

Voice of Women



Summer 1995

Volume 17 Issue 2

A Note from the CMD-UUWF President: Nancy Babel

Greetings to my UUWF sisters. This is my first column as president of this organization. I have been enjoying the summer here in St. Louis, in spite of the heat wave. I hope this message finds you in good health and spirit, and able to find time to smell the flowers, savor your friends, and take care of yourself in the midst of life's hustle.

In this first communication with the membership, I thought I would introduce myself and ask you to let me get to know you, as well. I will say something about what I have begun to pick up as the sentiments some of you have expressed for the direction CMD-UUWF should take and continue to follow over the coming year.

I am a Baby Boomer, who went through college and graduate school in the 60's and 70's, and began my career as a professional counselor in probation work with the court system, and later as a rehab therapist in a chemical dependency treatment center. I was married to Skip Babel for 25 years, and widowed in 1993. We have a son, Robert, age 25, who is a musician and band director for a school district in Barry, Illinois. I became a UU in 1975, and found the Women's Federation a few years later.

Since my first Allerton conference, which I attended in 1980, I have coordinated that conference twice (1984, 1995) and served on the board for a term in the 80's. I have also been to Lake Geneva for the fall conference several times, and plan to go again this year.

In UUWF I have found a closeness and comradery with women that I had not found in this way since college dorm life. I have met role models of all different ages, careers and areas of the midwest, people who have believed I could do what they had done, and then invited me to take part in the activities of the CMD-UUWF board. Some of these women were Elise Cade, Marion Baker, Susan Karcher, Joanne Fought, and Sandy Drenth.

Continued On Next Page.....

ALLERTON 1996 WANTS YOU!! Rossann Baker-Priestley, Chair

My philosophy is, it is never too early to put dates on a calendar. So...get out your calendar mark it for Allerton 1996 - June 9, 10, 11.

Finished?? Good. Now sit down and enjoy the remainder of this article and VOW.

Big plans are in the making for the 1996 Allerton Conference, but I will tell you right now I need LOTS of your support, guidance and help.

I am wanting to develop a program that will appeal to the wonderful continuum of interests that Allerton women have always held. I am wanting to blend old and new. I am wanting to appeal to former, current, and new participants. I am wanting you.

THEME - based around Quilts, Quilting, Quilters - the life and times, the people and stores behind them.

KEYNOTE - do not have one selected or even in mind. Would appreciate your sharing names, addresses, and phone numbers of possible contacts.

WORSHIP - understand there are several of you out there who have led services based on quilts - could you share them with us or would you be willing to lead them at Allerton?

WORKSHOPS - Always open to suggestions - names of possible leaders, topic ideas, books, etc. Do have a couple of dynamite Quilts books in mind - but there is always room for more.

ENTERTAINMENT - Currently planning to present some or all of the music of Quilters. I need volunteers who will be attending the entire session of Allerton, who wish to participate in this evening activity and who will accept the responsibility of working on their music and scripts before they arrive at Allerton.

Continued On Next Page....

President's column continued....

I have been very impressed with the conferences, board meetings, and home hospitality, and enjoyed the continuing sharing of friendships with many of you individually renewed at these gatherings. And now to the business at hand.

At our last business meeting we discussed whether to support NARAL, an abortion rights organization, with our CMD-UUWF money, and the status of our commitment of Clara Barton Camp for diabetic girls, which is no longer directly operated by our members. We are also continuing to evaluate the kind of programs we offer at Lake Geneva and Allerton, and the subjects we address. So there is much to discuss and decide about our future direction and present philosophy. We need your input and active participation.

Along these line, as a matter of fact, we are seeking a new VOW editor. Susan Karcher is moving on from this duty after some ten years! She is still serving on the board, and we are grateful for the hard work she has put into providing continuity and communication for our organization. You would not have to serve for ten years, even one would be enough, but we'll not refuse a longer commitment if it comes along.

