



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

Association of Universalist Women

Farewell to Sarah Barber Braun



If you google Sarah Barber-Braun, you'll find a multitude of references attesting to her U.U. ministry - officiating at weddings, speaking, preaching, and researching U.U. history. Sarah, a 1984 graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry, is moving to Salt Lake City to be closer to her daughter. Sarah has been a tireless

April 2010: From the Editor

Kathy Urberg



With March feeling more like April, will April feel like May? And what about July and August!

Please note that the date for our General Meeting and potluck has been changed from May 21st to May 23, a Sunday evening. It is good that our church is so busy these days, but it does sometimes lead to scheduling problems. Watch the May newsletter for details and plan on coming and joining us for a great time.

Friday Get Connected

April: There will be no Friday Get Connected in April due to the annual Spring Retreat on April 9-11.

May 14: We will discuss the book "Committed" by Elizabeth Gilbert, author of "Eat, Pray, Love". The meeting is from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Library. Light refreshments will be served. For questions, call Jeni Klotz at 612-721-1483 or email jklotz1@cs.com. The book is new and available only in hard cover. Reserve a copy of the book at your favorite library soon.

AUW Mothers & Daughters Mayday Celebration, Saturday May 1st, 2 - 4pm, Chalice Room

Calling all daughters! Bring any and all important females in your life to the AUW's annual spring fling! This year, instead of

investigator, and for the past 28 years has made Phoebe Anne Coffin Hanaford her focus. In collaboration with Loretta Cody, Sarah wrote [A Mighty Social Force](#) about Phoebe's life as a Universalist minister in the 1800's. Through this book, Phoebe's place among influential religious leaders of the 19th century is assured.

"Phoebe just stepped out of her book 28 years ago and showed me how to live my life. I urge everyone to find that spirit that can be your companion," said Sarah.

Sarah remains philosophical about life despite losing most of her sight, getting weaker, experiencing kidney failure and needing to leave her apartment for the 24-hour support at Benedictine Health Center. "I'm safe, someone is doing my wash, and these people are wonderful."

Several Church members have been assisting her with the transition;

a dinner banquet, we're throwing an afternoon party to honor women and girls. With kid-friendly crafts, snacks, songs, raffle prizes and more, there will be something fun for girls aged 1 to 100.

We especially encourage mentoring pairs, our community's teens, multi-generational family groups, and AUW Friendship Groups to come. All Clara Barton sisters are cordially invited and transport can be arranged upon request. Finally, childcare will be provided for sons and daughters with short attention spans.

Suggested entrance fees are \$5 per single; \$10 per adult with more than one youth; and \$20 for any group of 4 or more adults. You can sign up at the AUW Table in the Social Hall on Sundays after each service; tickets will also be available at the door.

Raffle prizes range from jewelry and special dresses to toys and massage certificates. Raffle tickets from \$1 - 5 will be on sale at the party. Each guest will receive one raffle ticket as part of entrance.

We need volunteers. See the Help Wanted column for specifics.

Social Justice Campaigns

"Photo ID" Bill Topic of Voting Rights Forum April 20

The Voting Rights Group of the AUW/MUUSJA (MN UU Social Justice Alliance) is sponsoring a forum Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m in the Chalice Room at First Universalist Church. The topic is the proposed Photo ID bill which would require even registered voters listed in the poll books to show a photo ID. The Voting Rights Group opposes this bill because 10% of eligible and registered voters could be denied a ballot. Come to the forum and learn who's behind the bill and what needs to be done. Stop by for handouts if you can't stay. For more information contact: Carol Johnson at 612-825-3322

Christine Bailey, Nora Page, Pat Gottschalk, and numerous others have stopped by to read for her. Her library has been boxed up and sent to Harvard using a ministerial grant from Unity Church in St. Paul. "I got Phoebe into Harvard," Sarah chuckles.

"I want my AUW friends to know that spiritual excavation has been most satisfying. I've led the life of a happy archivist." She adds, "Hey, can you buy a few copies of the book to have for sale at the retreat?"

Help Wanted

May 1, Mother/ Daughter Event

Traditionally, boys & men have served and cleaned up for this event. Let's not break with tradition! Please lean on some guys. Help is needed for:

- Clara Barton coordinator (contact and arrange transport if needed)
- Raffle coordinator

cjkkjohnson@peoplepc.com or Jenny Thomas at jjt@jjthomas.net or 612-920-4246

Other Upcoming Events:

In May, watch for a program on the US Supreme Court ruling overturning the campaign financing law. Check the AUW and church calendar for details.

