

VOLUME 12
ISSUE 2

SPRING, 1990

CENTRAL MIDWEST DISTRICT
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION

I'd like to share my last report to the Central Midwest District board meeting which was held in March.

CMD/UUWF continues to be an important entry and connecting point for women in our denomination.

Again approximately one hundred women in the district came together for the annual fall retreat at Lake Geneva. Not only do women enjoy the programming but it also allows an interaction and interconnectedness which reinforces and encourages ongoing involvement within the district and the larger denomination. Each time women connect with others at UUWF conferences or other district activities, they are nurtured and sustained them toward more participation and growth in the denomination.

Communication is enhanced and thus there are additional opportunities for women to take part in district and UUA events. Information available at Lake Geneva encouraged many women to participate in the second annual Women & Religion Conference, Womanspirit. Enthusiasm and interest grows with each occasion.

CMD/UUWF proudly and generously supported the

Feminist Theology Award by providing matching funds to any unit that pledged. Because of the Veatch Challenge Act which also matched funding, money was quadrupled and the goal of \$40,000 was reached. Many of those who were listed in the *The Communicator*, the UUWF newsletter, as donors were CMD/UUWF individuals or units.

Carol Graywing said in *Transforming Thought, Vol II*, published by UUWF as a part of the work of the FTA:

"One woman's life is just one woman's life. Many issues of the woman's movement are played out in my life and in the lives of my mother, grandmothers, daughter, close friends. Our stories are the truths we know, the truths we must tell again and again. For us to hear. For our daughters and sons to hear. For the world to hear and heed. From these stories, a story emerges. This is sometimes called theology or thealogy. Feminist thealogy is a story that urges us to connect, empower, heal and transform ourselves and our world"

Her quote aptly presents our view of the importance of women coming together again and again to grow and strengthen our denomination.

Blessed Be, Joanne Fought, President

UUWF PUBLICATIONS

Ruth Davis reminds us she has publications from UUWF national office to loan to any unit requesting them. Subjects include a wide variety of material of interest to women. Single session program guides are also available.

