



Voice of Women



Winter 1995

Volume 17 Issue 1

A Note from the CMD-UUWF President: Paula McCabe

The Central Midwest District-Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (CMD-UUWF) has entered into an exciting partnership with Continental UUWF and three local UUWF groups. On March 3rd and 4th, we are sponsoring a district-wide training for the UUWF curriculum, "Rise Up and Call Her Name." CMD-UUWF is coordinating the training session and providing the registrar, Betty Jachim. Continental has provided the wonderful curriculum and three teams of "trainers." The Deerfield, Madison, and St. Louis area UUWF member groups are hosting the three sessions at their local churches. If you plan to offer this curriculum soon at your church, plan to send a team of facilitators to take the training. In addition to paying the registration fees for your team, you will need to purchase the curriculum from Continental UUWF. Look for more information in this issue of VOW.

Paula McCabe
Sister President

Hester Huff 1995 Award

The 1995 Annual Allerton Conference is just a few months away. The complete brochure will be mailed in early spring. Included will be the nomination form for the Hester Huff Award. Start thinking about a woman you would like to nominate for this award. Last years recipient was Janet Nortrom!

Continental UUWF Membership

Reminder, there are two ways to join Continental UUWF. You may join as an individual and pay a \$25 membership fee. Or, you may join the member group at your church for a \$12 membership fee. It only takes 5 women to form a member group. We have discussed providing a third option to women who do not have access a church member group. Under this option, you could become a member of CMD-UUWF (our membership fee is still \$5.00) and join Continental UUWF for \$12.00. CMD-UUWF would then be considered your member group.

Central Midwest District Annual Meeting Notice

"Retreat to Simpler Times (?)" March 31-April 2, 1995

The 1995 Central Midwest District (CMD) Annual meeting promises to be unique and exciting. Co-hosted by the First Unitarian Church of South Bend and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart, it will also be a spring retreat. Camp Mack, a Church of the Brethren retreat center near Milford, Indiana, offers rustic lodgings, handicapped accessibility, and delicious meals, including vegetarian options.

Events include keynote speaker, Dr. Jean Hardisty discussing the "Radical Religious Right," and an "Introduction to the Amish," various and sundry workshops, and a Friday-night coffee house/open-mike gathering at which anyone who wishes to share a talent is encouraged to do so.

Watch for registration information and mark your calendar for a week-end to remember.

*Look how far we've come! It's important to stop and feel
pleased about what we've accomplished.*

Melody Beattie

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One Person Can Make a Difference

The Social Responsibility Committee of the UU Church in Oak Park (now merged with Beacon Unitarian Church) has been actively supporting the SOS (Sisters of Sobriety) home for the past few years. They were made aware of the program through congregation member Julie Norman, who met the SOS Director through her work in child abuse/neglect at Juvenile Court in Chicago. Julie was impressed with what she observed at the SOS recovery home, which provides for both women and their children.

The congregation began by providing food, toys, books and other needed items. At Christmas time, gifts were delivered for both mothers and children. Over time, the association between the church and SOS has grown, with SOS members having participated in special services and preparing an after-church luncheon get-together.

This Christmas, the outreach was extended to the men of BRO (Brothers Reaching Out), another recovery program operated by the Garfield Counseling Center. A joint Christmas celebration was held at the SOS home. In addition to continuing regular support, volunteers are planning to join play groups for residents' children during the coming year.

Thanks to Julie for getting the ball rolling.

Editorial News

The next issue of VOW will be the Allerton Brochure. It will be mailed in early Spring to all of you.

This is also a special call to any woman who has the time, interest, and editorial background to submit an application to become VOW editor. The VOW comes out three times a year. The current editor has worked on VOW in some capacity for most of the last 15 years.

Susan's work and involvement in the new DuPage Habitat for Humanity affiliate as a board member and a Co-Chair of the Development Committee is taking up an increasing amount of her time these days. So, it's time for someone new! If you are interested in editing VOW, please send your application to the Susan Karcher for board processing. Thanks.

Florida Abortion Rights Concerns

From Dean A. Stemke,
Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Funding Chair

Dear Unitarian Universalist Congregation:

The Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF) has recently been thrust into the battle field of Abortion Rights. As you probably know, Jim Barrett, a member of our congregation was gunned down along with Dr. John Britton outside a Pensacola medical clinic which performs abortions. PUUF members have a long involvement in providing "escort" services to help in upholding the rights of patients, and doctors, to provide free access to the two women's clinics in our city. Unfortunately, the antiabortion protesters in Pensacola have been especially active and violent. In the past multiple clinics have been bombed, clinic personnel assaulted, and now a total of two Doctors and one Escort killed, and one Escort wounded. The PUUF Social Concerns Committee is rising to challenges placed before us and are seeking your congregation's help.