On June 6 at the First Unitarian Society, attend a forum to discuss the merits of the "Judicial Reform" amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, a vote by citizens whether or not to retain a judge, that incorporates a Judicial Evaluation Commission.

On Thursday, June 24 at 4:30 pm at General Assembly (GA), join our panel discussion on same-day voter registration featuring church member and MN Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie, and the Executive Director of the LWVMN, Keesha Gaskins on "Honoring Inherent Worth of Voters for 36 Years."

AUW/MUUSJA Sacred Choices: Reproductive Justice Committee

A very successful Movie Night and powerful intergenerational discussion on abortion was held at First U on February 19. Over 50 people attended, representing both faith-based and secular organizations. In addition to the dialogue, participants wrote 200 postcards to state and federal legislators in support of reproductive justice and comprehensive sexuality education. Special thanks to Connie Diercks and Cathy Apostle for their lead organizing role and Kelli Clement for her blessing and benediction.

The next RJ event will be on Good Friday, April 2. AUW members and friends are invited to participate in a counter demonstration for pro-choicers to show that women's health matters. It will be held at Planned Parenthood's Highland Park clinic in St. Paul. Each year over 1000 pro-lifers march in protest at this site. Sign up at

- Volunteer recruiter
- Decorations
- Snacks & beverages
- Entertainment
- Set-up, Clean-up (a lot less than for a banquet!)
- Welcome Registration table

Voting Rights

- Get Involved! Our campaign needs volunteers to improve our Voting Rights webpage.
- Help with redistricting based on the 2010 Census and felon enfranchisement issues.
- Help MUUSJA with its three GA programs.

Contact Jenny Thomas jjt@jjthomas.net or Carol Johnson (612-825-3322).



AUW member Kelli Clement speaking at the 2010 Lobby Day

<http://www.ppaction.org/campaign/goodfridaysignupform10>.

Words to Ponder, brought to you by Jeni Klotz

Prayer for Village Earth

O Mother Earth, we pray today to link our spirits with all our brothers and sisters who share this web of life with us and to honor those who once walked upon this land.

Rest quiet, Ancient Ones, we seek only to honor you and to respect the land. We will not take from it lightly, nor do harm. We will respect creatures with whom we share this sacred place.

Father Sun, we beseech you to shine down your love and light upon us!

Sister Rain and Brother Wind, walk softly here, for we are small beneath your might power!

Sister Moon, shine gently as you guide us into dreamtime, and when you journey across the world, send your stars to light our way home!

O, Mother Earth, accept our prayer, bless us with your energy and healing. Help us to remember that we are connected to all who share your sacred web of life... past, present, and future, that in divinity and grace, we exist as one.

Sharon Auberle

AUW Calendar 2010: April, May and June

April

2 Pro Choice demonstration at Planned Parenthood's Highland Park clinic in St. Paul.

9 - 11 Annual AUW Retreat at Koinonia.

20 "Photo ID" Bill discussed by Voting Rights Forum 7:00 pm in the Chalice room.

26 Women Who Read Book Group: The Compassionate Carnivore, Catherine Friend HOST: Adele Hersey, 4412 Grimes, Mpls, 952-926-2486, co-host Helen Ellenbecker.

May

1 Mother and Daughter Get Together: 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the Chalice Room.

14 Friday Get Connected: Discussion of the book Committed by Elizabeth Gilbert from 7:00-9:00 pm in the library. Light refreshments will be served.

23 Annual Meeting and Potluck: Detail to be announced next month.

24 Women Who Read Book Group: Returning to My Mother's House, Gail Straub HOST: Ann Kay, 5120 Lee Way, Minnetonka, 952-934-7238, Co-host Dimi Karas

June

24 General Assembly panel discussion on on same-day voter registration featuring church member and MN Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie, and the Executive Director of the LWVMN, Keesha Gaskins on "Honoring Inherent Worth of Voters for 36 Years," 4:30 pm; check GA program for place

28 Women Who Read Book Group: PLANNING MEETING at church social hall, whoever shows up has a voice and helps set up or clean up.

The newsletter editor is Kathy Urberg. Email her at auw.firstuniv@gmail.com with "newsletter" in the subject line.