullest  
and be wise enough to treasure  
every blessing, every gift  
of happiness that comes my way...  
---B.J Hoff

## AVON QUILT SHOW

On November 4 the Avon Federated Church will hold its annual "Quilt Show and Luncheon". All UU's who would like to join us for the day are welcome. It is always a good show and there is no charge to view Avon's fine quilts.

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## RCAR UPDATE FROM PHYLLIS PEARA

The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights group is sponsoring a fundraiser at Chicago Temple on Sunday, October 22 from 4-6 p.m. A pro-choice legislator will speak on Roe vs Wade and its aftermath. Rev. E. Spencer Parsons, co-founder of Clergy Consultation Service for Problem Pregnancies (Chicago area), will be honored. Refreshments will be served. The cost is \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a couple, and \$5.00 for students. The Chicago Temple is a Methodist Church at 77 W. Washington in Chicago's Loop. If possible, come and spend a week-end in the city.

## MORNING HAS BROKEN (Revised)

*Morning has broken  
Like the first morning;  
Women have spoken  
Since the first day  
Praise for our dreaming  
Praise for our courage  
In leading the way.*

*Mine is the sunlight  
Mine is the morning  
Mine is achieving  
All that I can  
Praise for the singing  
Praise for the sharing  
Let us be equal  
Woman and man.*

## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S CONVOCATION

The 1990 Womanquest Convocation will be a continent-wide gathering of UU Women to plan, by consensus, an agenda for the 21st century. In addition, there will be nightly concerts, many workshops, worship services, and an opportunity for each person to concentrate on a spiritual discipline during the conference. The dates are April 20-25 (Friday evening to Wednesday noon) at George Williams College at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Early registration cost (if paid by Sept. 30) is \$130. Later registration is \$150. For further information, contact:

Holly Horn (415) 525-0302  
Tracy Robinson-Harris (212) 683-4988  
Denise Tracy (313) 383-4344



"Where else could so many things that mean so much to my humanity and spirituality come together?"

Susan B. Anthony - raised a Quaker,  
joined the Unitarian Church in  
Rochester, NY because of interest  
in the anti-slavery movement, published  
a newspaper called REVOLUTION pro-  
moting full citizenships rights for  
negroes and women



1989-1990  
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Celia Wesle  
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Chair, 1990 WS

Conference

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Ex-Officio

CMD District Executive  
Denise Tracy

No one can make you feel  
inferior without your consent.  
---Eleanor Roosevelt

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CHURCH  
908 Hamilton Boulevard  
Peoria, Illinois 61603

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Peoria, IL  
PERMIT NO. 658

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE  
LAKE GENEVA  
"THE GODDESS WITHIN YOU"  
October 27-29  
Fri. Evening -Sun. Noon  
Sponsored by CMD/UUWF  
Milwaukee Unit  
Brochure inside

RECEIVED  
SEP 30 1989  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH IN OAK PARK