



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

Association of Universalist Women

Volunteer Opportunity

Help out at the Hub!

Help staff the Hub after each service. Work with a board member to provide information about A UW, upcoming events, membership and more. You sign up for only one service on any given Sunday. Look for sign-up at Hub in mid February. Volunteers need to start in March.

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.

February 3 'A writing workshop' offered by Mary

From the Editor



This month A UW is focusing on Social Justice. The Voting Rights campaign has activities planned. Sacred Choices is gearing up for the Pro-Choice lobby day at the State Capital and well as a movie. And there are several projects going on for and with Ascension Place. It's a busy month. Look in this newsletter for all the details.

Along with all the Social Justice activity happening we are gearing up for the best weekend of the year! The Annual Spring Retreat is just around the corner, and it's time to start thinking of joining us! Check out registration dates, along with a little teaser about what the weekend holds, in this newsletter.

First Universalist Day of Service

A UW is sponsoring four events for the February 4th Day of Service. They are:

- 1) MUUSJA/A UW Voting Rights training on the truth about Voter ID issue. Includes video presentation. Ages 14+. 9am-10am at the church. Check out the MUUSJA website at: <http://www.muusja.org/>
- 2) NARAL/Pro Choice training for Hanson Clinic escort program. Ages 18+. 9:30 - 11:30am at the church. Check out the NARAL site here: <http://www.naral.org/>
- 3) Donate new/gently used women's winter boots, women's winter coats, and coats and boots for kids under six, for Ascension Place/St. Anne's Place residents. Drop off and bag items 9am - 2pm at church. All ages welcome. Find out more about Ascension Place at: <http://www.stannesplace.org/>

Junge. We'll use a series of short writing exercises for self discovery. This will be an opportunity to get to know other women in a safe environment. All are welcome--beginners and seasoned writers.

March 2 'Start seeds outdoors now (yes, now!) using the "winter sowing" technique'. Master Gardener Sue Schiess will explain how it works and which plants do best. You'll build a teeny-tiny cold frame and sow a seed or two. (Materials 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 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.

Questions? Contact Judith Grittner at 612-839-2280 or judithgrittner@mac.com RSVP is not necessary. Just come!

4) Paint rooms at Ascension Place (housing for women in transition). 9:30 am -2 pm at 1803 Bryant Avenue North, Minneapolis. Ages 15+. Please bring a roller/brush if you have one. For more information or to sign up please visit the church website at: <http://firstuniv.org/2012dayofservice>

Social Justice Campaigns:

Reproductive Rights



Reproductive justice is a hot button topic in this election year. The Sacred Choices Reproductive Rights group invites you to an **Inter-generational Film & Discussion Night on Friday, February 10th, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, in the Social Hall.** Anyone aged 13-100+ years is welcome and encouraged to take part! "The Fragile Promise of Choice" by award-winning filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman examines how worsening socio-economic, political and legal conditions for reproductive justice have affected the lives of providers and the women who seek their services.

The film also looks at the complexity of religious issues. How does faith lead to supporting a pro-choice and not just an anti-abortion viewpoint? The evening starts with pizza dinner followed by the film and discussion. **RSVP not necessary but helpful; contact Cathy Apostle at caquilt51@aol.com**

Please reserve childcare by Sat February 4th; contact Lily Franz in the church office at Lily@firstuniv.org, 612 825 1701 x107.

Link to "The Fragile Promise of Choice" film by Dorothy Fadiman: <http://www.concentric.org/projects/choice.html>

Following on the heels of this event is the annual **MN Pro-Choice Lobby Day at the State Capitol on Wednesday, February 15th.** Join the First Universalist contingent and make your voice heard! Say "no" to any attempts to restrict reproductive freedom in Minnesota! The event takes place 8 am - 4 pm and includes training led by NARAL, boxed breakfast and lunch, a noon rally in the Rotunda and visits to legislators in the afternoon. You don't have to stay all afternoon. Or just come for the noon Rally!

More info and online registration is at

<http://www.prochoicelobbyday.org/> .

Yarn and Needle Drive

In preparation for the Knitting Fellowship at Ascension Place, AUW held a yarn and needle drive to collect supplies. Take a look at all the generous offerings! **A big thank you to all who donated!**



If you are interested in carpooling from the church, contact Cathy Apostle at 952-941-0642 or caquilt51@aol.com. Carpool would leave the church about 8:20am.

