



# SWUUWorld

*Women Helping Women  
Lighting the Way to Possibilities*

**Newsletter of Southwest UU Women**

6720 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76112 swuuw@hotmail.com <http://www.swuuw.com>

Volume 2005 Spring Issue

## **MARGOT ADLER: WALKING BETWEEN WORLDS WITH POWER AND SPIRIT**

Three weeks after our 2005 Conference, I look at the fragments of Margot's keynote speech I scribbled down in my notebook, hoping to encapsulate some of what she said.

Margot spoke to us of the unreality of media, and how we have grown up in a world where media makes a performance out of everything. What has happened to the real, to the "unmediated" experience? The night before, she led us in a series of chants, songs and experiences some would call pagan. Margot connected paganism with unmediated experiences, and pagan ritual as a way to feel connected to the universe. What a good laugh she got from us when she called the last 2,000 years "the Christian interlude". Pagan means "people", she told us. Religion is what people DO. And you don't necessarily have to believe in God to be religious.

Religion as she spoke of it is not creedal but tribal, metaphoric but not literal. If the tribes of the world respected the multiple realities and practices of each other's religion, there would be no more religious wars. Yes, world religions are different from each other, but the differences are good! And yet, aren't the spiritual aims of various religions much the same? Multiple realities, multiple religions: that should be a *good* thing!

Next Margot spoke of the women's movement, and of the "CR" (consciousness-raising) groups many of us formed in the 1970s. She remembered the then-new quality of attention we gave each other in such circles, a kind of rare, uninterrupted attention and respect women came to value. Talking to each other, we began to see ourselves more clearly. All kinds of things came bubbling up! The personal was political. Ultimately, many of us saw that we could create our own realities.

She also reminded us that the split between body and mind is bogus. You don't have to die to get the "good stuff." The material

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Weavers, weavers,  
we are weaving  
the web of life

Weavers, weavers,  
we are weaving  
the web of life

Spiritweavers,  
boneweavers,  
breathweavers,  
stoneweavers,

We are weaving  
the web of life



There's a river of  
birds  
in migration,  
a nation of women  
with wings.

**SWUUW Officers 2004-2005**

President Elizabeth Muller

First Church of Oklahoma City  
6624 Whispering Oaks Road  
Edmond, OK 73034  
405-341-4066  
elizmuller@aol.com

President-Elect

Denise Atkerson  
Emerson Church in Houston  
4402 Wavetree Dr.  
Missouri City, Tx 77459  
(832) 541-6670  
denisan@houston.rr.com

Secretary Keddy Outlaw

First Church Houston  
3003 Linkwood  
Houston, TX 77025  
keddyo@yahoo.com

Treasurer Patti Clark

First Church Houston  
710 D BERING DR  
HOUSTON, TX 77057  
(713) 334-8085  
tibbir@houston.rr.com

Past President Laura Nagel

First Church Houston  
5202 Crawford #19  
Houston, TX 77004  
713-524-5608  
lauranagel@sbcglobal.net

Director Rev. Barbara Coeyman

7017 Twin Crest Dr.  
Austin, TX 78752  
512-453-2026  
bcoeyman@uuma.org

Director Kathleen Gilbert

2137 NW 13th St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107  
405-524-9597  
kathleengilbe62@hotmail.com

Director Gino Kennedy

Westside Church in Fort Worth  
1359 W. Melissa Dr.  
Stephenville, TX 76402  
254-968-7670  
kennedy@tarleton.edu

Director Lorraine Levine

First Jefferson UU Church  
3508 Halifax Dr.  
Arlington, TX 76013  
817-277-9395  
Levine@uta.edu

## LAURA NAGEL INTERIM SWUUW ADMINISTRATOR

In consultation with Elizabeth Muller and the SWUUW board, I have agreed, to serve as the SWUUW Administrator on an interim basis. As we prepare for participation at General Assembly, we need someone in the Administrator's position immediately. I am honored that I have the support of the board in this. Gino Kennedy has written a very nice tribute to me which appears later here and for which I thank her. I thank all of you for your support, and will work hard to do the very best job that I can for SWUUW, which is an important organization in my life, and I hope in yours.

