



Voice of Women

Summer 1999

Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

PRESIDENT PRO TEM NOTES

Greetings! According to the by-laws, in the absence of a president, the vice president must take over the duties of the president. That's why I'm your TEMPORARY president. I will get lots of help from Betty, Pat and Mary Lou, which I will gratefully accept. But CMwD-UUWF needs a REAL president. And in the best of all possible worlds, someone will step forward and volunteer.

I realize everyone is busy. But that doesn't change the fact that this organization needs a president to function. As Betty mentioned in her "farewell," the board meets 4 times per year: in August to talk about Lake Geneva; in Lake Geneva; in February to talk about Allerton; and the business meeting at Allerton in June. Sure there's more to it than just meeting 4 times a year. Why not call a board member for more information. You'd get lots of help from past presidents and other officers. Think about it! Soon!

And now I want to thank Betty for unselfishly and brilliantly serving as president (and secretary). She deserves kudos and laud and praise and thanksgiving and a long rest from her servitude. What would we have done without her! We thank you Betty!

--yours on the journey
Jeanne Fitch

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Due to reserves resulting from prior successful retreats, we can continue to fund gifts to organizations and projects of particular interest to UU women in our 1999-2000 budget. We can also maintain our conference/retreat scholarship grant program. Gifts will be made to Continental UUWF, RCRC (Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice), the Feminist Theology Award and the Clara Barton Camp, as well as to Chalice Lighters and UUSC.

The Nominating Committee submitted a slate for both open directors' positions (Joanne Fought and Sheila Young), for secretary (Pat Baker) and for the 2000 Nominating Committee (Jeanne Fitch, Jet Jacobs and Rosemary Sammons), but there was no candidate for president. After a good deal of discussion, the meeting was recessed until the following morning to allow time to seek possible solutions. Vice president Jeanne Fitch will serve as president until one is appointed, according to our interpretation of the current bylaw provisions.

As a result of this and other issues that were raised, a committee was formed to review the CMwD-UUWF bylaws and structure. Mary Lou Steadman, Peg Sering, Clarise Jefferson and Betty Jachim will report to the board in time to

PASSING THE TORCH

It's been a pleasure serving on the CMwD-UUWF board. I'm more comfortable and best suited to being secretary, since I'm one of those left-brained, nitty-gritty detail-oriented souls. But when needed, I was able to take on the presidency. Why? Because, though we may have hierarchical labels, we actually operate more in a consensus style, giving each other support and sharing our knowledge and experience. Things don't necessarily flow top-down, but move in all directions.

We get together two or three times a year in addition to Allerton, usually meeting at the most convenient UU congregations on weekends, arriving Friday evening, handling business on Saturday from about 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (or 3 at the latest). In between, we carry on our work via mail, phone and email. The CMwD-UUWF budget provides for travel mileage and necessary board expenses, so it's not a financial burden.

You may already have heard and/or can see in the Annual Meeting Highlights that the nominating committee had not secured a candidate for president as of the Annual Meeting, and none came forward while we were at Allerton. I've overstayed my time on the board, so vice president Jeanne Fitch will be acting as president until another can be appointed. I will be a resource to her, a backup, and will pull together additional notes and

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CONTINENTAL UUWF NOTES

The big news! The Feminist Theology Review Committee has been named. Nancy VanDyke and Lynn Thomas of the board are meeting with others to look at revisions for the process and criteria for the selection of the FTA awardee. They welcome your comments and suggestions. Send them to espencer@uua.org and they will be passed on.

More news. We have a balanced budget for this and the following two years. And the UUWF board is at full complement and will be meeting in September in St. Louis. If you'd like to drop by and visit with us, please contact me, Patsy, at patsysherrillmadden@maddenenterprises.com for details--but wait until August so I can give you the final word on when, where and what time.

--Patsy Sherrill Madden

RENORA REMINDER

Come to WomanSpirit's 6th annual summer gathering at Camp Renora in Michigan this August 6-8!