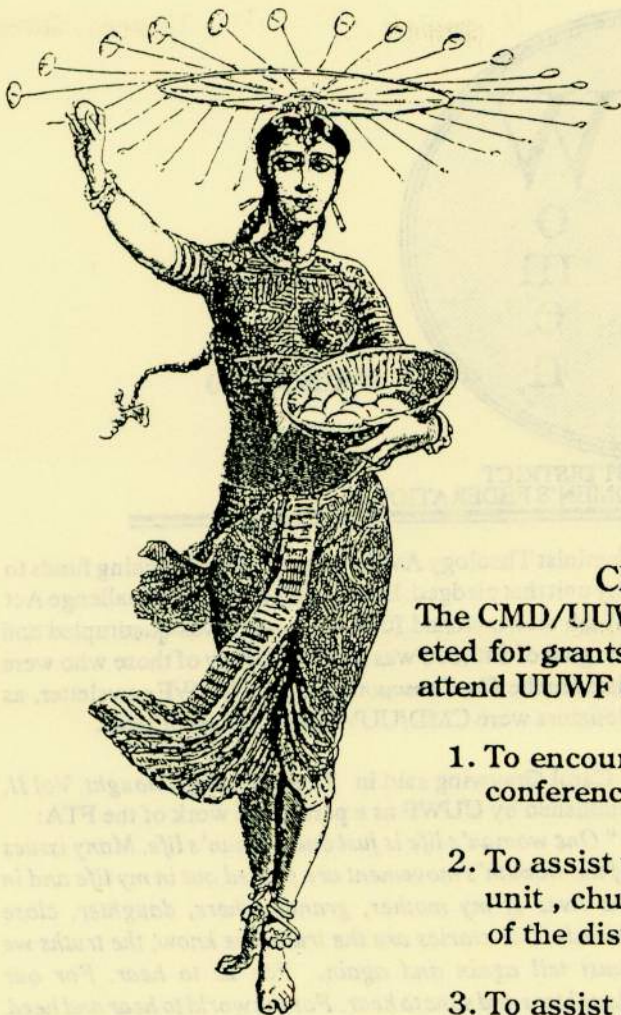


THANK YOU, ROCKFORD

The Women's Alliance of the UU Church in Rockford hosted the spring meeting of the CMD/UUWF Board March 16-17. Food and fellowship were excellent and the Saturday meeting was profitable. Thank you, Helen Seely and committee, for your hospitality.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| April 20-25 | UUA WOMANQUEST Convocation, Lake Geneva, WI |
| April 27-29 | CAMP WYMAN SPRING RETREAT, Eureka, MO Chairperson: Lauriejill Wood |
| June 12-14 | ALLERTON annual business meeting and conference |
| June 20 | WOMEN'S HISTORY DAY, celebration of the National Alliance's 100th Anniversary, hosted by the First Unitarian Society, Milwaukee |
| June 21 | HISTORY PILGRIMAGE trip to Racine to visit Olympia Brown Church |
| June 21-26 | GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Milwaukee, WI (Ministers have registration forms) |
| Oct. 26-29 | FALL CONFERENCE, Lake Geneva, WI |
| Nov. 9-11 | CMD annual district meeting, Joliet, IL |



SPRING RETREAT

The annual spring retreat of CMD/UUWF will be held at Camp Wyman in Eureka, Missouri April 27-29. For reservations, contact Lauriejill Wood. Her home telephone is (314) 621-6759 and her work number is (314) 289-1700. All women of the Central Midwest District are invited.

CMD /UUWF GRANTS AVAILABLE

The CMD/UUWF Board has recognized the need and has budgeted for grants to be available to women within the district to attend UUWF conferences and retreats. The Board's goals are:

1. To encourage women of the district to be a part of a conference experience.
2. To assist those women who are not affiliated with a local unit, church, or fellowship to network with other women of the district.
3. To assist small units that are unable to provide financial assistance for their members.

Guidelines include the following:

1. The Board encourages local units to help their own members financially whenever possible.
2. Grant referrals may come from units, ministers, or from any CMD/UUWF member.
3. Grant requests and applications will be kept confidential.
4. Two dollars of the nominee's grant will be used to pay membership dues in CMD/UUWF if financially necessary.
5. Application forms for grants will be included in VOW along with conference information.
6. Nominations will be accepted up to three weeks prior to the event. After the committee decides the amount to be awarded, the recipient will be contacted at least two weeks before the event.

(The Board awarded four grants for attendees of the 1989 "The Goddess Within" Retreat. Let's keep the ball rolling)

Pat Johnson

APPLICATION FOR CMD/UUWF CONFERENCE GRANT

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

NOMINATED BY: (if applicable) _____

(name & address)

CONFERENCE OR RETREAT _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO : Pat Johnson, RR 2, 328, Sunny Ridge Rd. Mineral Point, WI53565

PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN: FITTING YOUR PIECES TOGETHER
 THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CMD/UUWF WILL BE HELD AT ALLERTON PARK, JUNE 12-14.
 ALLERTON REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFORMATION WILL BE SENT IN A SEPARATE
 MAILING IN EARLY MAY SAVE THE DATES!

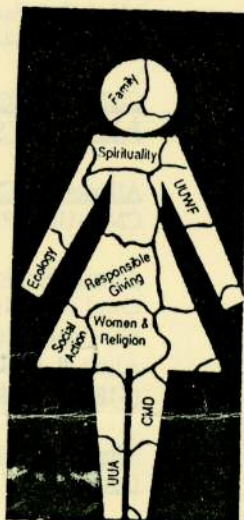
**SILENT AUCTION
 A FINANCIAL SUCCESS**

Remember the fun we had at Allerton last year bidding on all those wonderful treasures brought by so many for our annual silent auction? We can make it bigger and better this year!

