



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

Association of Universalist Women

Henna with FGC

May 3, 7-9 pm

Henna as Art: Fawzia Khan will help us use henna to decorate our bodies with beautiful designs.

"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).

FGC will again meet in people's homes during the summer. At the May 3 FGC, we will see who would like to offer her home/deck/porch/backyard for June, July and August. A particular topic can be suggested, or we can just get together to eat (potluck for treats and beverages), talk and view the garden.

From the Editor



It's hard to believe that the Spring Retreat is already a few weeks past. This year was my second time attending, and I know I can speak for everyone in saying that it was a lovely, restful, inspiring and fun weekend... despite the fresh delivery of snow. A few highlights of the retreat for me were the speeches by Meg Riley and Kelli Clement, heartfelt folk music by Namoli Brennet, Diane's nature walks, yoga, dancing, art, and talking to many AUW women. A big thank you to all who helped to make this retreat happen! Enjoy the photos of the retreat in this issue... they bring back memories!

AUW Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

**Fri, May 10, 5:30 - 8:15
pm, Social Hall**

Please come enjoy
dinner with your
fellow lovely women





FGC Wants YOU! Seeking New Hostesses

Judith and Velma have coordinated FGC for a year and a half and are ready to turn over the reins to others. **We suggest a team to be able to share the responsibilities.** What is involved? Coordinating the schedule by coming up with ideas for topics, inviting presenters, getting publicity to the AUW newsletter editor, arriving early to set up, bringing treats and beverages, taking attendance, collecting membership applications and dues, and seeing that people have fun! **Please contact AUW to let us know of your interest:**

auw.firstuniv@gmail.com



to celebrate the end of another great AUW season and to thank all our fabulous volunteers! **Besides**

getting a free dinner, you'll be treated to a recap of the year's activities, the presentation of the annual Clara Barton Award, and more. We will also conduct a little business, namely elect new Board members and approve the budget for 2013-14. The Board will also summarize recent member discussions about a proposal to join the church as an official program. Please note, the Board has decided to postpone this proposed vote until additional information and member input can be collected.

5:30 pm Mingle
6:00 pm Dinner
6:45 pm Program
8:15 pm End

We would greatly appreciate a few volunteers to help set up the catered dinner and to clean up afterwards!

To RSVP and volunteer, please email auw.firstuniv@gmail.com or sign up at the AUW table next Sunday. Walk-ins are always welcome, but, it will help to know in advance how many will attend the dinner. Please note that, as usual, you don't have to be a member of either AUW or First Universalist Church to attend AUW events. To reserve free childcare, please contact Emma Schlatter in the church office before Fri, May 3rd, at Emma@firstuniv.org, or call (612) 825-1701 x135.

Member Vote on Proposal



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, (612) 825-1701 x135.



A UW 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.

A UW Website

Next time you're surfing the Internet, be sure to stop by the A UW website at 1uauw.org. Add a bookmark for handy reference!



Is Postponed

In April, the Board sent all members a letter outlining a proposal join the church as an official program. After two very fruitful discussions with members at church and the A UW Retreat, and upon learning of the departure of Susan Claeys, the church's Finance Director, **the A UW Board has decided to postpone this proposed vote until we can collect additional information and member input.** A team will be digging into this and related issues concerning A UW's relationship with the church. **If you'd like to hear what has been discussed so far, please come to the upcoming Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 10th.** Further information will be shared as the process unfolds. We are delighted by the interest and participation of membership and look forward to continued discussions.

MNRCRC'S Kelli Clement Writes Letter to the Editor

Published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune

April 29, 2013

ABORTION



If it's legal, accessible Gosnell doesn't happen

The Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice heartily agrees with writers Jennifer A. Marshall and Sarah Torre ("This abortion news will open your eyes," April 25) that the horrific crimes of Kermit Gosnell are abhorrent and difficult to fathom. Gosnell was not certified in OB/GYN, and the procedures he routinely performed failed almost every standard of care.

If the writers believe, as we do, that such horrors should never be repeated in civil society, we

Member Highlights

The A UW Board would like to hear about the accomplishments of A UW 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 "A UW" in the subject line.



wonder why they represent institutions that advocate the very conditions that allow such a charlatan to thrive. **Lack of sexuality education, lack of access to contraception, a scarcity of trained abortion providers, fear of violence perpetrated by clinic protesters, restrictive waiting periods and Medicaid's refusal to provide insurance coverage for most abortions all make for an environment where women who have extremely limited options are preyed upon by the likes of Gosnell.**

The writers appropriately decry the horrific infanticide in Gosnell's clinic; what they don't say is that by denying women access to safe, legal abortion care, or by passing laws that make compliance impossible (see North Dakota), this is the inevitable result.

The Rev. Kelli Clement, Minneapolis

The writer is executive director of the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

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

Annual A UW Gift to the Church

As many of you know, A UW has a tradition of giving an annual gift to the church.

During the year, a representative from A UW talks with members of the church staff to find out what special needs and/or wishes they have for items not covered by the general operating funds of the church. This information is brought back to the A UW board members, who then decide on our annual gift. The decision is based on our budget (membership dues, donations and fundraisers) and where the board members feel called to help. Sometimes beauty wins and sometimes, practicality. Sometimes, both!