The theme, "Weaving the Woman's Web," is reflected in 9 wonderful workshops. Join us as we embrace the lake, the land, the bonfire and one another (not to mention the great food!).

Contact the registrar for more info:

Karin Janowski
4625 Lawn Ave.
Western Springs, IL 60558
(708) 246-4347
WEAVESWEB@AOL.COM

SONIA CHOQUETTE AT LAKE GENEVA

Mark off November 5-7, 1999 on your calendars for the Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva and get ready for



"Intuitive Living in the FEMillennium."

Hosted by the women of North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois, the retreat will feature Sonia Choquette, author of *Your Heart's Desire*, *Psychic Pathway* and *The Wise Child: A Spiritual Guide to Nurturing Your Child's Intuition*.

Sonia will guide us on the path of living intuitively now and in the next millenium, when we'll need the many feminine aspects of human nature more than ever before. Look for the flyer in the mail in August. And hope to see you there!

ADD YOUR VOICE TO VOW

Six months seems like a long time between issues, yet the deadline to edit this newsletter always sneaks up on me before I've had the chance to plan a few changes.

I'd like to invite you to be a part of those changes by adding some of your voices to the next issue as well as subsequent ones. Please send in suggestions for good reads, good films, a favorite quote, a find outdoors, a good ritual. I'll include what I can.

And here's a challenge for the graphic/artistic minded. Take a look at the upper left corner of the front page. It's an Art Deco torch. I'd like to replace it with a suitable icon for *VOW*. Any suggestions? Please send what you wish to me at:

Sabine Vorkoeper
907 S. 4th Street
Saint Charles, IL 60174

ALLERTON

Well, the Force, labyrinth or otherwise, certainly was with us at Allerton this year. First, the board, when confronted with the challenge of having to plan this year's conference, was able to secure the Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi, labyrinth student and maker, of the Beverly Church in Chicago as our keynote. Then, the weather cooperated--though not without scaring us the night before with torrential rains and tornado warnings--making us wonder whether we'd be able to spread Leonetta's 34-foot canvas labyrinth outside as planned. Finally, a truly synchronistic addition to our planned program occurred.

Everyone, even those thinking labyrinths "are not my cup of tea," agreed that Leonetta's presentation was an excellent introduction to the subject: fact, theory and spirituality generously mixed with a light-hearted invitation to "try it, you may like it and, if not, that's o.k., too." One thing was missing though--the slides she had planned to use didn't come out right.

This is where the Carbondale contingent comes in. It seems our flyer had arrived at their church at a timely moment. They're part of a group that's planning to build a labyrinth in a local park, so they decided to join us at Allerton. One of their party, Mati Vargas, a historian, offered to bring along her slides, which demonstrate the cultural impact of labyrinth designs, art and other such symbols. So on Saturday evening she shared her work with us. The pictures were magnificent and uncannily dovetailed with Leonetta's presentation. Blessed be!

On Sunday evening we had a grand time remembering and toasting the women we've honored over the years by selecting them to be included in the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition, especially noting those who are no longer with us: Marion Baker, Gloria Grimm, Lucille Kazmark and Carol Wike Nudo. After that we watched and participated in wild and hilarious skits. Too bad a few more of you weren't able to be with us due to work/calendar conflicts

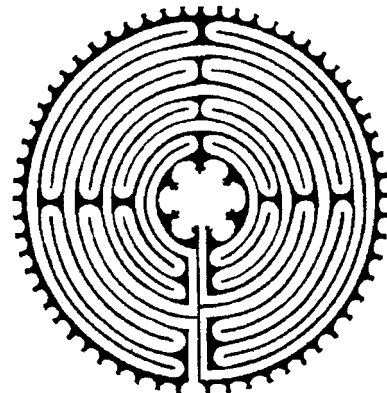
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WANT MORE LABYRINTH INFO? WANT TO VISIT ONE? SOME?