**Are There Sufficient Funds?** The short answer is yes. The SWUUW conference did well this year. We returned the \$2,000 in seed money to SWUUW and netted \$1600 from the conference over and above that, and \$1900 in membership dues. So, we have \$3500 of the \$3950 needed to pay the administrator. (This is over and above our other expenses of course.) We hope to raise the additional \$450 at GA through fundraising for the quilt.

**SWUUW Development.** I have outlined below what I think are the major duties of the position in the near term. One of the most crucial functions of the administrator is to plan for SWUUW's future development. As you know the board is planning to meet on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, in advance of the Spring Conference for a day long planning session at Oak Cliff. This coming year, through improved coordination between conference planners, we hope to increase the income from the conference for SWUUW operations.

**GA, Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> through Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, Fort Worth.** I hope SWUUW members are planning on attending GA this summer in Fort Worth. You can register on line at <http://www.uua.org/ga/reg.html>. Because rooms are limited, I urge you to get your hotel accommodations first. In addition to our two workshops: Wonderful Women in our Southwest UU Heritage by Rev. Barbara Coeyman and Dances of Universal Peace by

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SW

5051 Tierney Court South  
Fort Worth, TX 76116  
817-496-1587  
ransalih@charter.net

**SWUUW Supporters**

5202 Crawford #19  
Houston, TX 77004  
713-524-5608  
lauranagel@sbcglobal.net

SWUUWorld Distributor Connie Nolen  
6720 Brentwood Stair Rd.  
Fort Worth, TX 76112  
817-446-0099  
swduua@aol.com

Membership Coordinator Gino Kennedy  
1359 W. Melissa Dr.  
Stephenville, TX 76402  
254-968-7670  
kennedy@tarleton.edu

## A TALE OF MANY PEOPLE

About March of 2004 I said in a moment of madness, "I'll do Lunches at SWUUSI." I knew I had great back-up in my congregation of wonderful women so I wasn't too crazy. I talked to Dolores Ruhs, a retired caterer in our congregation. She immediately began planning menus. She tried several out at our pot lucks and depending on the feed-back (sorry about that) kept that recipe or went on to a new one.

Once the casserole recipes were selected, Dolores said, "We will have Cut and Dice parties at Church to get all of these prepared!" Come July, we began advertising the "parties." We had three of them from 10 AM to noon the week before SWUUSI. Dolores prepared carefully for them. She shopped at Costco or Sam's for all the needed ingredients. She marked all the various ingredients in bunches as to what was needed for each casserole. Joy McClellan organized the from 6 to 8 women, and one man, who showed up to peel, dice, or shred into containers so that when it came time to put the casseroles together, you only had to pick up the marked bowls of ingredients and mix away! Each day's finished product was whisked away to the freezer of one of our members. Come Thursday, there were 5 or 6 casseroles (each to serve 25 people) all prepared times 4 days of food service. Dolores meanwhile prepared all of the desserts – 5 or 6 for each of 4 days. Let me tell you that was a HUGE collection of 12" X 9" X 3" pans.

On the Sunday SWUUSI opened, Lela and Tom Woods drove all the casseroles and many of the desserts to SWUUSI for us. They kept their van at about 40 degrees so no defrosting occurred. Various other people took the desserts not needing to be kept cool, boxes of paper goods, many coolers of veggies for the salad bar, etc. I followed Lela and Tom and we got all the food unpacked and into the iceboxes and freezers in the Multipurpose Building and my cabin.

Dolores had packed all the sour cream and sliced green onions for the Mexican Manicotti into one cooler and did the same for all the other meals. Everything was labeled as the temperature it was to be cooked at and when it was to be served.

