



Celebrate UU Women as Agents of Change!
Come to Chicago for a

Women's Leadership Day

Learn their
stories,
Share your
stories!

March 20, 2010

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Third Unitarian Church

301 North Mayfield, Chicago, Illinois

Celebrate Margaret Fuller's 200th Birthday Anniversary
by nominating your congregation's own female agent of change.
Get involved in Margaret Fuller Conversations on creative leadership.

The following material is a brief summary of readings and quotes shared during this event, and is being distributed to all honorees and registrants.

Thanks go to everyone who made this day such a success! That includes the attendees, as well as the planning committee members. Thank you all!

Planning Committee:

UU Women's Connection: Pat Goller, Diana DeWeese, Nicole Nichols

CMwD Women & Religion Committee: Nancy Irons, Gretchen Ohman

CAUUC & Third Unitarian Church: Rev. Brian Covell



Celebrate UU Agents of Change

~ Schedule ~



- 8:30** Doors Open / Registration / Visit Sanctuary
- 9:00** Music (10 min. Live) / Welcome / Introductions / Chalice
Welcome: Rev. Brian Covell
Intro of Leaders and Organizations: Gretchen & Diane
Intro of MOMSthatROCK: Pat & Anna
- 9:30** What is Creative Leadership? / Intro Margaret Fuller and Salons
Creative Leadership: Pat, Nancy
Intro to MF: Jennifer & TBD
Intro to Salons: Jennifer - Hopi Elder Speaks
- 10:00** MF Salon (90 minutes) 4 groups - Pat, Gretchen, Nancy, Diana
Volunteers chosen to write summary on flip charts & Recap
- 10:30**
- 11:00**
- 11:30** Regather / Recap Volunteers recap sessions & post newsprint sheets
- 12:00** Lunch
- 12:30** Why Geese? / Recognition of Honorees
Why Geese?: Nancy
Recognitions of honorees: Pat
- 1:00** Music / Cake / Celebration / Visit Sanctuary
- 1:30** "Team Geese" Reading - Diana & Gretchen
- 2:00** MF Salon (90 minutes) 4 groups - Pat, Gretchen, Nancy, Diana
Jennifer
- 2:30** Volunteers chosen to write summary on flip charts & Report
- 3:00**
- 3:30** Regather / Recap Volunteers recap sessions & post newsprint sheets
Readings / Extinguish Chalice
"Don't Expect Applause": Pat
- 4:00** Attendees Depart



Margaret Fuller

Sarah Margaret Fuller (May 23, 1810 - June 19, 1850) was a journalist, critic and women's rights activist.

Fuller was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her father, Timothy Fuller, a lawyer, gave her a vigorous classical education which was testing enough to have a lasting effect on her health. In 1836 she taught at the Temple School in Boston and from 1837 to 1839 taught in Providence, Rhode Island.

Fuller became friends with Ralph Waldo Emerson and was subsequently associated with transcendentalism. She edited the transcendentalist journal, *Dial* for the first two years of its existence from 1840 to 1842. When she joined Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune* as literary critic in 1844, she became the first female journalist to work on the staff of a major newspaper.

In the mid-1840s she organised discussion groups of women in which a variety of subjects, such as art, education and women's rights, were debated. A number of significant figures in the women's rights movement attended these "conversations". Ideas brought up in these discussions were developed in Fuller's major work, *Women in the Nineteenth Century* (1845), which argues for the independence of women.

She was sent to Europe by the *New York Tribune* as a foreign correspondent, and there interviewed many prominent writers including George Sand and Thomas Carlyle. In Italy she met the Italian revolutionary Giovanni Ossoli and had a son by him. The two supported Giuseppe Mazzini's revolution for the establishment of a Roman Republic in 1849 - he fought in the struggle while she volunteered to work in a supporting hospital.

