

UU Women's Connection
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UU Women's Connection
(logo under construction)



Spirit of Women
2006 Spring Conference



SPONSORED BY:

The UU Women's Connection

(Successor organization to the CMwD-UUWF)

- Connecting UU women within the CMwD
- Connecting women of the district to the larger UU movement
- Stimulating interest in concerns of the world

JUNE 2-4, 2006

The women of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection present the annual conference of the Central Midwest District.

Renew your spirit!

Where were you in '77?

On a historic weekend in November of 1977, twenty thousand women and men left their jobs and homes around the country to end discrimination against women and promote their equal rights.

Join us to celebrate and explore this excellent case study of American democracy at work. We will view the film, *Sisters of '77*, which documents the first federally funded National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas.

UU Women's Connection Spring Conference Planners

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**Registration deadline:
26 May 2006**

About the Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection...

This organization began 43 years ago when Unitarian and Universalist women's groups merged. Though not a legal affiliate, the district group has been inspired by the Continental UUWF since its inception. When Continental announced its re-visioning process in 2005, a task force was charged by the district membership to do the same. The UU Women's Connection was incorporated non-profit this year with new bylaws, council governance, new name and vision to carry into the 21st century. Though this process is ongoing, the UU Women's Connection is committed to continuing the work begun through our sisters of the CMwD-UUWF.

The organization's new name, "UU Women's Connection", represents its intended mission to connect Unitarian Universalist women within the district, to stimulate interest in aspects of the Unitarian Universalist movement and concerns of the world, and to serve as liaison between women of the district and the larger UU movement.

Financial Assistance...

Our membership has always felt it is important to provide opportunities for grants or scholarships. We offer various options for reduced fees to make attendance accessible:

- **childcare grant** – to relieve some of the costs of childcare encountered by mothers who attend our retreats, a reduced registration fee of up to \$20 is available to those who request it.
- **ministerial student grant** – our membership recognizes the importance of supporting our ministers in training. We offer one ministerial grant of \$100 on a first-apply-first-receive basis for ministerial students from the district.
- **need-based grant** – limited funds are available to reduce the financial burden for women who could not otherwise attend due to monetary hardship.
- **first-time attendees grant** – to encourage new members to participate in the retreat, the first five women to register, who have not previously attended, will receive a waiver of their registration fees.

Coffee House

Do you enjoy singing? Are you a Story Teller? Do you write poetry? ...or want to read for us? Share an open mike coffee house Friday evening with other talented ladies!

Band of Angels

Kate Burch, Karin Evans, Janice Lindegard, & Terri Schultz



Band of Angels will share an hour of music, stories, and poetry that touch upon themes such as our connections with each other, with our natural world, and with our spiritual sources of inspiration. Join these women Saturday evening for an hour of light, love, and laughter!

Book Sale

Bring your gently used books for our book sale. This is a fun, painless way to raise money for your UU Women's Connection -- not to mention a great place to pick up new reading material while treading lightly on our Earth!



Treasure Auction

We are looking for your treasures for this important fundraiser for *us*. Bring a card detailing the history of your items. Bring antiques, jewelry, books, and things that are special to you. Your treasure will find a new life.

Saturday morning

The Spirit of Women (film)

This remarkable documentary tells the story of an event that revolutionized the women's movement. For four days in November of 1977, at the first federally funded National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas, activists caucused, argued, and finally hammered out a Plan of Action. Archival footage breathes life into heated debates over issues like the Equal Rights Amendment, reproductive freedom, sexual orientation, and minority rights. The women on the front lines included First Lady Rosalynn Carter, former First Ladies Betty Ford and Lady Bird Johnson, and activists Coretta Scott King, Bella Abzug, and Barbara Jordan. Current interviews with Gloria Steinem, Ellie Smeal, Ann Richards, Carmen Delgado Votaw, Liz Carpenter, and Betty Friedan bring a deeper understanding to the legacy of the Conference.

Sisters of '77

Discussion following the film

- What does it mean to be a woman?
- What does it mean to be a feminist?
- Do minority women have different challenges than white women?
- What rights do lesbians want?
- Do women have more rights than they did in 1977? Where are women in terms of education, sports, careers, and politics?

In our discussion, we will explore these and other questions. Bring your personal stories to share.



Saturday afternoon, 1:30 – 2:30

1. *Using My Hammer to Make a Difference*
Lori Farley

Through photos and diary entries, Lori shares her experiences working with Women Build and Gulf Coast relief. Hammer, drywall mud, and wire stripper in hand, Lori puts her desire for social justice into action!

2. *Writing a Worship Service*
Joanne Fought

How important is lay leadership in worship? Do you want to lend creativity to your group's worship, but don't know where to begin? Joanne, a long-time spiritual leader, will explore themes, sources, and rituals to help you develop your skills for putting it all together.

3. *Women of Spirit, Women of Action!*
Julie Hile & Cheryl Springwood

Racial equality! Women's rights! Prayer in schools! Global warming! Right to die! Accessible quality healthcare! What issues motivate you to action? In what ways do you make statements? How can simple actions have greater impact? Share your stories with women who are working to make a difference.

Embellish a Square

Embellish quilt squares, which will be combined to create a banner for the Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection of the Central Midwest District. Share your creative spirit with other women from the district.

intentional fine arts...

Saturday afternoon, 3:00 – 4:00

1. *Guided Imagery: a safe way to experience the presence of your Spirit*

Marge Harmon

This workshop will facilitate a relaxation technique through deep breathing exercises as well as guided imagery, moving you to an awareness of your mind, body, and Spirit.

2. *The Giver, Book Discussion*
Betty Jachim

What novel has received high critical acclaim, continues as a young adult classic, but is substantial enough to generate earnest discussion among adult readers at book retreats offered through the Minnesota Women's Press? It's a short, yet powerful and provocative book about a perfect world of no war, fear or pain. Jonas is chosen to receive special training from The Giver, setting up the theme of balancing the values of freedom against security. Lois Lowry's The Giver is readily available in libraries and bookstores. Come join us and, maybe later, your youngsters in a surprisingly deep discussion.

3. *Spirit of Change: Project Dirty Laundry*
Sara Carpenter

Through social justice projects women of spirit are seen making positive changes to their communities. Sara will share her experiences with Project Dirty Laundry and discuss how to air the dirty laundry in your community and world, as well as how to work together to clean it up.

4. *Spiritual Drumming*
Rebecca Gearhart

Rebecca will introduce the cross-cultural use of sacred drumming by highlighting Native American and African spirituality. We will listen to samples of drum rhythms, learn about their ritual contexts, and duplicate the rhythms. Participants are invited to bring their own drums, but there will be extras to share.