



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

Association of Universalist Women

Art Discussion with Friday Get Connected

February 1, 7 - 9 pm,
Social Hall

Come hear church member **Bonnie Hill** talk about her artwork. She returned to painting and drawing in 1998 after purchasing watercolor lessons at the church auction. Since then she has studied **drawing, Japanese ink painting, watercolor and oil painting**. In her show, **HEART**, you will see examples of each of these methods. She will share how she learned to make art, starting in mid-life, and how her subject matter has evolved. Bonnie has a broad range of interests, as you will see in her art, ranging from miniature landscapes the size of a cigarette pack, to recent paintings of friends and family.



Sarah's Turn by Bonnie Hill

"FGC" is a series of casual, relaxed discussions or activities on the first Friday evening of each month, and a great way to meet women in our community. Light refreshments

From the Editor



As we enter into the heart of winter, my tendency is to want to hibernate with blankets and books, especially on some of the wicked cold days we've had so far. But I've seen article after article come in for the newsletter this month, highlighting all sorts of opportunities to go out, get involved and make a difference in February. There's the church's Day of Service, rallying at the Capitol for the Freedom to Marry or Pro-Choice issues, or being a part of the Women's Policy Summit. You can learn about art at Friday Get Connected, knit for charity, cut a rug at the Valentine Dance, or get a start on helping with the AUW Spring Retreat-- volunteers are needed, and rewarding it will be. I hope you'll join me in pushing past hibernation for the real warmth we are offered this February... to be out in our community, working and playing together.

Update on Spring Retreat

By AUW President Tracy Yue

As announced in January's newsletter, AUW's **Annual Spring Retreat will take place April 12-14th, Fri-Sun, at Koinonia Center in Annandale**, with the theme "Roots & Wings." We're proud to announce **Rev. Meg Riley as the Keynote Speaker!**



Ritu

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with organizing duties! The Retreat is in good hands. However, **there are still tasks that need you.**

In particular, we'd like to encourage 2-3 people to shepherd the Sunday Closing Ceremony. This is a fun, creative and rewarding project. The ceremony doesn't have to be elaborate. The most important elements are:

- acknowledging this precious time together,
- celebrating with songs and a simple ritual,
- opportunities for small group sharing,
- opportunity for sharing with the entire group, and thanking people.

You'll definitely enjoy this creative collaboration process. There are already three lovely women who are working to create the Friday Opening Ceremony; the Sunday Ceremony

provided. No RSVP is necessary to attend. Free childcare is available (see separate article for info).

Upcoming topic:

Mar 1: Seeking Financial Balance



A Fresh Look for Our Website

Next time you're surfing the Internet, be sure to stop by the AUW website at luauw.org. We've had a makeover, and information will be updated now on a timely basis. Bookmark the site for handy reference!



Babysitting Reminder

Free childcare is available at all AUW events. Please send in your request at least a week in advance to Emma Schlatter in the church office at 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

team can check in and/or collaborate with them.

Other remaining tasks include: decorating, acting as point person for Rev. Meg Riley, and organizing greeters.

Please note that if no one signs up to helm certain "extracurricular" activities, they will not take place. If these are essential to your Retreat experience, please consider making them happen.

Whatever the task, we ask you to see them as golden opportunities for you to share your particular skills and talents (wings) and to deepen your connections (roots) in this community. In this spirit, we strongly encourage you to sign up for tasks in pairs. Or, involve your Friendship Group!

You can see the whole list of tasks and time-frames at <http://tinyurl.com/ajrpfjg>. (Simply click on this link; no password is required.)

To take on a task, just add your name to the appropriate box on that sheet. It will save your info automatically. *Please note, this is a public document; please do not alter or edit except to add your name.*

You can also sign up at the AUW table in the Social Hall on Sundays and by emailing auw.firstuniv@gmail.com.

There are recommended guidelines and deadlines for each task. Once you sign up, we will send you this info and contacts for others who've volunteered for that area.

PLEASE SIGN UP! Many hands, wings and hearts will make light and joyful work of creating our beloved Spring Retreat.



