



# Association of Universalist Women

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

## New Member: Ann Lyons



It's not every-day one meets someone who's returned to Minnesota after running a restaurant in Jamaica for 13 years. Not only that, Ann grew a lot of the food served so tastily at her place. She is interested in Food: its growth, preparation, presentation, and, of course, enjoyment. She's glad to be back in Minnesota and is busy scoping possibilities for her next job. She is hoping to find a position that will incorporate her values regarding food, sustainability, social justice, and respect for other cultures.

## December 2009: From the Editor

As some of you may have noticed, the move to the new church website caused the AUW website to crash. We got back online within just a couple of days due to the heroic work of Judy Goebel. Many, many thanks to Judy. You can now sign-up as a member and pay your dues through PayPal - all online. A much needed update of the site is in progress. Click [here](#) to be transported to the site and check out what is new.

The church SPIFF committee has asked us to remind anyone working on an AUW committee or project that signs can only be put up in specific places. Please go through Liz Permar before you put up any signs.

## Friday Get Connected

**December 4:** Come relax and walk or dance on the Labyrinth from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Social Hall. This event is for women only. Light refreshments will be provided. Child care provided with one week's notice. For questions, call Jeni Klotz 612-721-1483 or email at [jklotz1@cs.com](mailto:jklotz1@cs.com).

**January 8:** will be the first Friday Get Connected of the new year. Save the date, and the topic will be announced in the January newsletter.

**February 19:** I Had an Abortion. See the movie and join in an intergenerational discussion. Food will be served. The time is 6:30 to 9:30 in the social hall.

She attended the U. of Minnesota and then her interests took her to Oregon for greenhouse management, and later brought her back to Minneapolis for more of the same. Her love of books led her next into the field of book distribution and later into a publishing company. When her parents passed on their property in Jamaica to her, she decided to go there and open a restaurant.

Ann is committed to living simply, enjoying books, nature, knitting, her dog and now, First Universalist Church. Years ago she took an internet quiz to identify her leanings regarding religion. You guessed it: Unitarian/Universalist. Once here in Minneapolis, she sought out our church, immediately felt a strong response to it, and has just become a member. She's planning to explore her interests in diversity, human rights, and women's issues with the church. I hope you will meet her soon. Welcome Ann.

## Help Wanted

Fawzia Kahn is in need of volunteers to help serve and

## AUW Holiday Tea

You are invited to join the Association of Universalist Women for the 77th Annual Holiday Tea to be held Saturday, December 12, 2009, from 2-4 pm. Our feature tea this year is masala chai and we will also be serving samosas made by Khawla Khan, Fawzia's mother. You won't get these anywhere else in the world, ladies! All are welcome. There is no dress code. Wear a hat or not!

Entertainment will be provided by the high school RE youth. Donations will be collected for their trip to Boston. Please bring an item to the tea for the Simpson Shelter. Particular items needed include toothpaste and deodorant.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far. We're filling up nicely, but there are still opportunities to serve. Sign-up to volunteer at the AUW table or email Fawzia Khan at [khan1@comcast.net](mailto:khan1@comcast.net). Look for more information on the AUW website [here](#). There you will also find some wonderful recipes for tea sandwiches and scones.



Committee members Theresa Schroer, Fawzia Khan and Sarai Brenner

clean up at the December 12  
AUW Tea. Contact her at  
fkhan1@comcast.net or 952-  
933-2901, if you can help.

## From the President

It's been a wonderful year so far in AUW. I'm excited about what we've done so far: the Membership Kickoff, new Friendship Groups, Friday Get Connected events. I'm so looking forward to the Holiday Tea on Dec. 12 (Nancy B. has a hat for me to wear).

What can you expect from AUW in 2010? More Friday Get-Connected programs, at least one and perhaps two Saturday workshops. Another fabulous Retreat April 9-11. The Mother-Daughter Banquet (volunteer dependent). The annual member meeting and awards potluck dinner.

