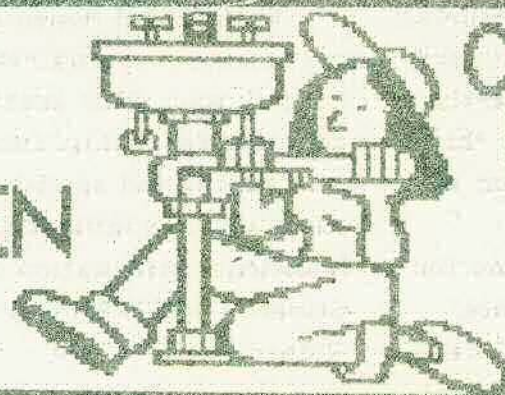


VOICE OF WOMEN



CMD- UUWF

WINTER
VOL. 9
ISSUE 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit waiting for Woody to get a vehicle registration, it looks as though there will be ample time to get my December-January greetings ready for UOW. 1986 is "winding down" in a flurry of excitement for the CMD-UUWF. Now we must turn our thoughts and efforts towards maintaining the momentum that has been established.

Highlights since Allerton, '86:

1. A super Board Meeting at Springfield in September - a little short on formal business, but under the talented leadership of Mary Leung, long on goal setting. And certainly long on Abraham Lincoln Fellowship's superb hospitality.
2. A "dream come true" Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva, with wonderful program, smooth mechanics and over a hundred super UU women from CMD.
3. Outstanding opportunity to meet and talk with our UUWF Continental Board which held its regular business meeting at the time of our Fall Retreat.
4. A terrific CMD denominational gathering in Madison- with all sorts of practical and inspirational pro-

(cont. page 2)

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Mid-winter "Unstructured Pleasure"
April 1 U.O.W. DEADLINE
April Women & Religion Gathering
April 24, 25, 26 Spring Retreat
Camp Wyaan, Eureka, MO.
Spring Luncheon -
Chicago
June 5, 6, 7



Annual Conf.
Monticello, IL.

- May 3 Spring CMD, Chicago
June 22-27 General Assembly
Little Rock, AR.

July 11-18 Midwest Leadership
School, Beloit, WI.

Sept. 19 RE District Conference

Oct. 3 Philosophiest

Oct. 17 CMD District Conference:
Conflict Management in the
Local Congregation

Nov. 8-8 CMD Annual Meeting
Evanston, IL.

5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

CMD-UUWF

April 24, 25, 26, 1987

Sponsored by: Women's Alliance of
Eliot Chapel.

(cont. Page 2)



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONT.

grams, topped by a memorable Sunday service with the Rev. John Hartford in the pulpit. No one can honestly say that UU's don't have their "high church" if they were in Madison at the CMD meeting in November.

5. An Allerton planning meeting for next June's week-end conference. Since our week-end format will make some scheduling adjustments necessary, be sure to pay close attention to notices coming through UUWF Communications. They will be coming to you and to your church through your minister/board President. Get them. Read them. Share them, with your unit members and your UU society as a whole.

I wish you all good things for 1987. Peace. Marion Baker

UU VISIONS AND VALUES


The spring CMD meeting at First Church in Chicago will feature Bill Schulz, UUA President as a speaker. Fifteen workshops including: Central America and the Future of UUism, Spirituality, Music and Hymns as Symbols of Faith, Faith Stages in 2001, Raising Children in a Nuclear Age and The Bible (an old book a New Faith) will be presented. Contact the CMD office (312-383-4944) for more information on this May 8th conference.

Congratulations to Marth Newman, extension minister to Alton, IL, and Emerson Chapel, Ballwin, MO and the two congregations for their start up weekend and covenant ceremony held in September.

SPRING RETREAT CONT.

Eliot Chapel women are again sponsoring a spring retreat at Camp Wyman. This great weekend provides fellowship, fun, relaxation, and mental and spiritual activities. All women are invited to attend. For additional information call Sue Stivers (314-821-2375) or Mary Widmer (314-878-7481).

AROUND THE DISTRICT

The Bloomington-Normal UUWF led a  Sunday Service on "Our Thanks-giving Journey". They also presented their annual music program at Westminster Village. At North Shore, Deerfield, IL, the women collected gifts for the children served by Lincoln Center. The UUWA of the DuPage Unitarian Church gave gifts to their adopted families. They also arranged the poinsettias for the church. The women of Oak Park UU had a presentation "The Woman Who Stole Christmas - or We wish You a Feminine Spirit This Holiday," by a psychotherapist from the Wholistic Health Center. Future programs include: "Helping Heart Healing Hand," "Handling Anger," and "You are the Power". The Anna D. Sparks Alliance had a program on women's lives in Central America and is investigating ways to make their church accessible. The women of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale co-sponsored a Mini-Christmas bazaar that raised \$1400. for the church and the Alliance.

