

Womanspirit

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA DISTRICT UU WOMEN & RELIGION COMMITTEE

Volume 5, Number 2

January, 1992

Margot Adler Comes to Orlando for the Spring Conference "Walking in Many Worlds"

Margot Adler, author of the major book on neo-Paganism, *Drawing Down the Moon*, and well known National Public Radio correspondent, will be our special guest for the Women and Religion Conference to be held in Orlando February 28--March 1.

Those who attended the UU Women's Federation Biennial in Ft. Lauderdale last June remember Margot as a keynote speaker telling powerful stories of her own life. Those who attended the 1991 General Assembly or the more recent conference of the Covenant of UU Pagans at the Mountain know Margot as a great spokesperson for the neo-Pagan movement.

At the Orlando conference, Margot will lead the Ingathering Friday night, the Saturday morning program, and a ritual on Saturday evening. There will be a variety of workshops led by others on Saturday afternoon. Margot will also speak at both the 9:15 and 11:00 services at the Orlando church on Sunday morning.

Brochures with registration forms for the conference will be coming soon. In the meantime, you can make a reservation at Colonial Plaza Inn in Orlando by calling 1-800-321-2323 or 407-894-2741. For the conference rate, mention that you are attending the conference sponsored by the First Unitarian Church. There will also be limited home hospitality, and scholarships will be available.

Plan on a wonderful weekend full of ideas and music and friendship and fun! Bring your drum or other musical instrument, and bring comfortable outdoor clothing.

If you have questions before the brochure arrives in your mail, please call:

Jean Siegfried
407-644-7213

or

Kate Throop
407-331-7082

Women & Religion Committee To Give Awards

The Florida District Women and Religion Committee happily announces that this spring we will sponsor three awards to be given at the District Annual Meeting, to be held at UU in the Pines April 24 and 25. Here are the awards:

The Eleanor Elizabeth Gordon Award: For a life of service to Unitarian-Universalist ideals.

Criteria:

1. A woman who is currently a member of a Florida UU church or society; and
2. Who is age 70 or older; and
3. Who has worked over a period of years to foster and invigorate the principles of liberal religion, for example, work on behalf of the worth and dignity of every person, work for the preservation of the environment, or work for the ideals of peace and justice.

The Charlotte Perkins Gillman Award: For empowering rather than exerting power over others.

Criteria:

1. A woman who is currently a member of a Florida UU church or society; and
2. Who uses a position of power and leadership to blaze the trail of empowering others by articulating and modeling in her own life the value of "power with," not "power over."

The Susan B. Anthony Award:
For Significant Recent Efforts on Behalf of Achieving a Non-Sexist Society

Criteria:

1. A woman who is currently a member of a Florida UU church or society; and
2. Who has taken a public stand or organized a public effort to help achieve a non-sexist society, even at the expense of risk to her own personal well-being. This activity may consist of one heroic action or a continuing pattern or practice.

Nominees for all three awards have been solicited from individual churches and societies through the Area Representatives. The District Awards Committee will make the selections.

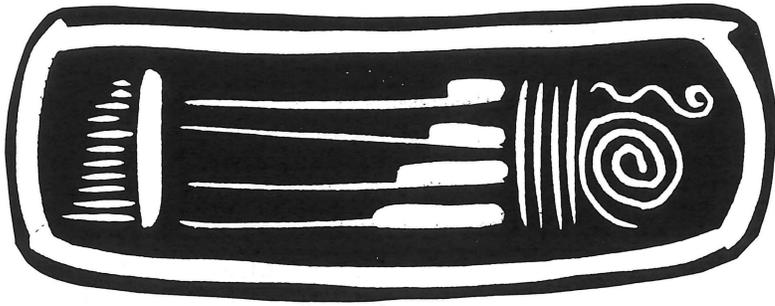


Miami Report

by

**Lucille M.
Svenson-Knights**

Things are really getting off to a good start in Miami. We are pleased to announce that on March 22 JoAnn Lordahl will be with us at the Miami Church as we celebrate Women's History Month. We are looking forward to increased involvement for women in this area and hope to have a good representation at the meeting in Orlando on February 28 -- March 1.



Fall 1991 Women's Activities in Boca Raton

by

Mary H. Cadwell

"Ladders Into Circles" Is Theme for UUVF's Pre-GA Days

Plans are underway for UU Women's Federation Pre-G.A. Days in Calgary beginning June 23 and continuing until noon on June 25, the day General Assembly begins.

The theme for the conference is "Ladders Into Circles." Feminist collaborative work systems are known by many names: "project level glance, shared leadership, quality circles, the Partnership Way, Roberta's Rules," etc. You will find out more about these systems at the conference through a fascinating day-and-a-half of hands on experience in a mountain retreat setting that is a spiritual center for native Americans.

