



SWUUW is a non-profit organization that supports women through worship, learning, leadership, community and social justice. SWUUW discusses women's issues, explores feminist theology, promotes friendships and celebrates the diversities that makes us individual women on our individual spiritual paths.

## A Letter From Our President...

Dear SWUUW,

This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to our upcoming 25th ANNIVERSARY AND CELEBRATION CONFERENCE in Dallas, TX on March 4-6, 2011.

I am so excited to be your president during this SILVER moment in our herstory. If you are anything like me, you weren't 'around' in those early days of SWUUW but when you discovered SWUUW and the richness of our annual conferences, you have made an effort to save the time and the money to make it to one or more of these powerful gatherings of the women in the southwest district. We come together on Friday night through Sunday morning; we leave behind all of our usual church obligations, family obligations, work obligations as we create a sacred space of women who are searching to be authentic, joyous, searching, connecting; who are supporting each other in that search. We sing, dance, share our knowledge, share our art, and share our lives.

It was 25 years ago in Midland, TX when the first group of southwest UU women gathered and launched us. At that time, women did not have the voice and presence we now have in every sphere of life here in the U.S. Coming together was a powerful way to support the women and the female ministers in our district. And it still is!

I attended my first SWUUW conference in Memphis, TN in 1996. It was an electric experience! I have since attended our conferences in Houston, Austin, Oklahoma City, Dallas, and Little Rock. Each one has been unique and gifted me with new insights and inspirations.

I promise you that you will not be disappointed with our 2011 conference. We have invited our southwest district's own Reverend Tamara Lebak from Tulsa to be our keynote speaker. Carol Currie from Dallas and Joy Hayes from Waco have joined forces to co-convene this conference. They have recruited many of you to plan the conference, and we await more of you to volunteer to lead a workshop, help with registration, help with logistics, etc. We want you to join us in making this a spectacular silver anniversary and creating a legacy that will be there for our maidens in the next twenty five years.

Please join us for SWUUW's SILVER ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION IN DALLAS, TX on March 4-6, 2011.

Linda VanBlaricom  
President, SWUUW



**Generation Nextt  
Dallas, TX 2011  
25th Year**

*For vendor application and  
conference registration forms,  
visit*

**[www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org)**

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## Rev. Tamara Lebak - SWUW CON 2011 Keynote Speaker

Rev. Tamara Lebak is an independent consultant, executive coach, and ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister, with change management experience that focuses on maneuvering between multiple levels of system from the personal to the global. In her ministry, coaching, as well as her consulting, Tamara integrates her training in Gestalt Organization and Systems Development, conflict management, appreciative inquiry, and community organizing in diverse racial and economic settings. Tamara has worked with numerous educational, religious, community and non-profit institutions including the National Park Service and the World Bank. In 2008 Tamara co-authored *Reverend X: How Generation X Ministers are Shaping Unitarian Universalism* with Rev. Bret Lortie. Tamara currently serves as

Associate Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Also a gifted musician, Tamara plays guitar, sings, and has composed her own music. Tamara and her partner of 15 years, Jill Webb, celebrated the birth of their first child in June of this year: a daughter, Beckett Elizabeth.

## *How can we be more effective at modeling our values and affecting change today? - Rev. Tamara Lebak*

### A Message From Rev. Lebak...Generation Nexxt

What will the new generation of Unitarian Universalist (UU) Feminists look like? What will their struggles be? And how can we best ensure that they are able to draw upon what we have already learned? Currently women outnumber men in liberal religious seminaries across the country. I have been told that in the next few years, Generation X will outnumber every other generation in ministerial leadership of UU churches across the nation. What will our role be in this changing religious landscape? Women's voices may speak more loudly than they ever have before in this context, what will our message be?

Many of you may know that my partner Jill and I have just had our first child, a daughter, Beckett Elizabeth (named after Samuel, not Thomas). This was made possible not only by having a loving and supportive religious community into which we are humbled to bring her, but also through a partnership with two very dear male friends of ours who will be active in her life. Throughout her life, we will be struggling against conventional definitions of family, gender, marriage, and parenthood. As we work together, I have already

encountered some of my own non-negotiables that may in fact surprise you. The four of us are in constant conversation about our own wants, needs, and power, as well as each of our desires for Beckett's future.

My generation of feminists tends to be conscious of their own power, and more and more frequently take on labels and categories only to expand their definitions and serve as bridge builders. We are influenced by the world of which we are a part, that was shaped by those who have come before us. I want to be mindful of engaging the next generation of women leaders so that our legacy will be one that is built upon. How can we best serve as the bridge between our past and our future? How can we be more effective at modeling our values and affecting change today? Join me for this 25th Anniversary celebration of Unitarian Universalist Women, as I explore the changing face of liberal religious feminism and what it means to be a part of and to engage with Generation Nexxt.

