



## Association of Universalist Women

Creating community, deepening our spirit,  
bringing our UU faith to action on behalf of women

### Coming Soon: AUW Spring Retreat

**April 12-April 14**

All year, we look forward to the Annual AUW Spring Retreat, and now it is fast upon us! Registrants will soon receive the necessary information--so **check your email for details and the [1uauw.org](http://1uauw.org) website, too.** We look forward to seeing you there! Some crafting women are creating bags for attendees and could use **donations of used t-shirts. Please bring them to the AUW table this Sunday or to Friday Get Connected on**

### From the Editor



Even though the calendar officially declared "Spring!" late in March, it still feels wintry as we enter April, with more cold days than warm ones and still plenty of snow and ice on the ground. Even though the tree buds haven't peeked their tiny heads out yet (who can blame them?), I know they're there, waiting, and I'm reminded that Spring is all about hope and looking forward. We have hope that the grass will turn from brown to green, that the dormant perennials will rise, that the air will be balmy and sweet. We look forward to playing outside, digging in the dirt, the AUW retreat in April, the upcoming May Day parade. May you have many things to look forward to, too!

### Friday Get Connected

**April 5 - FGC Retreat Preview**

Get a taste of the Spring Retreat at April's FGC. **Many of the leaders/presenters at the upcoming retreat will give short introductions to their workshop, class or whatever they are offering.** This will allow you to think about what break-out sessions you may want to attend at the retreat.

April 5.



## Special Announcement

The A UW board wants to talk to members about the possible advantages of A UW becoming a program of First Universalist. Current A UW members will soon receive a letter with more information; this information will also be emailed out to all friends of A UW. We will also host a discussion between the morning services on Sun., April 28. We will hold a vote on the subject at the A UW annual meeting on May 10.



## Babysitting Reminder

Free childcare is available at all A UW events. Please send in your request at

We will hear about:

**Astronomy**  
with Judith Grittner  
**Creation Station** with  
Debbie Cash  
**Photography** with Marilyn  
Lamoreux  
**Needle Felting and  
Nailbinding** with Judy  
Goebel  
**Writing** with Kelli Clement  
**Yoga** with Velma Wagner  
**Dance Party** with Laura Harpestad  
and more...



Needle Felting

*Come even if you are not going to the retreat to have fun, meet fine women and learn more about these topics.*

"FGC" is a series of casual, relaxed discussions or activities on the first Friday of each month, and a great way to meet women in our community. Light refreshments provided. **No RSVP is necessary to attend.** Free childcare is available (see separate article for info).

Upcoming topic:

Friday, May 3: Henna Tattoos

## Five Reasons to Join the A UW Board



- 1) It's rewarding, fun and a great way to **get to know women more personally.**
- 2) Becoming a board member is an excellent opportunity for **developing and practicing new skills and sharing your expertise** with others.
- 3) It's a great opportunity to **work with church staff, and to learn more about First Universalist and A UW.**
- 4) Nearly 200 women enjoy A UW programs and events during the year.
- 5) Serving our church community is a **spiritual practice.**
- 5) **A UW needs you!**

least a week in advance to Emma Schlatter in the church office at [Emma@firstuniv.org](mailto:Emma@firstuniv.org), (612) 825-1701 x135.



## AUW on Facebook

Are you on Facebook? Share and read up-to-the-minute news and opinions via the "Association of Universalist Women (Minneapolis, MN)" page on Facebook. Please "Like," comment, and share photos and posts.

## AUW Website

Next time you're surfing the Internet, be sure to stop by the AUW website at [1uauw.org](http://1uauw.org). Add a bookmark for handy reference!



In other words, Give, Receive, Grow.

**AUW's mission is all about connections:** Creating community, deepening our spirit, bringing our UU faith to action on behalf of women. AUW serves to connect women, and to connect those dots.