The planning team for the conference consists of Sally Graves from Seattle, Beth Hone from Edmonton, and Sue Haskins from San Diego. The conference workshops are being planned by Elinor Artman from Cincinnati and Barbara Child.

Autumn was full and exciting for women at Boca Raton's Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. In October, "In the Pines" Co-Director Carolyn Taylor led us in a day of "Celebrating Women", with crown and mask making, drumming, humming and just generally "being" and feeling good about it.

In early November, our Women's Alliance produced its 2nd annual very successful holiday bazaar, selling the creative output of countless "woman-hours" of the Alliance's year round craft group.

Later in the month, UUFBR member Mary Cadwell led "In Search of the Goddess," a workshop for learning about ancient Goddess-worshipping religions and exploring their relation and meaning to contemporary women. Thirty-two of us, ranging from early teens to seventy-plus, shared this evening. We watched together the excellent video: "Goddess Remembered" and followed it with informal discussion groups. We then moved outside to hold our closing circle under November's full moon.

News from the St. Petersburg Area

by

Pamela Griner Leavy

Beautiful masks, music and the voices of Native American women have set the tone for the women of the UU United Fellowship of Seminole as we continue on the Woman-Honoring Journey "Rise Up and Call Her Name." Gently guided by Sarah Snyder, we made our own "transformation" masks as we listened to Changing Woman explain the process of transformation and White Buffalo Calf Woman speak of wisdom. The masks made by our sisters are incredible. They truly reveal the inner colors of our spirit.

Carolyn Taylor "officiated" at a beautiful Croning ceremony on Redington Beach in the fall. Diane Anderson, who filled the Pines with her wonderful voice at the fall retreat again sang at the croning.

The Holiday Spirit was also alive. Susan Stephenson led a powerful worship service at the United Fellowship before Christmas. Gloria Marvin, Joan Schell and Patty Callaghan (of Brigit Books) were some of the many women (and men) in attendance at a Winter Solstice celebration at the home of Lynn Carol Henderson.

Ahhhhhh...the power,
the talent, the togetherness,
the spirit of women!

The Seminole women celebrated with a Christmas candlelight feast, joined by former members Carolyn Taylor and Joyce King. Pat McGiverin starred in a December "Celebration of the Arts" concert at the UU Church of St. Petersburg. Mary Scot Spry shared her talent on the piano.

The New Women's Group at the St. Pete Church, coordinated by Rosemarie Gasser, is working with the "Styles of Women's Theology." The discussions use essays from *Womanspirit Rising*. Discussion leader Emily Williams coordinates the bookshop at the St. Pete Church (while writing a UU Children's curriculum in her spare time).

Monthly potluck dinners are held for women of all ages at the Clearwater Church. Mary Poole coordinates women's activities for Clearwater.



W & R Area Reps

Mary Cadwell 904-391-3755
BOCA RATON AREA
(includes North Palm Beach)

Betty Highton 305-484-6313
FORT LAUDERDALE AREA
(includes Hollywood)

Penny Kraft 813-936-5128
and
Ellen Poage 813-278-4930
FORT MYERS AREA
(includes Naples, Port Charlotte)

Trish Peterson 904-371-2913
GAINESVILLE AREA
(includes Ocala)

Carol Vogel 904-399-4519
JACKSONVILLE AREA
(includes St. Augustine, Ormond
Beach, Orange Park)

Cathy Stanton 407-259-7949
MELBOURNE AREA
(includes Cocoa, Vero Beach)

Lucille Swenson-Knights
305-382-9426
MIAMI AREA
(includes South Dade, Key West,
Caribbean)

Jean Siegfried 407-644-7213
ORLANDO AREA
(includes Deland)

Lee Young Sievers 813-922-6326
SARASOTA AREA
(includes Bradenton)

Pamela Leavy 813-823-2472
ST. PETERSBURG AREA
(includes Seminole, Clearwater,
Tarpon Springs)

Nancy Young 813-932-6582
TAMPA AREA
(includes Lakeland, Brooksville)

TALLAHASSEE AREA
(includes Marianna, Panama City,
Valdosta)
NO AREA REP AT THIS TIME

Carolyn Taylor 904-796-4457
UU IN THE PINES

Barbara Child 904-377-8945
Amy Jo Smith 904-332-1350
WOMEN & RELIGION CO-CHAIRS

Pamela Leavy 813-823-2472
WOMEN & RELIGION TREASURER

Who Are These Area Representatives?

Area Representatives are women representing twelve geographic areas in the Florida District. Each one has volunteered (1) to keep women in her area informed of our activities, (2) to let us know what is happening in her area, and (3) to be involved in the decision-making process for the Florida District Women and Religion Committee. Open meetings of the Women and Religion Committee are held four times a year. We invite you to participate. The next meeting will take place in Orlando at the time of the Spring Conference.