Some of the gifts from previous years include chalices for the children's classrooms, a new floor buffer, the dishwasher, fabric sound-abatement panels for the Chalice Room, and the CD sermon copier.

This year's gift is two-fold: We made a donation towards Mary Bohman's ordination and we increased the amount of last year's gift to cover the cost of having 10 additional pew cushions made. Originally we had planned on 20, but increased our total this year to 30. Though I am sure many people would like to use them, they are meant specifically for those who need them, i.e., persons of a certain age and/or persons with physical difficulties for whom the pews are not just uncomfortable, but downright painful. The cushions arrived on April 28th and will be put into use within the next few weeks.

Thanks to all the members of AUW who made this gift possible!

AUW Voting Rights Working Group

We've been following the legislature and hope they will approve "no excuse" absentee voting this session with bi-partisan support. This would be a great help to voters who don't want to risk long lines at the polls. After the session, we will continue our partnership with the Voting Rights Coalition and Second Chance Coalition to help educate the public and build bi-partisan legislative support for the "North Dakota" model of civil rights restoration after felony convictions. It holds that if you're out of prison, you can vote. It's much easier for voters and election officials and would let county attorneys shift their attention to public safety. For further information, contact Jenny Thomas at jjt@jjthomas.net.



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Co-Chair Voting Rights Working Group

Association of Universalist Women (www.1uauw.org)

Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (www.muusja.org)

The Wings of Joy



[Notes from the closing sermon/ceremony at the AUW Retreat - April 14, 2013 by Rev. Kelli Clement]

Victor Hugo said: "Be like the bird pausing in her flight awhile on boughs too slight, feels them give way beneath her, and yet sings, sings, knowing

she has wings."

What gives us lift to our wings? What call us to sing, what comes up through our roots and is the expression of our spiritual lives? One answer, sometimes, may be joy.

Joy is tricky, slippery, elusive. I'm offering a sermon this summer in a series called "Choosing Joy." But joy is not an item on a drop down menu, to be downloaded and installed. Oops, this version of joy is not compatible with my computer. Joy may have worked for me years ago, but this new version requires an upgrade of my equipment. Joy becomes something else to check off our to-do lists.

Rather I think joy is better considered as something that grows organically, something we cultivate, that we attend to, that benefits from weeding, pruning, nurturing into ripeness. Joy, ripened organically, helps us reach out, widen and soften our vision of the world, of each other and of ourselves.

So I was thinking about wings, the wings of joy, and then about actual wings. Here's a little meditation on our ancient roots and wings. Have you heard of Tiktaalik? Tiktaalik was the Darwin fish - the creature that emerged from the sea to walk on dry land. And in her limbs, she had 5 digit-like bones. Look at the 5 fingers of your hands. We are related to Tiktaalik! Eventually through various strands and strains of evolution emerged feathered dinosaurs, with 5 digit-like bones in their wings, from which descended the birds we know today. Look at those 5 fingers of your hand. We are related to the birds! We are rooted to the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Talk about roots and wings!

So let's think metaphorically about these 5 digits as way to organize some building blocks of joy: gratitude, forgiveness, community, service, and play.

Gratitude: it's all gifts, all the time, even the gifts wrapped in stinky paper; when we practice gratitude we cultivate a sense of abundance; like a muscle it gets stronger with use.

Forgiveness: remember Meg Riley's story about hearing her mother's history as her mother was facing the end of her life. Meg was able to forgive her mother, to forgive herself for being hard on her. Meg's sister did not have that experience and struggled with the grief of her mother's death much longer.

Community: we are connected in mystery and in miracle to the interdependent web. The holy is what bubbles up when we are bringing out the best in each other.

Service: gets us out of ourselves - naturally flows from a grateful, reconciled, connected heart.

Play: not because sorrow or hurt is absent, but because it is present and we find time to play in spite of it. Because play, like prayer, softens and changes us, takes us out of the world of the to-do list, gives us time to be humans beings and not human doings.

Rumi said: Your grief for what you've lost lifts up a mirror to where you're bravely working. Expecting the worst, you look, and instead, here's the joyful face you've been wanting to see. Your hand opens and closes, opens and closes. If it were always open, you would be paralyzed. Your deepest presence is in every small contracting and expanding, the two as beautifully balanced and coordinated as bird wings.

Blessings of the springtime to each of you. May the sweet time we share each year at the AUW retreat call forth in us gratitude, forgiveness, community, service and play. Blessed be and amen.

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.

[Excerpt from "**Woman the Voter: Her Time Has Come**," by Alice Stone Blackwell, daughter of Lucy Stone; **The Christian Register**; September 2, 1920.

Amazing Tilts and Fantastic Objections: Woman the Voter.]

There has been much fun to sweeten the enormous labor. What amusing tilts we have had with the enemy at legislative hearings! What fantastic have been brought against every step of women's advance, as we hammered away year after year for better educational opportunities, improved property rights, equal guardianship, etc., gradually gaining one thing after another, and seeing all the bogies melt into thin air!