Tamara Lebak

# Get to Know Your 2011 Conference Co-Conveners. . .

## Joy Hayes

I am so grateful for that snowy day in December of 2000 when my massage therapist invited me to attend the UU Church of the Palouse in Moscow, Idaho. My world totally changed! Fast forward to a move to Waco, Texas...becoming a school teacher, getting married, having a baby and squeezing in as much church work as possible! ;-)

I served the UU Fellowship of Waco as part-time DRE from 2003-2007. I have been the Worship Team Chair for several years and am currently the President-elect of the board of trustees. Oh, also the chair of the Ministerial Relations Committee. Is that everything? Wait, my favorite church activities are teaching the 3 - 5 year old "Pollywogs" Religious Education class and our women's group, "Sisters on a Journey."

Our women's group has enjoyed "Rise Up and Call Her Name" and "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven." It takes a lot of work to keep a women's group going — and I have loved being a part of the circle. We support each other and have such fun!!!

I look forward to the Southwest UU Women's conference each year. This will be my 6th conference and I always feel like I'm in the presence of such wise, sage women.

Please join us as we celebrate our 25 years! And explore our future! Generation Nexxt!

Peace!

Joy

## Carol Currie

My mother — a creative leader — and her Mother — a doll maker — were both instrumental in encouraging me to become a creative and caring person. My family and community are of paramount importance to me, and holding them in my heart is often not enough. I love to speak with them and understand the world from their perspective.

I live in Garland, Texas with my partner, Janell Jenkins. She does lamp-work glass while I enjoy watercolors. Actually, I do a lot of other crafts including make dolls, and I garden as well. I have one son, Aaron, who lives in San Diego with his wife Tina. Our pets are a constant cause of laughter in our home. We have one herding dog, one hunting dog and a Manx cat with such diverse personalities, that watching them play is great fun.

I am a member of Dallas First Unitarian Church. Women's Conferences have been an important part of my life for 23 years. Having a place to be in worship with a huge group of women is so wonderful; I don't think I can accurately describe it. It is peaceful and joyous and inclusive and spirit filled all at the same time, plus more.... It is a time to be just me: not Mother, Partner or anything else.

I was on the planning committee of two other SWUW Conferences, and I have been involved in helping people form relationships all my life. At church, at work and in my personal life, I love to work with women (and men) to help all of us "grow in harmony with the divine."

Please make plans to join me in March, 2011.

With love, Carol Currie

## Are You a Member of SWUW Yet?

*Please detach this portion and send in completed form.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Phone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Women's Group (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership dues are \$25. You may donate to the SWUW Scholarship Fund and Social Justice Fund at any time.**

Enclosed: Membership Dues \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

for Scholarship Fund

for Social Justice Fund

Send checks to: Su Waner, SWUW Treasurer  
2923 E. 84th Street, Tulsa, OK 74137



Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women,  
[www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org)

## Your 2010-2011 SWUUV Board of Directors

Linda VanBlaricom, President

Kay Witt, Vice-President

Su Waner, Treasurer

Lynn Young, Secretary

Rev. Kathleen Ellis, At-Large Member

Paula Gribble, At-Large Member

Karen McGinnis, At-Large Member

## SAVE THE DATE!

### *SWUUVCON2011:* **GENERATION NEXXT**



**March 4-6, 2011**

**Holiday Inn Select - Dallas, TX  
(same location as 2010)**

**Make Hotel Reservations Now!**

**Call 972-243-3363  
Mention Unitarian Universalist  
Women's Group to get \$79/night**

**Check [www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org) for  
conference registration!**

## 2011 SWUUV Conference Artists-in-Residence



With their unique blend of harmony, and their eclectic musical selections, **Big Bad Gina** has hit the music scene with a bang, often bringing down the house with their laid-back, yet powerfully energetic performances.

Big Bad Gina gives audiences what they want – jazz, folk, hard rock with a soft twist, reggae, bluegrass and funk. Their performances are toe-tapping and inspiring, leaving audiences dancing in the aisles and asking for more.

Renée Janski and Melodie Griffis discovered their musical compatibility when playing for the Unitarian Universalist Church. Since then, they have taken their uncommon musical groove to other venues in the Northwest Arkansas area. In fact, Big Bad Gina was one of the featured performances at the First Annual Goddess Festival in Fayetteville in March 2009 where they met and hooked up with the 3rd "Gina," Jori Costello.

Jori Costello, singer/ songbird, guitar grooving', percussion pounding Goddess. Renee Janski of UU choir fame, amazing Amazon arias and multifaceted musicianship. Melodie Griffis of U of A jazz combo talent with an Angelic Cameroon croon keeping it rockin' on the bass and jazzin' it up with her ultra fine guitar riffs. Add a slew of instruments, some kickin' original tunes and select scintillating covers, and you have Big Bad Gina! an all womyn's band based in Fayetteville, AR and ready to rock the region and nation with their award winning "Amazon Warrior Princess" Goddess Groove! It's Folkin' Rockin'!

For more information, please see  
[www.bigbadgina.com](http://www.bigbadgina.com).