I'd like to hear from you. Please drop me a line to say what you like about UUWF, our newsletter, conferences, or other activities. Tell me what you want to see in the future, even what you would like to see us change. I look forward to hearing from you.

In closing, I want to thank Paula McCabe for serving as president for the past two years. She has led us well, inspired us through her informative VOW columns, guidance at board meetings around the district, and our annual business meetings. She also led us in a beautiful and fun worship service at Allerton 1995, "In Our Mother's Gardens." Thank you Paula. I have learned from you and hope that I can follow your example in able fashion.

Nancy Babel

Editorial News

The next issue of VOW will be the Fall Conference information. It will be mailed soon.

This is also a special call to any woman who has the time, interest, and background to become VOW editor. The VOW comes out twice a year.

Susan's work and involvement in the new DuPage Habitat for Humanity affiliate as a board member and as Chair of the Family 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 let Nancy Babel know. Thanks.

ALLERTON 1996 CONTINUED.....

We might even try getting together for a rehearsal during the spring, if at all possible.

ON GOING/CRAFT PROJECT WHILE AT ALLERTON

- have an idea?? What about bringing a quilted patch to Allerton? What about making patches while at Allerton? What about having it quilted between years and then selling tickets for a drawing - proceeds to go to CMD, of course!

SILENT AUCTION - Must not forget this. Remember, I asked everyone to think of how they could help upgrade the items on the Silent Auction table. Try to bring one NICE item in the addition to the potpourri of items that always come in.

Well, I guess that is it for now. Thanks for all your help - in advance. Don't be shy. Let me know how you can help. Remember, many hand make light work.

Thanks, Rossann.

RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME TRAINING

The CMD-UUWF helped to organize the training of 50 UUWF women leaders who gathered in March at three churches in the district, Deerfield, Madison and Eliot Chapel, St. Louis. If you are interested in being trained or are looking for a group to take the class with-call me, Janet Nortrom (414) 964-3764, or one of the trainers in your area, listed below.

Peg Carlson (414) 843-4221

Joanne Fought (309) 676-6849

Judy Holman (708) 491-5234

Janet Nortrom (414) 964-3764

Fran Reynold (313) 443-4336

Nancy-Vedder-Shults (608) 231-3362

Annual Meeting Highlights

Farewell to Paula McCabe as president and Rosemary Sammons and Marion Wirth as directors. We appreciate all your work.

Hello to newly elected president Nancy Babel and directors Janet Collins and Linda Johnston. The complete board list and other contact persons appears in our directory line-up.

The elected Nominating Committee members for the coming year are Helen Cadoret, Sandy Drenth and Helen Johnson. They'll be glad to receive suggestions for future candidates.

Time was spent on conference grants during the budget discussion. Recent registration forms have included an opportunity to contribute toward scholarship/grant funds for retreat or conference attendance. Also, reserve funds made possible by recent retreat successes are to be used to expand the conference grant line items of the budget. With proper promotion and the encouragement of local unit grants, even though full CMD grants or scholarships will not be awarded, we believe we'll make our programming available to more women.

Other parts of the gift and donation section of the budget were given a good deal of attention. The grant to sponsor student ministers' attendance at CMD-UUWF programming was continued. This year we budgeted a larger amount as a direct gift to the Feminist Theology Award fund. A contribution to Planned Parenthood in favor of its abortion rights stand was added to the budget, even though many felt that CMD-UUWF funds should only be used to support UU sponsored or directly affiliated causes. Questions were raised about the status of RCAR (Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights) and the Clara Barton Camp for Diabetic Girls. It was the sense of the meeting that our policies regarding gifts and the budget procedures should be examined and more information be made available to the budget committee by the Board before next year's meeting at Allerton. (See the adopted budget for detail info.)

Finally, the available dates for next year's Allerton conference were announced. Mark your calendars now for June 9-11 (Sunday through Tuesday).