Elizabeth Muller was wonderful in how to set everything up. Mary Francis came each morning and worked with Elizabeth and me to get the last minute jobs done - such as shredding the lettuces for the salad bowls and salad bar. Elizabeth took the food to the ministers each day. Sylvia Wheeler helped serve and then came after her PM workshop to clean up to see that all was ready for the next day.

Lots of women showed up to help serve and Diane Hawkey from Jonesboro, took the money for us every day. Jean Moulder, Westside, oversaw the replacement of casseroles on the tables each day. We were too busy serving from 80 to 130 people to register who else helped each day. But if you were one of the dozen or so who helped, know that you are heartily Thanked.

We had so many compliments on the food. Dolores did a great job of menu planning.

Dolores is eager to do the same planning and food prep next year. We have had a number of women and men ask about the "Cut and Dice" parties for next year and vowed to come help. Elizabeth, Mary Francis, Sylvia and I are pledged to help again next year. Elizabeth took all the paper goods etc. home with her to store. She will inventory them so we know what we need more of.

Lots of fellowship evolved during our efforts at Westside and at SWUUSI. One darling 8 year old girl who was refilling her plate looked up at me as I was checking to see if anything needed to be replenished and said, "This is really good food!"

But this is not the end of the tale, Elizabeth Muller arranged for great speakers for the Plus part. And being the consummate producer of extravaganzas that she is, she had the speakers talk while people were still eating. This resulted in many learning about and asking questions about U-Bar-U as told by Kathy Calhoun, Dallas 1<sup>st</sup> Church, How to program for and Fund Social Justice programs by Rev. Mark Christian, OKC 1<sup>st</sup> Church, and Dances for Peace by Elizabeth Muller and Katy Hull, OKC 1<sup>st</sup> Church.

And we cleared \$870 for SWUUSI Social Justice projects!

*Gino Kennedy, Past President*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Elizabeth Muller, SWUUV will be an exhibitor. Our booth must be staffed from Noon- 6PM everyday but Monday when hours are 9AM-1PM. If there are any SWUUV members who can help with this, please let me know at Administrator@swuuv.com.

#### Job Duties of SWUUV Administrator

1. Assist SWUUV to develop long-range plan and to achieve program goals and objectives; 2) Handle arrangements and development of materials for GA; 3) Grantsmanship and fundraising to achieve SWUUV financial development goals; 4) Assist with SWUUV lunches; and 5) Ongoing: Oversee membership campaign, Newsletter oversight. Web development and list serve maintenance, and help with 2006 SWUUV Conference planning and management.

*(Continued from page 1)*

world is where the sacred resides. She spoke of fire, earth, air and water as ways we might return to the material world.

As a girl, when Margot discovered the tales of Athena, Artemis and other goddesses, she wanted to be a goddess, too. She also valued reading the nature writers. She wanted the experience of ecstasy, without dogma. Thus, she found paganism, or it found her..... It may not be the road for everybody, but it worked for Margot. We could see the decades of pagan experience she brought to our Rituals events. And we were honored to be led by such a knowledgeable, soulful Pagan.

Walking between worlds: yes! We can have shamanistic moments, enter into multiple realities, and yet be solid at the core. We can dance around the bonfire, wake up and go back to work the next day. And if we are lucky, we may learn how to bring the truths of one world into another. Perhaps an altar in the work place. Perhaps finding one or two co-workers we can speak to using our most authentic words. With wisdom, with broadmindedness, we can move between worlds.

Those of us in the audience felt Margot's power and spirit!

*Keddy Ann Outlaw*

## SWUUV & THE MICROCREDIT

Betty Morrow and Mimi Collins embody the answer to the often-asked question "What can one person do?" Both travel to speak, encouraging other congregations to get involved in the microcredit movement. One year they gave a UUA General Assembly program on village banking and sold products from their village banking friends. As a result, a total of twenty-five communities now have village banks sponsored by other UU groups: Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church in Des Moines, Washington; First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City; Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston; the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills in Pittsburgh; and the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference.