DMD PRESIDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

After two years of Field Services and hard work by the District Board, reorganized to meet the new realities of district work with a professional staff person in place, it is time to look at where we are and where we are going.

There are a number of District programs available to societies: trained Board Retreat Leaders, RE Consultants, Weekend Ministers, a spring and fall workshop, a week long leadership school, not to mention the visiting schedule of the District Executive.

The District Board has expanded its committee structure to include working committees for extension, finance, worship and spiritual arts, adult leadership training and office newsletter.

We are still looking for some interested people to help us offer these programs to societies and to plan more innovative activities. We know that there are societies who

(cont. p. 4)

MIDWEST LEADERSHIP SCHOOL



The participants and staff of the first Midwest Leadership School (MLS) have recommended that the program continue. A second MLS will take place this summer at Beloit College in Beloit, WI. from July 11 through July 16, 1987. The excellent teaching staff remains the same: Denise Tracy will lecture of theology and direct Crado groups, Susan Holton (from Mass Bay District) will teach Organizational Development. Elise Cade will serve as Dean. There will be a society fee of \$75, which will enable a team of up to four members of a society to register. The tuition for each participant will be \$300. Some area councils have agreed to offer scholarship aid for leadership school. Flyers will be mailed to each society with further information.

Elise E. Cade

Dean MLS

17 W. Maple

Hinsdale, IL. 60521

The _____
of the _____ Church
wishes to borrow the following UUWF Program.

We enclose \$ _____ in pledge of its return within 30 days.
We understand that we can renew our loan for an additional 30 days
but that if the material is not returned we will forfeit our pledge money.
Please send all correspondence regarding borrowing materials to:

Mrs. E. H. (Ruth) Davis
Box P.
Avon, IL. 61415

If you wish to purchase the program material outright please send payment to UUWF, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA. 02108.

CMD PRESIDENT CONT.

have not taken advantage of available services; we want to reach out to them. Would you like to join us? Could your society make use of any of these programs? Please call me or write to the CMD Office, 141 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park IL 60302.

Jean Kapuscik

312-579-1448

Congratulations to Drew Kennedy, Minister of First Church, Milwaukee, WI. for his installation ceremony. UOA President, Bill Schultz gave the sermon.

Gail Ferr and Susan Karcher will no longer be doing UOW. If you would like to take on the newsletter job, please let Marion know.

ALLERTON 1987 ON A WEEKEND?

This year the CMD-UOW Allerton Conference is on the weekend of June 5, 6, 7, 1987.

The theme this year is "Come On In, The Water's Fine"

Your CMD-UOW Board is the Allerton planner for this weekend conference. Mark your calendars now and look for the flyers and registration forms in the Spring issue of UOW.

GET A PROGRAM FOR G.A.?

CMD is enabled to sponsor two programs at G.A. in Little Rock in June 1987. These programs can be worship services, workshops, speakers, parties or dramatic presentations. If you are interested please call or write Jean Kapuscik, District President 312-579-1448 as soon as possible. Include a description of the program and the names of the people or group involved.



Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

Telephone 617-742-2100

PUBLICATIONS AND PROGRAMS

AVAILABLE FROM THE UU WOMEN'S FEDERATION

check here
to order

Publications

1. Roots of Our Strength: A Heritage of Unitarian and Universalist Women--by Susan Gitlin-Emmer. Biographical sketches of 38 Unitarian and Universalist women of the past, ideal for use in study groups, pulpit addresses, services, and church schools. Price: \$7.50 per copy.

2. Relationships with Life--by the Rev. Betty Pingel. Created from a series of radio talks delivered by Ms. Pingel while serving as minister of the Second Unitarian Church, Omaha, Neb., this collection is organized on a seasonal, month-by-month basis. Included are some observations on religious and secular holidays, brief portraits of noted UUs, and other inspirational messages. Price: \$5 per copy.

3. Salvaging Our Past--edited by Ellen Spencer. An anthology containing all the poetry, artwork, essays and articles originally published in the UUWF's March 1981 supplement to the UU World, plus additional, previously unpublished material. This is a collection of women's herstories, written by UU laywomen from across the country. Price: \$3 per copy.

Single Session Program Guides

4. Courageous Women: The Unitarian Universalist Heritage to Activists Today--A guide for a 1½ to 2 hour program. Includes music and script for a dramatic reading in which church women take the parts of famous 19th century Unitarians and Universalists talking about the importance of their faith to their lives. There is opportunity for a discussion on the relevance of this to the lives of those present. Price: \$5 per copy.

