



# SWUWWorld

*Women Helping Women  
Lighting the Way to Possibilities*

## Newsletter of Southwest UU Women

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

Volume 2006 Summer Issue

## SWUUSI LUNCHES

**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**

SWUW  
Meeting/Wine Party  
At SWUUSI  
Thursday, July 27  
8:00 pm.  
Cabin # C275.

Drop by to schmooze  
and slurp.

*Elizabeth Muller  
President*

SWUW is about to do it again — provide fresh, nutritious meals for a hundred hungry SWUUSI -ites. If you would like to help us out just let me know. We need people BEFORE lunch (mornings) to help put together the day's lunch; we need people DURING to help serve and take money; we need people AFTER to clean up and put back.

Lunches Plus (lunch and a speaker) has evolved to SWUW lunches. Last year we offered movies but found that people really just wanted a break and time to socialize. This year it's only lunches. Delicious, well-designed lunches: premium ingredients, balanced, inexpensive.

An innovation this year is that lunch tickets are being sold in conjunction with registration. A limited number of all week tickets will also be sold on site at registration, and individual lunches will still be available after ticket holders have been served. The intent is to be able to prepare food for a predictable number of people: less wastage and over-buying.

### **MENU**

- ◇ Burrito w/ rice & beans, garden salad fixings, fresh fruit, brownies
- ◇ Make your own sandwiches, gazpacho, sunflower seed cookies
- ◇ Broccoli/chicken casserole, tabouli (w feta for vegetarian option), pita bread, apple crisp
- ◇ Taco salad/ground beef optional, corn chips & salsa, Indian banana pudding
- ◇ Kid friendly alternative: PBJ
- ◇ Iced tea, lemonade

## SWUW AT GA

Our SWUW programs contributed much to the success of General Assembly. Elizabeth Muller reports a record number of men and women joined in her Dances of Universal Peace for Gender healing workshop. She arrived back at the booth late, flushed, breathless and energized by the group's enthusiasm.

Rosemary Matson presented an expanded update to her keynote speech at our 2006

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**LETTER FROM THE PREZ**

Membership in SWUJW is not expensive, but it doesn't get you a lot either.

Why pay dues to an organization that meets twice a year and sends out an e-newsletter? Oh, and cooks and serves meals every day at SWUUSI with only one little party for fun.

Well, there IS the annual Women's Conference. We have been doing it for 20 years! The 2007 will be at Mo Ranch near Austin. And there's the 2008 conference in Little Rock. And the 2009 conference which will be an International Convocation (!) and will be in the New Orleans area.

Your \$15 dollars doesn't pay for much. But it helps. What it does do is make YOU a supportive part of our women's community. It shows that you are interested in women having a voice and a presence in our region and in our association.

Ten memberships gave us a presence at the St. Louis General Assembly. Rosemary Matson gave a reprise of her wonderful memoirs of the inception of the PRACTICE of gender equality in our liberal but sometimes unenlightened UU congregations: the Women & Religion Resolution. I led Dances of Universal Peace for Gender Healing and had almost fifty people participate, creating the intention and the reality of a new paradigm through kinesthetic acceptance.

Twenty memberships bought us a booth. We did make that back with the sale of our stunning Peace by Piece Quilt (begun at last year's conference and continued at the District Spring Conference). More importantly, we had a very real and vibrant presence in the Exhibit Hall with the booth that we shared with Women & Religion, another UU Affiliate organization.

We have funded micro lending. We have sent tsunami aid. We have given financial assistance to women who couldn't afford to come to our conference. Dues aren't our only source of revenue, but they are a big part of it. One hundred women paying dues to support our organization means \$1500. Now, THAT will get you something!

Love, Elizabeth

**FUTURE SWUJW CONFERENCE PLANS**

2007	—	MO Ranch, Texas
2008	—	Little Rock, Arkansas
2009	—	International Women's Convocation, New Orleans
2010	—	Oak Cliff, Texas
2011	—	Galveston/Bay Area, Texas

2007 SWU UW Retreat  
16-18 February 2007  
Mo Ranch, Hunt, Texas  
Mark Your Calendars!

Please plan to join us this year for our first ever retreat on the weekend of February 16-18. It will be held at Mo Ranch ([www.moranch.com](http://www.moranch.com)), located in the Hill Country about 30 miles west of San Antonio on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

Our format will be slightly different this year. We are planning to have an experiential and participatory weekend. The Reverend Dorothy Emerson will be our keynote speaker and facilitator for the weekend. Dorothy is a UU community minister who first experienced feminist theology here in the Southwest District. She is a published author and frequent contributor to the UU World. She also has

experience in socially responsible investing and expertise in micro-lending.