Each successful small business, each village bank that is created, pushes the movement a step closer to the International Year of Microcredit goal: to permanently support the inherent worth and dignity of people in their efforts to create prosperity for their families and communities. When enough village banks have been established in a country, the creation of full-service banks with savings and checking accounts and larger loans becomes commercially viable. In Uganda, after twelve years and 40,000 village banking clients, FINCA was able to establish a nationwide community-focused banking industry. That is what it will take, country by country, to give people the tools to move themselves out of poverty.

*Excerpt from UUWorld March-April 2005*

Let it begin with each step we take,  
Let it begin with each change we  
make,  
Let it begin with each chain we break,  
And let it begin every time we awake.

# SWU UW ANNUAL MEETING

## Minutes

Warwick Hotel, Houston  
5 February 2005

**Minutes of the 2004 Meeting** were presented by Keddy Outlaw.

### President's Report:

- Laura Nagel introduced members of the board.
- Laura discussed our need to plan for the expenditure of our Social Justice funds, possibly via direct services to our members.
- Years ago, we gave \$5,000 to a community bank in Haiti, but due to unstable conditions there, we have been unable to get updated information on how that bank is doing.
- We also need to reach out to other districts and inspire more groups.
- The Board will sit down for a long range planning meeting at Oak Cliff on Friday, April 7, 2005, from 9 AM – 3 PM.
- SWU UW was approved as an independent affiliate last year, and therefore we will present 2 workshops at this year's GA.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Amy Youngblood reported that we stayed in the black all year.
- We expect more membership funding.
- Photocopies of the balanced budget were distributed.
- The Budget was accepted (Sylvia Wheeler moved motion, seconded by Janet Martinique)
- Cindy Douglas, the CPA who does our taxes was introduced.

### Proposal to hire a SWU UW Administrator:

- Elizabeth Muller discussed the duties of the administrator who would work 6 hours per week.
- The administrator's involvement could change/improve the way SWU UW does conference planning.
- The Proposal passed unanimously (Mary Francis moved motion, seconded by Amy Youngblood)

### Election of Officers:

- Janet Martinique, chairperson of the nominating committee, made an appeal for members to get involved.
- Janet Martinique were acknowledged as leaving the Board.
- Laura Nagel was acknowledged as past President.
- Slate of Officers was introduced:
  - Elizabeth Muller, President,
  - Denise Atkerson, President Elect
  - Keddy Ann Outlaw, Secretary
  - Patti Clark, Treasurer (2-year term)
  - Rev. Barbara Coeyman, Director
  - Kathleen Gilbert, Director
  - Gino Kennedy, Director
  - Lorraine Levine, Director
  - Amy Youngblood and Brenda Baldwin were incorrectly mentioned as leaving the board. As conference conveners they will remain as part of the board this year.
- Vote to accept Board was unanimous (Karen Levine moved motion, seconded by Ann Tofft)

**A Collection of donations followed the Election.**

**Meeting adjourned**

Minutes by Keddy Ann Outlaw

## RECOGNITION OF LAURA NAGEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SWU UW

I want to pay homage to our immediate past president Laura Nagel. Having served on our SWU UW Board with her for the past 3 years, I feel that my observations will have value to you.

I recently received the following parable by Steve Goodier from the Life Support System [<http://LifeSupportSystem.com> or 877-344-0989] which I have adapted to fit Laura and SWU UW. It exemplifies the kind of vision that Laura has shown during her time as an officer.

I heard of a woman who fished all morning and never caught anything. But a man in the next boat was reeling in a fish every time she glanced over. Then, to make matters worse, he kept the small ones and threw the large ones back into the water!

She couldn't stand it any longer. She called over to him, "How come you're throwing the big ones back?"

He answered by holding up a little frying pan.

