



# SWUWWorld

*Women Helping Women  
Lighting the Way to Possibilities*

## Newsletter of Southwest UU Women

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Volume 2007 Winter Issue

### SWUW Conference 2007

February 16-18, Mo Ranch, Hunt, TX

Rev. Dorothy May Emerson, Theme Speaker

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Report  
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Our theme speaker and retreat facilitator, the Rev. Dorothy May Emerson, has a connection with you. Come to the 2007 conference and make it.\*\*

Talk with her about her position as Unitarian Universalist community minister. She offers programs on socially responsible investing and consults with UU and interfaith justice-making organizations.

Talk with her about her roots in the Southwest District. Maybe you attended her SWUUSI workshop back in 1983: "Remembering Who We Are: Toward an Awareness of Feminist Spirituality." Let her tell you about correcting the man introducing her, who just couldn't get out the words "feminist spirituality."

Talk with her about Austin in the 1980s, "when there was a lot of interesting goddess stuff bubbling up." She co-founded Our Lady's Mission: Feminist Spirituality Network and coordinated a nine-day convocation on women's spirituality, co-sponsored by First Unitarian, "Coming Home ... To Birth a New Vision." She helped start Eva House, intended to be a coop project but ended up being a haven for women in transition. "We were at the edge of a wave and filled a need," she said. "Battered women's shelters picked up on it immediately."

Talk with her about her award-winning sermons and the anthologies: "Standing Before Us: Unitarian Universalist Women and Social Reform, 1776-1936," and "Glorious Women: Award-Winning Sermons About Women."

Talk with her about the international microcredit conference she just attended. But know in advance that talking about microcredit is like trying to swim at the edge of a whirlpool. You can't help but be drawn to this simple program of lending small amounts of money to people living in extreme poverty, and helping them help themselves to self-supporting status.

But most of all, talk about your own goals and ambitions, in the WomenSpirit groups that meet throughout the conference.

No stranger to working with groups as small as a women's circle and as large as an international microcredit conference, Dorothy's eager to nurture our WomenSpirit groups for maximum impact. "I believe our little conference of a few hundred women can have a significant impact," she says. "It can be a very individual thing, or involve working in the local community or the larger community, all different levels. For some people it's getting their health together,

(Continued on page 2)



## INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN

Planning for the International Convocation is moving along. Even though the convocation is planned for Early 2009, a little over two years from now, there is a sense of urgency to nail down specifics for the date and place. The Advisory Panel has begun to explore Houston as an alternative venue to New Orleans. Houston may offer cost savings for international flights, and with seven UU churches located in the metropolitan area, there is plenty of woman power to draw upon.

We have been getting the word out and meeting with folks to pull together resources. The Advisory panel is meeting monthly on a conference call and this past week several of us met in Annapolis, MD where the UU Church of Annapolis (UUCA) held a day long convocation on Women's Rights Worldwide (WRW). The UUCA along with the Community Church of White Plains, NY were the original sponsors of this study action issue at GA in 2005. When it did not win for the second year in a row, despite coming very close, UUCA decided to work for WRW with those who had supported the study action issue which included UU Women and Religion. We had a most informative day. Those in attendance included Cathy Cordes, Interim Director of the UUA International Office, Jim Nelson Executive Director of the UU United Nations Office and Rev. Carol Huston from the White Plains church. Six members of UUCA had just returned from a trip to the Philippines where they visited Unitarian Universalist churches in six villages to assess the needs of women there. They came back very energized and enthusiastic about a new partnership for their church in the Philippines.

I spoke about plans for the convocation. Jim Nelson from the UU UNO Office told us that the UN Commission on the Status of Women will have its 53<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting at around the time when the convocation is planned. Jim encouraged us to send delegates to the UN NGO's meeting to report the results of our convocation.

Southwest UU Women held a workshop on the convocation at the Southwest District Fall Conference in Baton Rouge last month and we have submitted a request to hold a workshop at GA in Portland this summer entitled "Women Building Bridges to End Global Poverty." SWUW recently submitted a grant application to the UU Women's Federation for funds to help pull together a campaign to enlist UU churches in sponsoring UU women from abroad to come to the convocation. And Advisory Panel members Rev. Dorothy May Emerson and Rev. Shirley Ranck will be giving a workshop on Women and Religion activities, including the convocation, to the ministers at their meeting immediately prior to General Assembly.

Thanks to outgoing SWUW  
board members:

Lorraine Levine, Fort Worth, Texas

Julia Harris, Tulsa, OK

Mary Leggitt, Dallas, Texas

Thank you for all your support!

Lots of exciting work going on! We have a new website for the convocation at <http://www.icuuw.com> where you can go to register for our news updates and sign on to volunteer if you would like to get involved in this exciting project.

- - - Laura Nagel, Co-Convener, Women and Religion

*(Continued from page 1)*

or taking care of their children. For others it may involve joining a peace group or writing a book. Having witnesses and co-conspirators in what we're trying to do is very powerful.

"The WomenSpirit circles may be temporary or may continue beyond the weekend. Whatever happens, it's an opportunity to experience our power for a couple of days and reinforce that in ourselves."

**\*\*The registration form is on page 5. Go to [www.swuuw.org](http://www.swuuw.org) to see the entire conference brochure.**

# Just Thinking

Rev. Mary McAnally

Holidays have been taken over by corporate greed. The biggest profits for thousands of companies and stores are during the holidays (Valentine's Day, July 4, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas). We're all so tired of the commercialism around holidays that we could upchuck. Christmas ads begin on TV in October now, even before Halloween and Thanksgiving!

