



Association of Universalist Women

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

Get Involved!

Get involved with A UW programming and you'll get to know lots of great women! Volunteering is a wonderful, easy way to meet people and give back. Sign up for a one-time task, or share your skills by joining an event team or sub-committee. A UW programs are successful only because of many helping hands. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at the Hub. You can also email auw.firstuniv@gmail.com. Thank you!

Volunteer Opportunity

I am looking for a few good writers who would be interested in writing short profiles each month of some of the many outstanding women in our community. Send me an email at sarah.froggoddess@gmail.com if you are interested.

From The Editor

Sarah Warner



Hello and welcome to Autumn with A UW! I just joined the Board and am taking over the newsletter editor position from Kathy Urberg. I have been involved with A UW for 5 years now and LOVE this

community of women. My major in college was English and Creative Writing and I'm excited to be putting that to use doing this newsletter. I am also thrilled to be working with so many talented women on the Board, planning fun events and learning more about what the social justice groups are doing.

I grew up spending winters in Ohio and summers in Minnesota. Summers were amazing times for me, spent wandering the woods with my cousins, building forts, swimming, biking -- anything we could do outdoors. Memories of those summers are what landed me in Minnesota permanently after college. I love to read, write, knit, drum, bake bread and hang out with fabulous friends. Currently I am working my way through the "Earth's Children" series by Jean M. Auel and cannot believe I didn't find those books sooner!

But enough about me. A UW has some fantastic things going on this fall. Our Fall Kick-Off Dinner will take place September 30 at 5:30pm. We hope you'll join us; see more about this fun gathering below.

The Reproductive Rights group is planning October's Friday Get Connected on the 14th and hopes to encourage some

Time to Join or Renew Your AUW Membership

Why join? AUW organizes meaningful, fun events and programs throughout the year for the women of the First Universalist community and financially supports women's social justice programs. Your membership fee of \$25 or \$15 is directly responsible for ensuring these opportunities continue.

How so? Because the church does not financially support AUW. We raise all our own funds through memberships, donations, the poinsettiasale, and charging for a few events. The vast majority of our budget is from membership dues.

Membership has its privileges! To encourage early membership signup, members get a discount on the fall Mini Retreat and the April weekend retreat.

Why now? AUW memberships run from September to September. Regardless of when you paid dues last year, please renew now. And, you can join or

fresh voices to join them. Our very popular fall Mini-Retreat returns on October 29, while December brings the Holiday Tea and annual Poinsettia Sale. Mark your calendars and look for further information in future newsletters. Let's have some fun and good fellowship this year!



Come to the AUW Kick-off!

Join us on **Friday,
September 30, 5:30pm**
For dinner, for camaraderie,
for information, and for fun!

Are you interested in making more and deeper connections with other women? In making new friends, building community, or deepening your connections at First Universalist? That's what you'll find through AUW, the Association of Universalist Women at First Universalist. Well over 200 women participate in AUW annually. You do not need to be a member of First Universalist to join AUW or its programs.

Whether you are new to First Universalist or just to AUW, come to the Kick-off and meet new people. If you are already involved in AUW, come see old friends and make some new ones.

At our 2011 annual Kick-off you will learn about the events and programs AUW organizes and supports, including monthly Friday "Get Connected" events, book club, the annual fall and spring retreats, social justice work, friendship groups, and many other activities. And you'll enjoy a nice dinner!

As always, childcare will be provided on request. Please notify Lily Franz in the church office one week in advance at, Lily@firstuniv.org, 612 825 1701 x107.

To RSVP email auw.firstuniv@gmail.com. If you'd like to help with this event, you are most appreciated! Please contact Evelyn Browne at ewbrowne57@gmail.com

AUW is vibrant and welcoming, committed to serving and reflecting the needs of its members. Come be a part of the joy, the community, and the energy that AUW has embodied

renew ONLINE in five minutes! Just [click here](#). You can also get a paper Membership Form at the Hub in the Social Hall or at any AUW event. Fill it out and hand it in with your dues to the Hub anytime.

Friday Get Connected

SAVE THE DATE! Friday Get Connected will start again in October. Save the first Friday of the month from November till May for Friday Get Connected. This is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts and ideas, laugh together, learn something new and have some fun. Meet new friends and share a relaxing evening together. **We will meet in the Library from 7- 9pm.** Light refreshments and childcare (on request) will be provided. Here are the topics for upcoming months:



Oct 14*: 7-9pm: Walking with our Sisters. Talk with other AUW women about what matters to you about Reproductive Rights.

for over 100 years!

See you at the Kick-off!

Friday September 30, 5:30 - 8pm

Social Hall at First Universalist Church

Introducing the 2011-2013 AUW Board of Directors

Five new women have joined five remaining Board members to form the newest Board. A big welcome to Evelyn, Mary, Sarah, Sharon, and Suzann! Proper introductions to each board member will be in next month's newsletter. For now, here's a list of the 10 and their current roles.