**In our minds, don't we all hold up frying pans?** Every time we throw away a big idea, a magnificent dream or an exciting possibility, are we measuring it against a small frying pan? What we can do or become is limited more by the size of the frying pan in our minds than by actual circumstances.

Author Brian Tracy reminds us that "you are not what you think you are, but what you think, you are." Think big. Dream big.... and look for big results. It all begins with changing the size of our thinking.

Laura threw away the frying pan we've have been using to measure the size of our dreams for SWU UW, and replaced it with a much larger one. It is Laura who asked "Why can't we become a non-profit organization?" She found that the husband of our now president-elect Denise Atkerson knew all about the many steps it takes in order to be ready to file for non-profit status. And she had the carry-through to see to it that we did it! Now we aren't charged sales tax and the monies we contribute to SWU UW are tax deductible.

It is Laura who dreamed of and brought into reality our status as an independent affiliate of UUA. She found out who to talk to in Boston. She got the long, complex forms that needed in order to apply. She collected all the necessary information in order to complete the process. She got the necessary letters of support from our District president, District Ex and District minister. She went to GA in Long Beach and herded our petition through the UUA Board. And now we have two slots on the GA program in Fort Worth! And recognition that **our SWU UW is the only district-wide women's group in the US.**

And now she has the goal of our hiring an office administrator in order that women who work can take on the job of president-elect then president. Our last 5 presidents have been non-employed women who have had the time to devote to the nuts and bolts of leading our fine organization. Many employed women don't have this kind of time and so possible officers have to say no to taking a board position. – and you know, I'm sure that we will find just the right person for the job of office administrator and that the money to fund the position will be found.

In addition to these activities, she maintains our web site, maintains our list of e-mail addresses and sends out the e-mail edition of the newsletter. All of this while being co-convenor of our wonderful 2005 Women's Conference in Houston.

So if you asked me how large Laura's frying pan for SWU UW is, all I can say is, **I bet it would cook Paul Bunyan's pancakes!**

*Gino Kennedy, Past President*

## SWU UW PURPOSES

### From the Bylaws modified February 2003

- To deepen the religious life of the women of the Southwest District;
- To bring the women of the Southwest District of the UUA into closer acquaintance, cooperation, and fellowship through the SWU UW annual conference, the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) and other district events;
- To promote the formation of new women's groups in the Southwest District of the UUA (the "District") churches and fellowships;
- To develop women leaders to be a strong and effective voice within the Southwest District of the UUA.
- To sponsor a district-wide Women's Conference to be held annually within the Southwest District;
- To educate SWU UW members on social issues; and
- To work across the globe to promote greater social justice through long term systemic change at the local, national and international level.

### Teaching My Daughter to Sing

*"Goddess of words, goddess of voice,  
Genetic backbone of our ancient grandmothers,  
Let her find clarity of mind.  
Let her feel the power of sound.  
Let her learn the strength of voice,  
her woman's voice."*

We shall dance in circles  
Of strong women  
Where she can learn the steps  
Of their sacred dance,  
Borrow their energy,  
And grow wise from their voices.  
We shall dance in circles  
Of strong women each singing  
Their own song.  
We shall dance in circles  
Where she is safe  
To sometimes be out of step,  
To sometimes be off key.  
We shall dance in circles  
Of strong women  
Where she can hear clearly songs  
That dance within her mind alone,  
Where she can boldly move in dances  
Of her own making,  
And sing with confidence songs  
Unique to her voice alone.

*Betty Becquart Sanders*

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
*Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women*

**PLEASE PRINT and mail to Patti Clark, 710 D Bering Dr., Houston, TX 770057**

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 Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Women's Group \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name/City of Church or Fellowship \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to :  
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|                                       |    |       |
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| Dues                                  | \$ | 10.00 |
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| Total                                 | \$ | _____ |

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 Southwest UU Women  
 6720 Brentwood Stair Rd.  
 Fort Worth, TX 76112

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