



NORTH EAST DISTRICT

"The Shofar"



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REMINDER: Wisconsin Conference UMW Virtual Annual Gathering will be held October 17, 2020. It is necessary to register for the event in order to receive the needed information for ZOOM and or the needed phone number to just call in. There is no charge for this event. The registration form can be found at: PAGE 13 OF SHOFAR or www.wisconsinUMW.org on the home page.

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REMINDER: Issues of the North East District "SHOFAR" are available at: www.wisconsinumw.org
(click on Communications)

NEXT "SHOFAR" - January 2021
Articles due December 15, 2020



President's Message

What a year this has been and is not over yet, no one knows. So, Where do we go from here and when?

COVID 19 has taken away our lives as they were..... When there is some control of this menace then we can head back to some kind of normal, probably not as it was but a new normal.

Believe it or not.....I used this down time to join the Reading Program. I read 10 (hard to believe) books... This is pretty remarkable because I do not really like to read. However, while recovering from surgery and the on-going virus, I've had plenty of time.

This past Saturday, I spent almost 8 hours on an online revival called "The Return". It was very inspiring listening to pastors from all over the world held in Washington DC. It was organized by Rabbi Jonathon Cahn and many other pastors, Franklin Graham and his sister, Ann Graham Lotz, Ken Wilde, Bishop Harry Jackson, Dr. Ben Carson, Dr. James Dobson, Pastor John Blanchard and Pat Robinson and many more. The main focus was to bring the world back to their religions and everyone to return America to 'In God We Trust'.

From this event, 2 things which are still with me, II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

The second biblical scripture is the Psalm 91 "Assurance of God's Protection" I enjoyed these 2 verses, Psalm 91:14-15 *"Those who love me, I will deliver, I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them."*

The event ended with the sounding of all the Shofars, which there were many, with on stage focus of the "sounding of 7 trumpets."

We, as United Methodist Women, will find our way back to all the things we did and will do again to fulfill our Purpose.

May God bless all our sisters, stay safe and be blessed.

Jan Stanko, President

Conference President's Message

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

I don't know how many times I have had to stop in the middle of doing something and repeat that verse out loud. Sometimes I say it with tears running down my face, and as I close my eyes, I imagine God looking down at me with compassion. Other days, I hear it as a command, **BE Still...** from the same loving God and at other times as I walk out of my house and down the open road, in desperation for a glimpse of God's presence, I look up at the magnificent clouds, and I stop; my awareness of His presence takes my breath away and **I KNOW!**

I know that I am not alone in these unusual times. COVID-19 is a daily reminder in our lives to follow the discipline of physical care in order to protect ourselves and others. It is no wonder that my soul reaches out to God more often, I need the reassurance, now more than ever, that HE is my Caregiver. I miss my structured daily routine; my calendar does not have the "in person" meetings that I was accustomed to, I have lost the art of "verbal" communication and Zoom meetings totally test my knowledge of what seems to be the "new normal" way of holding meetings. (somehow tears on Zoom seem inappropriate) but even then, I hear,

Be still and know that I am God.

Our Vice President, Ruby Dow, has been working tirelessly navigating the intricacies of ZOOM in preparation for our VIRTUAL Annual Gathering October 17, 2020. Kari Olson, author and inspirational speaker, will lead our worship and ask us to "Feel the Light. Be the Light". Judith Siaba, our keynote speaker will encourage us with her message "Justice for our Neighbors: Immigration". I will miss the energy of seeing each other in person and share tears, laughter and joy together BUT we can still remain connected. Pick up the phone, send a card, learn how to Skype and Zoom and continue sharing the joy, tears and laughter until we can hug each other again.

Keep telling yourself - **Be still and know that I am God.**

Martha Boyer
Wisconsin Conference President

Secretaries Message.....

Haven't the past six months been unbelievable and surreal? I certainly never expected that anything like this Covid 19 could happen. Or that we still can't see the end. Life certainly changed! Who ever thought we would need to wear masks, and who ever heard of "social distancing"! And, whoever thought that *churches* would be closed!

We're making it through, and some changes were all right. I did learn to make masks, several kinds actually, and I got used to wearing one. And I did learn to borrow books through my iPad to Kindle, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that I really like reading that way. I missed going to the library, but now that they are open two days a week, I still prefer reading on my iPad.