5. Walking the Talk: Acting Out Our Theology--A guide for a 1½ hour workshop. Women trying to live a theology of love and justice frequently become tired and discouraged. This program presents three ways to deal with burnout and to keep spirits up! Based on the 1985 Biennial workshop of the Rev. Kim Harvie and Loretta Williams. Price: \$5 per copy.

6. Inclusive Language: An Issue of Social Justice--A guide for a men's/women's two hour workshop addressing the problem of how language carries unconscious assumptions about the world. If we want to create a more just world, we must image society differently, decide on appropriate language and start to use it. Price: \$5 per copy.

7. God as Soaring Eagle, Burning Fire or Mother Hen: Issues of Inclusive Language--In this two hour program, men/women participants examine several Biblical symbols of God and reflect on their relevance as well as suggest the kinds of symbols they'd like to see in hymns. Price: \$5 per copy.

June 1986

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o order

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8. It is a Time for Healing--An adaptation of the Rev. Joan Kahn-Schneider's worship service at Biennial 1985. A women's service enabling participants to celebrate the lives of women who have given them hope. Uses quotes from Alice Walker and Zora Huston. Price: \$5 per copy.

9. Women's Stories: Hearing Ourselves Into Existence--A 1½-2 hour program guide, including Carolyn McDade's music. The world community of women is on the move but because so much of our lives has been erased by patriarchy, we know little about one another. This program enables a women's group to get started at the important work of sharing their stories and discovering the connectedness basic to community. Price: \$5 per copy.

10. Teenage Pregnancy: Understanding the Problem and Moving Toward Solution--A program guide addressing the issue of the UUWF 1985 Biennial resolution. Suitable for one meeting as an overview or can be used as a multi-session study unit. Readings include a piece by Marian Wright Edelman and statistics from the Children's Defense Fund which offers suggestions for action. Price: \$10 per copy.

11. How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Anyway: Revisioning Women's History--A program which suggests a methodology for retrieving women's past, a way to "claim" the past and "name" the present. Biblical examples given. Price: \$5 per copy.

Multiple Session Program Guides

12. Women in a Patriarchal Culture: Friendships, Love and Spirituality--This is a four session study guide created at the request of UU women troubled by the lesbian-straight split in the denomination. The format gives time for experiential exercises and discussion in a nonthreatening context. Facilitator's guide included as well as a full packet of reproducible readings (60 pages). Price: \$20 per copy.

13. New Ways of Knowing: Getting Past Our Culturally Shared Assumptions--This is a three session study guide for men's/women's groups. It explores two scientific ways of viewing the world, the Newtonian and that of the New Physics. To explain the new scientific data we need a critical shift in perception of our universe and planetary home, a shift which may enable us to live and grown in harmony with our world and its multitudinous creatures. Participants are enabled to articulate feelings and beliefs about the "new Paradigm" and raise some questions about its relationship to personal religious journeys. Packet of readings included to photocopy for the group. Price: \$15 per copy.

HESTER HUFF ROLE OF RECOGNITION

Information

The Central Midwest District Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation wishes to recognize outstanding Unitarian Universalist lay women for service in the Central Midwest District. To this end we establish the Hester Huff Role of Recognition.

Nominations

Nominations may be made by individuals or UUWF units. These nominations must be made in writing by May 15.

Committee

The current committee making the final selection will be composed of the three most recent Hester Huff recipients. The Chair shall be the longest standing member of this Hester Huff nominating committee. The present CMD-UUWF Board members are exempt from this committee. The award may not be given to any women currently serving on the selection committee or current CMD-UUWF Board members.

Job Description

The committee will solicit nominations from Central Midwest women's groups and individual Unitarian Universalist women. They will provide a nomination form. Each woman who is nominated will receive a letter of recognition from the committee prior to the Allerton conference.

Award

The recipient's name will be engraved on the Hester Huff Role of Recognition plaque. This plaque will remain in the recipient's possession for one year. The recipient will also be given a certificate of recognition. The presentation will be made annually at the Allerton Conference. A letter of congratulations will be sent to the Board of Trustees of the recipient's society.

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NOMINATION FORM

HESTER HUFF ROLE OF RECOGNITION

Complete this form and sent to: Clarise Jefferson 313 Oakdale
Normal, IL 61761

Closing date: May 15, 1987

1. Nominee: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ Phone: _____
2. Church: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ Phone: _____
3. Nominated by: _____ Phone: _____

Renomination: If complete materials have been submitted on a candidate, please renominate adding only current material. The committee will review the earlier material in their files.

