



# NORTH EAST DISTRICT

## "The Shofar"



Editor: Jan Stanko 920-524-2067 or 920-905-3199

jan@northeastdistrictumw.org (E-Mail)

[www.northeastdistrictumw.org](http://www.northeastdistrictumw.org)

Volume 4 - Number 1 - JANUARY 2019 **PART 1**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019.** Time to renew or subscribe to delivery of a paper copy of the "SHOFAR. We "thank you" for helping us stay within our budget. **Send \$8.00 check to NORTH EAST DISTRICT UMW and YOUR mailing address to: Jan Stanko, 620 Madison St. APT 3, Brillion, WI 54110**

**NOTE:** Unit Presidents will receive a paper copies of the JANUARY 2019 SHOFAR. APRIL, JULY & OCTOBER will be e-mailed to Presidents, Secretaries & Treasurers unless subscribed. Shofars will be posted on Conference website.

**NOTICE: January Shofar is in two parts because of the amount of content.**

### **PART 2:** (Split issue, file too large from Part 1)

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**"Catch the Vision" and all registration forms:**

[www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

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**REMINDER:** Issues of the North East District "SHOFAR" are available at:

[www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

(click on Communications)



## *President's Message*

First, “thank you” for electing me to be your President. I hope to be worthy of your confidence in me. Welcome to a new and special year for UMW.

This will be an exciting year with the celebration of 150 years of women in mission. It is hard to imagine the difficulty and hardships the founding women experienced. There will be many stories of their adventures in our Program Book, response magazine and a class at Mission U, (Hope to see you there).

Please remember March 23<sup>rd</sup> is giving day to support the foundation.

We are looking forward to our annual events. The first will be our 2019 Retreat at Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to spend time with new and old friends. Our past president, Sandra Klein is our new Social Action Coordinator and she will do a wonderful job with the retreat. Mark your calendars.

The second will be our 2019 Annual Day of Celebration and Leadership Workshops on September 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Luke's in Sheboygan. We received many favorable comments about the “on hands mission project” for the ladies that did not attend a workshop.

Because of the interest, we will be offering the assembling of “Layette Kits.” They will cost considerably more than the “Personal Hygiene Kits. We applied to the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, Inc. for a grant to help fund this project, which I am proud to say we received. We will be applying for 2 or 3 smaller grants. Our plan is to prepare 100 kits which will be distributed in Wisconsin.

We are looking for units that knit and crochet to help us making our baby sweaters, any pattern, your choice and can add bonnets and booties if you wish. Other units have volunteered to make flannel receiving blankets and cotton/knit gowns and sleepers. Please let me know if you can help with any part of our project.....give me a call.

Shortly after you receive the “Shofar”, our 2019 “Sisterhood of Grace” Yearbooks will be mailed to you this year, each unit will receive 3 yearbooks, to president, secretary and treasurer. Please contact me or any of our team members if we can assist you.

We want to “thank you” for bearing with us when our Treasurer, Val Caldwell had to resign. Our new Treasurer, Rogene Moore, will take over as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

One last item... the position as Vice-President is open, so, if you hear or feel the call to fill this position, please contact our Nominations Chair, Gwen Gibson. We hope to have all of our officer positions filled which we need to effectively make wise choices for the District.

I plan to be in contact with all of our units and my phone and email are readily awaiting to hear from you if you need support.

Blessings, peace and grace to our Sisterhood,

Jan Stanko, President

[jan@northeastdistrictumw.org](mailto:jan@northeastdistrictumw.org) 920-524-2067

## *Wisconsin Conference Presidents Message*

What a joy to share some personal thoughts with your District.

Two things I look forward to receiving in the mail are the Upper Room and RESPONSE.

The Upper Room connects me with my sisters in Mexico each day because I know that sometime in the morning or evening we all read the same message. Mother took time to “be still and be with God” while raising 7 children, she treasured her Aposento Alto. The second is RESPONSE. I look forward to connecting with our National Leaders as they write words of encouragement and information about the work we continue to do as United Methodist Women. December issue is full of information about coming changes. I learn about the work UMW Units across the United States and around the world do to continue our Mission with women, children and youth; and I promise myself “someday” I will write my story so that other 15 year-old girls will know how faithful, Methodist Women in 1956 changed my life through education abroad.

In 2019 we are celebrating 150 years in Mission, of changed lives, of powerful women leaders that saw a need and filled it. We can reach places and people in ways our foremothers could not imagine, we are connected immediately through new technology. Our Mission and Purpose remains the same; share your story. Are you shy? Share a book from our reading list; introduce a young woman to the stories in RESPONSE. What are you passionate about? Share your ideas with the women in your Unit and tell other women what UMW is so excited about this year. Expand your community, take a leap of faith.