Labyrinths can be found in Barrington, Chicago, Deerfield, Elgin, Harrisburg, Naperville, Rockford, St. Charles, Wheaton, and Woodstock, Illinois. The following web site addresses (URLs) will lead you to info, classes, products and locations of labyrinths you might like to visit in your own area or when you're on a trip. Each site provides labyrinth locations, availability, addresses and contact persons. Classes and workshops are also listed. A great starting place for making connections!

WWW.Relax4life.com is a web site operated by Neil Harris of the Chicago area. He's the fellow who created the Chartres-type outdoor labyrinth at the Elgin UU church as well as the Trojan-type labyrinth at the Theosophical Society in Wheaton, Illinois. (Note: The Theosophical Society's Quest Bookstore is an amazing source for books and spiritual "tools" and artifacts! And check out their Olcott Library!)

WWW.gracecom.org is the web site of the Grace Episcopal Church in San Francisco (worth visiting). This is the home of Veriditas, the "Labyrinth Project" organization directed by Rev. Lauren Artress, author of *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Sacred Tool*.



REPORT OF WOMEN'S ALLIANCE 1998-1999

(Editor: Here's what the Women's Alliance of Third Unitarian [TUC, Chicago] has been up to.)

The Women's Alliance of Third Unitarian Church currently has a membership of 27 women, a few of whom now attend Unity Temple but have kept their close friendship with us here. The \$20 annual membership fee covers our membership in the UU Women's Federation as well as the Central Midwest District.

We meet monthly mostly in members' homes, but also at TUC. The business meeting is followed by a sack lunch and stimulating programs. We've learned about problems of aging, PADS, Hospice, women ministers throughout our history and UUs in Transylvania, among other topics. We hold an annual Christmas tea. We've shared our stories with one another. We have gotten lost in the woods together.

Each year we hold fund-raising events, such as the Christmas boutique, which allows us to donate to worthy causes. We collect warm clothing for Indian schools, gifts for Cook County patients and items for use by PADS, among other things.

This year we shared our information of early history of TUC at a forum. We were instrumental in having our block on Mayfield named after Don Wheat. We helped send one of our worthy teenagers to camp.

At our instigation and with our financial support a booklet depicting our murals is in the making, which we hope will serve as documentary evidence of the spirit of this church.

The great intangible of the Alliance is the deep friendship we have for one another. We are a special family within the larger fellowship of TUC. All too often this year we have had to serve the refreshments at the memorial services of our members! We keep in touch with those who have moved away. We care about one another.

Since most of our meetings take place during the day, most of us are retired. Some have flexible working schedules to allow active membership. We would gladly extend our hands in welcome to any or you who would like to join us. Our programs are open to all and we never turn away the brave men who attend!

—Annette Friedman

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ANNUAL MEETING

implement recommended bylaws changes, if any, in time for consideration at the 2000 Annual Meeting. A second committee, consisting of Sandy Drenth, Joanne Fought and Susan Karcher, will consider whether to reactivate, replace or permanently retire the Hester Huff Roll of Recognition.

—Betty Jachim



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PASSING THE TORCH

other aids for her, and a subsequent successor.

Is there someone out there whom we've overlooked in our search? Or perhaps there's someone who, though she was unable to see her way clear at the time she was asked, now wishes to step forward? Or is there someone you can recommend and urge to consider joining the board? You can find the board directory on the last page. Members are only a call or email away. Also, you can reach me at 708.784.0742 or via email at jachim@msn.com. I'll be glad to forward your message and/or answer any questions.

