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GUEST EDITORS:

Little Rock, AR - Winter 2000-1

Fort Worth, TX - Spring 2001

???? - Summer 2001

???? - Fall 2001

Fort Worth, TX - Winter 2001

President's Column

I'd like to thank everyone who helped make SWUW (SouthWest UU Women) what it is and what it can be during this last year. As another year passes and the wheel of time and seasons clicks into place, I think it is time for us to examine our own commitments to women, women's issues and women in this district.

This will be my last president's column. After the conference in February, SWUW will have a new list of officers. I hope you will all do your best to support the new officers.

If you have been nominated or have been asked to serve SWUW, you may have some questions. Here's answers to a few of your questions:

Is it time consuming to be an officer?

My answer is: No. You simply adjust your expectations of SWUW for the time you have. As president during the last year, I have spent a minimum of time. Other people have helped a great deal. The most time I spend is in writing the president's column and/or putting the newsletter together.

Is it difficult to be an officer?

My answer is: No. You make each job what you see the job should be. Very little is expected from any one person.

Do you need any prior experience?

My answer is: No. None of the work you do for SWUW requires any previous experience other than being a woman and caring about SWUW's continued existence.

What are the events where officers are expected to be?

The annual Women's Conference is the most important. It would be nice if officers could meet at SWUUSI, but other arrangements can be made. While previous SWUUSI events (LUNCHES PLUS) was continued in 2000, I am recommending that we drop that event. Fall and Spring Conferences have also been opportunities for meeting, but there are no scheduled meetings for SWUW.

My recommendations for the new board of officers will be to have one planning meeting shortly after the Women's Conference to outline what it would like to accomplish. Appoint a new newsletter team. (Guest Editors are: Spring 2001 - Fort Worth, Brenda Baldwin [brenda.baldwin@alconlabs.com]; Summer 2001 - Open; Fall 2001 - Open; Winter 2001 - Fort Worth, Brenda Baldwin). Discontinue efforts at SWUUSI and Spring and Fall Conferences.

What are the duties of each officer?

President: Makes sure the organization keeps moving forward. Appoints people to fill vacant offices or to serve on committees. Creates a vision for SWUW.

Vice President: Helps the president to achieve her goals by assisting and filling in when the president is not able to make a meeting or event.

Treasurer: Writes checks, pays bills, creates a budget, maintains SWUW bank accounts, and sends membership information to database manager.

Secretary: Takes notes at each meeting and distributes notes. Takes care of all correspondence. (NOTE: Correspondence is very minimal.) see **PRES.**, page 2

PRES. (continued from Page 1)

What are the duties of the SWUW Board?

One of the main duties of the SWUW Board is to facilitate the annual Women's Conference by aiding the Convener, supplying information, support and sending the \$2,000 SEED LOAN. Through ethical maintenance of the SWUW bank accounts, SWUW can assure the continuation of the Women's Conference. The Board should send the PRESIDENT and/or PRESIDENT ELECT to Leadership school. Funds should be allowed in the budget for this on a yearly basis. President and Vice President should have paid membership in the UWF. Monies are also available to the President for attending meetings and/or travel to meetings. Other monies are also available to help pay travel expenses for other officers to attend planning meetings. Expenses including telephone and postage should be reimbursed by the treasurer upon receiving receipts with the exclusion of newsletter expenses, which are ongoing and should be paid in advance.

Connie Dunn

FEBRUARY 10, 2001 SWUW MEETING AGENDA

The main purpose of this meeting is to elect new officers and change the bylaws.

1. NEW BUSINESS

2. VOTE ON BYLAW CHANGES - The **NEW Section 1 PROPOSAL:**

The elected officers shall be President, Vice President (President Elect), Past President, Secretary and Treasurer; they shall be known as the Executive Board. The President, Vice President and Past President TEAM would be the chief executive of SWUW with the Vice President assisting the president the first year to learn the duties, then serving one year as president and consulting as Past President the following year. Thus the office of Vice President (President Elect) would be refilled every year and would be a three-year commitment. The Board shall fill its own vacancies until the next election. The Executive Board shall transact the business of SWUW between meetings.

NOTE: Change is that officers are elected yearly instead of having alternating two-year terms.

The purpose is to promote continuity of wisdom on the Board and help fill empty slots.

