



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

## Association of Universalist Women

### Thank You From Mary Bohman

Dear AUW Board of  
Directors and Members,

I have felt so blessed through the years by all the love and support I have received from the First Universalist community. My ordination was no exception. **Many hearts and minds and hands helped make it an inspiring and beautiful day.** I felt the energy of a loving church community cheering me on!

Justin and I want to extend our sincere **thanks for your generous donation.** It is particularly meaningful coming from AUW -- an organization that has nurtured and supported strong women for over a

### From the Editor



This year, I'm especially aware of June as a year-end. Of course, it's been the end of the school year for eons, and the end of the church year. It all has a bigger impact for me this year, with my daughter graduating from college, and my son graduating from high school. This makes for the end of some pretty big chapters, which gives me mixed feelings-happiness, sadness, and the excitement of anticipation for the new chapters ahead.

It is also the end of the year for AUW. This will be the last issue before things start up again in the fall. It's also my last issue as your newsletter editor. I've had a great year of getting to use some of my creative skills, and really getting to know the workings of AUW, and you, its members.

I know we'll all have a good year in the hands of Rita Peterson, who generously stepped forward to be your next editor. Thank you for the opportunity!

### AUW Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Were You There?

by Evelyn Browne



strong women for over a century! Your contribution helped in creating a wonderful celebration and memorable day I will never forget. Please pass this thanks onto your members!

In faith and gratitude,

Mary Bohman

\* \* \*

Thank you for your support of Mary and me, and UUism too!

Justin



On the evening of May 10, 60-or-so A UW members gathered to socialize, to take care of required annual business items, to get to know each other better, and most joyfully, to appreciate the spirit of commitment and generosity that characterizes A UW and A UW members.



Among the highlights of the evening:

- An opportunity to spend time in pairs meeting each other and sharing our "Roots" and "Wings."
- Beautiful musical entertainment provided by the Valentones.
- A delicious dinner catered by Holy Land.
- A review of the programs and activities A UW sponsored this past year.
- Recognition of the many women who contribute to A UW's programs and success.
- Awarded the Clara Barton Sisterhood honor to member Nancy Browne.
- Thanked outgoing board President Tracy Yue and board members Sharon Ramirez and Mary Sandbo. Also welcomed incoming board members Jean Ramlow, Mary Helmin, and Jane Hallas.
- Recognized incoming President Suzann Willhite.

We had a great evening - joyous, productive, delicious, centering. One great piece of feedback overheard: "I've never been to an annual business meeting - and I've been to a lot of them - that was anywhere near as much fun as this one!"

## A UW Honors New Clara Barton Sister



## Babysitting Reminder

Free childcare is available at all A UW events. Please send in your request at least a week in advance to Emma Schlatter in the church office at [Emma@firstuniv.org](mailto:Emma@firstuniv.org), (612) 825-1701 x135.



## A UW Online

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



This May A UW honored Nancy Browne as a Clara Barton Sister.

Nancy has been active at our church from 1955-1960, then again after her return to Minneapolis in 1986. Nancy served on the A UW Board, worked on the women's retreat, has served as chief organizer of the Women Who Read group, and is a friendly visitor to many shut-ins at church and in her housing cooperative in Roseville. Nancy also serves at most memorial services behind the scenes. Nancy has an easy laugh and can lift the spirit of even the most confirmed curmudgeon.

For her lifetime of involvement in Unitarian Universalism, and service to A UW, we award her with the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation honor of being nominated a Clara Barton Sister.

--Carol Gilbert, representing the Board

## The Faithful Knitter

By Barbara Melom

*Knitting in the Summer...*

Many of you have stopped and talked to me at church about the "Hats for the Homeless"



project and wondered what to do with hats over the summer. **Keep knitting and save the hats until fall** when I send out an announcement that the hat collection basket will be placed near the elevator at church. If you don't want to keep them over the summer, drop them off in the office, give me a call, and I'll come over and pick them up. We can always use scarves! **Our first call for hats will be in early October** when there is an event for homeless teens held at St. Mary's Greek Church.



Barb knitting at farmers market

After a year and a half, we have finished the knitting classes at Ascension. I recently received a call from Vail Place-- a program for folks experiencing mental health issues-- asking if we would be interested in sending a few knitters to help them transition from scarves to hats. They already have a Monday afternoon knitting group; anyone interested in this volunteer opportunity can let me know. Vail Place is the big white house on the corner of 36th and Hennepin, not far from the church.