CMD-UUWF 1995-96 Budget

INCOME

Dues	2500
Conferences	
Allerton	1000
Lake Geneva	3000
Scholarship Grants	100
Silent Auction (at Allerton)	300
Interest	160
Reserve Funds	680

	7740

EXPENSES

Administration	725
V.O.W. Newsletter	1600
Conferences	
Allerton	1600
Lake Geneva	2300
Gifts/Donations	
RCAR	50
Allerton Grants	500
(4 @ \$125)	
Lake Geneva	340
(4 @ \$85)	
Feminist Theology Award	150
Clara Barton Camp	50
Student Minister Grant	125
Continental UUWF	100
Planned Parenthood	200

	7740

**DUES/MAILING LABELS
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**News From Janet Nortrom
UUWF Continental Board Member**

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)

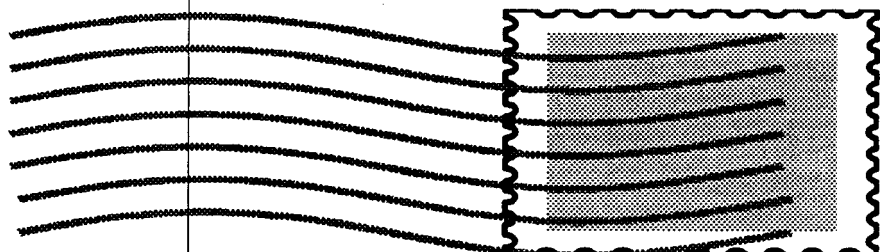
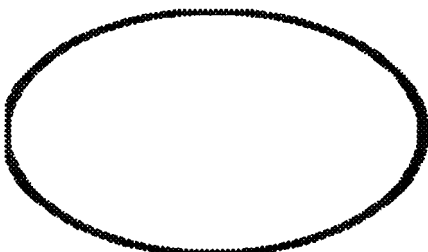
ADDRESS CHANGE Y ___ N ___
EFFECTIVE DATE _____
(Send updates to Secretary, Betty Jachim, 6341 Blackhawk Trail, Indian Head Park, IL 60525)

Hope your summer is going well! It is always great to see all our wonderful UU women at Allerton. Sorry I didn't have much time this year, but it seems I picked the right day to come and I still have a box of items I brought home from Allerton's silent auction, just too busy to unpack. We have our block rummage sale in 2 weeks, maybe some will end up there in other worthy hands.

I have been teaching at a new college this summer, pre-chemistry, to a group of African American Youth, at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. We are hoping some of these kids think seriously about going into engineering or science. Much fun, but much more work that I anticipated for summer school.

I also took 3 graduate credits, so was gone for 6 days and had to do a big presentation to state-wide teachers. I thought I could have two weeks of rest but need to get out a mailing to all the "Rise Up Trainers" in the country, plus a few other proposals.

I do hope to go to Camp Renora for the "Womanspirit" Camp for two days, but need to get back for our big worship and commeration of "Lanterns for Peace" the 50th year since "Hiroshima." I will announce the Fall Lake Geneva Conference this weekend at Renora.



GA-95-Spokane, Washington

by Janet Nortrom

The UUWF Ministry to Women award reception, and keynote address was given by Rev. Marie Fortune, 1995 recipient of this prestigious award. She is director of the Seattle based Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence. She has done all the premier work on Clergy "misconduct" and has worked closely with many of our congregations. She also Keynoted one of the Meadville-Lombard Winter Institutes in Madison. These institutes are open to both UU lay members and clergy. Women think about attending. Each year a different theme. Workshops included social action to history of women. The titles are mentioned here to help give you program ideas this year for your UUWF groups. They covered many areas from "The Radical Right's War on Women" and "Living my Faith", "Domestic Violence and Its Effect upon Children and Youth", "Safe Unitarian Universalist Congregations", "The Intrepid Victorian Traveler", "Coding in Women's Folk Culture", and OUR "Rise Up and Call Her Name" workshop.