*Acts 8:29-31: 29 Then the spirit said to Philip, “Go over to the chariot and join it.”  
30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.*

Martha O. Boyer

Conference President

## *Wisconsin District Superintendent's Message*

Dear United Methodist Women of Faith, of Ministry, of Mission,

Celebrations and congratulations for 150 years of service, of learning and of gathering to make a difference in the world in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ!

Across the generations, women of faith who preceded us met together and decided that the needs of women and children throughout the world had to be addressed. Those women began and maintained a faith-movement that has changed the quality of life and faith for women and children of the world. Through their advocacy and service they have changed the ways different cultures, communities and nations have treated women and children. We live in a world with greater freedom for all, with greater access to resources for health, education and well-being, and with awareness of the ways that our faith must include action to improve the lives of every person and each culture and nation, thanks to their spiritual work. Working together as United Methodist Women (and their predecessor groups), they have made this a better and more faithful world. Thanks be to God for this heritage!

Now it is our turn. We are called to follow the Way of Christ in ministry and mission with prayer, advocacy, generosity, learning, caring and serving in our communities and world. We are called to join together to build upon the heritage of our past and develop new ministries and mission as we continue to reach out to help create a world where every human being, every woman and child have access to education, medical care, and means of income; where violence and fear are no longer present; where justice and peace prevail; where people are free to worship and learn and explore their faith; where the love of God is lived with grace and hope. We are called to be a part of this great heritage and to act today with faith that builds toward the legacy for the next 150 years. Working together as United Methodist Women, we are making this an even better and more faithful world. Thanks be to God for this opportunity!

How are you personally and with your UMW unit called to participate in this movement? What issue, need or nation is touching your heart, calling you learn about it this year in order to discern how you can make a difference? What will you pray for? How will you generously invest your resources of time and money to support the UMW mission and ministry? How will you live each day this year as you follow the Way of Christ to advocate for and serve those who are oppressed, marginalized and hurt, those living in fear, living with hope and searching for deeper meaning and faith in their lives? We each have our part in this great ministry and mission of the United Methodist Women. Thank you for who you are and how you live and serve as part of this movement! Thanks be to God for 150 years of this heritage! Thanks be to God for how God will work through us toward the next 150 years!

Celebrations and congratulations on 150 years – and on 2019, the first year toward the next 150!

Joy and peace,

Sue D'Alessio  
North East District Superintendent

## *Vice-President's Message*

Unfortunately, this position is open. Charlotte Freda Mattmiller has resigned. We are searching for a replacement. If you hear the call .....Contact our Nominations Chair Gwen Gibson at 920-221-5314 or 920-903-8780 gwengbsn@yahoo.com.



## *Secretary*

OH NO! What did I get in the email today?, the dreaded notice that a Shofar article is due! I just finished writing out my Christmas cards, and I have two stamps left, but I missed the postman. What else will go wrong?

Actually, when I look at it again, I can appreciate that I am a member of a District Team which is a part of a larger organization that does so much for me and for so many other women throughout the world. I don't know what I would do without United Methodist Women and all the love and fellowship she offers.

My Prayer for the New Year is that we will remain *united*. I read about the special General Conference meeting to be held next year and I pray that we remain one church with love and charity to all. If the church decides to split, what will happen to United Methodist Women? Will we split too?

It is a troubling time, both in the church and in the country. There is so much conflict that sometimes it is hard to find the good news. But knowing that I am a part of a community of strong and caring women gives me strength.

And to look on the bright side today, I had enough stamps!

Ellen Eastman  
North East District Secretary  
715-526-5030  
[eastman54166@charter.net](mailto:eastman54166@charter.net)



*Treasurer:*

New Years greetings to all members of the Northeast District of United Methodist Women.

My name is Rogene Moore and I am a member of Lakeshore United Methodist Church in Manitowoc. As of January 1, 2019 I will be taking over the responsibilities of District Treasurer. I will try to make this a smooth transition. All remittances should now be sent to me at:

Rogene Moore  
1232 Arlington Ave.  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

As I am very new to the Leadership Team at the District level, our acting treasurer – Jan Stanko has been working closely with me and teaching the ins and outs of this position. Thank you Jan for your hard work and patience with me. If you have any questions I will do my best to answer quickly or if I don't have the answer, I will find an answer for you. You can contact me by phone at 920-682-0235 or by email at [rogenemoore@ymail.com](mailto:rogenemoore@ymail.com)

You will be receiving by snail mail updated copies of the remittance forms and others that you will need after the Christmas holiday. I hope this puts everyone on the same forms in the future.

I look forward to making new friends as we work together to fulfill the purpose of the United Methodist Women.

