

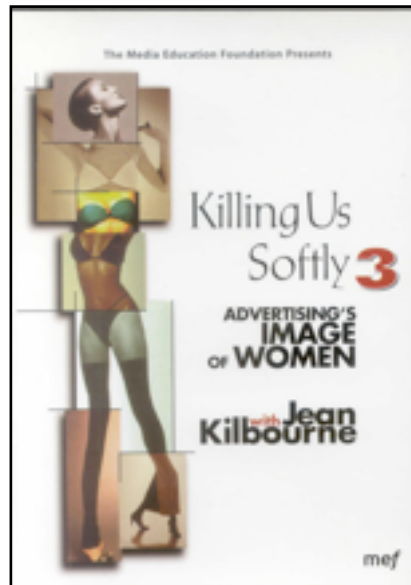
UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP NEWSLETTER

March 2009



Report of the Unitarian Women's Group Conference

held 26th to 28th September 2008 at Great Hucklow



The theme of the weekend was "Positive Images of Women and Images that Kill Us Softly".

Our aim was to explore the ways advertising affected the way we, as women, viewed ourselves and how society as a whole viewed women. To provide us with research for our task we turned to a DVD produced by Jean Kilbourne, who is internationally recognised for her pioneering work on the images of women in advertising. She frequently lectures at universities and schools to mixed audiences of both genders.

In her film she compares mass media images of 'the feminine' to the reality; she also encourages viewers to consider the relationship between the stories advertising tells about girls and women and the actual lives they lead.

The film showed numerous adverts and explored the messages behind the pictures. For example: several adverts showed women with hands over their mouths or even with their lips stitched up, conveying the message that they are objects to be seen but not subjects with their own voices to speak and be heard.

Often only certain parts of the female body were shown; for example a bottom or a torso. Such treatment by the media also objectified women, reducing their claim to full humanity. History has shown that objectification of groups of people, which portrays them as less than human, is often a precursor to violence against them.

She also exposed the myth of the "standard size" woman as being, tall, slender, small hipped and large breasted - only 5% of females possess these characteristics. This "one size for all" was a contributory factor to the low self-esteem many teenage girls suffer from because they measure themselves against an unattainable ideal. The use of computer imaging has enabled all imperfections to be airbrushed out so that the real woman disappears. The film showed an invoice detailing all the airbrushing and "touch ups" required for a picture of a well-known actress before it was considered fit to be seen on magazines and billboards. In effect, the message of advertising was "Fit our Image of Women or be marginalised".



Animated group discussions followed the viewing of the film, focusing on ways to counter the affect of this advertising. A number of women had complained to the advertising standards authority with some success. However, a massive campaign would be required to counterbalance the damaging messages given out by advertising. Education was felt to be vital. Many of the UWG thought the DVD should be shown both in schools and also in our congregations. Although the topic was not new, the treatment of it by Jean Kilbourne was, and all participants at the conference felt that they had learned from the film and the discussion groups.

The UWG's guest speaker was Irene Kloefer, a psychotherapist and member of Rosslyn Hill Chapel. Her talk was on "The Increasing Availability and Appetite for Pornography", which also took in examples of extreme sexual behaviour". She gave a graphic account of the images portrayed of women by those involved in the creation and sale of pornography.

She explained about the increasing availability of porn on the internet and how almost any image (unless that of a child) was now legal. Most of the "hard porn" available reduced a woman to no more than a set of orifices, the

ultimate objectification which totally denied her any individual identity.

She also talked about the increased prevalence of extremes of sexual behaviour which included how both women and men were seeking impersonal sexual encounters. The internet enabled those wanting sex to enter their post code and meet up with strangers. There are web sites devoted to "dogging" (having sex in public



spaces), "swinging" and "no strings" sex. It seemed like sex had become a new drug. Like any drug, it was interesting to consider the effect it has on the individual, families and society in general.

In our workshops we considered questions such as:

- "What is the difference between erotica and pornography?"
- "What role does pornography play in the perpetuation of violence against women?"

An underlying theme was the polarisation of the feminine and masculine in our society with the result that women were only "supposed" to have so-called feminine traits and men so-called masculine traits.

A closing meditation was given, enabling the Group to visualise and acquire all necessary characteristics, both masculine and feminine and thus becoming whole women.

