



SWUWWorld

*Women Helping Women
Lighting the Way to Possibilities*

Newsletter of Southwest UU Women

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Volume 2008 Summer Issue

Hats off to the Ladies of Little Rock!

The ladies of Little Rock deserve lots of praise for presenting one of the best SWUW conferences. This was about the fifth or sixth conference my daughters and I have attended. We give it the highest rating of all of them.

We have found SWUW conferences to be a wonderful bonding source. In years past we have usually included a granddaughter, but due to circumstances one did not attend this year. I'm putting my money away for next year and the Women's Convocation. Hope to see many of you there.

- - - Myrtle McMahan

2008 SWUW Conference Notes

"Riversong, flowing with the creative spirit"--a women's conference hosted by the UU Women of Little Rock, was a complete success. A total of 146 women attended this inspiring weekend headlined by featured presenter, Carolyn McDade - Songwriter, Spiritual Feminist, and Social Activist. I still found myself humming "Spirit of Life" a week later.

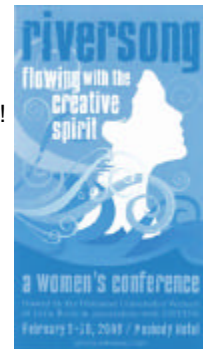
We began the weekend with a reception hosted by the UU Church of Little Rock women at the Clinton Museum Gift Shop, and ended with a spiral dance that culminated in a circle of empowered and revitalized women. In between, there were many songs, readings, and workshops all encouraging us to find our creative expressions. Many of us were able to visit the Clinton Library and Heifer International. The Peabody

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Hotel provided great hospitality including their famous ducks.

Thank you, women of Little Rock, who helped make this an unforgettable weekend! Special thanks to Janet Hanson and her core team of planners who designed a very creative and enriching program.

Be sure to mark your calendars now for next year's very special conference hosted by SWUW! From February 26 to March 1, 2009, we will be hosting the first ever **International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women** (www.icuuw.com) in Houston, TX. Please make plans to attend and bring your friends! Presenters include: Carolyn McDade, Rev. Rebecca Parker-President of Starr King seminary, Dr. Sharon



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Welch-Provost of Meadville Lombard seminary, Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt- Fourth Universalist in New York City, Rev. Rebecca Sienes of the UU Church of the Philippines, and Rev. Laurel Hallman of First Unitarian Church of Dallas and candidate for president of the UUA. We look forward to seeing you there!

- - - Mary Overton, President

New Board Member
Liz Brown

The Rev. Liz Brown, our new ministerial board member, received her call to Unitarian Universalism when Rebecca Parker spoke at the Tulsa SWUUW gathering in 1990. Five years later she was admitted to Starr King. She was ordained as a UU minister at her first congregation in Newport News, Virginia. She has also served the UU Church of the Brazos Valley in College Station, Texas, and as interim minister at two Florida churches, in St. Petersburg and Tampa. She is back in the Southwestern Conference serving the North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society in Lacombe, Louisiana. She is joined there by her daughter, Mariah, whom she calls her "little witch."

- - - Grace Amborski



I Want to Change My Name to Purple Sage
MaryLou

I want to change my name to Purple Sage.
I want to have a wardrobe of deep purple dresses.
I want to dye my eyes violet like Elizabeth Taylor's
Or tattoo purple dots between my eyelashes.

I want to be called Purple Sage.
I want to wear something lavender every day.
I want to combine expressions of word and image.
I want an easily recognizable identity.

But I know I could not limit myself to wearing only one color.
I know that I would tire of the tattoo's dye.
I know I would find the name Purple Sage too cutesy.
I know I would be living a lie.

So for now I'll stick with the name my parents gave me.
For now I will make it do.
For now I'll let myself grow into a relationship with it.
For now I am MaryLou.



In Remembrance The life of Susan Gray fka Susan Gilin-Emmer

Susan Gray, 58, formerly known as Susan Gitlin-Emmer, passed away on January 5, 2008. She had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome for many years, but it was bronchiectasis, a severe lung disease that was diagnosed in 2005, that she valiantly fought, but finally succumbed to. Susan is survived by her loving husband, Fred Emmer; son, Josh Gray-Emmer; father, David Gitlin; brother, Jonathan Gitlin; and cats Ginger and Roscoe.