Tracy Yue: President; Acting Communications Coordinator

Suzann Willhite: Vice-President; Social Justice Oversight

Mary Sandbo: Treasurer

Isabel Quast: Secretary and Archivist; Google advisor; Hub Committee

Nora Page: Facility Booker; Hub Committee

Evelyn Browne: Membership Committee; Hub Committee

Sharon Ramirez: Membership Committee; Parents Liaison

Sarah Warner: Newsletter Editor; Retreat Circle Liaison

Jeni Klotz: Friday Get Connected Coordinator; Reproductive Rights Liaison

Kathy Urberg: Holiday Tea Coordinator, Master Gardener, Helps wherever needed

And not least, a big thanks to our outgoing Board members for their steadfast service: Liz Permar, Julie Stewart, and Nancy McCall.

Look for one of us in the Social Hall near the Hub each Sunday and say hi!

Fun Factoids: Board Member Isabel Quast can tell you everything you'd ever want to know about Minnesota-grown apples. She presides at the Apple Booth in the Horticulture Building at the MN State Fair every year. Her beloved bulldog Jeter is named for her favorite baseball player.

Social Justice Campaigns

Several members of the Religious Rights/ Sacred Choices committee will join in the discussion. We invite voices from many perspectives and generations. This promises to be a lively discussion.

***Please note-** this session will be held in the Cummins Room and that, due to Yom Kippur, this is the only Friday Get Connected which will not be held on the 1st Friday.

Nov 4- Introduction to Meditation. Kathy Urberg is a current member of the AUW Board, and has been studying meditation for some time. If you've wondered about meditation or how to meditate, this will be an enlightening evening. Dress comfortably.

For questions or to RSVP please contact Jeni Klotz at 651-592-6466, jklotz27@gmail.com. For childcare, please notify Lily Franz in the church office one week in advance at 612-825-1701 x107, Lily@firstuniv.org



Gardening at Ascension Place

AUW is developing a relationship with Ascension Place Inc., a transitional housing program for women in North Mpls. Last spring we organized a collection of cleaning and kitchen supplies for women moving into new apartments. This summer a small enthusiastic group of AUW women met monthly to clean up the overgrown front yard of the building. The group removed weed trees, pruned overgrown shrubs, and weeded extensively. They added some perennials to the front area and hostas to the north side. Finally, they spread a thick layer of mulch around the new plantings. It's been hot and sweaty work at times, but the noticeable improvement has made it all worthwhile. This photo of the grubby, but smiling, women was taken by Kay Jensen, who also helped that day. A final workday is planned for Sunday September 11 at 1pm. If you are interested in helping, contact Nancy McCall at nancymccal@aol.com or 612-205-6152. Look for more projects with Ascension Place clients in future newsletters! If you are interested in helping to organize these, please contact Nancy.

Voting Rights

Defeating Voter Suppression Efforts in Minnesota - What We All Need to Know

Organized by AUW's Voting Rights team and MUUSJA
Thursday, September 22 6-8pm at First Universalist.

Our right to vote is under attack. Proposed legislation and a constitutional amendment would prevent already-registered voters from voting unless they provide a government-issued photo ID with a current address.

Some of us take a photo ID for granted. However, many already-registered voters do not. This proposed requirement would disproportionately disenfranchise registered voters who don't need or have a photo ID, such as seniors, the disabled, persons of color, students, and poor people. In fact, researched-based studies show that up to 11% of already-registered Minnesota voters would be turned away at the polling place because they do not have a current/valid photo

ID.

Come learn the guts of the issue. Then also learn how to communicate effectively about it and spread the word. The future of our election system depends on it.

Please RSVP online by September 15 at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F7BYN2R>

Words to Ponder

Listen to the salutation to the dawn,
Look to this day for it is life, the very life of life,
In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of our existence.
The bliss of growth, the splendor of beauty,
For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well spent makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well therefore to this day.
Such is the salutation to the dawn.
Sanskrit Salutation "To the Dawn"

Fall Calendar

September

11 Gardening session, 1-3pm at Ascension Place in North Mpls.

15 Women Who Read: Killing Miss Kitty and Other Sins by Marion Dane Bauer: 1pm at First Universalist; New This Year- Daytime alternative to evening session.

22 Defeating Voter Suppression Efforts in Minnesota - What We All Need To Know. 6-8pm, first Universalist

26 Women Who Read: Killing Miss Kitty and Other Sins by Marion Dane Bauer: 6:30pm HOSTS; Kathy Urberg and Julie Stewart. 4100 Xerxes Ave. S, Mpls, 612-929-0273. All are welcome but please RSVP to the hosts so they know how many to expect. Please bring a dish to share.

30 Fall Kick-Off Dinner: 5:30-8pm; Church Social Hall

October

14 Friday Get Connected: 7-9pm in the Cummins Room: Walking with our Sisters

20 Women Who Read: The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean: 1pm: First Universalist:

New This Year- Daytime alternative to evening session

24 Women Who Read: The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean: 6:30pm HOSTS; Kathie Wasson and Mary Sorensen. 3921 Zenith Ave N, Robbinsdale 763-971-2929. All are welcome but please RSVP to the hosts so they know how many to expect. Please bring a dish to share.

29 Fall Mini-Retreat: 12:30- 4:30pm; Cummins Room First Universalist

November

All Month Poinsettia Sale (order deadline is before Thanksgiving)

10 Annual Holiday tea: 2-4pm, Social Hall

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