The UWG felt that the Conference was successful and stimulated much food for thought and action on this topic which is of vital interest to both men and women.

Although the topics at the Conference were of serious social questions, the delegates had plenty of time to relax in between discussions and workgroups, partaking of wine during and after dinner and spending free time walking in the countryside. One delightful occasion was the setting off of a "Lantern of Wishes" which was organised by Danielle Wilson.

The next Conference will take place from Friday 30th October 2009 to Sunday 1st November 2009. Please put the dates in your diary. Anyone interested in attending should contact Anne Bodman at bodmana@hotmail.co.uk

(Flyer & application form later in Newsletter)

If you wish to make a complaint about an advertisement, please go to: http://www.asa.org.uk/asa/how_to_complain/



where there is an on-line form to fill in. It is the website of the Advertising Standards Authority. I made a complaint once and was very satisfied that it had been heard/ logged/etc. Eventually, the offending ad was removed because of the number of complaints that had been received!!!

- Editor

IN MEMORIAM - SIMON JOHN BARLOW

When I was asked to write something about Simon John and Summer School, the first word to come into my head was 'imagination'. When we worked together on what was then called the Steering Group, he was a constant source of ideas. When we were stuck, his fertile and exciting mind would work at a tangent and come up with something none of us could have dreamt up. Who else would have offered us Christmas in August – and what is more, handed us a wealth of material to take back to our congregations for Christmases in the future.

The other thing I think about is the planning of the epilogue for the first evening of Summer School. Simon John was always a source of so many ideas, readings and hymns. He left us with our heads buzzing.



His mind was so big and broad and he had read so much.

When Jane Blackall encouraged the creative craft side of Simon John to emerge, there was no stopping him – and their morning workshops produced wonders. I will never forget the felted shawl made by one of their morning workshop groups and presented to Joan Wilkinson.

For many of us, it was at Summer School that we met Simon John for the first time and had our most in depth contact with him. I think I can say that everyone who was touched by Simon John's generosity of spirit was healed by him in some way. He had the gift of healing people without their even knowing that that was what he was doing. I, personally, received that healing and will always be thankful for it.

- Patricia Walker Hesson, Dean of the Hucklow Summer School

GREAT HUCKLOW

Myspecial place is a tiny Derbyshire village in the Peak District known as Great Hucklow, considered by many the green heart of Unitarianism. It consists of a handful of grey stone houses nestling along the skirt of Hucklow Edge and contains a pub, the Queen Anne, a simple old rectangular chapel with windows of clear glass and a long low building known as the Nightingale Centre. Miniscule fields, infinitely varied in shape and bounded by dry stone walls, stretch as far as the eye can see until they meet the blue of the distant hills. The light shifts constantly as clouds play over the open sky. Nights are a stargazer's delight for there is no pollution from street lamps. In the friendly dark, both pub the chapel stream a welcome of golden light. The air is full of birdsong interspersed with the occasional lowing of cows and bleating of sheep. It is a haven of peace, a place of retreat and renewal, conducive to the forming of green thoughts in a green shade.

Unitarians go there for all sorts of reasons – courses, meetings, holidays, music making, congregational outings, weddings and celebrations of all kinds, for Hucklow is a verb as well as a noun, and can only be sampled through living. It is the one place where you can live in a community of people who share the same values and concerns although they express them very differently. And you will learn new ways and discover reaches of the self you hardly dreamt of. Sages, the middle aged, teenagers and babes in arms are equally welcome, as are the happy and prosperous, the lost and the lonely, the compulsively social

and the uncertain novices. No matter how different in interest and temperament, everyone who spends time here experiences a sense of deep sharing and joy. Days can be spent in discussion, craft, dance, worship and play, well-dressing and walks, laughter, song and meditation. Heart and



mind join hands. And deep down, the unfrequented spirit unfurls its wings.

If you could distill the essence of Hucklow into one person that person would be Simon John Barlow, minister extraordinary, craft maker, theologian, poet, lord of the summer dance, weaver of heart and mind and soul into patterns of meaning and delight. To know him only slightly was to feel that the world was better for his presence; to know him well was to love him dearly, as leagues of his friends on both sides of the Atlantic can attest. On an October afternoon, when the trees on the Edge were bronze, and amber, and gold, and the autumn mists hung low, we laid Simon John to rest by his father in the graveyard and said our farewells. Sadness and loss had entered our green world. At

forty seven, he had suffered a brain haemorrhage from which he did not recover. Now he is forever part of the rich earth of Hucklow, its abiding *genius loci*.