I recently got a book "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism" by Robin Diangelo. It is a book that opened my mind to look at things I took for granted and just didn't realize. I ended up buying the book because the library loan is only for a week, and it will take longer to fully absorb this book. It's not hard reading, but hard to change all the things it took a lifetime to learn. If you're concerned about all the racial unrest the country has been experiencing lately, I suggest you consider looking this book up.

Now, down to business. Because of this lost year, we will not be doing a new District Yearbook for 2021 and will continue to use the 2020 Yearbook. If ALL the information in the 2020 Yearbook is accurate and complete, I will only need confirmation from the unit of that. If there are any changes, or missing information, I will need that information. (We will be sending the changes to all units later.) Many units failed to include telephone numbers and/or email addresses in their last report, making it difficult for the district team to contact unit officers. So, please review the information in the 2020 Yearbook, and let me know of any changes or additions. I am including a form to complete and send in, or you can email the changes/additions to me at eastman54166@charter.net . My address is 215 N. Lafayette St, Shawano WI 54166 and my phone number is 715-526-5030. *Please call, email or write me.* I miss your contacts. Stay strong, social distance, and wear a mask! We will get through this together.

**LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS FOR 2021
NORTH EAST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Please print or type all the information requested on this form and return the completed form by **November 1st** to North East District UMW Secretary

Ellen Eastman, 215 N. Lafayette St., Shawano WI 54166
eastman54166@charter.net Phone 715-526-5030

Church _____ Pastor
Address
Phone _____ Email

President
Address
Phone _____ Email

Vice President
Address
Phone _____ Email

Secretary
Address
Phone _____ Email

Treasurer
Address
Phone _____ Email

Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth
Address
Phone _____ Email

Social Action
Address
Phone _____ Email

Membership Nurture and Outreach
Address
Phone _____ Email

Education and Interpretation
Address
Phone _____ Email

Chair of Nominations
Address
Phone _____ Email

Communications
Address
Phone _____ Email

Treasurers Message.....

Greetings everyone!

As Treasurer of the North East District with only 1 year experience behind me, I realize that our giving for the year 2020 is not it's usual. Many of the local units are not meeting, not having any fund raisers and don't have extra money in their units to keep up with pledges to District. With that in mind, we need to look at the last quarter of 2020 and see what we can do to give at least something to our pledges for the year so the year isn't a total bust.

As of Sept 15, 2020 we are paid up to Conference at about 44% of our pledged amount of \$40,000. We have sent to Conference \$17,423.00 so far this year. I am hoping we can get this to at least 50% of our pledge to Conference. I know we can do it, let's give it a good try.

I have also noted that we are way down with our Special Mission Recognition Pins for 2020. This money is included in the amount that we have sent to Conference, but we have only 9 pins purchased this year so far and were at 24 pins purchased in 2019. I know we have not been seeing each other much, but many people are doing things behind the scenes helping neighbors, helping children with at home learning, and many more ways of giving of their time and talent that should be recognized. A conversation with your pastor may help you identify these outstanding people.

If you have any question about your units account, give me a call.

Respectfully submitted

Rogene Moore, Treasurer NED

Social Action Message.....

My dear Sisters in Christ, I just want to tell you about my cancer journey and how I feel that the power of prayer is sustaining me through this journey.

On June 29th, I had my annual Medicare Physical and I just mentioned to my Dr that I was experiencing increased shortness of breath. I figured it was because I was too heavy, but she had me get a chest x-ray. She called me less than 2 hours later to tell me that I had a 3 cm. mass in the lower lobe of my left lung. I always figured I would get breast cancer, as my mother died from it.