Born in Boston, Susan grew up in a town whose apple trees and nearby woods made it feel more like the country than a Boston suburb. Some of her happiest memories were of summers spent with her brother in the small town of Wellfleet on Cape Cod. There she learned how to fish with her father and how to go antique hunting with her mother, a love she would later pass on to her son. Susan often worked cleaning cabins and as a salesperson at a clothing store to earn extra spending money.

Her love of archeology and the ancient world formed early on when she and the family would travel to Mexico City for her father's summer medical research trips. After living for a year in Copenhagen, the family moved to Pittsburgh where Susan attended high school. Susan learned how to ride and groom horses on the family's new 5 acre home nestled next to a preserve in the Pennsylvania countryside. She and her mother continued their love of antiques by hunting for finds at Grange hall auctions. Some of the fantastic, one of a kind pieces they found, still adorn her home today.

Susan attended Goucher College, majoring in Fine Arts. Located in a suburb of Baltimore, Goucher was then an all women's school. She met Fred, who was a first year student at the University of Maryland School of Law, on a blind date, and they married after Susan graduated in June 1970. Susan worked as a children's librarian for the Pratt Library system in Baltimore for a year until Fred graduated. Then in the summer of 1971 they packed all their belongings into their car and a 4' x 8' trailer and with their cat on a pillow between them, drove to California so that Susan could pursue a fellowship at the USC School of Urban and Regional Planning Masters Program and an internship at the City of Pasadena Planning Department.

Susan's incredible creative talent and ability to communicate with people on a personal level, led her to an eclectic employment history. In the early days of her California life, she worked as a counselor for the Santa Clarita Valley Psychological Emergency Team; she also often received calls in the middle of the night from people in crisis. Susan got a chance to express her creativity in a corporate environment by designing and buying billboard advertising for a large national title insurance company. While Fred worked at CalArts in Valencia

during the 1970s, Susan learned how to throw pots from a master potter. With the teacher and other students, Susan helped to build a brick kiln from which dozens of her stunning pieces emerged. Immensely talented at working with her hands, Susan also excelled at using silk to make extraordinary wall hangings and ritual garments as well as using unconventional materials to make weavings.

Susan and Fred's son Josh was born in 1978. Prior to his birth, they joined Emerson Unitarian Church in Canoga Park, where Susan became active in the Women's Federation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In 1977 the UUA passed a Women & Religion Resolution, calling on all congregations to work for equal access for women in all aspects of church life. Susan became a member of the district Women & Religion Task Force, formed to implement the Resolution. Susan helped plan and led several district-wide workshops on the role of women in the church and the role that language plays in perpetuating sexual bias in everyday speech. She gave a copy of the book *Words and Women* to every one of Josh's elementary school teachers. After reading the book and being corrected by Josh every time they said "policeman" instead of "police officer", they eventually got the point. Susan was one of over a hundred women who attended the first UUA Continental Women & Religion Convocation in East Lansing, Michigan in the fall of 1980. The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) formed at the convocation, still exists.

When Susan saw that Josh was only learning about famous UU men in Sunday school classes, she did research and wrote a book, *Roots of Our Strength*, about all the famous UU women. This book was reprinted by the UUA and made available to all the churches in the United States. It was used as a resource for many years.

In 1979 Susan found "The Spiral Dance" by Starhawk, at a bookstore in Santa Monica and her spiritual path to the Goddess began. She became a student, teacher, and practitioner of the Craft, which influenced her art and her life from then on.

Susan's artistic circle grew when she became active at the Woman's Building in downtown Los Angeles. She participated in many group and solo shows including "The Forest Project" and the Post Card Project. She also exhibited in "Between the Worlds: The Art of Women's Altars" at the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art. Her X-Ray series was well received as were her "Burden Baskets," made of painted silk and tree branches, and a pastel series of hands on black paper.

(Continued on page 4)

Just Thinking

Rev. Mary McAnally

In today's global economy, there is a growing voice speaking for **fair** trade in response to the supposed, falsely named **free** trade promoted by corporate capitalists.

Women have ALWAYS advocated for and practiced FREE trade. We established its earliest modesl in our garage and yard sales, hand-me-down clothes, bake sales and potlucks. Eternal agents of thrift, women can be thanked for the current growth and expansion of thrift stores (resale shops) in competition with the megamonsters of Wal-Mart, Saks Fifth Avenue, and even Sears and J.C. Penny.

