

REFLECTIONS

Unitarian Universalist Women's Association
Metro District Women And Religion

September 1992

FALL RENEWAL WEEKEND

WRITING YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Our Fall Renewal Weekend, October 30 to November 1, is based on Dan Wakefield's The Story of Your Life: Writing a Spiritual Autobiography. This retreat/renewal will offer you the opportunity to explore your past and understand your present through writing and other creative exercises. You do not need to have any previous writing experience to participate. The magic is in the doing, the sharing, the listening, the being heard. You will find it helpful to read the book before you come, many will have done so and will want to share their ideas.

The program will include social gatherings and several worship services as well as time to pursue your own interests and for reflection. It is a time for us to get to know one another, where friendships are made.

This year we will meet at Holiday Hills in Pawling NY, a very comfortable conference center with private baths, quiet sleeping areas, and good food. At the end of October, Holiday Hills will be a riot of fall color and you will enjoy hiking in the tranquil forest far away from the demands of your daily life. Don't forget to bring your tennis racquet. There are many courts waiting to be used.

The center is situated on a large estate, a little over an hour and a half drive from New York City. Trains are available to Pawling and arrangements can be made to pick you up at the station. They leave Grand Central Station at fifteen minutes to 1, 4, 6, and 8 PM, arriving approximately an hour and a half later. A one-way ticket price is \$8.00 and \$5.25 for senior citizens.

© For information and registration contact Inez Miller (212) 734-0307. ©

Calendar

- Oct 30 - Fall Renewal: Writing Your
Nov 1 Own Spiritual Autobiography
Holiday Hills C. C.
Pawling, New York
- Jan 23 - Annual Meeting
Margot Adler, Speaker
4th Universalist Church
Central Park West at 74th
New York City
- Early - Spring Workshop
April To be announced



ANNUAL MEETING

CONVERSATION WITH MARGO ADLER

This year we are privileged to welcome Margo Adler to speak at our Annual Meeting at noon on January 23, 1993 at the Fourth Universalist Church on Central Park West at 74th Street. She will lead us in a program we know you will long remember. Her book, Drawing Down the Moon: Witches, Druids, Goddess-Worshippers, and Other Pagans in America Today was published in 1979 by Viking Press and extensively revised in a paperback edition published in 1986 by Beacon Press. It is available in local bookstores as well as at the Beacon Press.

In her book Ms. Adler explores the power of the Goddess and the use of ritual to enhance our lives. She notes that people are using the Goddess as a metaphor for feelings of creativity, strength, and empowerment. In bringing the Goddess into our lives through ritual and thought we are empowered.

Ms. Adler's fascination with ancient gods and goddesses began in elementary school. She has a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University and was Neiman Fellow at Harvard University in 1982. She presently reports on culture and politics for National Public Radio.

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Jill Carter 212-787-0170 or Inez Miller (212) 734-0307.

Our meetings are always open to everyone. However, we have no dues and depend on your contributions to help cover the cost of printing and mailing *Reflections* and flyers about meetings. The suggested yearly contribution for individuals is \$5.00 and for groups is \$2.00 per member. Larger donations enable us to provide more services.

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SPRING WORKSHOP - 1992

Is Nothing Sacred?:

Sexual Abuse by the Clergy.

This emotion-laden workshop was lead by the Rev. Linda DeSantis of Washington Crossing New Jersey. It was based on Daniel Rutter's book: Sex in the Forbidden Zone. She described how sexual liaisons, no matter how innocent they may appear, almost always leave in their wake feelings of bitterness and betrayal. She specifically told us of the devastation, the loss, the feelings of betrayal, such conduct made on her own congregation and the extensive healing that she is in the process of facilitating.

Several participants brought to our attention that when these incidents of sexual abuse occur, everyone is affected, not just the immediate persons involved. It often causes an irreparable rift in the congregation and sometimes reaches beyond the congregation.

Although sexual misconduct by the clergy has been a concern of the denomination for many years, it is only recently that action has been taken in cases of abuse. The clergy have become aware that the responsibility for this behavior lies squarely on their shoulders, realizing that the lay-people involved are usually vulnerable and unable to evaluate the real meaning of such a relationship in their lives. Winnie Norman reported on a UU Task Force, of which she's a member, that movement is being made in a positive direction. The clergy are being held responsible for their own actions and all clergy are being made aware of this problem. Many are active in policing their own ranks.

REFLECTIONS

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