I had a CT scan and from there a biopsy under CT scan. It showed adenocarcinoma in situ. In situ means it is contained, so that was very good news. I saw a medical oncologist who felt this cancer would not need treatment beyond having the lobe removed. I then saw a surgeon who felt this could be serious and immediately set a date for the surgery. He did say he wanted me to have a PET scan which would show if the cancer was any place else. The day after the scan Dave and I went back to hear the results of the scan and were shocked to hear the there appeared to be uptakes in my left rib and right rib and upper left lung. It was even suggested to us that the cancer could be in my bone marrow. We had no sooner got home than the oncologist called to ask me if I ever fractured a rib or injured myself. I said no. He said these uptakes could be an old injury showing up and not spread of the cancer. The net week I had a biopsy of my ribs under CT scan. As we were waiting in recovery, the surgeon came in and said no cancer in your ribs and we can do your surgery the next day. I was so happy. They let me spend the night in the hospital. When the surgeon came to mark the left side before surgery, I asked him about the uptake in my left upper lung. He said, "Oh, don't worry about that it has been there since 2011. The surgeon called to tell me that he removed 16 lymph nodes and they all were negative for cancer and that the tumor margins were also clear,

I have been receiving cards, emails and calls from friends and family telling me they are praying for me. I felt loved by them and by the Good Lord. I made the appointment with the oncologist on my Birthday, feeling sure I would get good news. Well it didn't turn out that way. He said that 90% of the cancer that was removed would not need chemo, but that 10% of it was an aggressive kind and that after conferring with 2 other doctors he feels I should have chemo. Dr. says I will need about 3 months of chemo, two different drugs, three days in a row and then have almost 3 weeks off and then repeat for a total of 4 cycles. And hopefully that will be that.

I have to tell you that knowing so many people were and are praying for me I have felt safe and loved. It has made such a difference to me. We just have to believe in the power of prayer and know that God is listening. I tell him every night that I am aware that it is His will and not mine, and that I am good with whatever the outcome.

Yours in **Christ**,

Carole Biddick

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Membership, Nurture & Outreach Message.....

We are all experiencing uncertainties during this time. The COVID virus has changed our daily activities and continues to impact our lives. Our United Methodist church, is in the midst of change and uncertainty also. Even as we wait for the official body to decide what the church will be in the future,(General Conference, Aug.29-Sept.7,2021) changes are happening.

Aging and death of our members impact our UMW organization. Some members have served many years and are no longer able to serve. There are many who have been engaged members and have, as my mother would say "Gone on to Glory." This certainly holds true for the Northeast District.

Our hope is that we are all trying our best to engage women who may or may not have shown interest in being a part of UMW.

We are thankful for all the work that our sisters have done during their lifetimes. And for those of us who continue the work, I hear the song in my head and heart by Curtis Mayfield, "Keep On Pushing."

Gwen Gibson Membership Nurture and Outreach

Nomination Chairs Message

Dear United Methodist Women of the North East District, I pray all is well with each of you and staying safe from the Corona Virus. Hoping and praying this will pass soon!!

Our United Methodist Women program book for 2020 - 2021 has the theme "Knitted Together in God's Good Work". With the Pandemic, 2020 has been a difficult year to be knitted together, much less do Gods good work!! We are strong women who will persevere and get the job done!! Maybe the way we do it will have to be different than before, but we are creative and will find a way!!

God is here for us at all times!! It is my understanding that all 2020 positions on the board will stay the same for 2021. That will be a plus to accomplish our mission for 2021.

The openings on the board are Vice President, and one on the Nominations Committee. So please, as the Pandemic winds down, please prayerfully think about joining our North East District UMW Team.

Thank you, Amy Genske Email aegenske48@gmail.com

Nominations contact persons: Chairperson: Amy Genske 920-418-1329

Hazel Christopher 920-731-7260

Betsy Johnson 920-499-6425

I feel that it is an honor to serve on the district team in Wisconsin. When I lived in Mississippi, I served on the local, district, conference, and jurisdiction levels. Due to the corona virus, I haven't been able to physically visit with my sister units but have emailed them several times. Hopefully, in time, I'll be able to meet with them. Please consider accepting an office on our district when a member of the nominating committee contacts you.

Hazel Christopher

Attitude is the Key!!! As we all have had to make adjustments after adjustments during these last 6 months of living with the COVID 19 virus, people have grown weary. We wonder when will our lives be "normal" again. It is easy to sigh, worry, and complain. Feel miserable.

I challenge you to change your attitude if you are feeling weary. Our attitude goes a long way in determining who we are and how we approach life. We can choose to be thankful, grateful, compassionate every day. Those attitudes will help us meet all the challenges that we face!! Be well. Be safe. Be loving.