—Betty Jachim

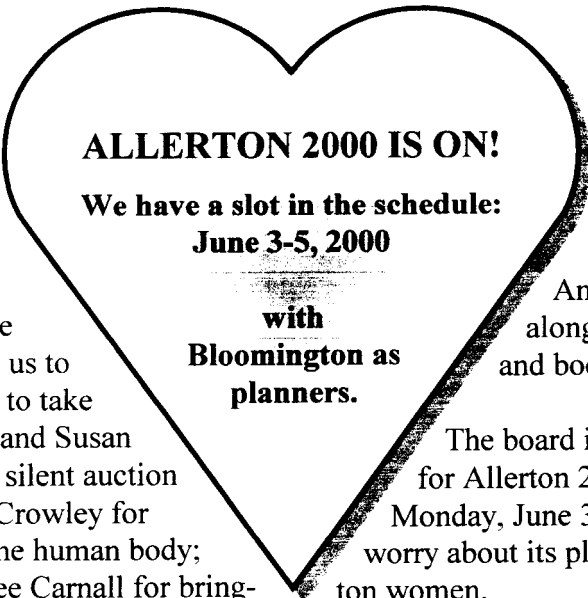


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ALLERTON

and family needs. And we wish Allerton could have had a few more user friendly and accessible rooms.

Special thanks are due to: Jeanne Fitch, whose art project allowed us to create our own finger labyrinths to take home; Rossann Baker-Priestley and Susan Karcher for being registrars and silent auction coordinators; Inge and Barbara Crowley for sharing their knowledge about the human body; Lois Delloff for "book talk"; Vee Carnall for bringing news and tapes from RCRC; storyteller Pat Baker; Betty Jachim for making a smaller canvas labyrinth



that could be left out for use at any time; and worship leaders Mary Lou Steadman and Clarise Jefferson.

And thanks to all who brought along their personal finger labyrinths and books to share.

The board is doubly happy! We have a slot for Allerton 2000! It will be Saturday-Monday, June 3-5. And we will not have to worry about its planning, thanks to the Bloomington women.

—Betty Jachim

THANKS FROM RCRC

The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice sends a note of thanks to CMwD-UUWF for their support during 1998-1999. (And as you can see from our new budget, we will continue to do so.) To get more info about RCRC and its work, as well as to find out about excellent films to rent, such as *Danger to Dignity*, which contains the historical perspective of the role of religious communities in efforts to legalize abortion, please call RCRC at (773) 509-6374.

Highlights of what RCRC/Illinois has been involved in during the past year include:

- February 14 Convocation and Buffet "Tribute to Responsible Love"
- Summer participation with Planned Parenthood at Farmer's Market

- Solicited letters to board members of hospitals at risk of merger with anti-choice entities
- Five representatives attended Lobby Day in Springfield and distributed "Believe It" cards. Want to help out? More Springfield lobbyists are always needed and welcome!
- November mailing to all candidates for Illinois legislature

Plans for the year ahead include:

- Eight neighborhood billboard proclaiming "Motherhood Is a Sacred Trust & Lifelong Responsibility"
- Black Church Summit on Religion & Sexuality in Chicago

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

(Please apply by September 15.)

So that as many women as possible can attend the Lake Geneva conference, CMwD-UUWF makes available five scholarships of up to \$85 each. Home churches may also provide financial assistance. All requests will be kept confidential. To apply for a CMwD- UUWF scholarship, complete the following:

My financial need is _____

My home church will provide _____

I would like the CMwD-UUWF to provide _____

An additional scholarship is available for ministerial students.

I am a student at _____

Mail this form to Emily Meter 1175 Elmwood Place, Deerfield, IL 60015

GOOD READS LIST

These books were suggested at Allerton '99.