3. ELECT NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary)

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. ADJOURN

NEWSLETTER ALTERNATIVES

It was the great pleasure of the Denton Women's Group to produce the Fall Issue of the SWWIRL newsletter. We hope that the combined summer/fall issue was useful to you. I have registered my willingness to help out with the newsletter during the coming year, while SWUW re-evaluates its function and determines its future course.

When I agreed to edit the Fall 2000 newsletter, it was to experiment with an issue dedicated to the history and focus of our own women's group in Denton. By sharing our experience, we hoped to provide a touchstone by which other women's groups might be affirmed or find new ways to grow. We also thought that our work might inspire other groups to take their history seriously, which we have only begun to do. This thematic, how-we-did-it approach also provided a contrast with the literary focus of the summer issue. We hope that our contributions were helpful. If they were, it would be possible in the future to have another issue dedicated to a different type of Women's Group, exemplified either by one group or by a collection of groups.

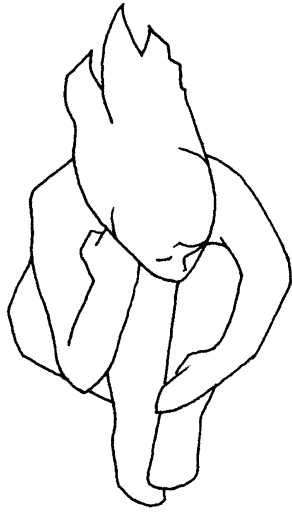
Issues on a particular theme can be very helpful. At one point I offered to edit a single goddess-oriented issue, but that is only one of many themes that could show the varied orientation and activities of women's groups throughout the district. We could do issues on How We Integrate Feminism & Spirituality, How We Set Goals and Program, How We Have Fun, When We Go Outdoors, How We Serve Our Congregation, How We Integrate the Old and Young, etc. etc. With such diverse possibilities, it would be a mistake for a district newsletter to take any single theme as the ongoing orientation for the newsletter. SWWIRL over the course of time must reflect the powerful diversity of the women's groups throughout the Southwest.

Your feedback and suggestions are welcome. May our efforts to create a helpful newsletter continue to be fruitful.

--Jackie Gibbons, treejwg@hotmail.com 940-382-3636.



This newsletter has been GUEST EDITED by LITTLE ROCK and the 2001 annual SWUW WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: ***WOMEN IN THEIR NATURAL STATE.***



Women in Their Natural State

A truly provocative title for a truly provocative retreat. Make plans to join the dynamic women of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock and your other friends around the district at the annual SWUW retreat February 9-11, 2001, at the 4-H Camp and Conference Center just outside of Little Rock. You should have received your registration brochure. This issue of SWWIRL is devoted to the retreat so enjoy!



Greetings from the SWUW Women of the Natural State

We are thrilled about hosting the 15th Annual Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference/Retreat in Little Rock. We are keenly aware that this retreat coincides with the kicking off the twenty-first century and we are excited by all the possibilities for change that a new millennium inspires. One of our goals with this conference is to honor our young women and to welcome them into our circle with ceremony while we simultaneously recognize the women who have gone before us and worked to make our lives as free as they are today.

We have found a beautiful, secluded retreat setting which will be exclusively ours for the weekend. The minor inconveniences of not having telephones in our rooms and potentially sharing our rooms with three to five other people will be greatly outweighed by all the wonderful amenities our facility offers. In addition to a new and wonderful type of meeting space, we are also experimenting with a different format for workshops and SWUW meetings.

(See **GREETINGS**, page 4)

“THE MEN HAVE FAILED US; IT’S TIME TO CALL OUT THE WOMEN.”

With those words, Adolphine Terry articulated the seminal idea that led to the founding of the Women’s Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools. The year was 1958, and then-Governor of Arkansas, Orval E. Faubus persuaded the Arkansas Legislature to enact a law enabling him to close the Little Rock Public Schools rather than permit black students to enroll and attend school with white students in the high schools in Little Rock.

To understand the significance of the Women’s Emergency Committee and the mammoth job it undertook in re-opening the public schools in this community in the 1950’s, a historical perspective is essential. For over 50 years, Mrs. Terry had functioned, informally, as the “conscience of the community” in Little Rock. She was the wife and later widow of Congressman David D. Terry, who served 3 terms in the United States House of Representatives.