Betsy Johnson

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Program Resources Message

Congratulations to all who completed this year's reading program. The following units have earned \$20 because 10% of their membership participated: Appleton Emmanuel, Brillion Faith, Fond du Lac Covenant, Green Bay First, Green Bay St Paul's, Oshkosh Algoma Boulevard, Sheboygan St Luke, Suamico, Sturgeon Bay.

The 2020-2021 reading list has been released, you can find it online at [unitedmethodistwomen.org/members and leaders/2021 reading program](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/members_and_leaders/2021_reading_program). If anyone needs help accessing this please contact me.

Sherrie Bekyir, 920-562-9438, bekyirs@gmail.com

Happy Reading

BOOKS ON PARADE

Bird Boys: A Delpha Wade and Tom Phelan Mystery by Lisa Sandlin

(Nurturing for Community)

The After a serial killer almost murdered Delpha Wade, the county hospital releases her into the handcuffs of the city police for questioning. She killed the man who was trying to kill her, and she is, after all, an ex-con. But it is still 1970's Beaumont, and mindsets don't change along the Texas Gulf Coast. Soon she and her boss, private detective Tom Phelan, are once again on a case. It seems easy--one bird brother looking for the long-lost other but it turns out that one brother is a murderer...

Can't wait to read *this* one!

Sherrie

Spiritual Growths Message....

During this time of social distancing we are losing contact with our members. Some of our members are isolated in their homes and assisted living homes. We started sending out monthly letters of hope with scriptures, short stories and a word game. In this way we are trying to stay in contact. Hopefully we soon have a vaccine and get our lives back to normal. The following is an example of what we are doing at our local unit.

I'm Sending You a Hug Today

Sometimes its nice to get an unexpected hug for no other reason than just because you are you and someone wants to show you how much you mean to them. So while you're reading these words, don't think of them as just words, think of each one as a hug for your heart from mine!

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble.

Nehemiah 8:10

Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Sandra Klein

Education & Interpretation's Message.....

A year ago at the time of our Annual Celebration at Sheboygan we could never have imagined that in 2020 we would have no annual district gathering, no UMW meetings, and no plans being made other than to roll most over to 2021 and hope that we'll be able to be back to things by then. The coronavirus pandemic has been both lasting and all-encompassing affecting our citizens and people worldwide.

Our hardships have varied as have positives that have come out of this. Most of us have done much more cooking, household duties, cleaning, sorting, etc. We have come to value family and friends time even though it may not have been face to face. I didn't even know what ZOOM was until I have been using it this summer for time spent on Tuesday night at 6:30 with my three sisters, with church family members for Discipleship classes, and weekly classes with our pastor and others. Conference calls have worked for UMW District Board meetings and other meetings. Not only have our family, friends, church family situations, UMW groups, and other groups changed but all our contacts and activities around the world have been affected.

As it finally changes for the better, let's go on to a "new normal". Let's re-emerge better, plus resolve to take time for meaningful moments and the people in our lives. Let us better love and appreciate our neighbors and the women and children in our world as our UMW organizers put forth in ideas and actions 150 years ago. Let us continue to look out for one another as Jesus did. Let us continue to do His work as His disciples as we carry on in our "new normal" lives.

Ruth Wiersma

Wisconsin Conference UMW Virtual Annual Gathering- Oct. 17, 2020

Theme: Walking in the Light: United for Justice

(go to: www.wisconsinumw.org for complete schedule of Gathering)

Registration Form: We encourage groups to watch this event in appropriately socially distanced, small gatherings for those who do not have access to the internet. Only the host needs to register for the event. Voting information will be sent to the host. Individuals watching alone should register themselves.

To register by email: email Kay Waugh at: dalekay@att.net registration deadline- **Wed., Oct. 7, 2020**

Mail-in registration: **Registration due Sat., Oct 3, 2020**

Name: _____ Unit: _____ email _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ calling in by phone Yes _____ No _____

Mail form to registrar: Kay Waugh, 3396 Libby Ln, Suamico, WI 54313

920-434-7101 (home) 920-366-6354 (cell)

Confirmation letter will be sent with virtual gathering link and phone in information

NORTH EAST DISTRICT SHOFAR
C/O: JAN STANKO
620 Madison St. APT 3
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