



SWUWWorld

*Women Helping Women
Lighting the Way to Possibilities*

Newsletter of Southwest UU Women

5202 Crawford Unit 19, Houston, TX 77004 Administrator@swuuw.com <http://www.swuuw.com>

Volume 2006 Winter Issue

DISCOVERING WHAT WE KNOW: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF UU WOMEN'S WISDOM

February 24-26, 2006

Doral Tesoro Hotel & Golf Club

Fort Worth, Texas

Co-conveners: Brenda Baldwin (817-927-1762)

Amy Youngblood (817-924-1358)

Email: 2006@swuuw.com

<http://www.swuuw.com/>

*Workshops – Vendors – Ceremonies – Drumming – Dancing
– Singing – Sharing – Friends – Feasts – Fellowship*

Calling all women! What do a bunch of women do when they get together for a weekend? To find out, sign up for the SWUW women's annual conference, Feb. 24-26, in the lovely Doral Tesoro Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. Here we luxuriate in a refreshing and revitalizing pause in our daily lives. You'll find activities galore, as well as singing, dancing, drumming, yoga, and time to greet friends. Everything to renew the body, mind and spirit will be ready for you to enjoy.

Keynote speaker to start the conference will be Rosemary Matson, the mover and shaker who led the UU women and religion movement to bring about many significant changes. Hear her story about how uppity UU women are making history. For information, visit www.swuuw.com, or pick up a brochure at your church.

See Page 4 for a profile of keynote speaker, pages 5 and 6 for the Conference Registration Form.

If you experience each new person you meet in a spirit of adventure, you will find yourself endlessly fascinated by the new channels of thought and experience and personality you encounter. I do not mean simply the famous people of the world, but people from every walk and condition of life.

Eleanor
Roosevelt

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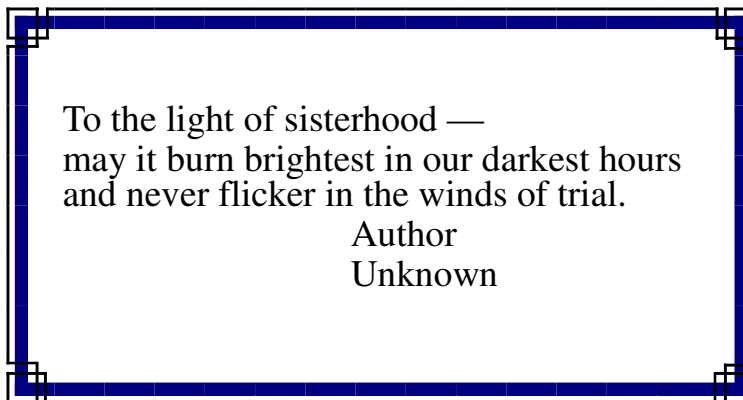
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SWUJW BUSINESS MEETING

The annual SWUJW business meeting will take place at the conference Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006, at Noon.

Business Meeting Agenda

Approval of the Budget
 Election of Officers
 Elizabeth Muller, President
 Amy Youngblood, Vice-President, President-Elect
 Secretary, to be announced
 Lorraine Levine, Director
 Julia Harris, Director
 Rev. Danita Noland, Director
 Gino Kennedy, Director
 President's Report
 Report of the Nominating Committee
 Discuss and vote on proposed change of Bylaws



WOMEN AND RELIGION GATHERING

The Annual Gathering of Women and Religion will be held at General Assembly this year on June 21, 2006 from 11-3 at the First Unitarian Church in St. Louis.

It will be followed by a tea in honor all the women who brought the *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* curriculum to life in their congregations over the years. More on the tea later in this issue!

The Annual Gathering is for any person who is interested in women's roles within the denomination. Our organization does not have membership requirements at the present time so feel free to attend and celebrate with us! We're visioning new directions for the Women and Religion movement. What is your vision for the future of women within our denomination? Be it theological, administrative, or social action, bring your points of view.

The Gathering includes lunch. The charge will be minimal to cover costs. Transportation to First U from the conference center, and all the other details will all be included in the Spring 2006 issue of WOMUJWEB, or contact Misty Sheehan, Co-Convener, at mistysheehan@yahoo.com

UPDATE ON THE UUWF GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION OF UU WOMEN

SWUW applied for a UUWF grant to sponsor an international convocation of UU women. We were not selected for this round of funding. While this was disappointing, it was not wholly unexpected. Since this was the first year of the grant, funds were limited and the competition stiff.