Beautiful retreat setting

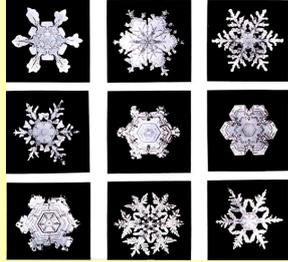
Retreat Registration and Fees

AUW Members' Early Bird registration starts Feb. 10 - 22, while non-members must register after Feb. 24. You can join AUW when you register, if you wish. The Membership fee is \$25/\$15, to be renewed each Sept.

The fee for 2013's Retreat is \$175 for members and \$205



"Association of Universalist Women (Minneapolis, MN)" page on Facebook. Please "Like," comment, and share photos and posts.



for non-members. This includes 2 nights' stay and 6 meals (Fri. 5 pm - Sun. 1 pm). Scholarships are available upon request.

As usual, Retreat registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and must be accompanied by payment. **Registration Forms will be available at the AUW Table and also on the AUW website for downloading, both starting Feb. 3.**

You can drop off forms at the AUW table on Sundays, at the church office, or mail to AUW care of First Universalist Church. Please note we will not accept forms until Feb 10.

General info about the Spring Retreat is at <http://1uauw.org/womens-retreat>. Specific info regarding the 2013 retreat will be posted starting in late Feb.

Join MNRRCRC on Lobby Day and the Day of Service



Equality + Access = Justice! **Pro-Choice Lobby Day is coming February 20, 2013!**

Make plans to join MNRRCRC and other reproductive justice organizations in MN to build legislative power at the State Capitol in St. Paul. Check-in starts at 8:30 am, and the day includes breakfast, legislative updates, break-out sessions (including a faith-based break-out with UU and other faith leaders), lobby training, a rousing rally in the rotunda, lunch, and pre-arranged lobby visits with your legislators. **Registration is required:** www.prochoicelobbyday.org It's a great day to be at the Capitol and let our lawmakers know that we support reproductive justice because of our faith, and not in spite of it! Contact Kelli Clement for more info: execdir@mnrcc.org

AUW and MNRRCRC will collaborate on First Universalist's Day of Service, Feb. 2 from 10 am - 1 pm. **Stop by our letter writing station and send a message to your state legislators.** We will have pre-printed messages to which you can add your own personal note. We can let you know who your representatives are, if necessary. We'll also mail the letters you write. As the MN state legislature works out the details of the health insurance exchanges, it's important to keep access to reproductive healthcare available to all women in our state. Help us let them know by sending a message on Feb. 2.

To learn more and join our work, check out our website: www.mnrcc.org, "like" us on Facebook, and follow me on Twitter @revforchoice

With gratitude & hope -

Rev. Kelli Clement
(612) 889-3654 (cell)
execdir@mnrcc.org

AUW Voting Rights Working Group

We continue to partner with the Voting Rights Coalition and the state legislature on elections issues.

We strongly support the goal of civil rights restoration through the "North Dakota Model" for citizens convicted of a felony. It would make voting and election administration simple for all involved: those who are in jail or prison could not vote; those not incarcerated could vote. This model would eliminate the current confusion for current and

former felons as well as elections officials and election judges about when rights are supposed to be restored. It would let County Attorneys redirect much more of their scarce resources to public safety. In addition, this approach would be more just on humanitarian grounds and would leverage the fact that voting is correlated with reduced recidivism. This new model would help those currently "on paper" in the community engage in the important civic act of voting, and would also help the thousands of eligible voters now "off paper" who have never been told their right to vote was restored. For more information, contact: Jenny Thomas jjt@jjthomas.net or (612) 920-4246.



AUW Member Highlights

Ruth Arnold and her husband Dave are selling their home of 40 years and moving to Madison, WI, to be near family. Ruth is a long-time member of First Universalist, AUW, and the Visual Arts Committee, and both she and Dave have been active church members. We will miss you, Ruth and Dave, and best wishes from AUW.