**Late summer, early fall we'll be "knitting in public" at several of the farmers markets.** Watch for that notice on Cyber Coffee Hour. Enjoy the summer and keep knitting.

Barbara Melom  
[www.hats4thhomeless.blogspot.com](http://www.hats4thhomeless.blogspot.com)  
[bjm@visi.com](mailto:bjm@visi.com)

## MNRCRC and AUW Working Together



AUW and other First Universalist members/staff at the

40th Anniversary Celebration of Roe v. Wade, with Dr.  
Willie Parker (center)

Gratitude is like a muscle that gets stronger with use. **At MNRRCRC we are enormously grateful for the wonderful support we have received throughout this year from AUW.** A generous financial gift at the beginning of the church year allowed us to continue and strengthen our work reaching out to other congregations; so far we have led programming or connected with clergy in dozens of congregations around the state. **Members of AUW show up as people of faith at reproductive justice events** - like the Roe v. Wade 40th anniversary celebration, Pro-Choice Lobby Day, and the Good Friday solidarity event. We collaborated on the Day of Service when we sent Valentine letters to our legislators to encourage them to keep reproductive justice in the new health care exchange. You made space for me to lead a workshop at the AUW retreat on writing our reproductive histories. Some of you have provided office staff support and filled other volunteer roles. **We have had a very successful year at MNRRCRC and truly could not have done it without the financial, spiritual, and volunteer support of AUW!**

At MNRRCRC we are changing the conversation about reproductive justice in Minnesota. **We are also working hard to fill our \$24,000 gap. We welcome your continued generosity** and hope you will tell others about the great work we do.

If you are not already receiving our twice monthly e-newsletter, please email me to get on the list: [execdir@mnrCRC.org](mailto:execdir@mnrCRC.org) We also invite you to "like" us on Facebook, where we share what's current in the reproductive justice movement. You can follow me on Twitter @revforchoice

This relationship is strong between AUW and MNRRCRC, and my gratitude is overflowing! I look forward to nurturing it and helping it grow stronger in the coming year. Bright blessings for an abundant summer!

Rev. Kelli Clement  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
[www.mnrCRC.org](http://www.mnrCRC.org)  
[execdir@mnrCRC.org](mailto:execdir@mnrCRC.org)  
(612) 870-0974

## Give Art a Try This Summer!

AUW member **Briana Goetzen** is teaching art online this summer. Her **Art Circle Party** is a 5-week class where students will learn a new technique each week, featuring a variety of art mediums (including drawing, watercolor, collage, fabric and Gelli Arts printmaking). There are video



instructions, suggested material lists (but you can use what you already have), and an online community of classmates via Facebook and Flickr.

**The class begins June 1 and goes through July 6.**

**Registration is still open--** \$45 if you sign up before June 1, and the price goes up to \$60 afterwards. **For more information, please visit the Art Circle Party website at <http://tinyurl.com/artcircle>**



## **AUW Voting Rights Working Group**

We support the **new voting laws passed in May** by the Minnesota Legislature with bi-partisan support. The legislation provides **greater convenience for voters and cost-savings for local governments.** The laws, which will become effective August 1, 2013, featured a change to **"no excuse" absentee balloting, making it available to all eligible voters.**

They also expanded mail balloting in rural townships, made changes that will lower the taxpayer cost of recounts and established a pilot

project for electronic poll books. The Voting Rights coalition will continue to work next session for early voting and civil rights restoration.



We also urge all members attending **General Assembly in Louisville, KY, June 19-23 to support the Action of Immediate Witness** promoting the move to amend the constitution to say that **corporations are not people and money is not speech. If you can help at GA, please contact our partner from Florida, Kindra Muntz** at [kindramuntz@verizon.net](mailto:kindramuntz@verizon.net) or (941) 497-1764. She is working with Michael Greenman and others in the UUJEC (Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community) on this important effort.

For information, contact Jenny Thomas at [jjewell.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:jjewell.thomas@gmail.com).

Jennifer Jewell Thomas

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Co-Chair Voting Rights Working Group

Association of Universalist Women ([www.1uauw.org](http://www.1uauw.org))

Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance ([www.muusja.org](http://www.muusja.org))

## **Ideas for AUW Members to Think About**

## Over the Summer...

by Suzann Willhite, incoming AUW President



**There are several ideas percolating among AUW members that I would like to share with you. Give these ideas some thought and discuss them with other AUW members over the summer.** We will talk more about these ideas and any others that come up for you at the AUW Fall Kickoff party in September.