Often women's economic systems of fair trade have served as ways to fund raise for our favorite charities, from our families to our faith communities, from schools to political parties, from environmental to human and animal rights groups. If women succumb to the greed and profiteering of Unfair trading, the whole world is at risk. It was Adam's greed for the forbidden apple that expelled us from Eden, not Eve's plucking of the ripe orb. (Have you ever asked yourself what kind of God would create an apple tree and forbid its fruit to be eaten by other creatures?)

The world's economy is, without question, global. We eat pizza, lasagna, and chow mein as if they were American! We go to Nairobi, Havana or Shanghai and look for a McDonald's! If we want a globalized economy that is fair for all involved, however—worker, producer, transporter, marketer, consumer—it must be one that is based on HUMAN development, not just economic development (read profit motive). If it harms anyone, change it, improve it or discard it. Sounds a lot like our UU 7th Principle to me!



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In 1982, Susan and Fred bought a new house on a quarter acre in Reseda, and Susan spent a great deal of her time and effort planting hundreds, if not thousands, of plants, bulbs, bushes, and trees (and not a blade of grass) and she knew the names of all of them. Environmentally conscious long before it was popular, she designed a soaker system so that very little water was needed to keep everything flourishing, and she was always happy to share her knowledge about plants and garden design. Susan also had a keen eye for interior design; her home was a testament to her sense of beauty and elegance.

Almost 25 years ago, Susan founded the ongoing feminist coven of Nemesis. A powerful influence on the Los Angeles Goddess community, she taught the Craft to many women in her "Year and a Day" class. The women of Nemesis and their families get together once or twice a year for solstice rituals and over the years this extended family has become very close and supportive of each other in both times of celebration and sadness. For many years, Susan and Fred hosted the annual Nemesis Winter Solstice party. A beloved event, family and friends gathered in her beautiful garden to toss pine boughs into the fire to make wishes for the coming year.

Susan loved to travel, especially if she could visit archeological goddess sites. She and Fred took trips to Greece, Ireland, and Peru, and she explored, with a group of women, the island of Malta. Susan felt a special relationship to Ireland, where her maternal grandmother's family was from. Long before she traveled there, she had visions of places in Ireland that

she recognized during her trip. So, in 1995, it felt natural for her to legally change her name to Gray, her grandmother's maiden name, to honor her grandmother and her Irish roots.

Susan was also 1/16th Cherokee on her mother's side of the family, and this also influenced who she was. Over the years, Susan has supported various causes including the Native American Rights Fund.

Susan's research into Sun Goddesses led her to the Scandinavian runes, an ancient alphabet. Susan decided to reexamine the runic alphabet to recover an ancient Scandinavian view of the Goddess and Her world. The results of Susan's extensive research were the books: *Lady of the Northern Light: A Feminist Guide to the Runes* (1993 Crossing Press in the United States and Souvenir Press in Great Britain, as Susan Gitlin-Emmer) and *The Women's Book of Runes* (1999 Barnes & Noble as Susan Gray).

Susan will be missed by her family, coven, and many friends. A memorial celebration of her life will be held in April. Check this website for further details or leave a message in Susan's guest book on the Los Angeles obituary website at <<http://www.legacy.com/LATimes/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=101117697>>

Memorial donations may be made to the CFIDS Association: <<http://www.cfids.org/>> or the Native American Rights Fund: <<http://www.narf.org/>>. Fred Emmer will be matching your donations made in Susan's name.

**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women
Statement of Financial Position
As of 5/31/08**

| | FYE 5/31/07 Comparative Total | Fiscal Year Ended 5/31/2008 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Cash | \$12,954 | \$13,832 |
| Challenge Grant Receivable | - | 2,934 |
| UUA 2008 Grant Receivable | - | 6,000 |
| Total Assets | 12,954 | 22,766 |
| Liabilities and Net Assets | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts Payable | 7,700 | 8,863 |
| Credit Card Payable | - | 782 |
| DBLE Scholarship | 250 | 250 |
| Total Liabilities | 7,950 | 9,895 |
| Net Assets | | |
| Unrestricted | 5,004 | 2,480 |
| Temporarily Restricted | - | 10,391 |
| Total Net Assets | 5,004 | 12,871 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$12,954 | \$22,766 |



**Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women
Convocation Detailed Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended 5/31/08**

| | FYE 5/31/07 Comparative Total | FYE 5/31/08 Treasurer's Report Projection | For the Year Ended 5/31/2008 | Difference |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| Convocation Receipts | | | | |
| Registrations | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 798 | \$ 798 |
| Scholarship Fund | | | | |
| Congregations | - | 7,500 | 6,989 | (511) |
| UU Organizations | - | 2,000 | 825 | (1,175) |
| Foundations | 3,814 | 5,186 | 5,186 | - |
| Corporations | - | - | - | - |
| Individuals | 350 | 7,150 | 12,484 | 5,334 |
| Total Scholarship Fund | 4,164 | 21,836 | 25,484 | 3,648 |
| UUFunding Panel06 | 6,000 | - | | |
| UUFunding Panel07 | - | 9,000 | 9,000 | - |
| UUFunding Palen08 | - | - | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Global Literacy Project | - | 4,000 | 320 | (3,680) |
| Vendor Sales | - | - | - | - |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| Total Convocation Receipts | 10,164 | 34,836 | 41,602 | 6,766 |
| Convocation Disbursements | | | | |
| Staff | | | | |
| Program Coordinator | - | 4,500 | 3,860 | (640) |
| Convocation Administrator | - | 4,500 | 4,500 | - |
| Office Support | - | 7,000 | 2,063 | (4,937) |
| Project Manager | - | 3,000 | 1,250 | (1,750) |
| Planning and Preparation | | | | |
| Fundraising Consultant | 5,000 | - | - | - |
| Publicity and Advertising | - | 5,000 | 1,754 | (3,246) |
| Scholarship | | | | |
| International | - | - | - | - |
| National | - | - | - | - |
| Travel - UUFundingPanel06 | 3,430 | 25 | 55 | 30 |

Convocation Activities Con't from Page 6

| | FYE 5/31/07 | FYE 5/31/08 | For the Year | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Comparative | Treasurer's Report | Ended | |
| | Total | Projection | 5/31/2008 | Difference |
| Global Literacy Project | | | | |
| Curriculum Development | | | | |
| Writer/Consultant | - | 3,000 | 3,000 | - |
| Printing and Materials | - | 1,200 | 1,019 | (181) |
| National Networker | - | - | 500 | 500 |
| Traveling Speakers Bureau | | | | |
| Airfare | - | 5,000 | 1,937 | (3,063) |
| Event Registration | - | - | 1,092 | 1,092 |
| Hotel and Meals | - | 2,500 | 831 | (1,669) |
| Transportation | - | 500 | 398 | (102) |
| Networker | - | 2,000 | 992 | (1,008) |
| GA Cancellation Fee | - | - | 60 | 60 |
| Brochure | - | - | 501 | 501 |
| ICUU Conference Reimbursement | - | 555 | 555 | - |
| Logo Design | - | - | 475 | 475 |
| Meeting | - | 1,080 | 1,080 | - |
| Office and Postage | - | - | 305 | 305 |
| Postal Permit | 160 | 160 | 180 | 20 |
| Convocation Expenses | | | | |
| Audio Visual Equipment | - | - | - | - |
| Web Development and Data Plat- | 593 | 3,607 | 3,671 | 64 |
| form | | | | |
| Event Cancellation Insurance | - | - | - | - |
| Hotel Banquet Speakers | - | - | - | - |
| Keynote Speakers | - | - | - | - |
| Other | 5 | 600 | 582 | (18) |
| Total Convocation Disbursements | 9,188 | 44,227 | 30,660 | (13,567) |
| Net Convocation Results | \$ 976 | \$ (9,391) | \$ 10,942 | \$ 20,333 |

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women
Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended 5/31/08