If you would like more information on becoming a Board member, please contact the Nominating Committee via [auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto:auw.firstuniv@gmail.com), come to the AUW table any Sunday, or talk to any member of the Board. In the meantime, don't be surprised if we come a' knockin'!

## Member Highlights

The AUW Board would like to hear about the accomplishments of AUW members-- highlights, achievements, awards, or challenges met. The desire is for all of us to learn about each other and develop deeper connections. So, toot your own horn... don't be shy! (Or inform us about another member, if you will.) Send any tidbits you want to share to the editor Theresa Alberti at [sapphire@albatross.org](mailto:sapphire@albatross.org) with "AUW" in the subject line.

**Save the Date: Annual Meeting  
May 10TH**



Please join us for the A UW Annual Meeting on Fri., May 10, 6 - 8:30 pm. This is the last major event of A UW's regular season. **The gathering will include a light meal and feature summaries of this year's activities and accomplishments; election of new Board members; the annual Clara Barton awards; and last but not least,**



**recognition of all you terrific volunteers.** This year, there will be a special vote on A UW's status as an affiliate of First Universalist Church. We would like as many members as possible to participate in this vote, so please plan on coming. We'd love to get everybody together and feel that special A UW estrogen buzz before summer!

## A UW Contributes to Reproductive Justice History



See this picture of Gov. Dayton signing the new health care insurance exchange (HIX) law on March 20, 2013? A UW owns a piece of this great victory. **The bill that he signed was free of any bans on abortion care, something that many other states are currently wrestling with** (and may I say, not as successfully as MN). And how might A UW claim ownership? In two ways - one recent and one that reflects your long-term commitment to reproductive justice. **On our recent day of service in February, A UW and MNRCRC collaborated on presenting a letter-writing station, from which we sent Valentines to our state legislators,** encouraging them to keep access to abortion care in the new HIX. The letters were bright and cheerful, and many of them carried personal messages and notes that thanked our legislators for their support of reproductive justice. Here's the second way: years ago, **A UW sent Meredith Schonfeld Hicks to Washington, DC, as the Clara Barton Intern for Women's Issues at the UUA.** She worked on reproductive

justice issues then and continues this work today in Minnesota. She coordinates with many pro-choice organizations to protect and expand abortion care and worked on the clean Exchange bill that made its way to the governor's desk. So thank Gov. Dayton, and when you see her, make sure you thank Meredith for her incredible work, always with a fierce and generous spirit. And **be proud of this victory. A UW helped win it!**

**Please note that I will be leading a writing workshop at the AUW retreat: "Stories that Connect: a writing workshop to discover the correspondence between body and soul."** When we understand and appreciate the connection between our spiritual lives and our reproductive histories, we can begin to integrate these two essential parts of the self into a whole, healing regret, shame and guilt. Here's an opportunity to explore that which is deeply intimate in a safe, nonpolitical setting. Bring a journal or other writing material and a pen.

Kelli

Rev. Kelli Clement  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
[612-889-3654](tel:612-889-3654)-cell  
[612-870-0974](tel:612-870-0974)-office  
[execdir@mnrCRC.org](mailto:execdir@mnrCRC.org)  
[kjclement@comcast.net](mailto:kjclement@comcast.net)  
[www.mnrCRC.org](http://www.mnrCRC.org)  
Twitter @revforchoice

*"We stand for reproductive justice because of our faith, not in spite of it."*

## **A UW Voting Rights Working Group**

We're monitoring election reform bills as they move through the state legislature. For information on the latest news, contact Jenny Thomas [jjt@jjthomas.net](mailto:jjt@jjthomas.net) or [612-920-4246](tel:612-920-4246).



## **A History of Our Own**



This month we have another section on A.U.W. history excerpted from the book **"100 Years of Liberation 1905-2005 A.U.W. Association of Universalist Women - Minneapolis"** by **Mary Junge**. Thanks to Mary for her work in documenting our history.

