



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

Association of Universalist Women

Friday Get Connected

Friday Get Connected is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts and ideas, laugh, learn and have fun. We meet in the Library from 7- 9 pm. Light refreshments and childcare (on request) will be provided.

January 13 'Open Labyrinth Walk' In the Social Hall. Start the New Year with other women and walk or dance on the Chartes Labyrinth that is etched on the floor of the Social Hall. This event is more meditative in tone and those present are asked to be respectful of the space.

Please note date change: This is the Second Friday of the month

February 3 'A writing workshop' offered by Mary Junge. We'll use a series of short writing exercises for self discovery. This will be an opportunity to get to know other women in a safe environment. All are welcome--beginners and seasoned writers.

March 2 'Start seeds outdoors now (yes, now!) using the "winter sowing" technique'. Master Gardener Sue Schiess will explain how it works and which plants do best. You'll build a teeny-tiny cold frame and sow a seed or two. (Materials will be provided.)

From the Editor



The holidays are over and I'm back in Minneapolis after an extended visit with my parents. It finally looks like winter outside although I hear it's warming up again. My cat Simon is still spending his days under the comforter on my bed and I realize that he is getting older. He's probably not as able to deal with the cold as he once was.

January is a slower month for AUW with just the Friday Get Connected and a video with the Voting Rights group on the official calendar. I hope you are finding way to connect with friends despite the cold. And we do have things coming up. Look in this issue for your first glimpse of the Annual Women's Retreat. Sign up starts in February. And we are planning more activities with Ascension Place. Look for more on that in this issue as well. Stay warm and stay connected!

Save the Date and join us at the Annual Women's Retreat!

Join the Association of Universalist Women for a rejuvenating weekend of fun, fellowship and relaxation!

Focusing on balance and achieving what Emerson called that sense of "divine unity", the retreat will be an opportunity to participate in workshops, guided meditation, yoga, art projects... or perhaps just a chance to carve out the quiet time you've been seeking.

Taking place from **Friday, April 13 through Sunday, April 15**, the retreat will be at lovely Koinonia Retreat Center near Annandale, MN, nestled between woodlands and the calming waters of Lake Sylvia. Carpooling options and scholarship opportunities will be available. **More details and informational materials will be available at the Hub when registration opens on February 1.**

The Retreat Planning Circle looks forward to seeing you there!

For questions or to RSVP or request childcare, please contact Jeni Klotz at 651-592-6466, jklotz27@gmail.com.

Beginning in February, Judith Grittner and Velma Wagner will be the contacts for Friday Get Connected.



Annual Holiday Tea

Over 90 church women and friends gathered the afternoon of December 10 for the Annual Holiday Tea.

Traditions were upheld and new ideas were added: Martha Bird and Betsy McMillian elegantly poured tea and coffee, songs were sung and the tables were decorated by a variety of AUW women who beautifully individualized the look of the Social Hall.

Sweet and savory treats were beautiful and delicious.

The basket brought to hold the donated stocking stuffers for St Ann's Place overflowed, was emptied into other boxes and overflowed again with the generosity of the women attending.

It was especially gratifying to see a number of women who are new to the church and AUW attending the tea. Building community is one of the three pillars of AUW, and you could see it happening as longtime members sat at tables with newcomers and shared holiday memories.

Thanks to Ann Kay for leading the singing and to Julie Stewart for ably acting as MC. Thanks also to all the women who brought the wonderful food and helped with all the tasks of set up and clean up. Working together we accomplish great things.

Special thanks go to Kate Tucker for gathering and centering us with her words as our event began. We will miss her as she moves on next year.

Social Justice Campaigns Reproductive Rights

Upcoming Events:

Friday, February 10: 6:00-9:30 pm, an intergenerational movie and discussion. We will watch the film "Fragile Promise of Choice" by Dorothy Fadima. This film in part discusses the religious aspects of being pro-choice. This event is co-sponsored by AUW. Flyers will be posted with more details.

Wednesday, February 15: Pro-choice Lobby Day at the MN State Capital. More details to come.

Friday, April 6: Good Friday Pro-Choice March at Planned Parenthood. More details and car-pooling options to come.