The good news is that the SWUW board remains committed to this project. We have, in the process of putting the grant together, met a lot of UU women from across the country who have banded together with us in this effort. Following is a list of the advisory panel members for the grant:

- Cathy Cordes, Executive Director, UU Partner Church Council, Bedford, MA
- Rev. Carol Huston, Community UU Church of White Plains New York and co-sponsor of the Proposed Study Action Issue on Women's Rights Worldwide
- Elizabeth Muller, President, SWUW
- Dr. Christine Nielsen, Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, MD and co-sponsor of the Proposed Study Action Issue on Women's Rights Worldwide
- Phyllis Rickter, Past President, UUWF
- Misty Sheehan, Co-Chair, UU Women and Religion
- Rev. Elvira Sienes, UU Church of the Philippines
- Rev. Addae L. Watson, Consulting Community UU Minister, member UUA Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multiculturalism Task Force, San Francisco, CA,

- Rev. Dr. Helen Zidowecki, Co-Chair, UU Women's Heritage Society
- Laura Nagel, SWUW Administrator, *ex-officio*

As you can see from the above list we had a very diverse group of women from all over the United States, representing several UU women's groups and Unitarian women in other parts of the world. We were struck by how much enthusiasm there was for this project and how many women who said it was something they had felt for some time needed to happen.

One outcome of this work has been a much closer alliance with the UU Women and Religion group. I have been asked to serve on their core committee as a representative of SWUW. We have had several conference calls in preparation for activities we are planning at General Assembly. For example, they are sponsoring a panel discussion on Women's Rights Worldwide which will again this year be proposed as the Study Action Issue at GA. Elizabeth Muller will be a panel member so that she can present our plans for the convocation. There will be a planned commemoration at General Assembly of the 20th anniversary of the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven curriculum.

One option that we are now exploring is reapplying to the UUA Funding Panel in the spring and then, if we are successful, reapplying to the UUWF Grants panel in the fall for a second round. This is a project that needs to happen!

Laura Nagel



UNRAVELING THE GENDER KNOT

SWUW has purchased the course materials *Unraveling the Gender Knot* which are available to lend to SWUW members interested in sponsoring the course for their congregation or women's group. Contact Laura Nagel at Administrator@swuww.com. This course is about patriarchy as a system. Both men and women suffer because of it and with the consciousness-raising of this course, they can work to change patterns that work against individual liberty and a peaceful and just society.

ROSEMARY MATSON KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR 2006 CONFERENCE



Mid-January. A new year gone cold already, with holiday glows long faded and valentines too far away for any excitement today.

Mid-January, our favorite time of year to make plans to attend our annual SWUW Conference.

What a conference this will be! To celebrate our 20-year history, we're bringing back workshops and events that have charmed us before. We'll commemorate our present-day lives with a banner parade and all our beloved conference traditions. We'll brighten our future with the strength and confidence we build, nurtured by the love and magic of the whole weekend experience.

Rosemary Matson will ground us in our long and colorful history of uppity UU women. She has stayed in the forefront of so many events that shaped our lives as women of liberal religion. You can read more about our wonderful keynote speaker on page 4.

As usual, our workshops offer such a variety of delights that choosing among them is the worst part of registering. Want to sing? Dance? Explore? Practice? Rehearse? Study?

Does the Gender Knot intrigue you, or Mary of Magdala, or Boal? Would you rather talk, write, soak, heal, practice pranayama, meditate? The most delectable aspect of our annual conference is that all of these experiences are available for the price of registration.

And oh the company we keep! Year after year, we hear more women say, "The best part is the women we meet." This year we're providing more opportunities to meet and share, with the banner parade, the Table Talks and the Peace by Piece quilt project.

As always, the weekend takes its familiar and beloved shape from the opening and closing ceremonies, the drumming and the rituals.

The SWUW conference provides us with a terrific jolt that blasts away ruts, reminds us it's a big wonderful world out there, and returns us to daily lives recharged, relaxed and ready for anything.

You'll find your opportunity to join in the joy with the registration form on page 5.