Fuller, her husband, and her son all died when a boat transporting them back to America from Italy sank off Fire Island, New York. With them were lost Fuller's book on the history of the Roman Republic. Many of her writings were collected together by her brother Arthur as *At Home and Abroad* (1856) and *Life Without and Life Within* (1858).

http://www.knowledgerush.com/kr/encyclopedia/Margaret_Fuller/

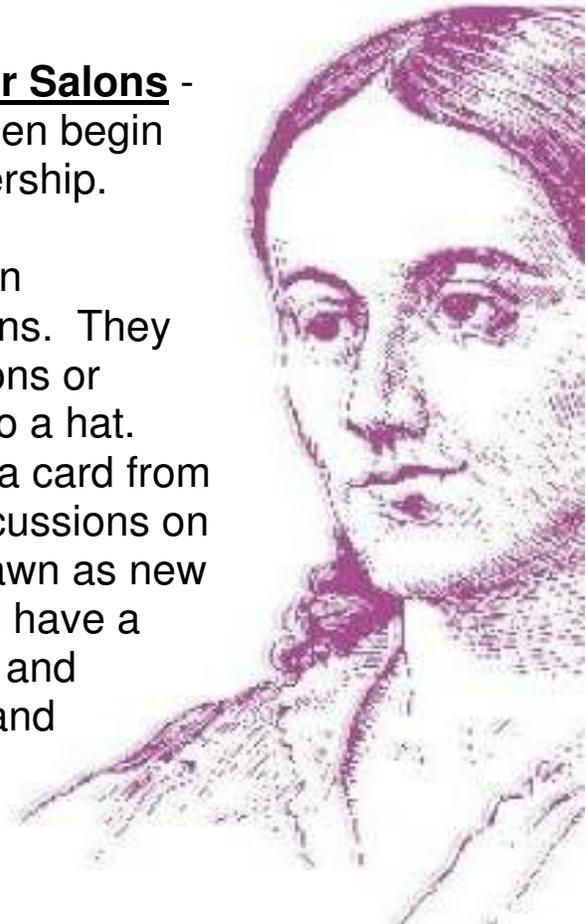
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Margaret Fuller Conversations or Salons -

circles of no more than 10-12 women begin with selected readings about leadership.

Women are then allowed time to contemplate the readings, their own leadership ideas, skills and concerns. They will then write conversation questions or topics on cards and place them into a hat.

The facilitator will randomly select a card from the hat and move forward with discussions on that topic. Additional cards are drawn as new topics are needed. Each circle will have a reporter who will record key words and concepts during the conversation and report back to the entire group the major ideas covered in their salon.



A HOPI ELDER SPEAKS

"You have been telling the people that this is the Eleventh Hour. Now you must go back and tell the people that this is the Hour. And there are things to be considered..."

- 1) Where are you living?
- 2) What are you doing?
- 3) What are your relationships?
- 4) Are you in right relation?
- 5) Where is your water?
- 6) Know your garden.
- 7) It is time to speak your Truth.
- 8) Create your community.
- 9) Be good to each other.
- 10) And do not look outside yourself for the leader."

Then he clasped his hands together, smiled, and said, "This could be a good time! There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are being torn apart and will suffer greatly.

Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above the water.

And I say, see who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally. Least of all, ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt.

"The time for the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from you attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

"We are the ones we've been waiting for."

June Jordan "Poem for South African Women."

-- attributed to an unnamed Hopi elder
Hopi Nation
Oraibi, Arizona



Why Geese? Nancy Irons, 2010

When planning this event, we wanted to give the honorees some small gift as a token of our appreciation. But what to give them? It seemed to me that lapel pins might be good, but I wanted something nice enough that they might be worn beyond today's event. As I was looking around, I came across some pewter geese.

I showed the webpage to my mother and asked for her thoughts. Geese? She responded. . . . Aren't they pests? Sort of like invasive weeds? . . . I mean, they are all over the place. They adapt to all kinds of environments and are very hard to get rid of. They persist despite actions taken against them.

Well, yes, you are right. . . . Canadian geese are kind of pesty, but aren't most leaders as well?

Think about it. . . . To be a leader, you have to be willing to stick your neck out. You need to honk long and loud to make your position known and to rally your followers. You probably end up ruffling some feathers and rousing opposition. Yet, despite inhospitable conditions, true leaders, like geese, persist. They are in it for the long haul, and excel at working together to make better headway. . . . I think the Canadian goose is an apt symbol for our Leaders. After all, with values like that, the sky is the limit!

Inspiration: Team Geese

In the fall when you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in the "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who are part of a team and share a common direction get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the trust of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go through it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the power of the flock.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will share information with those who are headed the same way we are going.

When the lead goose gets tired, she rotates back in the wing and another goose takes over.

It pays to share leadership and take turns doing hard jobs.

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed.

Words of support and inspiration help energize those on the frontline, helping them to keep pace in spite of the day-to-day pressures and fatigue.

Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by a gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of the formation and follow the injured one down to help and protect him. They stay with her until she is either able to fly or until she is dead, and then they launch out with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other when things get rough.

The next time you see a formation of geese, remember: It is a 'Reward', a 'Challenge', and a 'Privilege' to be a contributing member of a 'Team'.

Lessons from Geese was originally transcribed from a speech given by Angeles Arrien and was based on the work of Milton Olson.

Leaders just lead....

Slogan: **“Don’t expect applause.”**

What this slogan means is, don’t expect thanks. This is important. When you open the door and invite all sentient beings as your guests—and you also open the windows and the walls even start falling down—you find yourself in the universe with no protection at all. Now you’re in for it. If you think that just by doing that you are going to feel good about yourself and you are going to be thanked right and left—no, that won’t happen. More than to expect thanks, it would be helpful just to expect the unexpected; then you might be curious and inquisitive about what comes in the door. We can begin to open our hearts to others when we have no hope of getting anything back. We just do it for its own sake. . . .

Comfortable With Uncertainty by Pema Chodron



Table Quotations

Management is about coping with complexity..... Good management brings a degree of order and consistency....

Leadership, by contrast, is about coping with change.... More change always demands more leadership.

John Kotter

In the end, we need to be good at **leading first** and **managing second**,
the what and why then..... the how and the when!

John Kotter

Creativity, as has been said, consists largely of rearranging what we know in order, to find out what we do not know. Hence, to think creatively, we must be able to look afresh at what we normally take for granted.

George Kneller

To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.

Albert Einstein

To be creative you have to contribute something different from what you've done before. Your results need not be original to the world; few results truly meet that criterion. In fact, most results are built on the work of others.

Lynne C. Levesque

Creative activity could be described as a type of learning process where teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.

Arthur Koestler

The things we fear most in organizations - fluctuations, disturbances, imbalances - are the primary sources of creativity.

Margaret J. Wheatley

The achievement of excellence can only occur if the organization promotes a culture of creative dissatisfaction.

Lawrence Miller

Innovation - any new idea - by definition will not be accepted at first. It takes repeated attempts, endless demonstrations, monotonous rehearsals before innovation can be accepted and internalized by an organization. This requires *courageous patience*.

Warren Bennis

Creativity is thinking up new things. **Innovation** is doing new things.

Theodore Levitt

Well behaved women rarely make history.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

The especial genius of women I believe to be electrical in movement, intuitive in function, spiritual in tendency.

Margaret Fuller

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

Margaret Fuller

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it.

Margaret Fuller

Leadership appears to be the art of getting others to want to do something you are convinced should be done.

Vance Packard

We need not just a new generation of **leadership** but a new **gender** of leadership.

Bill Clinton

Leadership has been defined as the ability to hide your panic from others.

Anonymous (who of course was a woman)

The roots of effective leadership lie in simple things, one of which is listening.
Listening to someone demonstrates respect; it shows that you value their ideas and
are willing to hear them.

John Baldoni

Do not follow where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Muriel Strode

The older I get, the greater power I seem to have to help the world; I am like a
snowball -- the further I am rolled the more I gain.

Susan B. Anthony

I have an almost complete disregard of precedent and a faith in the possibility of
something better.

Clara Barton

It irritates me to be told how things always have been done.

Clara Barton

It is not easy to be a pioneer - but oh, it is fascinating! I would not trade one
moment, even the worst moment, for all the riches in the world.

Clara Barton

How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roses!

Maya Angelou

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the
small daily difference we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that
we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman

Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark
place where it leads.

Erica Jong

Rest and you rust.

Helen Hayes

The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas.

Dr. Linus Pauling

It's easy to come up with new ideas; the hard part is letting go of what worked for you two years ago, but will soon be out of date.

Roger von Oech

Discoveries are often made by not following instructions, by going off the main road, by trying the untried.

Frank Tyger

Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.

Charlotte Whitton



Adapt, persist and thrive in inhospitable conditions

Goose Writer



Stick your neck out and call attention to your position.

Goose Writer



Work together to make headway.

Goose Writer



Honk long and loud to rally the troops.

Goose Writer



Rotate leadership and travel on the trust of one another.

Goose Writer

Words of support and inspiration help energize those on the frontline.

Goose Writer



How I envy your flight. You've got the whole sky.

But then... but then... haven't I? *Suanne Furgeson*