God Bless

Rogene Moore



*Communications: Editor*

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PROVIDE YOUR MEMBERS WITH COPIES OF “SHOFAR”???

We need to increase communications within the North East District. I'm sure we can count on your assistance.

**A QUICK REMINDER:** We enjoy publicizing your events and mission endeavors.

The deadline for all the Shofars are on the inside cover of “Sisterhood of Grace” 2019 Yearbook which will be mailed to unit presidents, secretaries and treasurers.

*Jan Stanko, Editor* 920-524-2067 \_\_\_\_\_  
[jan@northeastdistrictumw.org](mailto:jan@northeastdistrictumw.org)



## *Program Resources*

Greetings, I can't believe 2019 is around the corner. So, gather your reading program books and get reading. The reading program books help us learn about issues of today and guide us on how to be in mission. They also help us grow our spiritual life.

On the cold and snowy days that are coming, grab a cup of coffee and enjoy a great book.

National has created an interactive program catalog this year which will not be published in paper format. You can download the catalog and print it if you want a paper copy. HOWEVER, check your copy of *response* pages 24-31 it contains the 2019 UMW Reading Program. I know this is frustrating for many of us. As always, I am here to help, so call me, text me, email me.

### **Books on Parade:**

#### **THE SAME SKY: A NOVEL by Amanda Eyre Ward**

This novel is a great read and is a good way to learn about what many families are currently encountering.

Alice owns a barbecue restaurant with her husband, Jake, in Austin, Texas. They have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing. Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother, Junior, in Honduras. When their grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes fate into her hands and she and Junior join the thousands of children making the perilous trek across Mexico to America. In this elegant and touching novel, the lives of Alice and Carla intersect in a profound and surprising way as they each search for a place to belong.

Let me know what you think about it.

Sherrie Bekyir, 920-562-9438, sbekyir@yahoo.com



## *Spiritual Growth*

As you are bringing this year to a close and preparing for 2019, remember, *Ephesians 2: 10* "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

There seems to be more work than we can handle. Try not to be overwhelmed but remember, one person can teach others to do much more. We work as a team, seeking out injustice and those who are needy. We don't have to look any further than our own community. Try starting each day in your sacred place, seeking direction from our Lord for the day. May the peace of this time help you deal with the events of the day. Just as stretching our muscles to prepare for exercise we need to bring peace to our mind and seek peace in our plans. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Joyous New Year.

Looking forward into 2019 we want to remind you, North East District 2019 Retreat will be May 3 - 4 at Lake Lucerne with our guest speaker, Tina Itson, Director of Development at United Methodist Children's Services. This is a wonderful weekend for those that like an overnight "pj party" plus we offer you "drive-in day" with Lucerne's breakfast and lunch. Go to page 11 of this Shofar for registration form which is due to me by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sandra Klein  
Spiritual Growth for NED  
6303 Riverview Dr, Two Rivers, WI 54241  
920-553-3460 [dsklein6303@gmail.com](mailto:dsklein6303@gmail.com)

## *Education & Interpretation*

We have just come off of two major holiday events. At Christmas we are reminded over and over that God loved us and gave us His Son. So, we are to love.

Many of the activities that United Methodist Women are involved in are based on action of love. Certainly, our mission action/activities are love gifts of our time, efforts, talents and money. Thank you to the UMW units who have chosen and committed to their 2019-2020 mission projects. Your efforts are appreciated and commendable. New Year's events seem to often include the idea of resolutions and/or new beginnings. So, we are reminded to put actions behind our mission projects/activities to positive production. Regular commitment and actions keep moving us toward our goals.

It is, also, a good time to revisit our goals and priorities as district and local members. Rethink, re-do, re-vamp your goals to help you achieve what you have been thinking about doing. In the near future we'll look at district goals for 2019-2020. Now is a good time for reflection, review and to make plans for achievement. GET IT DONE FOR UMW IN 2019!

Ruth Wiersma  
Education & Interpretation NED  
920-468-5562 [jwiersma@new.rr.com](mailto:jwiersma@new.rr.com)



## *Social Action*

Happy New Year. I am Carole Biddick, your Social Action Coordinator. In my first letter, I would like to share this article written by the Editorial Board of USA, TODAY titled:

### **“High Maternal Death Rate Shames America”**

“Despite politicians claim that America has the best health care of any country, America is the most dangerous place in the developed world to give birth. Yes, you read that correctly. About 700 mothers in America die each year in childbirth, many of them needlessly.

USA writes, “about half of these deaths could be prevented through simple changes in care that doctors, hospital and medical experts have known for years. Yet too many hospitals and medical workers ship safety practices known to head off disaster.”