| | FYE 5/31/07 Comparative Total | FYE 5/31/08 Treasurer's Report Projection | For the Year Ended 5/31/2008 | Difference |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| Receipts | | | | |
| Membership Dues | \$1,380 | \$1,300 | \$1,450 | 150 |
| Donations | 77 | 75 | 5 | (70) |
| Fundraising | 1,200 | - | - | - |
| Sale of Conference Quilt | 685 | 2,309 | 2,309 | - |
| SWUUSI Lunches | 1,760 | - | - | - |
| Conference Receipts | 32,976 | 20,000 | 21,534 | 1,534 |
| Convocation Receipts | 10,164 | 34,836 | 41,602 | 6,766 |
| | <hr/> | | | |
| Total Receipts | 48,242 | 58,520 | 66,900 | 8,380 |
| Disbursements | | | | |
| Program Services | | | | |
| UUA Membership | 250 | (100) | (100) | - |
| GA Booth and Workshops | 350 | 269 | 394 | 125 |
| Web Expense | (730) | - | - | - |
| Cost of Conference Quilt | 503 | - | - | - |
| Conference Disbursements | 29,905 | 19,000 | 23,701 | 4,701 |
| Convocation Disbursements | 9,188 | 44,227 | 30,660 | (13,567) |
| Total Program Services | 39,466 | 63,396 | 54,655 | (8,741) |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Supporting Services | | | | |
| Administrator | 3,300 | 3,600 | 3,600 | - |
| Insurance | 595 | 600 | 521 | (79) |
| Operating Expense | 653 | 350 | 257 | (93) |
| Total Supporting Services | 4,548 | 4,550 | 4,378 | (172) |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Total Disbursements | 44,014 | 67,946 | 59,033 | (8,913) |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Increase in Net Assets | 4,228 | (9,426) | 7,867 | 17,293 |
| Net Assets, Beginning | 776 | 5,004 | 5,004 | - |
| Net Assets, Ending | \$5,004 | \$(4,422) | \$12,871 | 17,293 |

International Convocation of UU Women February 26—March 1, 2009 - Early Bird discount available now!

\$299 Early Registration Discount - Lock in the discount rate for the International Convocation of UU Women with a \$100 deposit. Pay by credit card on line or with a check to "Southwest UU Women", 3224 Timmons Lane, #165, Houston, TX 77027. Pay the balance before September 1st. Starting September 1, 2008, the registration fee will increase to \$350. For information visit the website: www.icuuw.com, or call: 1-877-424-5608 toll free. To receive up-to-date information on the Convocation, subscribe to our list serve.

"Gather Together to Explore Ways We Can Improve Women's Lives around the World..." The ICUUW will offer a rich tapestry of worship, speakers, plenary sessions, workshops, exhibits, and community building stories. ICUUW Exhibit Hall space is available for displaying and selling crafts and artwork, jewelry, books, and CDs or for displaying information about your company or corporation. E mail for information, including costs: <mailto:Admin@icuuw.com>

For information about our special travel discount with Continental Airlines, see <http://www.icuuw.com/html/registration.html> Go online to [icuuw.com](http://www.icuuw.com) to make reservations or call the Houston Hilton of the Americas at 713-577-6045 (toll free 1-800-445-8667). Information about scholarships is available at <http://www.icuuw.com/html/Secure/scholarshipapplication.cfm>

You may still submit a proposal for a workshop at <http://www.icuuw.com/html/PrgPropForm.doc>

Help to publicize the Convocation by sharing our one-page flier, available at <http://www.icuuw.com/html/ICUUFlier.pdf>

We can work together for a better world with men and women of goodwill, those who radiate the intrinsic goodness of humankind. - - - Wangari Mathai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner, 2004



Femi9 Strengths: Help Show They Are Real

Do you still think of femininity as weakness? Unfortunately, many people do—even scientists who should know better: gender researchers. But not this one. I have taken it as my calling to look at femininity to find out what is feminine and if she is really weak.

Here's how this project has progressed so far:

- 2003--Loads of literature review produced nine features of the feminine.
- 2004-2007--Data from more than 200 women and men show that these nine abilities are considered to be feminine – not masculine.
- 2006 March--These results were presented at a professional conference on Human Development at Fort Worth, TX
- 2006-2007--I facilitated **Femi9 Strengths** workshops at: SWUUSI, Women's Alliances at New Braunfels, TX and Plano, TX as well as to the congregation at large at Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Plano, TX.
- 2007-ongoing--Data analyses from about 150 adults – almost half of them men – show the nine femininities to be significantly associated with positive psychosocial skills. That is, research shows that the **Femi9** really do appear to be **strengths**.

The next steps: Conduct more scientific studies by questionnaire on pairs of participants and get the results published. Findings from such studies would be publishable in the professional journal *The Psychology of Women Quarterly* their submission editor assures me.

Here's what you can do: If you care enough to begin to show the world that the **feminine is strong** by participating in a three-page survey, contact me. You can tell your interested friends and neighbors to contact me, too. I hope to hear from you soon at: MLFWorthen@aol.com or MWorthen@Amberton.edu.

Blessed be.

- - - MaryLou Fair Worthen, PhD

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women

To join mail in the form below with your check to: Patti Clark, SWUUW Treasurer
3224 Timmons Ln., Unit 165, Houston, TX 77027

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

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