Her interest in race relations in Arkansas did not begin in 1957, however. In the 1930’s, she had helped found and had served on the 15-member council of the Association of Southern Women to Prevent Lynching (ASPWL) to help stop the lynching of black men accused of rape and other heinous crimes by white men who were members, supporters and sympathizers with the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

As a young woman, Mrs. Terry had watched a horrific chain of events. In the spring of 1927, the body of a 12-year old white girl had been found in the belfry of the First Presbyterian Church. Lonnie Dixon, the 15-year-old son of the black sexton, was accused of the rape and murder, to which he confessed. A mob of thousands stormed first the city jail then the state penitentiary, demanding that the accused be turned over to them. Law enforcement officers had removed Lonnie from the jail to a safer location, frustrating the mob’s intentions.

Four days later, “...a second mob converged on a retarded black man, John Carter, who was accused of having climbed on a wagon in which two white women were riding just outside of town. Reports of the wagon incident were hazy (there was no charge of rape), but what subsequently happened was quite clear. In (See **CALL OUT**, page 4)

CALL OUT, from page 3

a savage display of pent-up hatred, a group of white men hunted down Carter, made him stand on a car with a noose around his neck, and drove the car out from under him. They riddled him with some two hundred bullets and dragged his body behind a car into town as part of a horn-blowing, shrieking caravan of lynchers. At the edge of the black business district at Ninth and Broadway, the mob, which had grown considerably larger and included women, placed Carter's body on the streetcar tracks and burned it."

Murphy, Sarah A. *Breaking the Silence*. Fayetteville: Univ. of Ark. Press, 1997, pp. 12-13. The mob invaded the Bethel AME Church, chopped up the wooden pews, and used the pieces to build the bonfire upon which Mr. Carter's body was burned. Law enforcement officials took no action to stop the unlawful rampage, nor did they ever bring charges against any of the perpetrators.

Having witnessed these events and others only somewhat less heinous, Adolphine Terry worked from the 1930's through the 1950's to improve racial relations in the South in general and in Arkansas in particular. Mrs. Terry viewed with growing alarm the events at Central High School in Little Rock in 1957. Court rulings rendered in the wake of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka ordered the Little Rock School Board to integrate the public schools in Little Rock; under a plan formulated by Superintendent of Schools, Virgil Blossom, a few carefully chosen black students were to be enrolled at Central High School in the fall of 1957.

In September, the "Little Rock Nine," enrolled and planned to attend classes at Central. The evening before classes were to commence the following morning, the Governor activated the Arkansas National Guard and stationed them about the perimeter of the school with instructions that the black students were to be turned away. The next morning, an angry mob of a thousand white people gathered outside Central High School, shrieking and shouting and hurling epithets as nine neatly dressed black students approached the school, only to be refused admittance by the National Guard.

An excerpt from Mrs. Terry's diary relates: "For almost fifty years, the Terrys had worked for better race relations and so much had been quietly accomplished. I felt that my life had been in vain; I really wanted to die. For days I walked about unable to concentrate on anything, except for the fact that we had been disgraced by a group of poor whites and a portion of the lunatic fringe that every town

(See **CALL OUT**, page 5)



GREETINGS, from page 3

Naturally, since we have this wonderfully setting we will be offering great outdoor activities like a Ropes Course, both in a half-day and full-day format. There will also be ritual on both nights and Sunday morning and afternoon 'Explorations' which you can choose on a spontaneous basis rather than pre-registering. Late on Saturday afternoon, we will come together for a 'plenary' (whole body) session to hear a unique and true story of when the women of Little Rock decided to take over. It won't surprise you to hear that twenty-five of those women were members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little

Rock. For those of you familiar with the story of *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, you will recognize the parallels of this ancient story and the story we will relate from just a few decades ago.

Look elsewhere in this issue for more information about our plenary session, workshops, etc. We thank SWUW for the invitation to write for this issue and we hope to see many of you in Little Rock on February 9-11, 2001. Also, tell your friends that they can pick up a registration form off the internet by going to www.uuclr.com.

Women in their Natural State Convener,
Linda K. Van Blaricom, lvbuu@juno.com



Get ready for a most revealing adventure in the Natural State.

We have selected a breathtaking setting for our 2001 conference: the Arkansas 4-H Center, nestled in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains just 10 miles west of Little Rock. This beautiful facility will be exclusively ours for the weekend! Our retreat is suitable for females as young as 12, so we encourage you to bring your daughters, sisters and friends – any and all young women that might find this retreat particularly meaningful.