The women's group from New Braunfels has agreed to help us with local arrangements, but the SWU UW board will be doing the bulk of the planning for the retreat, also different from our usual practice. However, we are looking for contributions from our members and if you have an idea for a workshop or would like to be a vendor at the conference, please contact us at [administrator@swuuw.com](mailto:administrator@swuuw.com).

Online registration will begin in the fall, but please mark your calendars now.

- - - Laura Nagel



Views  
Of  
Mo  
Ranch



*c Mary McAnally*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE TO THE EARTH

I pledge allegiance to Mother Earth, and to all her creatures who dwell thereon;  
the aura of air that brushes her hair;  
her menstrual flow of rain and snow;  
her mineral rich soil and vegetable soul;  
her fertile pastures and mountainous breasts;  
her forests of fancy with prayer-raised branches;  
her desert dunes with mood shifting sands;  
her cosmic moons and stellar lights;  
her tempestuous days and restful nights.  
I pledge to protect and honor her in all I say and do, united with all, living and dead, who  
walk or sleep her sacred paths, eternally vigil and globally just, in varied lovings and virginal  
birthings, pronouncing her promise of parity for all.

*(Continued from page 1)*

conference. Her stories put human faces on the women who have contributed so much to our religious world. She kept her audience laughing and bemused, and inspired confidence that we ordinary people can make a difference too.

Margot Adler, our 2005 keynote speaker, presented a program on "the State of Paganism Today," and interviewed Shirley Ranck and Leslie Westbrook on their "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" curriculum. To mark Cakes' 20th anniversary, the UU Women & Religion group threw a birthday party and staged a late-night ritual in its honor.

GA also offered 11 other programs "of special interest to women," including "Womanspirit, Sisterspirit," "The Joy of Irma Rombauer" (author of *The Joy of Cooking*), "Supporting Women's Rights Worldwide" and "Accessing Women's' Heritage through Small Group Ministry."

SWUJW's participation centered on its exhibits booth, which we shared with the UU Women & Religion group. Our space, which featured an altar and lounging pillows along with the Peace by Piece quilt, complimented the Women & Religion side with its books, CDs, brochures and flyers. Elizabeth, Janet Martinique and Amy Youngblood staffed the booth more or less all the time, chatting with the steady stream of visitors, telling them about the upcoming conference and convocation, explaining what the "Southwest" meant in our name (we don't know either why New Mexico isn't included), and hawking raffle tickets for the quilt.

The quilt was hung in the back of the SWUJW booth at first, so we spent the first day

flipping the quilt over to show that we did indeed have plenty of women contributors. When Elizabeth arrived, she rehung the quilt five feet off the ground, so that it was visible from all over the exhibits hall. The signatures on the back garnered a lot of interest.

The tickets read "Drawing to be held at 3 p.m. Sunday," but the exhibits hall closed at 1 p.m. We tore down the booth, then, with permission, moved the whole quilt frame into the hallway to hawk for just a little more time. We cleared just more than \$400 by 1 p.m. Sunday, then sold \$50 more in the minutes before 3 p.m.

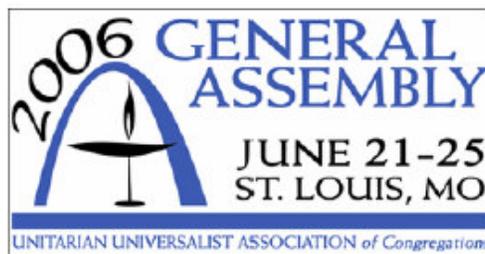
Suddenly Elizabeth realized she hadn't seen her old buddy Erin Dunn yet. Erin appeared, and reunited with Elizabeth while Amy buttonholed weary delegates with "Drawing in just ten minutes!"