Many CMD UUWF members attended the Pre-GA reception and Day. Those that come to mind are Helen Johnson, Jean Kapuscik, Elise Cade, Nancy Vedder-Shults, Kate Marrs, Bobbie Groth and Janet Nortrom.

The UUWF Feminist Theology Awards ceremony honoring UU women whose visionary work in the field of feminist theology was given to Mary Anne Seibert Hamm, Seattle, for her production of "Queen of the American Platform" a one-woman play about the life and work of Mary Ashton Rice Livermore, 19th century suffragist. The second award was given to Betty Donaldson, Canada, for her project "Images of the Goddess" a performance art production consisting of thirteen vignettes that illustrate women's lives during the maiden, mid-life and crone stages. These projects will be available for our UUWF groups to share. Again, if you have UU women in your congregation doing Feminist work, please have them apply for the "1996 Feminist Theology Awards."

Many workshops combining the Women Federation with Woman and Religion, Women's Heritage, UUWF, Women ministers Sisterhood Association and Religious Educators appealed to women from throughout the continent. We marched for social justice, concern about nuclear fallout at Camp Handford, Wash., we sang, worshiped, conducted plenary business, and danced with UUWF women from throughout the continent. Come to the CMD-UUWF Workshop at Lake Geneva titled "Come to the Well" and be nourished, covering all aspects of Unitarian Universalist Women's Groups, and how to get yours growing, much of what was gleaned at the 1994 GA.

WOMEN NEWS

Our life-time UUWF member, former CMD-UUWF board member, **Helen Johnson** is on the cover of "The World". Excellent article on her trip to El Salvador driving the UUSC truck with the Pastors' For Peace Caravan. The whole issue is full of social justice articles concerning many UUWF members.

"Earth Based Spirituality" added to UU principals-big decision, very important, voted and accepted at the plenary, finally passed with much celebration. Again our Women's Federation right in the forefront with publishing "Rise Up and Call Her Name."

Nancy Vedder-Shults, Madison UUWF member, enriched the Pre-GA Day, Ministry to Award Day with her wonderful voice and ideas, enhancing the morning worship, "a Rise-up Workshop", and the closing ceremony. She assisted on intergeneration panels and worked at the plenary as a teller and sang from the stage during the opening ceremony on Racial Justice.

Rev. Bobbie Groth UUWF member was ordained at Olympia Brown Church, August 12. Bobbie, a community minister at the Women's Center in Milwaukee, a member of the UU's Acting to Stop domestic violence and sexual abuse, and presenter at district workshops on Domestic Violence with **Janet Nortrom**. UUWF was present at her ordination as Janet Nortrom presented a Welcome and Greeting.

Olympia Brown is the home of our past CMD-UUWF president, **Paula McCabe**.

Hester Huff Bio Request

From Linda Johnston

At Allerton there was a grand presentation featuring this year's recipient of the **Hester Huff** recognition award, **Lorraine Weber of Urbana, Illinois**. After citing Lorraine's many accomplishments in sharing her musical scholarship and skills with us here at Allerton, in the Central Midwest District, throughout the denomination and beyond, there was a parade of prior winners, each being presented in thumbnail sketch. I would like those of you who wrote out bio's on these women to send them to me so I can begin a Hester Huff Roll of Recognition biography booklet. These are important women in our lives. As we continue on, we will want to remember not only their names, but why these women were chosen. If you have information about a recipient, please send it to me at the address listed in the CMD-UUWF officer directory.