In the final story about Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin bids goodbye to his early childhood and the daily companionship of his beloved bear before he is sent away to school. *"But wherever they go, and whatever happens to them on the way in that enchanted place at the top of the forest a little boy and his Bear will always be playing."*



May it be so with us and our beloved Simon John and all who ever visit Great Hucklow!

- Margaret Hamer

IMAGES OF WOMEN

I feel remote from this.
Flesh is on every display board.

"Killing us softly"
contained symbolism I would not otherwise have noticed.

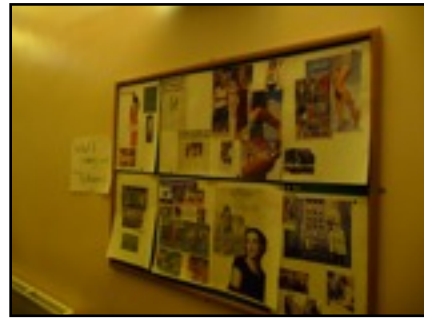
Swollen breasts;
Granny sluts;
Erotic arousal.

Sharing experiences and life stories.

Hard core
Three orifices and five men.
The stimulation of surfeited appetites.

Steps we might take.
Preventing escalation of the level of normalcy.
Love and sex in a proper healthy place.
An incident; the process.
Lack of violence and degradation.

27-9-08 Juliet E



MOTION FOR PRESENTATION TO GA:

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, given that Social Justice is at the heart of our ministry and witness, mandates the Executive Committee of the General Assembly to appoint a full time, paid Social Justice Officer with responsibility for raising awareness of significant social issues nationally, internationally and within our denomination.

One morning, the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake where her husband has been angling, the wife decides to take his boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors and reads her book. Along comes a Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, 'Good morning, Ma'am. May I ask what you are doing?'

'Reading a book,' she replies, (thinking, 'isn't that obvious?')



'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her.

'I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.'

'Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up.'

'For reading a book?' she replies.

'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her again.

'I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.'

'Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know, you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up.'

'If you do that, I'll have to charge you with Sexual Assault,' says the woman.

'But I haven't even touched you,' says the game warden.

'That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.'

'Have a nice day ma'am,' and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

9 – 11th February 2007

Although the AGM took place over three days, it has been minuted in agenda order

1. Attendance

Ann Bateman, Anne Bodman, Dawn Buckle, Sue Cooper, Aria Datta, Diane Day, Angela Dobson, Juliet Edwards, Margaret Hamer, Riena Jackson, Judy Jerome, Sheila Jones, Linda King, Christine Martin, Jean Mason, Helen Parsons, Ann Peart, Margaret Pyle, Stephanie Ramage, Hephzibah Ramage, Sonya Richards, Barbara Smith, Danielle Wilson

2. Apologies

Liz Birtles, Ruth Bowes, Cassandra Britton, Joy Croft, Maggie Davies, Deborah Frankel, Dorothy Haughton, Christine Hayhurst, Valerie Killala, Celia Midgley, Deeya Pavel, Hilary Ratner, Doris Shute, Rowan Songsmith, Ingrid Tavkar, Patricia Walker-Hesson, Rose Williams

Apologies were also received from Diane Day and June Pettit who had been expected but were unable to make it through the snow.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 19th February 2006

Christine Thompson proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Helen Parsons and passed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 UWG Slot at 2006 GA Meeting

Those who had attended praised the excellent talk by Maggie Baxter of Womankind.

4.2 UWG Delegate to GA and Motion

There was praise for Judy Jerome both as the delegate and for her successful presentation of the motion which was passed into a resolution. Anne Peart and Dawn Buckle both reported having received negative criticism of the motion and its presentation. Some members felt that if others had been made to feel uncomfortable over the content and emotion expressed by Judy, this was not necessarily a bad thing and that as a group we should not sanitise our concerns to save others embarrassment. The Chair suggested that if this happened future the critic be asked to write to the UWG stating their objections. In receiving thanks, Judy said she had been pleased and proud of the group for raising awareness of this serious issue.