Einstein's Dream by Alan Lightman (reflections on different kinds of perceptions of time)

Tender at the Bone by Ruth Reichl (a very funny memoir — growing up, going to college, going out on her own and how food, recipes, meals and idiosyncrasies fit in each)

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver (story of the family of a man driven to be an African missionary)

Amsterdam by Ian McEwan (quick-read mystery with lots of twists)

Calling the Circle: The First and Future Culture by Christina Baldwin

Billions and Billions by Carl Sagan

Growing Myself by Judith Handelman

Into the Forest by Jean Hegland

The Alphabet vs. the Goddess: The Conflict Between Word and Image by Leonard Shlain

At the Roots of This Longing: Reconciling Spiritual Hunger and a Feminist Thirst by Carol Flinders

Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics by Carol Flinders

Knitting Sutra by Susan Gordon Lyddon

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

*"Whatever you pay attention to
will grow more important
in your life."*

MUSIC FOR A PRO-CHOICE SERVICE: PRAY FOR A WORLD

(words by Ruth C. Duck to the Doxology tune)

Pray for a world where ev'ry child
finds welcome in a sheltered place,
Where love is tender, undefiled
and firmness intertwines with grace.

Pray for a world where passion's fire
burns not in force or careless lust;
Where God's good gift of deep desire
is safe in arms of faith and trust.

Pray for a nation that is fair
and seeks the welfare of us all,
Where leaders guide with prudent care
to nurture life for great and small.

Pray for a world where all have voice
and none will batter, rape, abuse;
Till then, may all have rightful choice
and pray for wisdom as they choose.



BELATED THANKS...

...to the Rockford, Illinois Committee (Paula Christensen, Jan Henningsen, Theresa Parrish, Gloria Pillmore, Helen Seely, Ruth Spelman, Marj Trigg and Dana Vincent), who brought us last year's 1998 Lake Geneva Retreat, *Women as Healers*, and featured singer/songwriter Jennifer Berezen. Our apologies for failing to recognize their efforts in last winter's issue of *VOW*.

INCOME	1998-99 Treasurer's Report Budget	Actual as of 6/30/99	1999-2000 Budget adopted 6/6/99
Dues	2000.00	2115.00	2000.00
Conferences:			
Allerton Conference	1500.00	1925.18	1500.00
Silent Auction	500.00	384.05	500.00
Lake Geneva Conference	3000.00	1753.77	3000.00
Scholarship Donations	250.00	198.00	250.00
Interest	200.00	297.87	200.00
	-----	-----	-----
	7450.00	6673.87	7450.00
From Reserve Funds	4075.00	2387.78	3775.00
	-----	-----	-----
	11525.00	9061.65	11225.00
EXPENSES			
Administration	1000.00	881.01	1000.00
VOW	1600.00	1494.64	2000.00
Conferences:			
Allerton	2000.00	1000.00	2000.00
Lake Geneva	3000.00	2476.00	3000.00
Conference Grants			
Allerton (4@ \$125)	500.00	250.00	500.00
Lake Geneva (5@ \$85)	425.00	425.00	425.00
Gifts & Donations			
RCRC	100.00	100.00	100.00
Feminist Theology Award	150.00	150.00	200.00
Clara Barton Camp	100.00	100.00	200.00
Student Ministers Grant	150.00	0.00	150.00
Continental UUWF	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
UUSC	1000.00	1000.00	500.00
Discretionary	500.00	185.00	0.00
Chalice Lighters	0.00	0.00	150.00
	-----	-----	-----
	11525.00	9061.65	11225.00

CMwD-UUWF ANNUAL DUES ARE \$5!

They may be paid through your local unit or at registration at the Allerton Conference or the Lake Geneva Fall Retreat. Another option is to join as an individual member. 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 coordinator.

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 \$5 check, made payable to CMwD-UUWF, to treasurer Mary Lou Steadman, 5 Ardith Drive, Normal, IL 61761)

ADDRESS CHANGE Y ___ N ___

(Send updates to Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525)

Voice of Women

Central Midwest District
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
6341 Blackhawk Trail
Indian Head Park, IL 60525



6/00

JEANNE FITCH
1200 EAST COLLEGE #336
NORMAL, IL 61761

M Kehoe@CRE8V.com.

CMwD-UUWF 1999-2000 Directory

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