When 3 p.m. hit, Amy slid all the tickets into a big shopping bag, turned down the top, shook-shook-shook, handed the bag to the woman next to her who did the same, and the next woman, and the next. Then Elizabeth insisted that Erin draw the ticket. Erin shook the bag, turned it upside down, pulled out a fistful of tickets, drew one and handed it to Elizabeth. Elizabeth read it and went speechless. The winner was Erin's mother, Connie Dunn. (Erin said later that the ticket felt "warm.")

Many who stopped by remembered fondly the 2005 Bra Quilt. One man referred to it as "The Grand Tetons."

GA is chockfull of treasures, and the most cherished jewels were our workshop leaders, our priestesses who created the Cakes ritual, and those who staffed the SWUJW booth.

- - - Amy Youngblood





## PEACE BY PIECE QUILT

To all you who worked on the Peace by Piece Quilt, starting with the Oak Cliff women who picked the fabric, those who pieced squares at the 2006 conference and pinned and sewed at the Spring conference: Thank You. Extra-special salutes to Susan Douglas, Rosemary Fitch, Mary Kirwin and Thea Chambers for collecting the work of so many women and creating a work of art.

Quilt holders: Elizabeth Muller, Past President & Quilt Winner Connie Dunn, Erin Dunn, Amy Youngblood

## DINAH

(Genesis 34)

Imagine the matriarchs mattering,  
 the first daughters figuring.  
 Then invoke Sarah, Leah, Dinah  
 with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.  
 Our stories would be more  
 than tales of takings,  
 buyings, tradings;  
 our reach would be our grab.

The lesson of history  
 would be well learned: that  
 birthright not shared  
 is birthright lost.  
 All wars have been for this:  
 to deny to brother or sister  
 the singular designation  
 of child of God.

c Mary McAnally

## **SWU UW Receives UUA Grant of \$10,000 for International Convocation of Unitarian Women**

Great news! We received notice from the UUA late this spring that SWU UW received a grant of \$6,000 and a matching grant of \$4,000 to sponsor the International Conference of Women to be held in New Orleans in February, 2009. In the last newsletter we listed the outstanding group of women who have agreed to serve on the advisory panel for the convocation. We had our first conference call last month in which this group proved itself to be highly focused on the critical issues of the purposes of the convocation and how it is structured to achieve those purposes.



We have several women on the panel who have had a great deal of experience working with international gatherings of Unitarians and with international gatherings of liberal religionists. One of the first questions we focused on was the impact upon the conference of one audience versus the other. Because the conference purposes are focused not just on talking together but on women working together, it is important that Unitarian principles serve as a foundation of the conference. This will give attendees a common vocabulary, a common base of understanding for moving forward. This is not to say that other religions will not be welcome. It will be open to women of all religions and that includes the many who identify with our principles, though they may not call themselves Unitarian.

The Advisory Panel spent time discussing how many women from other countries we could hope to get to the conference. We wanted to set as the goal to attract 100 women. This was far in excess of our original goal and will greatly increase our need for fundraising to help with money for registration and travel scholarships. There were suggestions made about asking individual UU congregations in North America to each raise \$1,000 to help bring a woman to the convocation.

Where: New Orleans When: February, 2009
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We discussed the possible location of the convocation in New Orleans where we will look for a retreat center as a possible site. A retreat center would be less expensive than a downtown location.

The additional work of administering the grant has greatly expanded SWU UW's horizon and also its workload. We are making adjustments to our usual business by moving SWU UW board meetings to a bi-monthly schedule, which allows for meetings of the Convocation Advisory Panel in the intervening months. Elizabeth Muller serves on the Advisory Panel as does Patti Clark our Treasurer who has agreed to serve as treasurer for the convocation.

One of the first tasks is developing a logo for the convocation. Let us know what you think of the design (see above) and any suggestions you have for modification. The \$4,000 that we received in a matching grant means that we must raise \$4,000 in order to receive these funds. Fundraising will also be one of our first tasks. We will also be seeking additional grant funds from the UUWF and we will look to other foundations as well to help with this effort.

Look here for future updates.

## SWUUW 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 SWUUW 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 SWUUW 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.
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### SWUUW PRIESTESSES AT GA



Back Row: Margot Adler, Emily Melcher, Nancy Vedder-Shults, Dorothy Emerson, Sylvia Wheeler; Front Row: Jackie Gibbons, Elizabeth Muller, and Maggi Joseph

# 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 Unitarian Universalist Women  
5202 Crawford Unit 19  
Houston, TX 77004

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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Permit No. 1107

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