Transportation from the Little Rock National Airport, provided by UUCLR members, will be covered in your registration costs. As a matter of fact, our registration fees include just about everything – they are inexpensive *and* all inclusive; lodging for 2 nights, 4 full meals, snacks and local transportation are all included in one low price. The only additional costs you might incur would be dinner on Friday night,

(See **NATURAL STATE**, page 5)

NATURAL STATE, from page 4

the ropes course on Saturday, nominal materials fees for selected workshops, or wonderful items from our bazaar.

Accommodations – Elegant dormitory-style rooms that sleep 4-6 per room (depending on number of registrants) are awaiting you at the 4-H Center. While individual rooms are not available, we think you will find that sharing space will naturally enhance our camaraderie! Each room has a private bath, is non-smoking, and of course the entire facility is fully handicapped accessible. Please let us know on the registration form if you have roommate preferences and how you feel about having a top bunk!

Food and Beverage – We have selected good tasting and healthy menus that should appeal to most, but if you have special dietary requirements, please indicate on the registration form, as the selection will be limited. All meals and snacks on Saturday and Sunday breakfast are included in our registration. Friday night supper may be purchased separately for \$7 and will be available from 5-8:15 p.m. to accommodate most arrival schedules. An honor snack bar will also be available. We will provide wine with the banquet on Saturday night, but all registrants are free to BYOB. Please note that there are no liquor stores close by!

CALLOUT, from page 4

possesses. I wondered where the better class had been while this was being concocted.” *Ibid*, p. 46.

Three weeks later, then-President, Dwight Eisenhower, sent the 101st Airborne Division into Little Rock under orders to protect the black students and escort them into their classes at Central High. Federal troops remained in Little Rock until late November. At that time, President Eisenhower federalized the Arkansas National Guard and ordered them to escort and protect the very students they had barred from entry to the school. For the remainder of that school year, the black students were harassed and tormented by white students. Few white students offered friendship or even acceptance to the blacks, and those who did so were ostracized by their peers.

In July 1958, Governor Faubus won a third term as governor. In August, he convened a special session of the Arkansas Legislature and sponsored a bill, which provided a mechanism for closing the public schools if the United States Supreme Court ordered the schools integrated. On September 12th, the Supreme Court’s order to integrate the Little Rock Public Schools was handed down, and on September 15th, Governor Faubus issued a proclamation closing Little Rock’s high schools. (See **CALL OUT**, page 6)

Schedule of Events

Friday

4-8 p.m., Registration & Getting to Know You Naturally: Roommate Bonding; Red Tent Room; Singfest; Massages; Honor Bar; Drumming/Chanting

5-8:15 p.m., Dinner at your leisure (\$7)

8:30 – 10 p.m., The Earth: Welcoming Ceremony (with a special welcome to our young women)

Saturday

7 -- 8 a.m., Breakfast / The Air: Ingathering

8:30 – 10, Morning Workshops I

10 a.m. -- 6:30 p.m., Bazaar Open

10:30 – noon, Morning Workshops II

12:15 -- 1:15 p.m., Lunch

*1 – 2 p.m. **SWUW Meeting**

2 – 4 p.m., Afternoon Explorations

4:30 – 6 p.m., Plenary Session

6-7 pm., SWUW Annual Meeting

7:30 – 8:30, Banquet: Eat, Drink and Be

Merry, Naturally!

8:30 – 11:00, Dance with Meshugga!

Klezmer Band**

11:00, The Fire: Winding and Unwinding the Spiral Late Night Ritual / Bonfire

***Please attend the SWUW meeting and vote for your new officers, input for how SWUW's next year or more should go**

**Enjoy the fun-loving and heartfelt Yiddish music of the past two centuries. Meshugga means "crazy" in Yiddish!

Sunday

8 -- 9:00, Breakfast

9:30 – 10:30, Worship -- The Water: Closing Ceremony



Natural Teachers and Facilitators

During the conference you will have the opportunity to meet many memorable people. By way of an early introduction, a number of the presenters described their origins, how they got started and why they love what they are doing.

Alberta Pearson

I was born in Chicago but lived in Arkansas since I was four months old. I had a family, worked a job that was as good as they get, but my life was lacking something and I started taking classes. At 49 I quit my job of 23 years to study art full time. I found learning was exciting and thrilling, got my undergraduate degrees at University of Arkansas at Little Rock and my MFA University of Memphis. I found fulfillment of my art and brain.