5. Matters for Discussion

5.1 UWG Speaker GA Meeting 2007

It was unanimously agreed that CHASTE (Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking) should be asked to provide a speaker. Administrator to organise and liaise with Delegate.

5.2 UWG Delegate to GA Meeting 2007

It was unanimously agreed that Chris Thompson should be the delegate to the GA and she was passed the list of delegate's duties. Judy handed over the banner.

5.3 GA Motion

Two motions were proposed to the meeting. The first one was on Unitarian Growth and Publicity and followed recent correspondence in The Inquirer including a letter from members of the group based in Trowbridge. It was felt that notwithstanding its importance, the Executive Committee may already be intending to address this issue at the GA and it was suggested that pertinent questions should be asked of them.

5.3 .../...cont'd..../.....

On Saturday morning, Margaret Hamer reported that since attending a conference "Not For Sale" hosted at Central Hall, London, by CHASTE "(Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking), she, Linda King and Sue Cooper had all become increasingly concerned about Human Trafficking for Sex Exploitation. It was obvious that those attending Margaret's talk were shocked by what they heard and it was agreed that the UWG should sponsor a motion calling upon HM Government to immediately sign up to the Palermo Protocol in an attempt to stop this modern day slavery. Accordingly a motion was prepared to be placed before the GA. This would be hand delivered to Andrew Mason by Christine Martin. The Administrator was to amend, as appropriate, Margaret's information sheet on Sex Trafficking that had been circulated before the weekend and submit this to Essex Hall by Wednesday 14th as the supplementary information to the motion. It was agreed that the motion be proposed by Margaret Hamer and Seconded by Chris Thompson.

It had earlier been agreed to share a display table at the GA with the Social Responsibility Panel. This was rescinded and it was agreed to use the table to display information on Sex Trafficking as well as the Group. It was suggested that pre-printed letters should be available on the table for submission to local MPs or the Minister for Women but problems were envisaged over the use of letterhead without official permission.

5.4 Newsletter

Thanks were given to Margaret Hamer for the excellent newsletter she produced in May 2006.

It was agreed that Margaret Hamer would edit the newsletter in 2007 and Danielle Wilson would be responsible for its layout and Sue Cooper would distribute it. It would be sent by email or letter mail as appropriate.

5.5 Website and Chat room

Website – Sue Cooper reported that a UWG website had been set up with the assistance of John Wilkinson. It was available by following the links from the GA website. She requested that all members should access the site and submit suggestions on how they felt it could be improved.

Chat room – Danielle reported a disappointing take up on the chat room with only ten members registered. Some had experienced difficulty in registering and Danielle agreed to assist them if possible.

5.6 Steering Group

The Steering Group were thanked for their work over the past year and re-elected as follows:

Newsletter	-	Editor Margaret Hamer plus Danielle Wilson, layout
Treasurer	-	Stephanie Ramage
Administrator	-	Sue Cooper

5.7 UWG Conference 2008

Because of the adverse weather conditions experienced this weekend which had resulted in several members being unable to reach Hucklow, it was decided to investigate alternative available dates with The Nightingale Centre.

Accordingly, it was agreed that the next conference should be held 26 – 27 – 28th September 2008

It was also agreed that the weekend would be arranged by Judy Jerome and Ann Bodman with admin support from Sue Cooper.

Proposed by Margaret Hamer

Seconded by Margaret Pyle

Passed unanimously

It was also agreed to hold a get-together-day at Rosslyn Hill Chapel. Danielle Wilson would arrange this and circulate possible dates for consideration.

6. Treasurer's Report 2006/2007

Stephanie was thanked for her written report which showed:

Total paid in including balance transfer to new bank account £1,529

Total paid out £384.62

Balance in bank at 24th January 2007 £1,144.38

It was noted the money paid in included deposits for the weekend. The Treasurer confirmed that expenses had been paid wherever claimed.

The report was accepted,
Proposed by Margaret Hamer
Seconded by Christine Martin
Passed unanimously

7. Independent Assessor

Jean Mason was unanimously appointed as the Independent Assessor.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Proceeds from Silent Auction

A total of £186.75 had been raised and it was agreed that this would be split as follows:

£100 to Womankind in recognition of the excellent presentation they had made at the GA last year and their dedicated work.

£86.75 to Childcare Home, India. This was a project in India that had recently been visited by Aria Datta. She provided full details but if anyone wishes to know more, contact Aria.