While you are busy preparing for spring cleaning, why not mark a box "Silent Auction" and fill it with select goodies for Allerton.

Keep it where you will occasionally trip over it, so you will be sure to take it to Allerton with you.

We made over \$600 at last year's auction.
Let's aim for \$1,000 in 1990.



ALLERTON

The 1990 Allerton Conference will be an exploration and determination of how much of our time and energy is spent on each of the aspects of our lives. We will have time to learn, play, relax and think about what is most important to us as UUWF and church members, mothers, wives, consumers, and activists.

Plan on giving this time to yourself.
 You deserve it!

When Justice Rules

Sa'di (Persian Poet)

They tell how no salt was available when some game was being wasted, during a hunting expedition of Nushirvan, the Just. So an attendant was sent to a village to get some. Nushirvan said, 'Pay for the salt lest the village be ruined and a bad precedent established'. When asked what harm could come from such a small amount, Nushirvan replied, 'The first foundation of oppression in the world was little but those who came after added to it so that it reached its present culmination.

Contributed by Ruth Davis



DUES AGAIN

The date on which dues fall due from your unit is shown on your VOW mailing sticker. Check with your local unit treasurer if you have any questions because we want to be sure that you continue to receive your copies of VOW. Our treasurer, Ruth Davis, will be happy to accept \$2.00 per member at any time. Her address is listed on the back of this issue.

**FINDING OUR FOREMOTHERS -
 FINDING OURSELVES**

UUWF Womens' History Conference, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Alliance of Unitarian Women, will be held June 20-21 in Milwaukee and Racine. Registration information is in the April/May 1990 Communicator.

THINK ABOUT THIS!

Pat Johnson wants some answers to the following questions:

- What do you want our organization to be?
- What need shall we fill?
- What would you like your local church or fellowship to do for women?
- What would you like the UUA to do for women?

The questions will be discussed at Allerton, so THINK, THINK, THINK.

RCAR - Our Illinois representative for the RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS needs an alternate for that position. Please contact Phyllis Peara whose address is listed on the back page of this issue.

Book Review

By Helen Seely

Spretnak, Charlene. The Spiritual Dimensions of Green Politics
 Bear & Co., 1986

**No one has a right to consume
 happiness without producing it.
 Helen Keller**

In this little book (less than 100 pages) Charlene Spretnak challenges all of us to get serious about Green-oriented goals already in our religious tradition: i.e. inner growth, ecological wisdom, gender equality, & social responsibility. Throughout she encourages a shift "toward a deeply meaningful religion that does not separate itself from Nature, from our bodies, and from women" I felt heartened that she, and others like her, believe that we can "work together to prevent ecocide and nuclear holocaust and to improve conditions for all our sisters and brothers in the Great Family". I understand that Ms. Spretnak will speak at GA in Milwaukee and I for one, am hoping to hear more about all this.

Charlene Spretnak is author of Lost Goddesses of Early Greece (Beacon Press), The Global Promise with Fritjof Capra (Dutton: Bear & Co.). She is also the Editor of an anthology, The Politics Of Women's Spirituality (Doubleday).

(TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE READ)

1990
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Ex-Officio

CMD District Execu-
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Denise Tracy



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WOMEN & RELIGION COMMITTEE AND OAK PARK
WOMEN FOR A STIMULATING AND EXCITING CONFERENCE.
WOMENSPIRIT WAS EXTREMELY WELL DONE AND YOU ARE TO
BE COMMENDED FOR YOUR WORK AND FOR BRINGING
ELIZABETH DODSON GRAY TO OUR DISTRICT.

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH

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Nonprofit Organization

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SAVE THE DATES
ALLERTON CONFERENCE JUNE 12-14
PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN: FITTING YOUR
PIECES TOGETHER.
(MAILING SOON)

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