



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

Association of Universalist Women

Please Note

We decided NOT to hold the Spring Fling event this year due to the busyness of May with Mother's Day, the AUW Annual Meeting, and Memorial Day weekend. The Annual Meeting will happen as usual on May 11. Please look further in this newsletter for details.

Friday Get Connected

Friday Get Connected is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts and ideas, laugh, learn and have fun. We meet in the Library from 7- 9 pm. Light refreshments and childcare (on request) will be provided.

April 6 Come hear women artists whose work is on display in the Social Hall talk about their art and their artistic process. They

April 2012 Newsletter

From the Editor



It's spring! We've turned our clocks ahead, there is slightly more sunlight than darkness and more every day, the trees are blooming and people are starting to think about their gardens. I have the urge to get my bike out and I'm seeing lots of other bikes on the roads.

The annual Spring Retreat is just around the corner and this Friday is the Annual Good Friday counter demonstration at Planned Parenthood. See this issue for more information on how you can be involved. The Voting Rights group is looking for people to join them and the knitters at Ascension Place are looking for more fabulous knitters to join them. The Annual Meeting date has been set and there are plenty of ways to volunteer to help with that. Come help us send Kate Tucker off right! She has been so supportive of AUW over the years. Enjoy spring and stay connected!

will talk about their journey as artists and explain what the pieces they have in the exhibit mean to them.

Patricia Foulkes and Heidi Hoy are confirmed at this point.

May 4: Understanding Ourselves and Each Other Friday Get Connected is all about getting acquainted with each other. We'll use the Myers Briggs personality test as a way of understanding ourselves and our ways of interacting with others.

Since we would like to spend as much of our time together as possible discussing the types, we are asking women to take the test ahead of time.

A limited number of copies of the test are available from AUW Board members near the Hub.

You can also take it online at

www.myersbriggs.org or come early at 6:30 pm on May 4th.

Questions? Contact Judith Grittner at 612-839-2280 or judithgrittner@mac.com

RSVP is not necessary. Just come!

AUW Annual Meeting with very special guest Rev.

Kate Tucker



Please join in the last event of AUW's season! The annual meeting on May 11. We'll share a lovely dinner, elect new Board members and honor the newest Clara Barton Sister awardees, outgoing Board members and our many wonderful volunteers.

This year we will especially recognize, honor and thank our beloved Kate for her unflagging support over her 15-year tenure.

This free event lasts **5:30- 8:30pm** and will be held in the Social Hall. Mingling starts 5:30pm, dinner at 6pm and the program kicks off shortly after. Chocolate, Kate, and warm fuzzies!

We'll also be collecting small body-care products to donate to Ascension Place & St Anne's Place for Mother's Day gifts (nice soap or lotion).

Please volunteer a bit of your time to make this evening memorable! Tasks include:

- assist chef Linda McNary in the kitchen earlier in the day.
- decorate
- help set up & serve the buffet
- help clean up after event
- drive carpool for guests who need rides
- help deliver body-care products to Ascension
- general assistance

Please note, all are welcome to attend this event, but only current paid-up members of AUW may participate in the election of Board members.

RSVP by May 3rd to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com or sign up at the Hub. Hope to see you on Fri May 11th!

Social Justice Campaigns: Reproductive Rights



On Good Friday, April 6 we need many committed UUs to participate in a counter-demonstration outside of Planned Parenthood on Vidalia Ave. in St. Paul. (A new location with very little parking) **The event begins at 8 am and will end at 4 pm.**

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice is planning religious services during the day. The services will take place at 11 am, 1 pm and 3 pm. **The early one takes place during the 10 am -noon shift, which is the shift for which we have arranged bus service from First Universalist.**

The bus will be in the First Universalist parking lot, 3400 Dupont Ave. at 9:15 am to load and leave at 9:30, arriving at Planned Parenthood at approximately 10 am for the 10 - noon shift. For the return trip the bus will load at 12:15 pm and return to First Universalist at 12:45 pm.

There are 47 seats on the bus, and the cost is covered by AUW as part of the Reproductive Rights/ Sacred Choices budget.

You can reserve a seat by phoning Cathy Apostle 952-941-0642 or email caquilt51@aol.com.

Let's have great representation at this important event for women's rights and health! Of course wear your UU shirt!