One idea is for AUW to **start a formal mentoring or sharing program.** I know that there is tremendous talent that can be shared and connections that can be made with our members for all kinds of interests, skills, jobs, training, housing, etc. It can be anything we want it to be. It can also be a good way for our membership to build community, make connections and attract younger women. What are your thoughts?

Another idea is for **AUW to become involved with reviving the original version of the Unity Summer Program.** Currently the church is no longer running Unity Summer. Many youth from our congregation were inspired and transformed by their experiences with nonprofit/social justice organizations involved with Unity Summer in the past. Could AUW revive Unity Summer in its original form? Do you have opportunities at your work to provide youth this opportunity this summer? If you are interested in this idea, Chris Bremer is willing to talk about possibilities.

There is still a **website that provides background information for Unity Summer** at: <http://firstuniv.org/unitycenter3>

*The Unity Summer Leadership Program was established in 1993 by First Universalist Church in Minneapolis as a community outreach program to "create a new generation of change agents." The initial goals of the program were to provide a challenging work experience for young people; to broaden their awareness of social justice issues; and to work toward the elimination of intolerance. It has never been a faith-based program but has always been values based. Unity Leadership takes its name from and builds on the heritage of the Unity Settlement House established by First Universalist members in 1897; one of the first settlement houses in Minneapolis. Unity Settlement House provided a safe environment where people were mentored and empowered by the "skills they would need to carry with them for the rest of their lives." Like Unity Settlement House, Unity Leadership promotes the opportunity and space for the youth of today to learn new ways of acting and to develop the skills needed to survive in this rapidly changing world.*

These are just a couple ideas for AUW involvement. Think on these things....and we'll talk. Have a great summer!

# 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.

Decade 2: 1915-1924

NATIONAL EVENTS

Suffrage and the League of Women Voters

**AUW members were active in the suffrage movement** that dominated national news, **culminating in the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution** on August 18, 1920. This gave women the right to vote-- 132 years after the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and 72 years after the Seneca Falls Declaration that began the drive for woman suffrage. How our women's organizations were involved in woman suffrage prior to and following 1920, when women got the right to vote, is not perfectly clear. However, we do have some specific details about related programs and members who were community organizers for suffrage and voting rights.

\* In 1920, three speakers in the program for the Women's Association are of special note: Miss Kneubuhl spoke at the church about the League of Women Voters; Mrs. Manley L. Fosseen spoke on women in politics and life; and Mrs. Andreas Ueland (Clara) spoke on "The Duty of Women as Citizens." Clara Ueland was a member for a time at the Unitarian Society; then she and her husband began attending Plymouth Congregational Church. She was the 1913 founder and first president of the Equal Suffrage Association of Minneapolis.

\* In 1911, Mary Garard Andrews, once president of the Nebraska Suffrage Association, moved to Minneapolis. At age 62 she joined the Women's Association at Church of the Redeemer.

\* Grace Margaret Scofield Wilson (1909-1992), president of the AUW at one time, was an active volunteer for the League of Women voters for many years. She became employed by the organization in 1950, as their "organization and legislative secretary."

\* Joan Niemec served as president of the League of Women Voters in 2003.

## Member Highlights

We congratulate AUW Board Member **Marilyn Lamoreux** on her art opening

reception at First Universalist.



## Memories of the Annual Meeting

--May 10, 2013--





Words to Ponder...



## Mama Moon

by Theresa Jarosz Alberti

Mama Moon shines down,  
her great  
gold face full,  
lush as a ripe peach  
hovering low  
against black velvet.  
I can barely tear  
my eyes away, sneak  
peeks at her as I drive:  
her wise face  
serene yet concerned,  
full of a knowing,  
eons old.

The more I look at  
her, the more I want  
to howl, send her some  
music from that  
animal place inside.  
I want to proclaim my  
love when she is:  
a delicate sliver of light,  
a brilliant white orb peeking  
in at me through my  
attic window, a sultry  
fiery ball hugging low

to the horizon, and most  
of all, a great gold  
mama watching over  
her precious, weary  
earth.

She reaches her arms  
around us, protectively.  
We feel her touch as  
she caresses our oceans  
every morn and  
eve. We schedule  
our lives by her, our  
time, as people always  
have. She whispers to  
our wombs, urging eggs  
to release, babies to  
sprout or blood to  
cleanse.

Let me sing to you  
Mama Moon, as you  
glide through our skies,  
circling round and round  
tirelessly, as any  
loving mother will do  
for her beloved children.  
Bless us, Mama Moon.

**Have a Great Summer!**





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.  
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