### **Decade 1: 1905-1914: A.U.W.'s Beginning**

**Women's organizations began at First Universalist at least as early as 1869** with the "Ladies' Social Circle." The "Women's Association" was formed in 1904, becoming a separate entity in 1905, to connect their work to the Women's National Missionary Association (for Universalist Women). The Association conducted the Sewing School at Unity House, helped pay for Unity's probation officer, published and distributed monthly pastoral sermons, and formed the Pastor's Aid and Sunday school committees. (6)

### **Biography - Grace Margaret Scofield Wilson (1909-1992) (7)**

Former A.U.W. president Grace Wilson was born in Minneapolis in 1909. She was baptized at the Tuttle Universalist Church of Minneapolis; she later attended youth group there and met Harold Wilson, whom she married in 1930.

She completed college in 1939 in home economics and later took writing courses. While raising her children, Grace volunteered in a political party, a foreign policy association, parent-teachers' association, Scouts, and for the League of Women Voters (where she was employed in 1950). Besides the A.U.W., Grace was on the church board of trustees, a delegate to the national convention, attended training sessions at the Universalist Camp (Lake Michigan), sang in the choir, chaired committees to help people in trouble, and formed the Rainbow Club to enhance awareness about racial issues.

Grace's husband suffered a brain aneurysm in 1963 and lived in a nursing home for the next twenty-two years. His experiences, and her work for the Minnesota Mental Health Association, led to an active interest in nursing home problems. She started "Friends and Relatives of Nursing Home Residents," which grew to become a statewide organization. She wrote a book about her experiences and successfully advocated for improved legislation to regulate nursing homes.

In May 1979, Grace and her husband were featured in the newspaper regarding a class action suit about medical assistance. Because Grace could not afford Harold's nursing home costs, she announced that after many years of happy marriage, they would have to divorce so that Harold could qualify for medical assistance to avoid poverty. The judge ruled in the Wilson's favor, so they remained married. The State Legislature revised the eligibility requirements for medical assistance. Grace declared this to be one of her greatest triumphs.

NOTES

(6) Research provided by Dave Juncker and the History Committee at First Universalist Church, Minneapolis.

(7) Excerpt from a biography written by Carol Scott in 1990 with assistance from Grace Wilson; edited by Mary Junge and Jenny Thomas.

## Words to Ponder...

### I Happened to Be Standing by Mary Oliver

I don't know where prayers go,  
or what they do.  
Do cats pray, while they sleep  
half-asleep in the sun?  
Does the opossum pray as it  
crosses the street?  
The sunflowers? The old black oak  
growing older every year?  
I know I can walk through the world,  
along the shore or under the trees,  
with my mind filled with things  
of little importance, in full  
self-attendance. A condition I can't really  
call being alive.  
Is a prayer a gift, or a petition,  
or does it matter?  
The sunflowers blaze, maybe that's their way.  
Maybe the cats are sound asleep. Maybe not.

While I was thinking this I happened to be standing  
just outside my door, with my notebook open,  
which is the way I begin every morning.  
Then a wren in the privet began to sing.  
He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,  
I don't know why. And yet, why not.  
I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you believe  
or whatever you don't. That's your business.

But I thought, of the wren's singing, what could this be  
if it isn't a prayer?  
So I just listened, my pen in the air.

## Calendar

### April

5 FGC: Spring Retreat Preview

12-14 Spring Retreat

### May

3 FGC: Henna Tattoos

10 AUW Annual Meeting



The newsletter editor is Theresa Jarosz Alberti. Email her at [auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto:auw.firstuniv@gmail.com) with "newsletter" in the subject line. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please click "Safe Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this message.

To view the HTML version of this newsletter, please set your browser for HTML.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to marilyn.lamoreux@comcast.net by [auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto:auw.firstuniv@gmail.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Association of Universalist Women | 3400 Dupont Ave | Minneapolis | MN | 55408