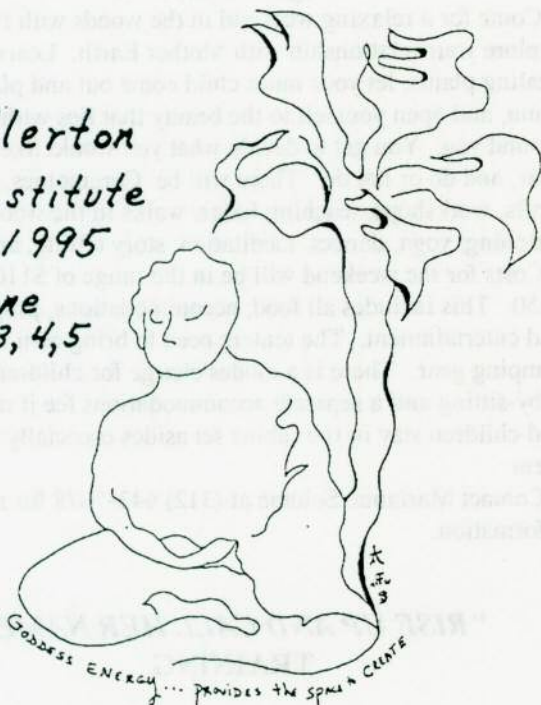
We know the time is now and we are responding. The Social Concerns Committee asks that you help us respond. Money is the major need at this time, postage letterhead and envelope costs are already absorbing our Committee's budget and taking limited funds from the other worthwhile causes our Fellowship endorses. We are in the midst of planning other responses to: safeguard the Escorts at the clinics (including Unitarians), forming a Common Ground task force, and the creation of permanent memorials.

To provide money for direct social action a donation to the PUUF - Social Concerns Committee - 904 East Scott Street, P.O. Box 2816, Pensacola, FL 32502, will help us in these efforts. The Jim Barrett Memorial Fund -904 E. Scott Street, P.O. Box 2816 Pensacola, FL 32502 is established as a trust which is not to be used for political activities and will be used for a fitting memorial. If you are contributing financially please select the donation activity. If you cannot contribute financially, but are interested in helping our efforts, there are many opportunities for letter writing campaigns and other in-kind donation. Please contact me directly if you have any questions about these funds or in-kind opportunities at: 7488 Baywoods Lane, Pensacola FL 32502, or day phone (904) 434-2080, night phone (904) 484-8735.



Allerton
Institute
1995

June
3, 4, 5



Workshop Selections:

- HOW TO DRAW
- TAI CHI CHUAN
- THE EXPRESSIVE ARTS
- MASK-MAKING & BEYOND
- POLITICAL ACTIVISM PANEL
- CIRCLE GROUPS
- DANCING TOWARD THE DOORWAYS:
Creating Yourself as a Risktaker
- VIDEO INTERVIEWS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS

On-going Activities

- HEALING SPIRIT COLLAGE
- LETTER-WRITING TO ELECTED OFFICIALS
- THE EVER-POPULAR SILENT AUCTION

Book Discussions:

- The Fifth Sacred Thing* by Starhawk
- From Yale to Jail: The Life Story of a Moral Dissenter* by David Dellinger

Available for Sale:

- CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS
- POLITICAL ACTION KITS
- PRINTS OF ARTWORK BY FRANCES

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR: *NANCY BABEL*

REGISTRAR: *ROSSANN BAKER-PRIESTLEY*

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Frances Farishon

Frances Farishon is a visual artist, Registered Nurse, and wellness facilitator. She is certified in alternative healing modalities (ie: hypnosis, bodywork, breathwork, Reiki) and has clinical expertise in the mental health field (chemical dependency, eating disorders, women and adolescent health issues).

During her early years as a Tai Chi Chuan practitioner, she decided to explore her inner artist as an extension of classical martial arts principles. Her first classes were with a traditional Chinese doctor in San Francisco who taught brush painting. In the 15 years since then, she has attended classes privately and at colleges.

Frances continues to challenge the integration of her personal and professional journey through the study of her visual and martial arts. Gaining expertise in the fine arts allows her to communicate the healing energy that flows through the images, validating the source of her wellness exploration. It continues to be a courage building exercise by extending the story of her personal landscape through her pen and ink drawings, pastels, watercolors, etchings, and sculptures.

Frances is currently working on a GODDESS OF THE SHADOWS SERIES, which explores the everyday energies that weave through transitional phases (focus on menopausal dimensions). Other collections include MY MOTHERS' OBJECTS SERIES; IMMORTAL BIRD SERIES; SACRED SCREAM SERIES; HEALING SPIRIT SERIES. The SERIES format provides a focused container for the creative process and motivational encouragement to continue the healing journey.

