



Association of Universalist Women

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

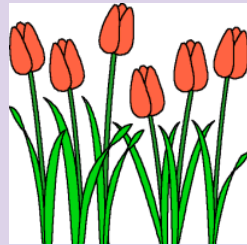
Friday Get Connected

The first Friday of every month from October until May we meet in the Church Library from 7- 9 pm. Snacks are provided.

Next Meetings:

April 1 - It's April Fool's Day, so what better topic than Whimsey. Bring your whimsical self and any objects of whimsy and share with the group. Light hearted fun only!

May 6 - Spring Gardening. We will talk about how to start a rain garden as well as possibly doing some plant or garden sharing later in the growing season. For your own garden of the soul - what would you like to plant or add?



April 2011: From the Editor Kathy Urberg

Well, the tulips in my yard are not up yet, but the seasons are marching on. The Women and Girls Spring Fling

is on May 14, and the End-of-the-Year Annual Meeting and election is May 27. Watch for details in the May newsletter, but get the dates on your calendar now.

It is not too late to express your interest in being on the AUW board next year. We need a few good women. Talk to Tracy Yue or Jeni Klotz to say you would like to join us.

Remember, **this Sunday** to bring items for the graduates of Ascension House. See the article below for details.

With the Republican majorities in Minnesota and nationally, reproductive choice is in more danger than it has been in many years. The AUW's Social Justice Group focusing of Reproductive Choice has been very active for several years, and they are very eager to have some new and energetic members. They are having a planning meeting on April 30 at 11:00 am in a RE classroom at church. If you are at all interested, please join them to help set the course for next year. For more details, see the article below.

Ascension Place Graduates Need Some Help

AUW is sponsoring a collection of items for graduates of Ascension Place transitional

housing who are moving into their own apartments. Collection is this coming Sun, April 3rd, on the stage in the Social Hall.

They need cleaning supplies and kitchen stuff as specified below. Gently used items are OK. This is a great opportunity to clean out cupboards, hit a thrift store and help these women, most of whom haven't ever lived in their own place before.

Items requested: Toilet brush & cleaner, sponges, laundry soap, laundry basket, mop bucket, garbage cans, paper towels, toilet paper, window cleaner, multipurpose cleaner; can opener, spatula/spoon/whisk, mixing bowl, baking pan, small coffee maker, toaster, dish towels, oven mitts, tupperware. NOTE: they do NOT need pots, pans or dishes.

If you're available on April 3rd to help box items during social hours, or, to load items into a van after 1 pm, that would be wonderful.

FFI: Nancy McCall, 612-205-6152, Nancymccal@aol.com.

Spring Fling for Women and Girls

May 14, from 2 - 4 pm in the Social Hall



Calling all women and girls of First Universalist! Come celebrate spring with AUW. Like last year's very successful event, we'll have snacks, crafts, singing, and a dance around the Maypole. Plus we'll decorate flower pots for the women of Ascension Place housing. Come by yourself, or better yet, 'adopt' a mother/grandmother, daughter/granddaughter, sister/aunt/niece and bring them too!

Entrance is free, but donations are welcome. Boys are welcome to join us, but if you think they would prefer a separate activity, then please request childcare one week in advance.

RSVP to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com or sign up at the Hub. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with this party, as well. Questions? Contact Tracy at tkstyutu@gmail.com or 612-770-4488.

Social Justice: Reproductive Choice

Take Action on April 22. Join UUs and progressives from across the metro at the annual Good Friday counter-protest at Planned Parenthood (Highland Park, St Paul) on Friday, April 22. Each year 1000 anti-choice supporters protest in front of the clinic. Let them know that standing up for faith and family means, in fact, supporting reproductive rights. In this time of unprecedented attacks on women's healthcare funding, it's especially important to demonstrate our Faith in Action!

Drop by during lunch hour or anytime between 8am- 2pm! Families welcome. Placard signs will be provided. In addition, two interfaith services will be held at 10am and 1pm. Check Cybercoffeehour and the Orders of Service for more details starting mid-April. Another great way to support this counter-protest is to "Pledge a Protester." Planned Parenthood raised a good amount of money from this last year! More information available soon.

Signing up to attend the Good Friday event is encouraged but not necessary. For more information or questions please contact Sam at scarolus@ppmns.org or call 612.821.6164.

The Reproductive Justice Committee will meet on Saturday, April 30 from 11 am - 1:30 pm in an RE classroom at church, room number to be announced. We will plan a program for early Fall, 2011 and determine our direction for next year. Because Women's Health and Reproductive Freedom is more precarious now than it has been since 2004, we hope more women will join us, making more actions and programs possible. We and our daughters and granddaughters are in danger! If you'd like to join our group, please email or phone Cathy Apostle, (952) 941 -0642, caquilt51@aol.com.

Social Justice: Voting

Our AUW Voting Rights co-lead, Carol Johnson, has been hard at work testifying at the Capital against proposed bills that would require registered voters to present a Photo ID to vote. The bill

is unnecessary, as demonstrated in the report co-authored by Carol, representing AUW and Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA), and Kathy Bonnifield of our partner organization, Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota (CEI). The report, partially funded by a generous grant from AUW, has been widely quoted at the capital and has been in such demand that it has gone into a second printing.

In addition to being unnecessary, a Photo ID bill would cost many millions of dollars at a time of major budget deficits. Lastly, Photo ID requirements would do great harm, as well-documented by the Brennan Center for Justice: "Although most Americans have government-issued photo ID, studies show that as many as 12% of eligible voters nationwide do not; the percentage is even higher for seniors, people of color, people with disabilities, low-income voters, and students." Women - who have only had the right to vote for 90 years - are particularly hard hit by Photo ID requirements, because name changes, living longer and average lower income make us less likely to have a current ID. Carol has also been on a speaking tour with our partners from the Voting Rights Coalition including CEI and LWVMN educating audiences about the lack

of need, high cost and harm of Photo ID. You can help. Get informed, tell your friends, contact your legislators and sign our petition. Go Carol!

Words to Ponder brought to you by Jeni Klotz

Play in this universe. Tend
All these shining things around you:
The smallest plant, the creatures and
Objects in your care.
Be gentle and nurture. Listen...

From a poem by
Anne Hillman

AUW Calendar: April and May 2011

April

1 Friday Get Connected: Whimsey from 7 - 9 pm in the Church Library.

8 - 10 AUW Annual Retreat, Koinonia.

22 Counter-protest at Planned Parenthood offices in St. Paul from 8 am - 2 pm.

25 Women Who Read: The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Host: Jeni Klotz 3345 23rd Av S, Mpls 612-721-1483; Co-host: Judith Grittner. All are welcome, but please let the host know if you are coming.

30 Reproductive Justice Committee planning meeting 11:00 am - 1:30 pm in an RE classroom.

May

6 Friday Get Connected: Spring Gardening from 7 - 9 in the Church Library.

14 Spring Fling for Women and Girls from 2 - 4 pm in the Social Hall.

23 Women Who Read: Lacuna, by Barbara Kingsolver. Hosts: Adele Hersey, 4412 Grimes Av S, Mpls 952-926-2486; Helen Ellenbecker, and Dimi Karras.

27 AUW Annual Meeting and Year-End event. Details to follow.