Now the great victory has been won. How will the women vote? Everybody is asking, and nobody knows. The one thing certain is that they will not all vote alike. They have come to the suffrage at a critical time. We are face to face with a tremendous struggle between the great profiteering interests on the one side and the common people on the other, with the profiteers in control of most of the political machinery and almost the entire press.

Undoubtedly, most women will want to put their votes where they will count against the profiteers and for the public welfare, if they can only find out where that is. Every effort will be made to fool them, and they may be fooled for a time, but not forever. In the long

run, I believe, their votes will tend to modify a too exclusively commercial view of public affairs, and cause more attention than at present to be given to considerations of human welfare and human happiness.

One hundred years before women won the right to vote, a married woman could not hold property or money: legally the possessions of a married couple belonged to the husband. A woman could not enter into a legal contract, nor could she sue or be sued. If a woman became a widow, she was "entitled" to stay in the home for forty days following her husband's death, and she received the lifetime use of one-third of his real estate. Her "right" was known as "the widow's encumbrance." A widower, on the other hand, had the life use of all of his wife's real estate if they had had at least one child born alive. His right was known as "the estate by the courtesy." A husband had sole control of his children so long as he lived with his wife. If he died before she did, he could bequeath his children away from their mother-even to strangers. In most states a man had the legal right to beat his wife-providing he used moderation and a stick no thicker than the judge's thumb.

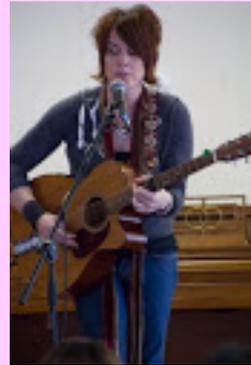
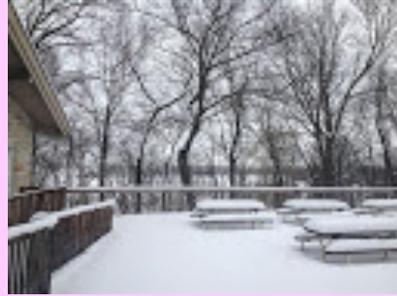
*Madam, some say don't meddle with politics.
Madam, if you want your house well kept,
you must meddle
because politics has already meddled with you.
Be an efficient, modern housekeeper and demand
VOTES FOR WOMEN!
-Anonymous (from the files at the Minnesota Historical Society)*

Lost and Found

Some personal items were left behind at the AUW Retreat a couple weeks ago: **6-7 pretty scarves, a pair of sunglasses, pair of small black knit gloves and a travel soap container (with soap)**. Please retrieve them from the Church's lost and found locker in the coat room off of the Atrium.

Memories of the 2013 Spring Retreat

Much thanks to Board Member Marilyn Lamoreaux for sharing her wonderful photos.



Words to Ponder...

Women's Rights to the Suffrage

by Susan B. Anthony

This speech was delivered in 1875, after Anthony was arrested, tried and fined \$100 for voting in the 1872 presidential election. She did not live to see women get the vote in 1920.

Friends and Fellow Citizens: I stand before you tonight under indictment for the alleged crime of having voted at the last presidential election, without having a lawful right to vote. It shall be my work this evening to prove to you that in thus voting, I not only committed no crime, but, instead, simply exercised my citizen's rights, guaranteed to me and all United States citizens by the National Constitution, beyond the power of any State to deny.

The preamble of the Federal Constitution says:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people--women as well as men. And it is a downright mockery to talk to women of their enjoyment of the blessings of liberty while they are denied the use of the only means of securing them provided by this democratic-republican government--the ballot.

For any State to make sex a qualification that must ever result in the disfranchisement of one entire half of the people is to pass a bill of attainder, or an ex post facto law, and is therefore a violation of the supreme law of the land. By it the blessings of liberty are for ever withheld from women and their female posterity. To them this government has no just powers derived from the consent of

the governed. To them this government is not a democracy. It is not a republic. It is an odious aristocracy; a hateful oligarchy of sex; the most hateful aristocracy ever established on the face of the globe; an oligarchy of wealth, where the rich govern the poor. An oligarchy of learning, where the educated govern the ignorant, or even an oligarchy of race, where the Saxon rules the African, might be endured; but this oligarchy of sex, which makes father, brothers, husband, sons, the oligarchs over the mother and sisters, the wife and daughters of every household-- which ordains all men sovereigns, all women subjects, carries dissension, discord and rebellion into every home of the nation.

Webster, Worcester and Bouvier all define a citizen to be a person in the United States, entitled to vote and hold office.

The only question left to be settled now is: Are women persons? And I hardly believe any of our opponents will have the hardihood to say they are not. Being persons, then, women are citizens; and no State has a right to make any law, or to enforce any old law, that shall abridge their privileges or immunities. Hence, every discrimination against women in the constitutions and laws of the several States is today null and void, precisely as in every one against Negroes.

Calendar

May

- 3** FGC: Henna Tattoos
- 10** AUW Annual Meeting



The newsletter editor is Theresa Jarosz Alberti. Email her at 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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