She has exhibited at Skyline College, Belmont Community Library' Arts-Fairs Fest in Palo Alto, and Children's Hospital San Francisco Health Practitioners Arts Fair. Her works are in private collections throughout the United States and France.

UUWF Women's Video Library

As part of the 1972 Ministry to Women award and with the help of the Canadian Unitarian Council, the UUWF purchased a video library of 17 films, as a resource for our members. "Studio D," the Women's Studio of the National Film Board of Canada, was awarded the 1992 UUWF Ministry to Women Award for its work in bringing women's perspectives to films.

These films are available to all UUWF members or member groups, for an individual cost of \$10.00 per film for postage, handling, and replacement costs each time. Our hope is to continue to help "Transform Thought," provide opportunities for women's groups to get together and view the films and have discussions. Videos are available for one week (except during Women's History Month). Videos should be returned immediately by 2-Day Priority Mail.

The tapes are in 1/2" VHS format and the running time is listed. Two videos can be rented each time. Janet Nortrom, a UUWF continental board member, is the person who is acting as the central distribution point. Non-UUWF members may borrow the films at \$25.00 per film.

Videos available are: *Adam's World*, *After the Montreal Massacre*, *Behind the Veil: Nuns*, *The Burning Times*, *The Company of Strangers*, *Forbidden Love: The Unashamed Stories of Lesbian Lives*, *Goddess Remembered*, *Making Babies*, *Making Perfect Babies*, *Not a Love Story: A Film about Pornography*, *Sisters in the Struggle*, *To a Safer Place*, *Toward Intimacy*, *Wisecrackers*, *Women in the Shadows*, and *Full Circle*.

Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

UU Society Affiliated with/Women's Group _____

Video(s) requested: _____

Date needed: _____

Please allow two (2) weeks. If you have suggestions for future videos, please list them on the back. Send all requests and checks to Janet Nortrom, UUWF, 4332 N. Woodburn Street, Shorewood, WI 53211 (414) 964-3764

Womanspirit Summer Gathering Camp Ronora Nature Preserve & Retreat Center Watervliet, Michigan August 4-6, 1995

Come for a relaxing weekend in the woods with time to explore your relationship with Mother Earth. Learn about healing plants, let your inner child come out and play, drum, and open yourself to the beauty that lies within and around you. You get to decide what you would like to see, hear, and do or not do. There will be: Ceremonies, arts and crafts, workshops, teaching lodge, walks in the woods, bird watching, yoga, dances, meditation, story telling, and more.

Costs for the weekend will be in the range of \$110 to \$150. This includes all food, accommodations, program, and entertainment. The tenters need to bring own tents and camping gear. There is a modes charge for children and baby-sitting and a separate accommodations fee if mothers and children stay in the cabins set asides especially for them.

Contact Marianne Solome at (312) 643-7678 for more information.

"RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME" TRAINING

By now, copies of the long awaited kits are in the hands of those who've eagerly awaited the opportunity to continue along the "trail of the goddess". And, thanks to cooperation between CMD-UUWF and already trained Women and Religion leaders, more than forty women in the district are now prepared to facilitate the 13 week curriculum throughout Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The weekend training was held at three sites on March 3rd and 4th. Thanks go to all the people who made the events possible. Betty Rotert, coordinated the weekend at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, Illinois, where Joanne Fought and Janet Nortrom were workshop leaders. Nancy Potts managed home hospitality at the First Unitarian Society, Madison, Wisconsin, with Nancy Vedder-Shults and Peg Carlson as curriculum facilitators. Judy Holman and Fran Reynolds were program leaders at Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood, Missouri, with Marian Wirth handling the hospitality arrangements. CMD-UUWF Secretary, Betty Jachim, served as the central registrar.

You all should have received flyers and order forms by now, but in case you didn't, we'll see that you get one.

**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 Irene Sanderson, 5005 North Palisdes Road, Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

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

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- Director - Lu Krug (414) 962-1394
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Executive Director - Mairi Meeks
both at (617) 742-2100, Boston, MA 02108
- Continental Board Liaison - Janet Nortrom
(414) 964-3764
4332 N. Woodburn, Shorewood, WI 53211

DOES OCTOBER 20TH SEEM A LONG WAY OFF?

It is, but now is the time to reserve October 20-22 for the CMD-UUWF Annual Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Yerkes Observatory. We are incorporating this anniversary into our theme of Cosmic Theology. Our keynote speaker will be **Rebecca Armstrong**, who brings knowledge, enthusiasm, and many talents to this theme. Your host church for the Fall Retreat is the Unitarian Church of Bloomington.

