

December 2011 A UW Newsletter



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

Association of
Universalist Women

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.

December 2 'Annual Cookie Exchange'. Last year was such fun that we decided to do it again. Bring four dozen cookies to exchange and a container for bringing your goodies home. As UU's, some of us were raised in other faith traditions and the holidays can be a challenge to dance with. We will have time to share joys or concerns on how each of us dances (or slogs?) through the holidays.

From the Editor



The weather is turning cold, and my cat is spending most of his days sleeping under the comforter on my bed. This is my true message that winter is coming. I thought it would be here by now, but we seem to have been granted a reprieve. I hope all of you who don't like the snow are enjoying the lack of it. And for those who like the snow, I hope you can wait just a little longer.

We have our fabulous annual Holiday Tea coming up that will warm your heart if not the air outside. It promises to be a great time to connect with A UW friends before the frenzy of Christmas hits. And for those who ordered poinsettias, they will soon be here, ready to brighten your home.

I hope you enjoy the warmth of friends and family that comes with this time of year.

A UW Annual Poinsettia Sale

Reminder:

Pick up dates for poinsettias are **Saturday, December 10** at the Holiday Tea and **Sunday, December 11** after both services. **Please remember to pick up your poinsettia.**



January 13 'Open Labyrinth Walk' In the Social Hall.

Start the New Year with other women and walk or dance on the Chartes Labyrinth that is etched on the floor of the Social Hall. This event is more meditative in tone and those present are asked to be respectful of the space.

Please note date change: This is the Second Friday of the month

For questions or to RSVP or request childcare, please contact Jeni Klotz at 651-592-6466, jklotz27@gmail.com.



Annual Holiday Tea

It's Time for the Holiday Tea!

On December 10th from 1 - 3 pm in the church Social Hall there will be tables decorated by wonderful AUW volunteers, coffee, tea and cider, great conversation and song.

We will be collecting small stocking stuffers for the children at St. Anne's

Place, a residential facility run by Ascension Place that helps women with children transition to better options. Since most of the children are under the age of five , consider small toys or treats that would brighten their holidays. A list of possible gifts is at the AUW table if you want suggestions.

Sign up at the AUW table during coffee hour this Sunday or email Auw.firstuniv@gmail.com . **If you can bring treats or are willing to help set up or clean up, please indicate that on the signup sheet.**

There is no charge for this event.

Social Justice Campaigns

Reproductive Rights

Upcoming Events:

Friday, February 10: 6:00-9:30 pm, an intergenerational movie and discussion. We will watch the film "Fragile Promise of Choice" by Dorothy Fadima. This film in part discusses the religious aspects of being pro-choice. This event is co-sponsored by AUW. Flyers will be posted with more details.

Wednesday, February 15: Pro-choice Lobby Day at the MN State Capital. More details to come.

Friday, April 6: Good Friday Pro-Choice March at Planned Parenthood. More details and car-pooling options to come.

Voting Rights

There's a good chance that on November 6, 2012 Minnesotans will be voting on a

proposed constitutional amendment that would in effect restrict the pool of citizens who can vote to only those who can show a Minnesota state photo ID with their current address on it.

The Council of Nonprofits has taken a strong stand against this measure because their organizations understand that a one-size-fits all approach to election law will necessarily **fence people out of the process**: highly mobile families and young adults, communities of color, victims fleeing violence, people who lose their homes, many seniors, disabled citizens, students - in short, the communities served by nonprofits - will all be disproportionately impacted by this policy.

Women without a current ID (common for elderly women who do not drive) are particularly at risk, since most will need both a birth certificate and a marriage license to obtain an ID.

AUW was a state leader in helping to disprove the need for a Photo ID by contributing to a report, published a year ago, showing that cases of voter impersonation - the only issue a photo ID would address - have been non-existent in Minnesota. The extremely rare cases of ineligible voting that have been prosecuted are for felons voting before their rights have been restored, a problem photo ID would not address.

Here's how you can help:

1) **Invite a trained speaker** to talk to your group (AUW, book club, neighborhood group, etc.) about this issue.

2) **Become a trained speaker** yourself. We provide the training, materials and resources you need to become a member of our speakers' bureau to talk to groups as opportunities arise.

Voting Rights is also a working group of MUUSJA and we **thank everyone who generously contributed to Give to the Max Day** on Nov. 16, helping MUUSJA raise \$2660 plus a \$1000 Golden Ticket Award, plus a \$1000 Matching Grant for achieving 49 unique donors!

FFY: Carol Johnson 612-825-3322 or Jenny Thomas jjewel.thomas@gmail.com.

Words To Ponder

When the animals come to us,
asking for our help,
will we know what they are saying?

When the plants speak to us
in their delicate, beautiful language,
will we be able to answer them?

When the planet herself
sings to us in our dreams,
will we be able to wake ourselves, and act?

~ Gary Lawless

Calendar

December

2 Friday Get Connected: 7-9 pm in the Library: *2nd Annual Cookie Exchange*.

10 Annual Holiday Tea: 1-3 pm, Social Hall.

January

13 Friday Get Connected: 7-9pm in the Social Hall: *Open Labyrinth Walk*

19 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library. **When Everything Changed by Gail Collins**

23 Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **When Everything Changed by Gail Collins:** Hosts, Julie Stewart and Kathy Urberg: 4350 W Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis 612-321-1355. **Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.**

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

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