Voting Rights



Join us Saturday, January 14, 10am to noon in Room 202 to learn about the issue of Voter ID, and to help support our First Universalist Day of Service event on February 4.

AUW/MUUSJA was a state leader in demonstrating that a Photo ID is unnecessary in a report published a year ago showing that cases of ineligible voting are non-existent for voter impersonation, the only issue a photo ID could prevent. While not needed to secure our elections, a Voter ID would make it more difficult for the more than 11% of

citizens who don't have a current Minnesota State ID with their current address. We'll show a new video prepared by the League of Women Voters Minnesota and provide talking points on the key issues of this anticipated constitutional amendment.

FFY: Carol Johnson 612-825-3322 or Jenny Thomas jjewell.thomas@gmail.com .

Knitting Fellowship at Ascension Place



AUW is organizing a short series of beginner's knitting classes this winter with the women of Ascension Place transitional housing to be held at their facility in North Minneapolis. As this newsletter has detailed previously, AUW has been partnering with Ascension Place and its sister program Next Step Housing during 2011. **For instance, AUW is again sponsoring a painting project at Ascension for the All-Church Day of Service on February 4, as it did last year.**

The knitting classes will give us an opportunity to get to know Ascension Place women in a more relaxed atmosphere over a longer period. A group of women knitting and chatting in fellowship is always great fun! Ascension Place has regular arts and crafts projects and musical performances. Its clients are keen to add knitting to their repertoire!

There will be 3 or 4 sessions during February - March. (We haven't yet nailed down dates, but will be announcing these in early January) In these sessions you can share your love of knitting, guiding students through the basics. Knitters can sign up to be a "teacher" or "fellow knitter". "Teachers" will instruct the group while "fellow knitters" will provide help and encouragement. We need at least 1-2 teachers and probably 3 or more fellow knitters per session. All participants, whether from AUW or Ascension Place, can sign up for any of the sessions and do not need to commit to all of them.

To get them started, we will be providing beginner's kits for each student complete with needles, yarn and hand-outs. The first project will be a cotton washcloth.

To get us started, we are holding a Yarn & Needle Collection Drive on Sunday, January 29th to get supplies! (Thanks to Nora Whiteman for this great idea.) Please bring your extra skeins of yarn and size 8 or bigger needles to the Social Hall after Sunday services. Thrift stores are a good place to find old needles, says Nora. We will also take cash donations for buying more materials for the kits. And, if you'd like to help make the kits or organize classes, we'd love the help!

Dates will be announced as soon as they're set, and flyers and sign-up sheets will be placed at the Hub. For more info or to volunteer, please contact Tracy Yue at tkstutu@gmail.com or 612-770-4488.

Words To Ponder

The small plot of ground
on which you were born
cannot be expected
to stay forever
the same.
Earth changes,
and home becomes different
places.

You took flesh
from clay
but the clay
did not come
from just one
place.
To feel alive,
important, and safe,
know your own waters
and hills, but know
more.
You have stars in your bones
and oceans
in blood.
You have opposing
terrain in each eye.
You belong to the land
and sky of your first cry,
you belong to infinity.
~ Alla Renee Bozarth

Calendar

January

13 Friday Get Connected: 7-9pm in the Social Hall: *Open Labyrinth Walk*

14 Voting Rights: 10am- Noon, Room 202: Learn about the issue of Voter ID and how to help support our First Universalist Day of Service event February 4.

19 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library. **When Everything Changed** by Gail Collins

30- Note: This is a date change. Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **When Everything Changed** by Gail Collins: Hosts, Julie Stewart and Kathy Urberg: 4350 W Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis 612-321-1355.

Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.

February

3 Friday Get Connected: 7-9pm in the Library: Writing workshop with Mary Junge

16 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library: **Finding Nouf** by Zoe Ferraris.

27 Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **Finding Nouf** by Zoe Ferraris: Hosts, Susan Schoenfeld and Ann Hobbs: 3215 E 24th Street, Minneapolis 612-723-1676. **Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.**

Mark it now! The Annual Women's Retreat is April 13-15 2012.