(See **FACILITATORS**, page 6)

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Stacy Blackburn-Parish

Technically, I am a native of New Jersey, but was raised in Arkansas from age two. I am back in Arkansas after leaving home and living in California and St. Louis for several years. I learned about midwifery when a midwife came to talk to my class in college. When I had my first baby, I looked into midwifery but decided to try for a natural birth in the hospital.

My second daughter was born at home with midwives and that experience moved me so deeply that I knew I needed to be involved in home birth somehow. I started studying with the guidance of my midwives, and was invited to attend a birth as an observer. After that, there was no question in my mind at all that I was going to be a midwife. It felt completely natural, and so I began an apprenticeship that lasted four years. I am now a member of the midwife team that helped me deliver my daughter.

I love it because it requires so much of me. Midwifery is intellectual, analytical, spiritual, social, psychological, physical and political. And I get to be a witness and a participant in miracles! Not only the birth of the baby, which still takes my breath away, but the more subtle birth of family, and the empowerment of women who get the opportunity to be transformed by their own strength. It just doesn't get any better!

Laura Miller

I was born in San Antonio, Texas. After working in the insurance industry for several years, I decided to change directions and get my Master's degree in Public History, with an emphasis in museum studies. One of my professors became involved in the Central High Museum project and I worked as her graduate assistant in researching and writing the exhibit for the Visitor Center. I was hired on as the Executive Director shortly after the Visitor Center opened. I love working with the public, and especially students, to share our nation's civil rights history and to actively seek ways to ensure social justice for all citizens today.

Mesugga! Klezmer Band – Jim Harper

Klezmer music originated in Eastern and Central Europe, where its lyrical melodies and driving dance beats were heard at Jewish weddings and festivals. Jewish immigrants brought klezmer tunes and Yiddish folks songs to America in the late 1800's and even influenced the early stages of jazz and swing.

This universally appealing music commonly features the violin and clarinet, emotionally ranging from deeply plaintive to humorous to wildly joyful. Klezmer music (klezmer literally means "instrument of song" in Hebrew) nearly faded into oblivion as the European Jewish culture was wiped out in World War II and American Jews hid from memories of the Holocaust. (See **FACILITATORS**, page 7)

CALL OUT, from page 5

Against the backdrop of her own experience of race-violence in Little Rock, and considering the years she had invested in ameliorating racial tensions in this city, it surprised no one who knew her that Adolphine Terry would respond to the crisis thrust upon the Little Rock community by the actions of the Governor. In August, Mrs. Terry went to call on Harry Ashmore, the editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*; both Mr. Ashmore and the *Gazette* had been awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their coverage of the 1957 Central High School crisis. After conferring with Mr. Ashmore and confiding her plans to him, Mrs. Terry commented, "Harry, the men have failed us. It's time to call out the women." *Ibid*, p. 67.



The day after the Governor's proclamation, on September 16, 1958, a group of 58 women gathered at Mrs. Terry's home in response to her invitation. In Mrs. Terry's original intendment, the women would "study" the problem of race relations and make recommendations to various responsible individuals and institutions about ways in which tensions between the races might be lessened and the schools opened to all students. This genteel purpose was defeated by the press of circumstance, which was overwhelming in its immediacy and importance to the assembled women. In the course of the meeting, one woman stood and said: "This is all very fine, but what are we going to do now, now? My two boys must have an education and they have already lost two weeks of school. I think we have to do something now to open our schools."

Brewer, Vivion L. *The Embattled Ladies of Little Rock*. Fort Bragg: Lost Coast Press, 1999, p. 10.

One woman's question reflected every woman's concern: the education of the children was being sacrificed on the altar of southern racism. For those women, the choice was clear. Education would prevail because it must; the alternative was inconceivable. So the women regrouped, elected officers, and shortly thereafter named themselves the Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools. On September 27th, 170 women attended the second formal meeting of the WEC, and membership continued to grow as the community became more aware of the WEC and its goal of reopening the Little Rock schools.

Twenty-five women from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock were members of the WEC, a not inconsiderable number, considering that, at the time, the Church only had 45 members. The Unitarian women (See **CALL OUT**, page 7)

FACILITATORS, from page 6

A few years ago I fell in love with the way the clarinet was used in Klezmer music, the way it was made to sing like the human voice. I began learning to play in the klezmer style and eventually formed a band.