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 with "AUW" in the subject line.**

Freedom to Marry Rally at the Capitol



Thurs., Feb. 14, 2013 at 3 pm*

This will be the first time in 2013 that marriage supporters gather at the State Capitol Rotunda! It is a critical way to show state legislators that we want them to be proactive around marriage following our historic push back of the constitutional amendment. **Put on your "Standing on the Side of Love" shirt, join hundreds of other UUs, and demonstrate the power of LOVE'S PEOPLE!** This is an interfaith rally and

there is an opportunity to sing in a choir if you register early.

Register at OutFront MN (www.outfront.org/ftmd) and make sure to note you are from First Universalist. We will be tracking numbers toward our goal of 175+.

Please let laura@firstuniv.org know if you are interested in car-pooling. We may develop a plan to leave from First Universalist around 2:15 that day.

**Note: Not 3:30 as originally publicized by OutFront MN*

Let's Rally and Get 175+ First Universalists to the Freedom to

Marry Day at the Capitol!

Friendship Groups

We love getting photos and report about your Friendship Groups... please continue to send them (to Theresa at sapphire@albatross.org with AUW in the subject line).



Front row L to R: Carolyn Moe, Anne McBean, Martha Joy; back row: Velma Wagner, Gini Johnson, Kit Ketchum

Our Friendship Group has met every other week for over 6 years. We moved away from sharing a meal and structured topics toward checking in/talking, which more than fills the precious two hours we have. We began with 8 members, and two left after about three years. With a shared love for the outdoors, we have taken outings to pick berries and apples, visited the Women's Environmental Institute and gone on Tangletown's annual garden tour. We have done service projects together, such as phoning for MN United for All Families, helping at memorial services and working together on the Annual Day of Service. We bought an entire Great Gathering at this year's auction, so shared an evening together with our spouses.

The Faithful Knitter

By Barbara Melom

Community Day of Service

As a part of First Universalist's Day of Service on Sat., Feb. 2, we'll be having a day of "Knitting for Charity" at Steven Be's Yarn Shop over at 35th Street and Chicago Ave., Mpls. (<http://stevenbe.com>). We'll be working on knitting projects to be donated to others-- comfort shawls for members of our congregation experiencing grief in their lives, and hats to be given to homeless people and others in need.



Grab your needles and knitting supplies and head on over to Steven Be's and join others who will be spending the day "knitting for a cause." We'll be there from 11 am - 3 pm. Bagels and cream cheese plus beverages will be available for a \$3 donation; if you like to bake and want to bring something, please do.

We'll have patterns and experienced knitters on hand to get you started if you need some help. Crocheters are welcome too. You can also purchase supplies that day.

If you haven't signed-up, go to the church website and please do so now. Only a few seats remain. Questions? Contact Barb at bjm@visi.com.

On-going Knitting Fellowship at Ascension Place

Join one of two monthly groups: either 1st Mondays 6:30 -8:30 pm or 3rd Wednesdays 1:30- 3:30 pm at Ascension Place in North Mpls., 1803 Bryant Ave. N., off Broadway Ave

& Hwy 94. Upcoming dates: Feb. 4 & 20.

Join the Fun at the Valentine Dance



Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 - 10 pm
Tickets \$15

Don't miss the annual Valentine Dance. There will be dancing to the First U Jazz Band with some AUW members singing, including Velma Wagner, Kristin Siegesmund and Liz Permar. A quartet will sing that had their debut at the AUW Tea in December. This event is a "fun-raiser" for the Church music program.

Women's Policy Summit at the Capitol

[Note: AUW is a member of the Minnesota Women's Consortium.]

Dear Member Organization,

Our annual Women's Policy Summit is a great time to show the strength of the women's community in Minnesota and make an impact- so please mark your calendar for **Feb. 18, 2013. The Women's Policy Summit is an opportunity for our member organizations to meet with and build relationships with legislators and other elected officials.** The Summit includes opportunities for resource and information sharing as well as brainstorming for more effective collaboration among policy makers and advocates. Our goal for these meetings is to establish new connections between member organizations and let us know how to best serve and support our members, making the legislative session more successful for all.