CMD-UUWF 1995-1996 Directory

President	Nancy Babel (314)567-3867	1218 Oxford Hill Drive St. Louis, MO 63146
Vice President	Susan Karcher (708)495-6061	1431 South Lombard Avenue Lombard, IL 60148
Secretary	Betty Jachim (708)784-0742	6341 Blackhawk Trail Indian Head Park, IL 60525
Treasurer	Irene Sanderson (414)964-0526	5005 North Palisades Road Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
Director	Helen Cadoret (314)725-1739	6363 Alamo Avenue St. Louis, MO 63105
Director	Janet R. Collins (314)225-4712	836 Pontoison Drive Manchester, MO 63021
Director	Linda Johnston (309)662-3188	2920 Capen Drive Bloomington, IL 61704
Director	Lucile Krug (414)962-1394	2625 North Wahl Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53211
V.O.W. Editor	Susan Karcher (708)495-6061	1431 South Lombard Avenue Lombard, IL 60148
Lake Geneva 1995 Chair	Mary Lou Steadman (309)452-9008	5 Ardith Drive Normal, IL 61761
Allerton 1996 Chair	Rossann Baker-Priestley (309)343-2490	159 East Grove Street Galesburg, IL 61401
Women & Religion Chair	Helen Hughes (708)481-6461	23500 Western Avenue Park Forest, IL 60466
CMD Administrator	Helen Bishop (708)383-4344	114 South Marion Street Oak Park, IL 60302
Continental UUWF Exec. Director	(617)742-2100 Mairi Maeks	25 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108
President	Arlene Johnson (918)747-3714	Tulsa, OK
Board Liaison	Janet Nortrom (414)964-3764	4332 North Woodburn Shorewood, WI 33211

Rise Up and Call Her Name

This new curriculum, a follow-up to the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, is rich in the history of Spiritual tradition, for which all believe I had yearned all my life. I am only beginning to acquaint myself with all the material contained in the 3-inch think notebook for trainers. This fall Kathy Foy and myself will be leading the course in St. Louis. I fully expect I will be changing my view of life, history, and religious practice as a result. The training in which we took part last spring brought not only permission for a new point of view, but awareness of some of the negative effects that male-only image Judeo-Christian religious training and monotheism had imposed upon my thinking and self-image, as well as my spiritual expression. It also brought out some surprising emotions.

I enjoyed the varied activities that were part of our full weekend of training. First we built a beautiful altar to display our unique collection of candles, goddess images, sister gifts, dolls, and art objects. We played music on drums, rain sticks, and other music makers as we sang the songs that women sang in the times long ago to honor the female deities entrusted by women AND men to bestow protection, fertility, abundance, harmony, and good fortune. The open discussion and reaction to our training experiences brought closeness within the group and acceptance for the risks we were taking. In the process of developing actual group presentations of some lessons from the text we learned much about other societies, feminine religious traditions, and the real fun of sharing something special with other women in a free, safe environment.

The women of Elliot Chapel who hosted us added greatly to this safe and comfortable setting for our group. We had a variety of delicious refreshments and homemade finger food to munch on during our breaks and to keep energy up and nourish our spirits with these gifts of love and welcome. Our group consisted of women from the local area, as well as many who travelled several hours from home to be there, so home hospitality provided an additional opportunity to get better acquainted and discuss our reactions to the training and material. All-in-all it was a very positive and encouraging step we took together that weekend. I feel pleased and excited in looking toward the fall when Kathy and I, and others around the district will be taking steps with any of you and your friends to delve into the lost traditions, learn about each other and ourselves in relation to spiritual experiences and ideas, and build the bridges to the future lighted by the candles and sweetened by the songs we share together by the grace of the writers and presenter of this fine course of study. I hope you will consider joining us.

Nancy Babel

**WOMEN BRINGING JUSTICE TO THE WORK
OF THEOLOGY**

1995 UU Women's Federation Biennial Convention
October 26-29, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Keynoters: Rita Nakashima Brock, Director of Women's Studies at Stephens College; Christine Smith, Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at United Theological Seminary; Thandeka, Assistant Professor of Religion, Williams College and Visiting Scholar, Union Theological Seminary; Sharon Welch, Associate Professor of Religion and Chair of the Women's Studies Department at the University of Missouri.

