

CMD-UUWF Alertin'

Volume 1 Issue 1

April 1978

CONTEST TO NAME NEWS LETTER ATTRACTS HEAVY RESPONSE

Only one suggestion for a name for our newsletter came winging its way to my post box. CMD-UUWF Alertin'.

How does that roll off the tongue? What images does it inspire? If you don't like it, let's hear your suggestions. O.k.? O.k.!

We could have any number of Vols. 1 Issues 1 if all you creative people would get your suggestions in.

If the "contest" doesn't work, we might be driven to appointing a Task Force—and think what that means!

Just to give you a chance to see how it might look we've "tried it on" for this issue. (We advise you to save this copy—it might one day be a priceless piece of memorabilia.)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations: From the Hinsdale Touchstone we hear that Elise Cade and Jane Holton have both, recently, welcomed new grandchildren. Elise and Jane are Allertonians of many years standing. We are happy for them in their new roles. Grandparent-hood is a real reward for "hanging in there" during all those long years.

BEYOND YOUR HORIZON

The women at Deerfield approach their educational/recreational jaunts in a very practical way. They have a Field Trip Chairperson. This makes it impossible for an entire year to pass by without a few times being spent away from home base.

ALLERTON CONFERENCE PLANS NO NIGHTMARE

This year's CMD-UUWF Institute at Allerton must already be on your calendar. But if not, here are the dates again: June 13, 14, and 15.

Now that the dates are down, here is what you have placed on your personal agenda: One of the finest experiences available.

Eliot Chapel Women's Alliance of Kirkwood, Mo., are the program planners. The Springfield, Illinois unit members are specializing in the conferences socializing.

Ruth Davis appears to be keeping everyone in touch with the "nitty-gritties" of conference planning. All-in-all, with people-power such as these represent, how could anything be missed?

Some preview of what to look forward to:

...Our keynote speaker, Rosalind Cartwright, PhD., Chairman of the Dept. of Psychology and Social Sciences at Rush University, Chicago, will speak on "Dreams."

...Four major workshops:

Increased dream awareness, para-psychology, Science Fiction, and Gestalt therapy...led by talented and qualified people.

...Mini-workshops such as Yoga, batik, flower arranging and other crafts

...Worship services led by UU minister, Virginia Perrin Knowles

...White elephant sale, nature walks, Psychic Games Night, and dress as your wildest dream (or nightmare) night.

(Turn to page 2 for cost information)

CONFERENCE PLANS CONTINUED

This year's institute will be yours for a truly reasonable price. The total cost (including seven marvelous meals, housing in a fascinating mansion and the entire program) will be \$57.50. This is just a little more than two night's housing in a good motel would be...you literally cannot afford to miss it!!

Complete program schedule, registration form, map to Allerton, and other important details will follow in a special Allerton flyer to be mailed about May 1st. Watch for it!

Interested? I sure hope so!

Here's how you can be there: Plan NOW to attend. In the beautiful environment of the Allerton Estate and in the company of interesting, friendly people, your experience could be..."beyond your wildest dream!"

PROGRAMS, PAST, PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE

Whoa! Let's back up! --^{we} It sounded like fun when I read of it. A reverse progressive dinner. No more of this being too full for that delicious dessert! How was it, Bloomington?

"LITTLE ALLERTONS"

It looks as though Oak Park and Rockford are having their own women's retreats. Rockford's program has an intriguing title: YOUNique Annual Women's Retreat.

The theme of the Oak Park retreat has not been announced...but both churches are enthusiastic about these week-end conferences.

How about it? Would your friends and you like to plan something "just for you." There are places that will accomodate small groups of 6-12 and are very reasonable. Drop me (Ed) a note and I'll gladly put you in touch with all the "know-how" you need.

WOMEN AND RELIGION RESOLUTION

Recently the President of the UUA asked the women of the churches in the CMD to assist him in his report on the implementation of the Women and Religion resolution passed at the 1977 General Assembly.

It is gratifying to note that at least 2/3s of the church newsletters of this district report special programs dealing with this resolution.

Betty Cyrus of the First Unitarian Church of Milwaukee was asked by our UUWF District Board to report on her church's activities in this field. Since the Milwaukee group's program seemed quite successful, we are sharing excerpts from its report with you.

The Milwaukee unit sponsored a forum in which women of the area could meet and "examine...their own religious beliefs and the extent to which these beliefs influence sex-role stereotypes...". Invitations and newspaper announcements publicized this event.

The two meetings were held on March 13 and 14. Forty people attended. Of these, three were men (two UU ministers and one Quaker). One woman was a Lutheran and the rest were UU's.

Five panelists gave interesting personal responses to the resolution. Two of the responses were taped and may be borrowed if you write to Ms Betty Cyrus, 1009 E. Ogden Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

Small group discussions followed the panel presentation. From these discussions came many practical ideas as to how individuals could effectively carry out the intent of the 1977 resolution.

We urge that each church or unit plan its own program. From such a program your own list, appropriate to your community, could be developed.

What a reservoir of ideas and energy would be generated!

WE'RE GLAD

In the March 22 issue of the Bloomington Parish News we noticed that Sheila Wakefield has had some of her work accepted for the Amateur Art Exhibition at the McClean County Arts Center.