What will not happen in January is AUW Sunday. The January services are full up. With the arrival, installation, and ordination of Justin Schroeder, AUW Sunday didn't get on the calendar. I know this is disappointing news, but this doesn't mean AUW Sunday is gone forever. This is where I want your help. What has AUW Sunday meant to you? What kind of AUW Sunday would you like to see? Please let me know. My email is elpermar@gmail.com. Talk to me on Sundays after I've gotten my coffee.

## AUW RETREAT: The Journey ... Together



The retreat will be April 9, 10, 11 at Koinonia Retreat Center with keynote speaker, Ann Reed.

"Every long journey begins with small steps," sings Ann Reed. This year's A UW Retreat Committee - Kathy Coskran, Meadow Muska, Dinah Patrykas, Caren Stelson, Sarah Warner, and Suzann Willhite - have been listening to Ann's song and weaving ideas together to turn the 2010 A UW Retreat into an unfolding journey. Read more about the exciting plans on the A UW website. Click [here](#).

## Sacred Choices: Reproductive Justice

Mark your A UW calendar for a Friday February 19 (6:30-9:30 pm) viewing and discussion of the powerful and fiercely honest film, "I Had an Abortion," telling the stories of real women that personalize what has become a vicious and abstract debate. Parents, teens, young adults, mentors and friends are warmly invited to participate. Includes food and some postcard writing to our legislators about comprehensive sexuality education. More details to follow in the January newsletter.

**Act Now:** By now, many of you have heard of the Stupak-Pitts amendment that was included in the health care reform bill that passed the House of Representatives several weeks ago. The amendment would ban coverage of abortion services from private and public insurance plans for millions of women in America. A UW, as part of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC), has teamed up with our friends at many organizations, including Planned Parenthood, to STOP the Stupak Amendment from being included in any final health care reform bill that passes through Congress. Here's what you can do:

1. Sign the petition

<http://www.capwiz.com/rcrc/issues/alert/?alertid=14354551&type=PR>

2. Participate in National Senate Call-In Day, December 3rd, 1-4pm EST. Call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to speak to your Senator's office. Please call each of your Senators. Here is a sample call script:

"I'm calling as your constituent and a Unitarian Universalist religious person. I believe strongly that all people have the right to comprehensive, high quality health care and that women should be able to make reproductive health decisions based on their own values. Please oppose any amendments to health care reform legislation that would limit a woman's right to purchase private or public health insurance offering comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion care. Thank you."

**Words to Ponder,** brought to you by Jeni Klotz

## Women Who Light Lives

Seven women  
sing the Chanukah blessings  
the seventh night,  
light two menorahs  
each one candle on each.

Speaking out by turns  
each of the seven women  
describes and praises  
a woman mentor  
from her past  
while the candles drip  
onto a little tray.

Suddenly  
we are fourteen women  
in a double circle,  
spirits connected  
by stories we tell  
or stories told about us,  
witnesses  
to the great miracle  
of remembrance.

Joanne Seltzer

## **AUW Calendar 2009: December, January and More**

### **December**

Women Who Read Book Group will not meet in December

**3** National Senate Call-In Day. See Reproductive Rights: Social Justice article for details.

**4** Friday Get Connected: Labyrinth walk from 7 - 9 pm in the church social hall. Refreshments will be served, and childcare is available by reservation. Contact Jeni Klotz, [jklotz@cs.com](mailto:jklotz@cs.com) or 612-721-1483 for

questions or to reserve childcare.

**12** The Holiday Tea is 2 to 4 pm in the church social hall. Pick up your poinsettias after the tea or after church on Sunday.

## **January**

**8** Friday Get Connected: To be announced.

**25** Women Who Read Book Group: Strange As This Weather Has Been by Ann Pancake HOSTS: Susan Schonfeld, 3215 E 24th St, Mpls 612-723-1676, co-host Julie Stewart. Please notify the host if you are going to attend.

## **February**

**19** Friday Get Connected: Film and discussion, *I Had An Abortion*, 6:30 to 9:30 pm in the social hall.

**22** Women Who Read Book Group: Broken For You Stephanie Kallos HOSTS: Everyone - in Church Social Hall/Library, RSVP via email or call Nancy Browne, 651-636-6002.

## **April**

**9 - 11** Annual AUW Retreat at Koinonia. Registration begins in February.