Rev. JoEllen Willis

I'm from Rutherford, New Jersey and been intrigued by quilts and quilt making for over twenty years; I've been a feminist even longer. I find that quilt making, historically "women's work," is a wonderful medium of expression--a "natural" for women, if you will. I love what I'm doing because it involves my head, my hands and my heart.

Gina Hudson

I am originally from Dallas, TX, moved to AR as a child, and moved back to Texas. As soon as I had a say in my location, I chose Arkansas. I earned a B.S. from Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX, and a J. D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I've trained animals since I was a child. When the opportunity came to apply my knowledge of animal behavior and training professionally, I gave up my law practice. As I like to say about my profession "Dogs are honest, funny, and love unconditionally - what human can you say the same thing about?"

Kay Danielson

I was born and raised in South Bend, IN, lived in several mid-western cities, and been in Arkansas nearly 15 years. Photography began as a hobby 35 years ago and eventually became a career. In the mid 1980s, I entered college and earned a degree in Journalism at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Now, I photograph and write non-fiction for newspapers, magazines, books and special projects. I enjoy sharing the excitement of photography with people who want to record life on film.

Judith Casavechia

I was born in Forrest City, Arkansas, but left it at the age of six weeks. My early years were in New Mexico. After that I have been a gypsy, but spent the most time and feel most comfortable in the mid-south - Little Rock and Memphis.

I was introduced to dance by my mother, who wanted, but never had the opportunity for lessons. I started at age six and have danced most of my life since. Because my family moved quite a bit, dance was a constant in my life. One can go anywhere in the world and a ballet class is very similar in structure and most importantly language. It is a very personal form of expression that uses the body, mind, and spirit all at once. To me it is the most basic way to communicate - everyone can understand it no matter what his or her verbal language may be.

(See **FACILITATORS**, next column)

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were Ruth Bell, Jane Bragg, Mrs. Adrian Brewer, Betsy Cottrell, Wilma Diner, Mrs. R. A. Dykeman, Shirley Ebert, Jane Fields, Janice Gates, Francis Hocott, Carol Holcomb, Mary Honke, Carol Hrishikesan, Mary Johnson, Peggy Marvin, Shirley McFarlin, Mrs. Oddist Murphree, Connie Panos, Ann Shafner, Mary Thomson, Katie Towbin, Barbara Whitney, Mrs. Bill Wilkins, Virginia Williams and Pat Youngdahl.

It would be hard to over-state the atmosphere of suspicion, hatred and fear that permeated the atmosphere in this city during those years. Neighbor suspected neighbor of being either "integrationist" or "segregationist," so conversation about the schools was non-existent - the alienation was palpable. The most prominent members of the WEC received quantities of hate mail. Their telephones were tapped, as were the phones in the WEC office, allegedly by operatives of the Governor. The women were followed to and from meetings, and those who were engaging in the surveillance recorded the car license tag numbers of everyone who came to the WEC office. Bomb threats and death threats were made against everyone who occupied a leadership position in the WEC. The husbands of WEC members were the objects of economic reprisals - many of their businesses teetered on the verge of financial ruin because of their wives' support of the WEC. The women didn't waver: at any cost, southern racism would be made to yield to the imperative of education for the children.

The 1957 school crisis in Little Rock and the founding of the Women's Emergency Committee will be the subject of a workshop to be conducted by Laurie Miller.



FACILITATORS

Donna J. Riley

I am an Arkansas native who has coalesced 25 years of holistic and alternative health and lifestyle training and experience into a unique all-encompassing consulting practice.

As a 1976 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a degree in education, I wanted to use my innate insight and talents to explore various disciplines and philosophies to find those most fulfilling for my loved ones and me. In the process, I've developed a perspective that views individuals as a whole that seeks to empower them to reach their full potential as human beings.

I home educate my three sons, Jake (12), Lucas (7) and Isaac (4), with assistance of my husband of 20 years, Marty Nevrla.

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Andrea Sadler

Originally from Chicago, I moved to Little Rock recently from Montana. In addition to formal training in voice, piano, and harp, I've had a lifelong interest in the relationship of music to healing and the sacred. I've provided music for newborns, at the bedside of the dying, and for many of life's transitions in between. There's so many ways we can align our personal cycles with the greater life and cycles of the Earth. Music is a call from the unseen world to the seen world, a bridge between. To sing in ceremony is to stand on the bridge, sounding the call.