But we don't upchuck. We succumb and go out and buy. Cards (that we could write and draw ourselves!), fireworks (that kill and maim many children!), candy (that makes us fatter and sicker!), turkeys (inhumanely slaughtered!), fir trees (captured from depleted forests!), and booze (that doesn't keep us from driving and killing thousands!). Well, maybe that last one is year round. How many times have we said "this is the last time." Or "this Thanksgiving will be vegetarian", or "this Christmas will be Hannukah and Kwanza also".

How about thinking of EVERY day, 365 days a year (an extra in leap year), as holy? Finding something each day that we can do, share, advocate that will make life holy for someone, something? Put our stale bread out for the birds. Stop on the interstate to rescue a turtle from the median. Write a legislator. How about this new Year's Day being a time to list 365 resolutions – things to do each day in the year that we can feel good about.

How about being the committed, constant, social change agents our UU principles and WomenSpirit expect – in fact, DEMAND! – of us? We might be able to lower our blood pressure, improve our stress level, and even laugh more and sleep better each day. Could it improve our sex life, too?...

BLESSED 2007 TO ALL !!!!



## IMAGO DEI

-- for a nun in Nicaragua

Rev. Mary McAnally

If you want to be like him, she said,  
you must drink from four cups.  
The first is compassion, the *sine qua non*.  
If you are not moved by the dog thumping  
under the car's wheels, or the seal's eyes  
appealing against the clubs,  
or the raped woman's shriek,  
you must not lift the second cup.  
The second cup is righteous anger,  
the kind that overturns the tables  
of the moneychangers; the kind  
that will not abide injustice; the kind  
that criticizes, analyzes, transforms.

Then follows the third cup soon after:  
the cup of revolutionary humility.  
With it comes an option for the poor,  
the oppressed. Because  
we cannot do it alone. Because  
we live in time and space  
and both liberation and redemption  
come in *kairos* by God's grace.  
The final cup, the wine and hyssop,  
the cup of solidarity,  
is drunk by prophets, saints, and martyrs  
who wish it might be otherwise  
but drink the bitter wine in the end  
proclaiming, God,  
into your hands I commend my spirit.



## FUTURE SWUW CONFERENCE PLANS

- 2007 — MO Ranch, Texas
- 2008 — Little Rock, Arkansas
- 2009 — International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women
- 2010 — OakCliff/Dallas, Texas
- 2011 — Galveston/Bay Area

### SWUW BUDGET REPORT

	FYE 5-31-06		FYE 5-31-07		FYE 5-31-08	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Projection
	For Year	For Year	For Year	YTD 9-30-06		For Year
<b>Receipts</b>						
Membership Dues	4000	1710	2500	70	2500	2000
Contributions	1200	20	1000	154	1000	300
Sale of Conference Quilt		930	650	475	800	475
Quilt Project				(103)	1000	1000
SWUUSI Lunches	800	329	800	1339	1350	1339
Conference Profit	2000	(257)	2000		2000	2000
UU Women's Convocation						
UUA Grant			5000	6000		6000
UUWF Grant			4000			4000
Fundraising		575	2700			1500
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>3307</b>	<b>18650</b>	<b>7935</b>	<b>8650</b>	<b>18614</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>						
Consultant	3950	3600	3950	900	3950	3750
UUA Membership		200	100		100	100
GA Booth Fee and Workshops		800	350		350	350
Newsletter	1500	2698	2000		160	160
President's Expenses	100		100		100	
Board Expenses	200		200		200	
Spring Conference	100		100		100	
Operating Expenses	300	843	500	(125)	500	400
Web Expense	250	536	600		600	550
UU Women & Religion Workshop			100		100	105
DBLE Scholarship			450		450	450
Social Justice Contribution	1600	600	1600			600
Conference Scholarships			200		400	450
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>8000</b>	<b>9277</b>	<b>10250</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>7010</b>	<b>6915</b>
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(5970)</b>	<b>8400</b>	<b>7160</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>11699</b>



**REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2007 CONFERENCE AT MO RANCH**

Please use a separate form for each attendee. Make copies whenever necessary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden    Y    N

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first SWUWcon?    Y    N

May we publish your information in the directory?    Y    N

Would you like to help with the conference?    Y    N

Mail form to Registrar Patti Clark at 3224 Timmons Lane #165, Houston, TX 77027. Or, register online at <http://www.swuuw.com>

Please Check below desired accommodations for which you are paying:		Late Registration (after 12/12/06)	Amount
Registration-Adult		<input type="checkbox"/> \$130	
Registration-Maiden (age 12-18)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Accommodations/GuestHouse		\$58/night	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Room: Single (\$110/person early, \$126/person late)		<input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$126/night	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Room: Double Occupancy* (\$55/person early, \$63/person late)		<input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$126/night	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Room: Triple Occupancy* (\$39/person early, \$44/person late)		<input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$132/night	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel Room: Quadruple Occupancy* (\$31/person early, \$35/person late)		<input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat \$140/night	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you would like dinner if you would like to have Friday dinner at the ranch it is \$9. Dinner is served from 5:30-7:00 PM.			
Conference T-shirt <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL = <u>  </u> @ \$16			
<input type="checkbox"/> XXL = <u>  </u> @ \$18			
Tote Bag: Canvas Small <u>  </u> @ \$10			
Large <u>  </u> @ \$15			
Raffle tickets \$1 each OR 6/\$5 <u>  </u> @			
Contribution to SWUWship Fund to help other women attend (optional)			
TOTAL			
*Please list Roommates			
If you have special needs, please specify:			

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

To join mail in the form below with your check to: Patti Clark, SWUUW Treasurer  
3224 Timmons Ln #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**

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

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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