THE PEACE BY PIECE QUILT

Here's our chance to practice deeds, not creeds. As the peace movement grows stronger, we can contribute, personally, creatively.

As a more serious but no less original follow-up to last year's popular Bra Quilt, SWUW has decided to show our commitment to peace with the Peace by Piece Quilt. Your chance to donate your own creative ideas starts at the Women's Conference, where the quilt project will be available at all times. The finished quilt will be raffled at GA in June, and the proceeds used to support SWUW projects.

You need not know how to sew, quilt, or even tap your artistic abilities. But plan on putting your own energies into our newest symbol of our beliefs.

- - - Amy Youngblood

Please use a separate form for each attendee. Please complete both sides of form.

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Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone Number _____

May we publish the above information in a directory for attendees? NO YES (please circle)

Emergency Contact – Name: _____ Phone: _____

I will eat a strictly vegetarian diet at the conference. NO YES (please circle)
 If you are in need of dietary accommodation other than vegetarian, please e-mail SWUW2006@hotmail.com or call 817-927-1762 by February 17, 2006.

I plan to eat dinner at the hotel Friday evening (please see below for more information). NO YES (please circle)

Workshops I plan to attend (please enter code and abbreviated title, i.e., A1 - Toolbox):

Session I: _____
First choice Second choice

Session II: _____
First choice Second choice

Session III: _____
First choice Second choice

For those workshops with limited number of participants, registration will be granted based upon receipt date of registration form.

PLEASE NOTE: The cut-off date for the \$99 hotel rate is FEBRUARY 10, 2006.

✂-----✂
Conference Scholarship Fund – Although every effort is made to make this conference affordable, circumstances may prevent some women from being able to pay the full fee. SWUW has established a scholarship fund to assist in those cases. This limited financial aid (maximum of \$65 per person) is available on a first come-first served basis. To apply for a scholarship, please contact Lela Woods at 817-846-4885 or lwoodlings06@sbcglobal.net or 3812 Bee Tree Lane Fort Worth, TX 76133-7626. You will be notified promptly of the availability of scholarship funds. Those funds will be held for a limited time, pending receipt of your registration, and returned to the general fund if not claimed within the designated time.

T-Shirts and Totes Bags – Please check the website www.swuww.com for details, or call Brenda at 817-927-1762.

Raffle – Each vendor is donating an item to the raffle. At the conference, you will have the opportunity to place your tickets in the specific drawing for the individual item(s) you desire. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit SWUW. If you are not a vendor, but would like to donate an item for the raffle, please contact Brenda Baldwin (817-927-1762 or SWUW2006@hotmail.com). Raffle tickets will also be available at the conference for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Dinner on Friday – Although restaurants are within driving distance, the most efficient and convenient dining will be at the hotel. To insure adequate staff is available for our group, please indicate above if you are planning to eat at the hotel, or not. The hotel offers fine dining with menu prices ranging from approximately \$12 to \$25, and casual dining with a menu of sandwiches, salads, burgers and appetizers ranging in price from approximately \$8 to \$12.

Driving Directions: Approximately 20 miles north of the intersection of I-30 and I-35W, take the exit for Hwy. 114 (exit # 70). Go west on 114 to Championship Parkway (less than 1 mile from I-35W). Turn left onto Championship Parkway.

Parking: Hotel parking is available at no charge.

Air Travel: The hotel is located approximately 20 minutes from DFW airport. For information on transportation from DFW airport, please e-mail SWUW2006@hotmail.com or call Brenda @ 817-927-1762.

REGISTRATION FORM p. 2

Please use a separate form for each attendee. Please complete both sides of form.

Conference Registration Fee (includes 3 meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday) _____ \$ _____

Postmarked by January 7, 2006 - \$100 (\$75 for maidens under 18 ♦)

Postmarked by February 14, 2006 - \$130 (\$100 for maidens under 18 ♦)

On-Site (e-mail notice of intent to register is appreciated) - \$160 (\$130 for maidens under 18 ♦)

SWUW Dues of \$10 per person (or non-member registration fee) _____ \$ **10**

If you prefer to pay \$10 for non-member registration and not become a member of SWUW, please check here _____.