In addition to convention sessions, keynote panels, discussions and worship services, the program includes workshops on women's history, outreach, feminist justice theology, stopping violence against women, women's rights, responding to the radical right, funding, music, and multi-cultural rituals, all led by women from across the continent.

Full-conference registration and meals: \$175 for UUWF members, \$210 for non-members, with a \$15 late fee for registrations postmarked after October 10. Childcare (additional fee) is available. To apply for scholarship assistance call the UUWF office (617-742-2100,x692) by September 15.

Room reservations (\$70/night includes continental breakfast and bus to conference site) can be made at The Hampton Inn/Minneapolis Airport by calling 1-800-551-ROOM. There are a limited number of home hospitality places available. Discount air travel arrangements (benefiting UUWF) can be booked through Rhodes Travel via 1-800-634-9191.

Full details can be found in the Continental UUWF newsletter, *The Communicator*, and flyers being mailed to UUWF members. Or call Ellen Spencer at UUWF: (617-742-2100,x692).

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
FORM**

**for the 1995 CMD-UUWF
Fall Retreat at Lake Geneva**

There are four grants available up to \$85.00 each.

Name _____

Address _____

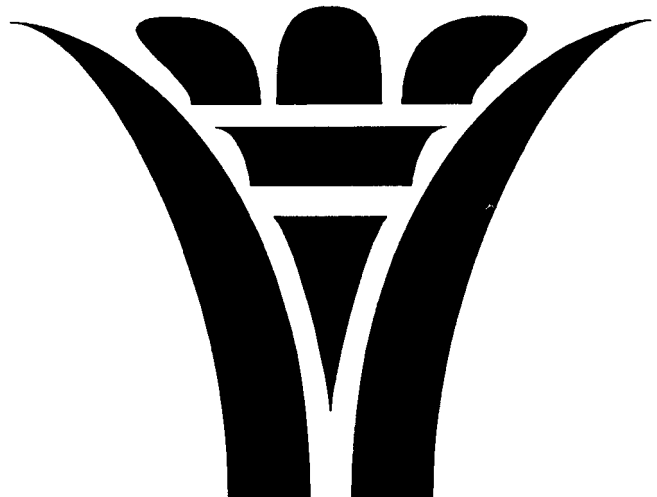
Phone _____

My need is _____

Send completed application form to:

Betty Semlak
c/o Bloomington UU Church
1613 E. Emerson
Bloomington, IL 61701

Applications must be postmarked by September 15, 1995.

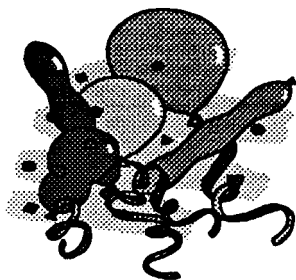


Through lecture, song, and storytelling, keynote speaker, REBECCA ARMSTRONG, will bring a touch of the sacred into our secular world. REBECCA utilizes her rich background in music, myth-based storytelling, and religion to lead participants into the creation of their personal theologies which help give a sacred focus in our often too busy, and stressful world.



Workshops will be focusing on the diverse needs and interests of women today. Practical issues such as working, as well as more intangible ideas of spirituality, self-acceptance, and renewal. There will be opportunities throughout the weekend to direct your creative artistic talents in making self-bound journals, cosmic jewelry, mask-making and more. All of this plus nature walks, companionship, and refreshing exercise promises an enjoyable educational and, hopefully, an enlightening retreat.

This weekend retreat at Lake Geneva is being planned and hosted by the UUW of the Unitarian Church of Bloomington, Illinois. Details and registration information will be available in August. If you want more information call or write to: Unitarian Church of Bloomington, Attention MaryLou Steadman, 1613 E Emerson Street, Bloomington, IL 61701 (309) 888-0235



**CMD-UUWF
V.O.W. Newsletter
UU Church in Oak Park
875 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301**

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