NOMINATION INFORMATION

Number of years member of church _____

Principal church activities or services: _____

UUWF-CMD activities or services: _____

UUWF and UUA Denominational services or activities: _____

Community activities or services: _____

Personal or religious attitudes of nominee which support nomination: _____

Use additional pages or letters to support nomination and attach as desired.

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Our Midwest UUWF representative to the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights alerts us to "TAKE NOTICE AND ACTION" on the RIGHT TO CHOOSE resolution sent out by the 1986 General Assembly for congregation study.

The Women of the Hinsdale Women's Alliance has submitted a proposed RIGHT TO CHOOSE resolution. Please study the proposed resolution, the critique of the study and the original resolution that was submitted at G.A., 1986. Your church should have copies of the original and study proposal. Examine them and the proposal of the Hinsdale women and support the new proposed resolution. The time for you and your church to submit their own resolution has passed.

PROPOSED RIGHT TO CHOOSE RESOLUTION

Submitted by Hinsdale Unitarian Church, Hinsdale, Illinois
January, 1987

1. BECAUSE, we believe that the inherent worth and dignity of every person,
2. the right of individual conscience, and respect for human life are
3. inalienable rights due every person; and
4. BECAUSE, the personal right to choose contraception and abortion is an
5. important aspect of these rights; and
6. BECAUSE, we believe that every woman has the legal and moral right to
7. follow her personal religious and moral convictions concerning the
8. completion of a pregnancy; and
9. BECAUSE, the legal right of women to choose abortion and contraception
10. is under attack in legislature, courts and streets; violence continues
11. against family planning and abortion clinics, staff and facilities; and
12. verbal abuse is rising on both sides; and
13. WHEREAS, the issue of abortion is morally complex, with people of strong
14. moral and political conviction on all sides who share some basic values
15. concerning fewer abortions and healthy, wanted children; and
16. WHEREAS, the current polarized environment is not conducive to open
17. discussion, and we as a religious body are in a position to explore moral
18. arguments, encourage public discussion and promote action on shared concerns;
19. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1987 General Assembly of the Unitarian-
20. Universalist Association reaffirms its historic position in agreement with
21. the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision, and urges the Association to
22. intensify efforts to insure every woman her right to choose legally to
23. terminate a pregnancy, using all possible safeguards; and
24. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Assembly opposes any move to deny or
24. restrict the distribution of government funds as a means of limiting access
25. to full contraceptive and abortion counseling and/or treatment, at home or
26. abroad; and
27. BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That individual UUs and the UUA open discussion
28. with those of different mind and seek opportunities to work productively
29. from shared values to promote family planning and education for responsible
30. sexual behavior.

RIGHT TO CHOOSE - Critique of Study Resolution by Minsdale Women's Alliance

BECAUSE

Lines 1 - 3 In today's game of semantics, "person" and "respect for human life" have been distorted and redefined by those who believe the Constitution applies as much to a fertilized egg as to a human being after birth. Without specific referral to the "right to choose contraception and/or abortion", these words say nothing to this issue.

Lines 4 - 5 "acceptance of one another" is vague. Do we mean "acceptance of each individual's moral decision making capability in reproductive matters? Does "encouragement to spiritual growth" mean my duty to convert you?

WHEREAS

Lines 6 - 12 These sections clearly state the present situation.

Lines 13 - 15 A search for "consensus" could imply that the law is wrong and that we could agree on a revision. It is difficult to conceive of "consensus" with people who shout "murderer" at pregnant women. However, we would like to promote action on shared concerns. Many who oppose abortion recognize the importance of sex education, contraception and even funding for victims of rape and incest.

THEREFORE

Lines 16 - 17 This resolution will be used to communicate where we stand to people outside our denomination. They should not have to search through dusty documents to find out what we mean. "Historic position" must be spelled out as it was in earlier resolutions - i.e., we support the Roe vs. Wade decision, etc.

Lines 18 - 20 "New moral understandings emergent in the works of feminist theologians and social ethicists" are not meaningful to most of us. What relation does this have to the Right to Choose? We recommend deleting this paragraph.

Lines 21 - 23 This is merely a restatement of Lines 13 - 15. In a time when basic human rights are under legal and violent attack, we would hope that the UU denomination could do more than "open discussion and seek consensus?

NOWHERE IN THIS DOCUMENT IS THERE A CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OF WHERE THE UNITARIAN - UNIVERSALIST DENOMINATION STANDS ON "CHOICE"!

1986 - 1987
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