T-Shirt(s) _____ + _____ + _____ + _____ + _____ = _____ x \$16 = \$ _____
small medium large XL XXL total quantity
please enter quantity desired in space above size

Canvas Tote Bags _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
quantity

If you would like to make a donation to the Conference Scholarship fund, please enter amount here. _____ \$ _____

If you would like to pre-purchase raffle tickets, please do so here _____ \$ _____
\$1 each or 6 for \$5 (12 for \$10, etc.) quantity

SUBTRACT scholarship amount granted (see bottom of page 1 of registration form for scholarship info) \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

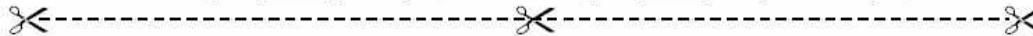
Is this your first SWUW Conference? NO YES (please circle)

♦ **For Maidens Only:** Adult chaperone at conference: _____
printed name of chaperone chaperone signature

PREFERRED: Mail this form and total payment to: Myrtle McMahan, Registrar - 3600 Lawndale Av. - Fort Worth, TX 76133
(Make checks payable to SWUW.)

OR: Register and pay on-line: www.swuuw.com/html/2006Conf.htm (A \$5 service fee will be added to defray our costs for this service.)

CANCELLATION POLICY: Requests received by January 27, 2006 - 100%. Requests received January 28 - February 10, 2006 - 50%.



Hotel Information

Doral Tesoro Hotel 3300 Championship Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76177 817-961-0800

The Doral Tesoro is one of the finest Four Star accommodations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Guest Rooms are equipped with Heavenly Beds, iron and ironing board, blow dryer, coffee-maker, and more. Please see www.doralesoro.com for more information.

To Reserve a Room: Please call 1-866-333-6725 (toll-free) and ask for the "SouthWest Unitarian Universalist Women" Rate. The room options at this rate (\$99 + tax, per night) are 2 Double Beds or 1 King Bed, up to Quad Occupancy.

Please be aware the hotel provides our meeting rooms at no charge based on our occupying a minimum number of hotel rooms. Therefore, should you need to cancel a room reservation after the 10th of February, please contact Brenda Baldwin (817-927-1762 or SWUW2006@hotmail.com) before doing so. We may be able to use your reservation for someone who failed to make their reservation before the cut-off date, and we also need to know if we are dropping below the minimum number of rooms. Thank you!

VERY IMPORTANT: Cut-off date for \$99 hotel rate is FEBRUARY 10, 2006.

If you are registering after February 10th and need a hotel room please call 817-927-1762 to see if any are available from the conference pool.

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 (SWU USI) 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.



PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

Section 6.02 **Election and Terms.**

The Officers and Non-Officer Board Members, unless waived by oral acclamation of those in attendance, shall be chosen by secret written ballot of the Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting of SWU UW which is held concurrently with the Women’s Conference. Every year the following are elected by the Members to one-year terms: **the President, President-Elect and the** four Non-Officer Board members [*and the President Elect (Vice President)*]. In even-numbered years, the Secretary is elected to a two-year term. In odd-numbered years, the Treasurer is elected to a two-year term. [*Non-Officer Board Members, the Secretary and the Treasurer may serve one or more terms consecutively. The President and President Elect (Vice President) may not hold the same office in*] **The President, President-Elect, Non-Officer Board Members, the Secretary and the Treasurer may serve one or more terms consecutively. All officers and Non-Officer Board Members may be elected to** consecutive terms. The outgoing President becomes the Past President for one year following her term as President. [*Excisions italicized and in brackets.*] **Additions underlined and in bold.**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women

To join mail in the form below with your check to: Patti Clark, SWUUW Treasurer
710 D Bering Dr. Houston, TX 77057

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

Area Code _____ Phone # _____

Fax _____

e-mail _____

Name of Women's Group _____

Name/City of Church or Fellowship _____

Please make check payable to :
SWUUW
SWUUW is a 501(c)3 organization.
Your donations are tax-exempt. If you need more proof of contribution than your check, please ask us to send you a letter.



Dues	\$	10.00
Amount Contributing to Scholarship		_____
Amount Contributing to Social Justice		_____
Total	\$	_____

SWUUW
Southwest UU Women
5202 Crawford Unit 19
Houston, TX 77004

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