DON'T FORGET PAST TRIUMPHS

Several of our churches seem to be stirring around in closets and such other mines of historical treasure. Some of their findings have been truly remarkable.

Ruby King, an early participant at Allerton, from Peoria, had collected a box of church memorabilia some 15 years ago...about the time she was regularly coming to Allerton. Today, Jane Hubbard, archivist for the Peoria UU Church is "perusing it ecstatically."

Undoubtedly much of the background information for the following article could be found in that church's archives.

Actually the excerpts have been taken from the February issue of the Hoosier Voice of Fellowship.

Rev. Maynard of Peoria is the author of this very interesting story of Lydia Bradley, a real "mover" in the history of our church in Illinois...especially in Peoria.

LYDIA MOSS BRADLEY

A MOST "PUBLIC SPIRITED WOMAN"

Lydia Moss Bradley and her husband Tobias arrived in Peoria in the 1840's and promptly engaged in some very profitable business ventures.

They were members of the Unitarian Church in that city for a few years. When it disbanded they joined the then twenty year old Universalist Church.

In 1867, when Lydia's husband died as a result of an accident, she came into control of the First National Bank. In spite of some dismay, Lydia assumed full financial management and quadrupled her five million dollar inheritance.

LYDIA MOSS BRADLEY CONT'D

From this fortune the Universalist Church building debt was paid off; one hundred acres of the Bradley farm was donated as a park, to be known as the Laura Bradley Park (she also insisted that a Peoria Park Board be created to manage the park affairs...such a Board exists today to manage all the parks of the city of Peoria); and Bradley Polytechnic Institute was created. This was done in memory of her husband, Tobias. Today this school is known as Bradley University and has a student body of well over 5,000 students in seven different colleges.

As David Maynard, minister of the UU Church in Peoria concludes: "This intelligent, philanthropic, visionary and generous businesswoman is a Universalist ancestor of whom we can be most proud."

My only comment would be to wonder what she might think of all our efforts to "raise our profiles and learn new ways of assertiveness." She must not have lacked in any of these. Of course, inheriting five million dollars did not hurt...but then she made it more and did some mighty enlightened things with it.

There have been some mighty women in our UU history in the Central Midwest District that we serve...who has someone she would like to nominate for inclusion in our "Hall of Fame?"

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE

Ruth Davis and Dolores Butler have offered to come to your unit and present a program on the Elderhostel movement. The only cost involved would be their out-of-pocket expenses.

The UUWF Resolution last June promised that we would encourage the Elderhostel program in our states, and this would be one way to do it plus having a lively and entertaining unit program.

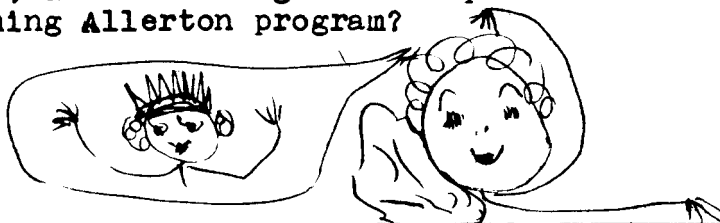
Just contact Ruth or Dolores in Avon, IL, 61415. Ruth's phone number is 309 465-3722.

NEWS FLASH!

Ms Cartwright, our theme speaker for Allerton, is speaking at the April 13th Women's Day program at the University of Illinois.

Ms Cartwright's subject will be: "The Place of Dreams in the World of Facts."

Say, aren't we right in step with our coming Allerton program?



CLARA BARTON CAMP NEEDS YOU

February brought an urgent plea from Janet Bowering for funds from individual members and units for the Clara Barton Camp for diabetic girls.

In her letter she writes that Nancy Pritchard, our new UUWF Executive, has been in consultation with Ann Bowman about the precarious financial position of the camp.

She continues: "We were pioneers in our commitment to a camp of this sort and the need for such a facility is greater than ever since diabetes is increasing.

She urges that local units, individual members, and churches make a special effort to see the Clara Barton Camp through this next year.

If you know of service clubs or foundations that have funds available for such a project, please get in touch with our UUWF office in Boston. The need is great...the time is short!

When I get to feeling that this is another commendable but impossible task, I am reminded of something I read not long ago:

"According to the theory of aerodynamics, and as may be readily demonstrated through wind tunnel experiments, the bumblebee is unable to fly."



NEWSLETTERS IMPORTANT

Keep the local newsletters coming! If there is something you want me to note especially, circle--please!

Send biographies of famous UU women in the CMD.

Send in your ideas for a name for our Newsletter.

SHARE: If there are any of you who would be willing to share your talents and inspirations with neighboring units, "The Alertin" would happily alert our readers to this fact.

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This is because the size, weight, and shape of the body in relation to the total wingspread make flying impossible. But the bumblebee, being ignorant of these scientific truths, goes ahead and flies anyway--and makes a little honey every day."

HOW LUCKY CAN WE BE?

Left over from November: Your Editor is sorry that this news failed to arrive in time for the November letter. However it is still very good news!

Mildred Richards has written the UUWF Board, stating that the Madison Alliance has offered to assume responsibility for the 1979 Allerton Conference program. That's planning ahead!!