Please be sure to sign up with Planned Parenthood on their website so they know how many people to expect. Also, note their request for donated food for the food shelf!

Social Justice Campaigns: Voting Rights



Please **join our working group** on Voting Rights. We meet the **3rd Saturday** of each month at **First Universalist, Room 204, from 9-11 a.m.** Mark your calendar and join us when you can: **4/21, 5/19, 6/16, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15, 10/20.** (Call Jenny's cell if you can't get in the building 612-386-5724). Newcomers are welcome.

We are working to educate UUs and our community about the harm that would come from the constitutional amendment passed by both houses of the legislature and headed to the ballot in November to require all voters to present a valid state-issued photo ID

when they vote.

While it makes sense to many, a deeper look shows that the proposed amendment would be a burden for as many as 700,000 Minnesota voters without a current ID or who use Election Day Registration (EDR), which may be eliminated. **That's nearly one in four eligible Minnesota voters who may find it harder to vote, and to be assured their vote will be counted!** It's a special challenge for elderly women: in addition to needing a birth certificate (which not all elderly have), many would also need marriage and/or divorce papers to get a State ID. Voters 18-24 are the most at risk because they are the least likely to have an ID with their current address.

The amendment would require an expensive overhaul of Minnesota's best-in-the-nation election system and would introduce provisional ballots, sometimes called "placebo ballots" in other states because they are often not counted. The cost of the amendment and how it would be implemented are unknown and would be determined after the November vote by the 2013 legislature and courts.

Stop by the HUB on Sundays to get a literature and a button, "I Oppose Voter ID" (suggested donation of \$1 to fund printing more buttons). Wear a button on your lapel to invite discussion and help educate others about the issue. This harmful measure will be stopped one conversation at a time. You can make the difference.

FFY contact Carol Johnson 612-825-3322 or JennyThomas jjewell.thomas@gmail.com

Ascension Place:

Greetings to AUW Knitters!



AUW began a knitting program for women living at Ascension Place that is incredibly successful. The original plan was to go for four sessions, but the women are really enjoying the group and **more support is needed for helping them.** You do not need to be an advanced knitter to help out. Currently the women are working on a basic wash cloth. Everyone is using #8 needles and

Sugar and Cream cotton for the project; learning the most basic cast on, the knit stitch and bind off.

The knitting sessions are Thursday evenings; arrive between 6:30 pm and 6:45 pm and stay and knit until 8:15. **We would like to set up four teams and have each team of two go once a month.** We need about four more volunteers. Ascension Place is located in back of the Cub Store off Broadway and Lyndale Ave. **We may be able to switch from Thursday night to another night if this works for more people.**

Please contact Barb Melom directly if you are willing to lend a hand; it is very rewarding to watch these women gain confidence as they learn something new. It's fun to go with a friend. If you have a knitting buddy ask them to join you.

We also need some needles, specifically the shorter straight 10 inch needles in sizes 7, 8

and 9. We are also ready to start some of the women on circular needles, 16 inch size 7, 8 and 9 for making hats.

At this point we have plenty of yarn, and volunteers with this project are very excited about the progress we are making.

Please drop off needle donations at AUW table or give them to Sandy at the HUB.

Questions? Contact Barb Melom at bjm@visi.com or 612-925-3459

Words to Ponder

Soil for legs
Axe for hands
Flower for eyes
Bird for ears
Mushroom for nose
Smile for mouth
Songs for lungs
Sweat for skin
Wind for mind
Just enough.
~ Nanao Sakaki

Calendar

April

6 Good Friday Pro-Choice march at Planned Parenthood

13-15 Spring Retreat: Koinonia Retreat Center

19 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library: **A Gate at the Stairs** by Laurie Moore

21 Voting Rights working group 9-11am. First Universalist room 204

23 Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **A Gate at the Stairs** by Laurie Moore: Hosts, Adele Hersey and Suzann Willhite: 4412 Grimes Ave S Minneapolis 952-926-2486. **Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.**

May

11 AUW Annual Meeting: 5:30-8:30pm in the Social Hall

19 Voting Rights working group: 9-11am: First Universalist room 204

17 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library: **The Green Glass Sea** by Ellen Klages

21 Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **The Green Glass Sea** by Ellen Klages: Hosts, Jeni Klotz and Mary Sandbo: 3345 23rd Ave S Minneapolis 651-592-6466. **Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.**