8.2 It was requested that in preparing future conference programmes, at least one should be kept free from business

8.3 Last year's successful motion had requested an audit in be carried out in all congregations. It was agreed not to pursue this.



Report of UWG Day at Hampstead on Saturday 8th March 2008

Organised by: Danielle Wilson, Ingrid Tavkar , Hilary Ratna

The full day event coincided with International Women's Day and had the theme of The Goddess.

All participants were invited to bring images of the Goddess and the opening activity was for all to place their images whether photos, paintings or sculpture on a table to make a shrine for the Goddess.

There was a spiritual chant to honour the Goddess and the Names of the Divine Feminine were spoken aloud.

Ingrid Tavkar gave a presentation on the Chinese Goddess, Kwan Yin. Kwan Yin is renowned for her compassion and her name means "One who hears the Cries of the World".

Hilary Ratna gave an absorbing slide presentation of "Images of the Divine Feminine".

Appleseed Robinson took us through a chakra meditation which aligned colours with the chakra points in the body. All who participated found the whole process.

It was a very successful day which celebrated the Goddess and am sure provided each participant with a positive image of the Feminine.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 26-28th February 2008

Although the AGM took place over three days, it has been minuted in agenda order

In Attendance

Ann Bateman, Anne Bodman, Sue Cooper, Juliet Edwards, Mary Frodsham, Margaret Hamer, Sheila Jones, Irene Kloepper, Jean Mason, Cathie Masztalerz, Gillian Peel, Margaret Pyle, Stephanie Ramage, Sonya Richards, Appleseed Robinson, Barbara Smith, Christine Thompson, Danielle Wilson.

Chair for the meeting: Sheila Jones

1. Apologies

Liz Birtles, Ruth Bowes, Dawn Buckle, Maggie Davies, Linda King, Christine Martin, Helen Parsons, June Pettit, Ingrid Tavkar, Patricia Walker-Hesson.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9-11th February 2007

Margaret Pyle proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of that meeting. Seconded by Chris Thompson and passed unanimously.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not discussed later in the meeting.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1 UWG slot at 2009 GA Meeting at Chester

It was agreed to take a 40 minute slot at the GA and to seek a speaker, female or male, to speak on a social responsibility issue. The table in the main display hall would reflect this issue as well as having photographs of the group weekend to show that we do not take ourselves too seriously but also have fun. In view of her great experience in this field, Ingrid's advice would be sought. Several suggestions for speaker were made and individual's agreed to pursue these. Responsibility for the display would be with Cathie and Sonya but Stephanie agreed to assist in its preparation.

4.2 UWG Delegate to GA Meeting at Chester

It was unanimously agreed that Cathie Masztalerz would be the UWG delegate. She would also present the motion, which would be seconded by Sonya Richards. The group would pay half the conference costs for each.

4.3 UWG Motion to GA

Three possible motions had been put forward: the appointment of a full-time Social Responsibility Officer, the appointment of a full-time RE Co-ordinator and support for the legalisation of brothels.

Speaking on behalf of the appointment of a full-time SR Officer and RE Co-ordinator, Sonya quoted one of the UUA visitors at the Elizabeth Tarbox Education Week who said "Religious Education and Social Justice are at the heart of our ministry and witness". It was noted that although unknown changes and reviews may be taking place at Essex Hall neither post was held by a full-time, committed, paid officer. It was felt that the profile of the movement had fallen since Ingrid had retired from the SR post. It was decided to concentrate on one post only and the majority favoured that of Social Responsibility Officer. The following motion was agreed unanimously to be put to the GA at Chester in 2009. It would be at the delegate's discretion to agree, or not, any changes requested by the GA.

"That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, given that Social Justice is at the heart of our ministry and witness, mandates the Executive Committee of the General Assembly to appoint a full time, paid Social Justice Officer with responsibility for raising awareness of significant social issues, nationally, internationally and within our denomination."

The suggestion that the group should put forward a motion in support of the legalisation of brothels was ruled out of order as it had been submitted very late, had no supporting paper and the member raising it was not present to speak in its favour. However, it was decided that this topic should be kept current for future discussion. It was requested that, anyone seeing information on the legalisation of brothels, the Swedish model for dealing with prostitution or any other current model was asked to submit it to Margaret Hamer. The Chair ruled that any future motion should be submitted 4-6 weeks in advance of the AGM together with supporting paperwork.