High blood pressure is one leading killer and causes of injuries. The other is heavy blood loss during delivery, which often goes untreated until too late. Hemorrhaging can be diagnosed by checking for obvious danger signs and carefully measuring blood loss, rather than visually estimating it. Then life-saving action can be started in time.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which takes an aggressive approach to improving health care for seniors, has failed to do the same for pregnant women, even though Medicaid pay for nearly half of the nation’s 4 million births a year.

Nor have the Joint Commission, a private group that accredits hospitals, and the influential American Hospital Association, with 5,000 members wielded their power to ensure that hospitals follow well known best practices.

When those practices are followed, deaths and injuries decline. California, where many hospitals have adopted safety practices established by experts, cut its maternal death rate in half.

Meanwhile practices rose across most of the country and stand at a rate of 58.1 per 100,000 births in Louisiana, the worst in the nation.

Several easy steps are available to lessen the toll of death and injury, including:

1. Stop Blaming the victim. For decades, some hospitals and doctors, looking for excuses that faulted women for being overweight or unhealth or blamed poverty or age as leading causes of complications, when one of the real culprits is failing to follow best practices.
2. Learn from experts, The American College of Obstetrician and Gynecologists and the AIM program have put out recommendations and safety bundles with simple steps and timetables to follow.
3. Go public. Internal data on delivery deaths and injuries, or even answers as to whether a hospital follows best practices are closely guarded secrets. Half of 75 hospitals in 13 states the USA TODAY contacted repeatedly refused to answer whether they were following the AIM program practices for hemorrhage and hypertension.
4. Vote for change. Congress, which has largely ignored this deadly problem should pass a bipartisan measure, introduced in the Senate and House to help states establish review boards to track and investigate maternal deaths.

As the dismal statistics attest, many women are suffering life-altering injuries during childbirth. Others are dying, and newborns are being left motherless. Doctors and hospitals know exactly how to reduce the awful toll. It should not be allowed to continue. “It is America’s Shame”.

## *Membership: Nurture & Outreach*

Greetings from your Northeast District MN & O Coordinator. My name is Betsy Johnson and I am a member of Bethany UMC/UMW in Green Bay.

Counting and reporting our local unit membership is one of the “top jobs” to do done in January. Unit presidents will have received a “membership reporting form” in the president packs they received from our Day of Celebration event in September along with an envelope addressed to our president, Jan Stanko. PLEASE fill out the form and mail it to Jan. (Jan is filling in for me as I will be a “snowbird”.) You will notice there is a place to mark that you have entered your membership numbers via the computer program from UMW National or you prefer the district enter the information for you. We are happy to assist you if you like.

Our goal for reporting 2018 numbers is 100% so PLEASE mail the form back regardless of the method you have chosen to report for your unit. This will give the District the information we need to report to WI Conference.

Here is the website for filing your membership numbers (January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>.)

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018)

Any questions, contact me:

Betsy Johnson

[betsyjohnson58@gmail.com](mailto:betsyjohnson58@gmail.com)

(H) 920-4996425 © 920-265-0216



## *Nominations*

Gwen Gibson

920-221-5314 or 920-903-8780

[gwengbsn@yahoo.com](mailto:gwengbsn@yahoo.com)



## *Historian*

As your historian I am reminded and want to pass it on to all of that on March 23, 2019 we will be celebrating 150 years of being in Mission around the World. How are you planning to mark this Milestone. There are some suggestions in the December Response magazine on page 45 in the bottom paragraph. I fee if nothing else we should at least announce the fact in Worship Service at our individual Churches on March 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> and promote giving to the Legacy Fund.

Thank you,

Verna Lambrecht,

Historian of NED UMW

**Registration Form for North East District UMW Retreat**

**Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm – Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 8am – 3pm**

**At Lake Lucerne Camp and Retreat Center**

**W6460 County Road YY, Neshkoro, WI 54960**

Registration begins Friday evening at 5:30. The fee for over-night is \$60.00 and an extra \$12 if you would like supper on Friday. The \$60.00 includes the over-night lodging, breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency and Contact info \_\_\_\_\_

Supper Friday Evening      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks Payable to North East District UMW**

**Mail Registration to Sandra Klein 6303 Riverview Dr. Two Rivers WI 54241**

**Registration must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Registration for just Saturday is \$30.00, includes breakfast and lunch.**

**Registration starts at 8:00 AM with breakfast.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to North East District UMW**

**Mail registration to Sandra Klein, 6303 Riverview Dr, Two Rivers WI 54241**

**Registration must be received by April 15<sup>th</sup>.**



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**Jan Stanko, Editor**

620 Madison St., APT 3, Brillion, WI 54110