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Dear Gloria,

For the first year in over a decade, my husband Alex and I won't be with our large blended and extended family in Arizona. We'll miss them, sure. And we'll miss family traditions, like debating whether Alex's white bread stuffing or my cornbread dressing is better. Then there's my daughter's insistence that we serve the green jello mold my mother used to make, the one that packs more calories and cholesterol into anything else you've ever called "salad."

This just seemed like a good year to shake things up. Perhaps it's the influence of unpredicted social changes like Tahrir Square and Occupy Wall Street that are shaking up the political world. (Read my recent post on what [OWS has accomplished](#).) Or maybe it's simply that we felt we were getting into a rut.

Shaking Up Isn't So Hard to Do



Change forces you to see things with fresh eyes, to appreciate people differently, to clear the cobwebs from the mind. That's why friends over at [She Negotiates](#) suggest "Reframing the Fruitcake Frenzy." And why Kathleen Turner says one of her life lessons is "Never repeat your successes." So she hasn't been typecast as an actress, whereas many others keep playing essentially the same role over and over. (BTW, if you're in LA, you must [go see her as Molly Ivins](#).)

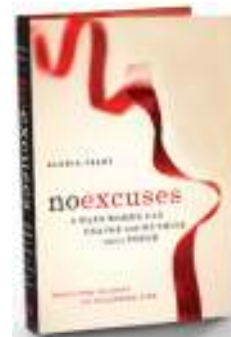
Tradition is comforting to be sure. But it's in the unfamiliar spaces that you grow; in the unknown territory that you get new energy and fresh thinking. In my book [No Excuses](#), the Power Tool "[Carpe the Chaos](#)" fosters innovations that would never be considered in moments of stasis.

This Thanksgiving, we won't have leftovers, usually my favorite part of the meal, because instead of cooking for a crowd, we'll join friends at their home. We'll feel nostalgic for the boisterous boys who roll their eyes when Grandmother asks them to share what they are thankful for, and for the warmth of chopping and cooking together in a kitchen scented with turkey and cinnamon.

We will appreciate anew all those joys when we break another tradition and spend Christmas, Chanukah, and the New Year in sunny Arizona instead of chilly New York.

There's always a way to shake up an old tradition.

Buy the Book



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highlights of
"Women and
Leadership"
Speech.



*Gloria Feldt on
Leadership at
Tucson Book
Festival*

Want more
information about
speaking topics
and what people

There are always new traditions waiting to be created in the wake of change.

For that I am very grateful. And I am grateful to you for shaking and enriching my world every day. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

What are you shaking up in your life this Thanksgiving? Tell me and read what others say [here](#).

I Am Especially Thankful for:

So many people who made my speaking experiences rock this fall. It is such a privilege to be able to share inspiration, wisdom, and practical leadership tools. Here are just a few photographic highlights.



No Excuses Power Tool workshop participants "defining their terms" at Old Dominion University.



The Deltas turned out in powerful force at my *No Excuses* keynote at Old Dominion University.

are saying about my speeches and workshops?
[Download it here](#)

2012 Events:

March 1: *No Excuses* paperback release! Stay tuned for exciting news about upcoming events in the works.

Here's a sneak peak at a few:

March is Women's History Month - Power Tool #1 is "Know your history and you can create the future of your choice." **[E-mail me](#)** to find out about special new speeches being hatched for it.

Ideal for universities and women's groups of all kinds-and for companies that want to recognize and retain top female talent.

March 7: Webinar on *No Excuses* Leadership Lessons for Association of Junior Leagues International

March 8: International Women's Day. Three events in St Louis that day; Left



Signing books at YWCA Tucson Women's Leadership Conference-that's Sergeant Bernadette Martinez Smith on the right -- [do read her inspiring story here.](#)



Former OH Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner (facing) talking with New Directions Career Center executive director Linda Danter (in turquoise jacket) at pre-event reception benefitting the NDCC, generously hosted in the beautiful Hayley Gallery in Columbus OH. Jennifer brilliantly spearheaded my Columbus Day events in Columbus (if you can believe that serendipity), along with her sister Andrea Junk Dowding.

Bank bookstore will host a public book talk and signing that evening-details to come.

March 10-11: *No Excuses* Power Tools workshop and Power Breakfast keynote, See Jane Do's Passion Into Action conference, Grass Valley CA

April 19: She Negotiates \$10 Buck Talk-a virtual experience you won't want to miss.

Late April will find me conducting a *No Excuses* workshop in Costa Rica and doing a keynote for women leaders - I am so excited.

Lots more in the works-check my website events page from time to time for updates, and as always, be in touch with your ideas and requests.

Oh, and please [e-mail me](#) with questions for my BlogHer Career Leadership Advice column any time. Thanksgiving column will be "What Leadership Advice Are You Most Thankful



Columbus (OH) Metropolitan Club president Rich Terapak and the amazing "Changing the Guard" panel I had a chance to facilitate at the CMC's luncheon event: l-r, Mary B. Relatto, founder of Dames Bond; me in the red jacket (surprised?), Julie Moorhead, V.P. sales, Thirty-one Gifts; and Antoinette Wilson, CEO of Triumph Communications.

For?"

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Power to you!



Gloria



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