The Women and Religion Committee welcomes Mary Cadwell as our new Boca Raton Area Representative! Listed, for your convenience, are all the reps:

Calendar Update

2-28 -- 3-1

Spring Conference in Orlando with Margot Adler (See more on this elsewhere in this newsletter.)

4-17 -- 4-19

Spiritual Autobiography Retreat at the Pines with Barbara Child (See more on this elsewhere in this newsletter.)

4-24 -- 4-25

Florida District Annual Meeting at the Pines, including a workshop on women's spirituality and the first Women and Religion Awards (See more on this elsewhere in this newsletter.)

5-1 -- 5-3

Spiritual Autobiography Retreat at Santa Fe River Cottage with Barbara Child (See more on this elsewhere in this newsletter.)

6-12 -- 6-14

Women and Religion Summer Retreat at the Pines

6-23 -- 6-25

UU Women's Federation Pre-GA Days in Calgary (See more on this elsewhere in this newsletter. Please disregard the erroneous report in *Sunshine* suggesting that UUWF will be meeting in Ft. Lauderdale this June.)

6-25 -- 6-30

General Assembly in Calgary

10-23 -- 10-25

Women and Religion Fall Retreat at the Pines

G.A. Volunteers Needed by UUWF

Are you going to General Assembly in Calgary this June?? If you are, UU Women's Federation has some great ideas about how you can be an ACTIVE member at G.A.

As soon as you know you are going, will you please write Barbara Child, 4240 NW 77th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32606, or call her at 904-377-8945.

Comments from the Editors

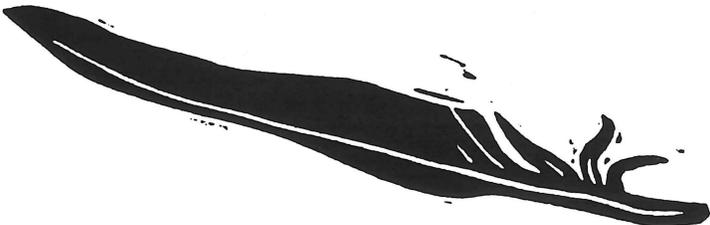
The first priority of *Womanspirit* is to inform about programs offered by the Florida District Women and Religion Committee and the activities of UU women around the District. Second, we want to encourage your creativity. Sometimes we are overloaded with material and must omit or shorten articles. We hope you understand and continue to send us articles and poems.

Womanspirit is underwritten by the Florida District and cannot, therefore, accept advertising.

Please send articles or names to be added to the mailing list to Amy Jo Smith, 2427 NW 104 Court, Gainesville, FL 32606.

Thanks to all contributors from the editors:

Barbara Child and Amy Jo Smith



The Stories of Our Lives

Retreats for 10 Women

to share the experience
of exploring our
spiritual autobiography

April 17-19

(Easter & Passover Weekend)
Cedar Lodge at the Pines
Retreat Center

May 1-3

Barbara Child's Cottage
on the Santa Fe River
(45 min. NW of Gainesville)

I invite you to join me on one of these retreats, sponsored by the Florida District Women & Religion Committee, as a quest for a greater understanding of our lives by writing about them. We will not concern ourselves with writing skill or aptitude. The only qualification for participating is a willingness to write about and share your experience with the group and to learn from the experience of others.

Barbara

Schedule:

Cost covers the retreat, including meals Fri. supper through Sun. breakfast. The retreat begins with supper at 7:00 Fri. It ends Sun. at noon.

Accommodations:

At the Pines, bed, pillow, & blanket are provided. Bring sheets and towels.

The Santa Fe River Cottage is a one-room cottage (with inside bathroom!) I have 1 double bed, 2 single beds, 1 air mattress, & 1 tent. Bring sheets, towels, pillow, blanket, sleeping bag, & willingness to draw lots for bed space.

Registration:

Please send the form below and your check for \$60, payable to Barbara Child, to 4240 NW 77 Terr., Gainesville, FL 32606. For questions or information about scholarships, call Barbara at 904/377-8945. (There may be a partial refund for the Santa Fe Retreat depending on actual expenses.)

Registration will be first come, first served, based on post mark. You will receive confirmation, including more details about schedule and program, as well as map to your retreat site.

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Vegetarian? _____
Special medical, dietary, or other needs? _____

Please register me for
_____ Pines Retreat April 17-19
_____ Santa Fe Retreat May 1-3

(Mark "1" & "2" choices if you can come either weekend. Otherwise mark "x" for just 1 retreat, or "x" for both if you have no preference.)

_____ If both retreats are full, please hold my check in case of a cancellation.