Ingrid Polonius

Born and raised as a survivor in Germany, my childhood years were engraved by World War II. While living in Brazil, I discovered the meaning of social justice by working with the poor in the Sao Paulo slums and a leper colony in South Brazil. I moved to the United States, my quest for social justice took me inside prison walls of the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution and the Garner State Prison in Connecticut in 1987. I am still part of a volunteer team currently ministering to incarcerated women and men on a weekly basis and a member of "C:WED", the Center for Women, the Earth, and the Divine, a women's group working towards awareness raising and education to bring justice to women and the earth.

Ines Neu Polonius

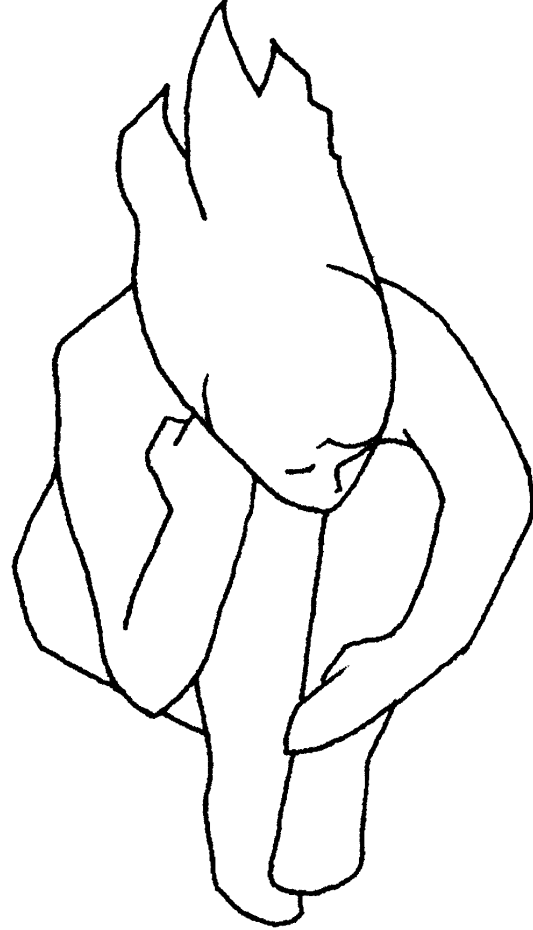
I was born in Germany and now live in Arkansas. In 1998, I founded a non-profit organization focused on social justice issues. It provides management consulting services to minority-owned and rural based businesses to enable them to create jobs and wealth in the communities in which they are located. It seeks to empower low-wealth communities across the South through the entrepreneurial infrastructure.

Many sectors of the African-American population and most rural communities have been left behind in times of tremendous prosperity in our country. It is exciting for me to share skills with small business owners in these communities, see them change, see their businesses flourish, see these businesses create jobs for the unemployed and to see business owners reach back into their local communities to help them organize politically, support local training programs and a host of other things. It gives a great joy to serve as a catalyst for these changes in communities across the Mississippi Delta region.

Virginia R. Williams

I'm a native of Hot Springs, Arkansas and a 40-year member of UUCLR, and currently serve the Church as president-elect and as a member of the Aesthetics Committee. I have an abiding

interest in religious matters and am an attorney by profession. Although I am an outspoken advocate for separation of church and state, I'm keenly interested in the practical application of liberal moral and ethical teachings to both legal and political matters.



THE WOOD NYMPH

by Erin J. Dunn (13, Denton, TX)

A wood nymph sits in a lonely tree. Looking at the ground and the leaves as the wind blows. She sits watching and waiting. The young nymph slowly uncurls herself as the sun begins to set. Many fairies, gnomes, and nymphs make their way to a big tree. They all build a fire and begin to dance. The young wood nymph looks on and sighs. For she has no wings, unlike her sisters and brothers. She slowly saunters away towards the lake where all of her animal friends gather together and dance under the moon.

A young nymph boy comes out of the bushes and greets the group shyly. For he has no wings either. The young nymph invites him to join her circle. The young nymph boy accepts graciously. The two dance under the moon along with all the animals of the forest.

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2001 Southwest UU Women's
Retreat
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Little Rock, AR



This conference will take place at the Arkansas 4-H Center, nestled in the foothills of the Quachita Mountains just 10 miles west of Little Rock.

Registration forms are be available at <http://www.uuclr.org> or by calling 501-225-1503.

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