

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE ANNUAL RETREAT
WELCOMING SPIRIT: CELEBRATING OUR HERSTORY
UU WOMEN & RELIGION, PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT
ENCHANTED HILLS, NAPA, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 2-4, 2012

Two special events will highlight our theme, *Welcoming Spirit: Celebrating Our Herstory*. The retreat planning committee is delighted to offer these events for your education and pleasure.

Women Standing Tall Quilt, by Genny Guracar

Award-winning quilter extraordinaire Genny Guracar says,

This quilt was inspired by Meg Bowman. Her books on women in history and her original plays got me to thinking about our foremothers who organized, struggled and sacrificed. I wanted to see their faces on a quilt. I went to *Wikipedia* online and found histories and photos of each woman. I transferred their pictures to cloth, embroidered each name, and quilted them all the pieces together.

Genny will show her quilt during the retreat. She will be happy to discuss her creativity, quilt-making, and cartooning. Genny Guracar is also known as the cartoonist Bulbul. Genny's website is bulbul.com

Winter Wheat:

The Betrayal of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Her Woman's Bible
Based on Stanton's words, records, and her *Woman's Bible*

Written and Performed by Laurie James

Winner, The UUWF Margaret Fuller Award

**Touring Theatres, Conference Sites, Chautauquas, Libraries and
other Venues**

On Saturday evening, we will see Laurie James perform *Winter Wheat*, in a welcome return engagement in the greater Bay Area.

Actor and author Laurie James plays Stanton during the brilliancy of her 80s when she wrote she was considered "one of the great heretics, beginning with the radical reformer Jesus." During these years, 1887-1902, Stanton and Anthony argued heatedly, and public antagonism reached its zenith. Stanton persisted in organizing a committee of women scholars to examine the bible and to write commentaries on the portions that viewed women negatively and excluded them. When her *Woman's Bible* was published in 1895, organizations, libraries, schools, ministers, and Christians denounced and threw it out as heresy. The controversy led to a break-up with Stanton's 40-year friendship with

Susan B. Anthony and the women's rights movement, culminating in Stanton's marginalization in history.

Another story forgotten—perhaps more timely now than a century ago!

Note: Speak to Laurie at the retreat if you would like to manage the sound cues on a CD during the play or read a letter aloud at the end of the play.

Laurie James, actor and author, and Unitarian Universalist, lives in New York City and tours widely performing her own solo dramas. She comes to the retreat from a triumphant performance of her drama *Men, Women, and Margaret Fuller*, February 25 at the Redwood City UU Fellowship. Laurie will present a workshop on the life of Margaret Fuller at the retreat Saturday morning. Laurie's website is lauriejames.net

Prelude to *Winter Wheat*

The Woman's Bible places Stanton as the first woman to launch a woman's perspective of the book and it credits the committee of authors as foremothers of feminist theology. Nevertheless, Stanton's work on The Woman's Bible is rarely acknowledged. As Stanton recorded in her autobiography, "I especially desired to have the opinions of women from all sects, but those belonging to the orthodox churches declined to join the committee or express their views. Perhaps they feared their faith might be disturbed by the strong light of investigation."

Stanton ended up writing and editing over two-thirds of the commentaries herself. Those who participated were religious liberals outside the mainstream. While critics denounced it, *The Woman's Bible* went through seven printings in six months and was translated into several foreign languages. READ MORE on Laurie's website, www.lauriejames.net

Who Was Elizabeth Cady Stanton? Radical Activist - 1815-1902

- First woman to launch a woman's perspective of the Bible / foremother of feminist theology
- First major strategist, organizer, lecturer in 72 year drive for women's rights, publicly advocating the vote for women in her Declaration of Sentiments at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848
- First president and co-founder of National Woman's Suffrage Association and National American Woman's Suffrage Association. Helped initiate International Council of Women
- First woman permitted to speak in front of the New York State Legislature
- Primary force behind the passage of the Woman's Property Bill
- Among the first co-authors of the six volume *History of Women's Suffrage*
- Among the first married women to keep her maiden name
- Among the first to insist that the word "obey" be stricken from the marriage ceremony