This year, in addition to the activities above, the presidents of our member organizations (board chairs and executive directors) will convene the Summit and deliver a joint message to elected officials, which will be followed by a press conference.

Please join us on Mon., Feb. 18 from 10 am -12:30 pm in Room 318 at the Minnesota State Capitol. As a nonpartisan organization, the Consortium has invited all legislators to attend the event. We were very clear in our invitation that the purpose of this meeting is not to debate issues but to introduce legislators to our member organizations doing legislative work, share resources, and find out how we can work together to improve women's and their families lives during the legislative session. The meeting will be closely moderated in order to create a comfortable space for our member groups and legislators as well as to keep us on track.

Please RSVP to Dea Pratt at policy@mnwomen.org or (651) 228-0338 by Feb. 14, 2013.

Thank you,
Erin Parrish, Executive Director
Minnesota Women's Consortium
550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103
policy@mnwomen.org

Roe v. Wade Celebration



It was inspiring to see 25 First Universalist friends plus additional UUs from First Unitarian Society and Michael Servetus among the hundreds at the 40th Anniversary celebration of Roe v. Wade on January 22. Many of us were there to honor the work of the late Betty Benjamin, founder of NARAL MN and former A UW board member. We celebrated the success of Roe, while hearing a sobering report on the challenges we still face in this struggle for reproductive justice. First Universalist member Rev. Kelli Clement spoke in her role as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Join us for Lobby Day on February 20 and the Good Friday Rally on March 29. See our partner MNRCRC (www.mnrcrc.org) for details.

Join Us for Courting Harry on March 3

The Reproductive Rights working group is organizing group tickets to the new History Theatre play, *Courting Harry* (<http://www.historytheatre.com/2012-2013/courting-harry>), on Sun., March 3 at 2 pm. If you'd like to attend, please contact Jenny Thomas by Feb. 6 and specify number of tickets at Tier 1 (\$28), Tier 3 (\$22), or Student (\$10-- recommended age 16+). She can be reached at jjewell.thomas@gmail.com or (612) 920-4246. Together, we will get the group rate (about \$10 less than regular). After Feb. 6, please contact the theater directly for individual regular-priced tickets at (651)292-4323. There will be the option to stay for a brief "Afterthoughts" discussion immediately following this performance, which is opening weekend. Here is a synopsis of the play:

"Two best friends who grew up in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood in St. Paul, both went on to become Supreme Court Justices and presided over some of the most influential and controversial cases of modern American history. This brilliant new play by Lee Blessing explores the lifelong friendship between Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Harry Blackmun, which was tried and tested by politics, ambition, and ideologies. Blackmun and Burger come together again to look back over their lives and careers together, including the case that remains one of the most passionately disputed."

FGC Report: Shiatsu in January



In January we did self-Shiatsu beginning with our feet. From left to right: Polly Talen, Phyllis Stenerson, Jody Beresford and Linda McNary.



Kathy McClure did some work on people, including Pam Vincent pictured here.



Kathy working on Ann Styx

A History of Our Own



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

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation

While the women's groups at First Universalist were operating locally, they always had the support of a national denominational affiliate. The first national women's group in the denomination was the Woman's Centenary Aid Association. This group formed temporarily for fundraising purposes, for the John Murray Fund to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Universalism in America. The women's objective for their temporary organization was to raise \$35,000 of the proposed sum of \$200,000 to extend the work of Universalism. The women held a public meeting Gloucester, MA, on Sept. 21, 1870. With their expected year of service complete, the group had intended to dissolve at this time, but since their records were incomplete they decided to continue in order to complete them. At the meeting, the remarkable achievements of the women were reported. The next year, 1871, in Philadelphia, the women felt so committed to the importance of working together for the denomination that they decided to reorganize as an independent organization. They voted that whatever money they raised would fall completely under their control, and they would they would disperse it as they saw fit. 2

While both the local and national women's groups functioned continuously over time, their names changed frequently due to a variety of circumstances. Below you will find an outline of these changes:

National: Woman's Centenary Aid Association (WCAA), 1869-1871

Local: The Ladies' Social Circle, Church of the Redeemer, under the leadership of Mrs. Dorilus Morrison, Mrs. W.W. Eastman, Mrs. Pray, and Mrs. Chowen, directed its efforts toward the building of the new church. Between 1872 and 1876 they raised over \$8,000 for the church and its furnishings. 3

National: Woman's Centenary Association (WCA), 1871-1905

Local: June 16, 1903. A meeting at Tuttle Church (satellite of Church of the Redeemer) is led by Miss T. W. Holmes. Women discuss forming a "Society" to assist "weak societies in different portions of the state, working for the common good, and for the same object." 4

1904: The Women's Association is formed as a branch of the Social Circle. 5

National: Woman's National Missionary Association (WNMA), 1905-1939

Local: May 9, 1907. The Women's Association of the Church of the Redeemer is incorporated.

June 15, 1909. The Women's Universalist Missionary Association of Minnesota is incorporated.

From 1913, Church of the Redeemer hosts a "Ladies' Social Circle" in addition to the Women's Association.

National: Association of Universalist Women, 1939-1963

Local: Mildred Olson came to First Universalist Church in 1939, with her husband, the Rev. Carl Olson. She facilitated the merging of the two competing women's groups-the Women's Association and the Ladies' Social Circle.

National: The Association of Universalist Women and the Alliance of Unitarian Women consolidate to become the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF), 1963.

Local: The AUW at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis has collaborated with The Alliance of the First Unitarian Society on one or two events yearly since as long ago as 1980, and on the yearly retreat since 1999.

2 A Brief History of the Work of Universalist Women, 1869-1955, by Ida M. Folsom, editor. The Association of Universalist Women, 1955; condensed and edited by Elen spencer, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, 1993, with a new introduction by Janet Bowering, Unitarian Universalist Women's Heritage Society, 1997. Published by the Unitarian Universalist Women's Heritage Society, 147 High Street, Medford, MA, uuwhs@aol.com.

3 Fiftieth Anniversary, Church of the Redeemer, Minneapolis, 1859-1909. Published by Church of the Redeemer, Dec. 12 and 13, 1909.

4 Minnesota Women's Missionary Association documents found in 2003 in a metal box at First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN.

5 Histobit #3 by Dave Juncker.

Words to Ponder...

(In honor of the 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade)

Sex Ed by Betsy Sholl

Well-dressed, demure, jammed into those
politely arranged desks, it's hard to be
serious, but we are. No one even parts lips
to acknowledge what used to drive us crazy
in the back seats of cars, what kept us up
half the night reliving the last slow dance,
girl on her toes, guy bent at the knees
to press in against her.

The instructors speak precisely about
the importance of our children knowing the facts,
so surely none of us in our high heels and
neck ties is going to admit how our first mistakes

have suddenly blossomed so tender and lovely
we've been forgiven a thousand times,
a thousand times forgiven and repeated ourselves.

But fingering the graffiti on this desk,
I remember being braille to you, being read
like a steamy novel, and how those lessons
stayed with us, practical as driver's ed, those hours
of simulation behind the wheel of a parked car.
The truth is I don't regret having studied with you
though I do feel inarticulate, like an athlete
asked to speak in a room of kids, who has nothing
to say except, "practice, practice."

Once our daughter watched the cat in heat
yowl and slither across the floor, and without
looking up asked, would that happen to her. Sometimes
it isn't shame that makes us speechless. It's not
regret that makes me linger at the curb watching
her toss back her yellow hair and yank open
the heavy doors to school.

Calendar

February

- 1 FGC: Art Making Visible
- 2 First Universalist Day of Service
- 4 Knitting at Ascension Place
- 9 Valentine Dance
- 10 Early Bird registration starts for Spring Retreat
- 14 Freedom to Marry Rally
- 18 Women's Policy Summit
- 20 Knitting at Ascension Place
- 20 Pro-Choice Lobby Day

Upcoming (Check back for additional details next month.)

- March 1 --Friday Get Connected: Seeking Financial Balance
- March 3 --Courting Harry at History Theatre

Save the Date! Spring Retreat: April 12-14 2014

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