4.4 Steering Group

The following appointments were all agreed unanimously:

Administrator – Anne Bodman with Margaret Hamer

Membership Secretary – Stephanie Ramage

Newsletter Editor – Danielle Wilson

Treasurer – Stephanie Ramage

It was noted that Stephanie would be taking on extra duties but agreed that the two posts ran side by side.

Danielle was happy to edit and prepare the lay-out for the newsletter but it was up to the group members to provide the content by sending her articles and information via email.

The meeting thanked Sue Cooper warmly for her efforts over the past two years.

4.5 Conference 2009

It was agreed to continue meeting once a year at Hucklow but members could arrange single days if they wished. Thanks were given to Danielle for a very successful day held at Hampstead in March 2008. This had been attended by over forty women and will be reported more fully in the newsletter.

Subject to confirmation from The Nightingale Centre, it was agreed that the UWG weekend in 2009 would be Friday 30th, Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November. The programme would be arranged by Chris Thompson, Sonya Richards and Margaret Pyle with support from the Administrator.

The diary for 2010 was not yet available but the group requested any weekend between mid-September and October. It was noted that October offered the reduced out-of-season tariff.

4.6 Subscriptions

It was agreed that the membership subscription for 2009 would be £15 and £10 for those on benefits. The payment year is January to December. A 'donations' section would be added to the form.

4.7 Conference Fee

It was agreed that the Conference Fee should stay at £10.

4.8 Bursaries for the weekend

It was agreed that the bursary offered should be £50 but this could be increased discretionally. Any bursary would be given in strict confidence after consultation between the Administrator and the Treasurer only. The bursaries should come out of main funds and should not be dependent on the conference fee. The availability of a bursary should promulgated more widely.

4.9 Grant for Romanian Woman minister

This item raised a discussion which included a previous AGM decision that the group was not a fund raising unit. It was felt that this should be left to the Women's League who were excellent at it. In recent years the silent auction funds had gone to charity but it was felt that bursaries could benefit. Indeed the whole question of whether or not there should be a silent auction, or any other fund raising, was raised. It was decided to leave this decision to the programme organisers.

It was agreed with regret, not to give financial support to the Romanian Woman minister.

5. Treasurer's Report 2007/2008

Stephanie circulated clearly presented income and expenditure charts showing £1,493.25 coming in and £1,2189 going out. The current balance at the bank was £1,523. Because these figures include some of the monies related to the weekend it was difficult to get a clear picture of the underlying financial situation. It was agreed that in future members would pay their accommodation charges directly to the centre with conference fee only going to the UWG. It was agreed that the deposit would be non-refundable in cases of cancellation. It was also noted that in future the Centre would be adopting a harder line in regard to payment of accommodation fees in cases of cancellation.

Stephanie was congratulated that after noticing £68.85 had been withdrawn from the account in bank charges she challenged the bank on the issue. The result was not only a full reimbursement of the charges but free banking in the future.

UPDATE:

*Stephanie has succeeded in having £78.85 re-imbursed in to the UWG account.
The balance of funds after the weekend expenses have been paid is £1,685.05.*

6. Appointment of Independent Assessor

It was proposed by Anne Bateman, seconded by Gillian Peel and passed unanimously that Jean Mason be appointed as Independent Assessor.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 NUF proposal for a societies' residential school

The proposal was noted with interest but it was decided to await further developments before taking any action.

7.2 Vote of thanks

On behalf of everyone present, Jean Mason gave a heartfelt vote of thanks to the programme organisers for all the work which must have gone into their flawless presentation of 'Images of Women'.

7.3 Theme of next weekend

Although suggestions would be very welcome, it was agreed that ultimately, the choice of a theme must be left to the organisers.

8. Date of next meeting

31st October – 1st November 2009 at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.



UWG Contacts

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Calendar

31 October-1 November 2009 - UWG

Annual Meeting @ Great Hucklow (see next page for application form & further details)

31 March 2009 - UWG Annual Subs due for 2009/10 - Please send to Stephanie Ramage, address in UWG Contacts box to the left.

If you require a receipt, please send SAE with your payment.

15-18 April 2009 - General Assembly @ Chester

25 April 2009 - The Doll's House - Workshop in London given by Anne Bodman and Applesseed Robinson (see last page for further details)

Women in the Unitarian Movement

Most of you will remember this pamphlet, printed in 1992. It is time to change it or to have it reprinted. The pamphlet gave 1) a history of the UWG and 2) accounts by various Unitarian Women about their personal feminist outlook.. What to do next has been discussed by two groups and we would like you to take part in this decision.

I quote from the discussion which took place in the East Anglian WG "Is there any difference between a woman who happens to be a Unitarian and a Unitarian woman? Is it unfair to men who don't have their own leaflet? Should we have closer links with the Women's League?" Their consensus was that we did need a new pamphlet.

The Western Union WG said "Yes the old pamphlet needs to go, although we like the photo on the cover. A new pamphlet is for feminist women who have a particular set of objectives (see our leaflet) and also Unitarians. Hopefully men will do their own thing! A new pamphlet should contain 1) a history of our beginnings and 2) Our views as feminist Unitarian women on various themes, e.g how we empower ourselves, our particular spirituality, the number of female ministers, particular social concerns- trafficking, legalised brothels, rape, female prisoners, working women, child care, our sisters in the third world, our particular green issues, etc. Any one picking up the pamphlet would know our attitudes and action." We would like closer links with the Women's League.

Do, do please respond to this, on line will do fine, to me via Danielle or jandh.parsons@tiscali.co.uk, or Helen Parsons, Field Cottage, Marle Hill, Chalford Stroud GL6 8QP Thank you.

Unlike previous years, meals will **NOT** be vegetarian. If vegetarian or other special dietary needs are required please indicate below.

Dietary requirements:

.....

Any other special needs

Ground Floor Room:

Preferred Room-mate:

Is this your first time at a UWG w/e? YES/NO

Further details of the conference programme will be sent out with confirmation of registration.

Please send completed form, with a non-refundable deposit of £25 payable to Unitarian Women's Group, to Stephanie Ramage, 122 Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6RE by 15th September at the latest. Those requiring a receipt, please enclose an s.a.e.



Unitarian Women's Group

AUTUMN WEEKEND CONFERENCE

**30th October to 1st November
2009**

How to be a Heroine

Invitation to Great Hucklow

You are warmly invited to participate in the annual autumn weekend conference of the Unitarian Women's Group, to be held at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, near Tideswell, in the wild and wonderful Derbyshire countryside. Non-members are welcome also.

The Theme

The title of the weekend is How to be a Heroine. This includes an examination of heroines and what they mean to us.

The Conference

The Conference will begin with supper on Friday and finish with lunch on Sunday. Attendance as a day visitor is also possible.

Accommodation

Accommodation is mainly in twin-bedded rooms with wash basin, though some have en-suite facilities, for which a supplement is payable. A further supplement is payable for single occupancy of a twin room. There are facilities for those with physical disabilities.

Grants

There are a limited number of discretionary grants available for women on low incomes.

Information

For further information contact: Stephanie Ramage on 01625 423417 or stephanie.ramage@btinternet.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Telephone:

Email:

Full-Time Attendance

(Cost per person incl meals- please tick preferred room type)

Shared room with wash basin	£95.00
Shared room with en-suite	£110.00
Single room with en-suite	£127.00
Single room with wash basin	£111.00
Conference fee	£10.00

Part-Time Attendance

(Cost per person in shared room with wash basin £47.50 per night including meals. For en-suite facilities add £8.00 per night, for single occupancy add a further £8.00 per night). Conference fee £5.00 per day

	Lunch	Dinner	Breakfast	Conference fee	Total
Friday	-	£9.00	£9.00	£5.00 day	£
Saturday	£9.00	£12.50	£9.00	£5.00 day	£
Sunday	£12.50	-	-	£5.00 day	£
Supplements	En-Suite Single room				£ £
Total					£



THE DOLL'S HOUSE

IMAGES OF WOMEN

THOSE THAT KILL US SOFTLY
AND THOSE THAT KILL US BRUTALLY
A critique of Advertising and Pornography

What Can We Do to Change This?

COME TO A WORKSHOP TO FIND OUT MORE

Saturday 25th
April
1pm to 5pm at
Rosslyn Hill
Unitarian Chapel
Hampstead.

Leaders: Anne Bodman
& Appleseed Robinson