Social Justice Campaigns: MUUSJA Voting Rights

Please attend our workshop on **Saturday, February 4th, 9-10 am** on the *First Universalist Day of Service* to learn about the issues of Voter Photo ID and how to talk about it with your friends and colleagues. We'll show a video prepared by the League of Women Voters Minnesota and provide handouts. All are welcome for this one-hour information session.

Join our working group **Saturday, February 18th, 9-11 am** at **First Universalist (room 204)** to plan our efforts to educate UUs and the public about the harm that would be caused by Voter ID requirements. Watch for announcements about this monthly working meeting. Newcomers welcome. (Call Jenny's cell if you can't get in the building **612-386-5724**).

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

Note: AUW/MUUSJA was a state leader in demonstrating a Photo ID is unnecessary in a **report** published in November, 2010 that showed cases of ineligible voting are non-existent for voter impersonation, the only issue a photo ID could prevent. While not needed to secure our elections, a Voter ID would make it much harder to vote for the more than 11% of citizens who don't have a current Minnesota State ID *with their current address*. FFY: Carol Johnson **612-825-3322** or Jenny Thomas jjewell.thomas@gmail.com

AUW KNITTING FELLOWSHIP

AUW is organizing a short series of beginners' basic knitting classes this winter with the women of Ascension Place transitional housing, to be held at their facility in North Minneapolis. The knitting classes will give us an opportunity to get to know Ascension Place women individually. A group of women knitting and chatting in fellowship is always great fun! There will be 4 sessions, Thursday evenings from 7 pm - 8:30 pm, February 16th - March 8th. You can sign up to be a "teacher" or "fellow knitter". "Teachers" will instruct the group while "fellow knitters" will provide help and encouragement. All participants, whether from AUW or Ascension Place can sign up for any of the sessions. You do not have to commit to all sessions. Details and sign-up sheets are at the Hub or contact Tracy Yue at tkstutu@gmail.com or 612 770 4488.



AUW Annual Spring Retreat

Yes! It's time!

Just as one may find physical peace learning a challenging yoga pose (or humor in clumsily tumbling from that same pose), finding one's balance in life is a challenging and often humbling endeavor. **The 2012 AUW Women's Retreat will explore the**

many ways to discover what defines your personal balance and brings you to a joyful place of strength and self-expression, as well as what motivates you to occasionally throw your daily balance askew and follow your passions! This exploration may be done through your choice of workshops, guided meditation, nature walks and other activities focused on discovering balance through music, movement, writing, meditation and spirituality.

Taking place from **Friday, April 13th through Sunday, April 15th**, the retreat will be at lovely Koinonia Retreat Center (near Annandale, MN - nestled between woodlands and the calming waters of Lake Sylvia). Carpooling options and scholarships will be available. More details on these opportunities and more can be found on the retreat committee's website

<http://auwretreat2012.weebly.com>. **Registration for AUW members will open on February 12th and general registration for non-AUW members will begin on February 26th.** The registration process can be done either in-person at the Hub following Sunday services or online at the Retreat Committee's website with funds mailed to the the First Universalist administrative offices.

Mark these dates, because the Retreat sells out extremely quickly. And if you're not a paid-up member, do it now to get members' priority! *The Retreat costs \$205 for non-members and \$175 for members*, for two nights' stay, five meals, and an incredible weekend of connection and rejuvenation.

Whether you are a longtime AUW member or a newcomer (and soon-to-be friend) we invite you to join us for a weekend of fun, growth, and relaxation!

A Reminder: Join AUW now for priority Retreat

Registration!

Be aware that **ONLY** current paid-up AUW members will receive priority registration for the Retreat. **You must be in good standing as of February 7th.**

Members-only registration begins February 12th; register at the Hub. General registration starts February 26th online and at the Hub.

You can pay your dues at the Hub in the Social Hall, or send a check to First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave So, Mpls MN 55408. Please write checks to AUW, with "2011-12 membership" on the subject line.

Your membership fees not only directly fund all of AUW's events and social justice efforts but also provide scholarships, childcare and its annual gift to the church. AUW's programming year is half over. Please join or renew now to support the several events coming up, and to create opportunities for meaningful connections for yourself and all women in our community.

Calendar

February

3 Friday Get Connected: 7-9pm in the Library: Writing workshop with Mary Junge

4 First Universalist Day of Service

10 Reproductive Rights Intergenerational Film & Discussion Night 6:30 - 9:30 pm in the Social Hall.

12 Registration for paid up AUW members begins for the Annual Spring Retreat.

15 MN Pro-Choice Lobby Day at the State Capitol

16 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library: **Finding Nouf** by Zoe Ferraris.

16 Ascension Place Knitting Fellowship; first meeting. 7 - 8:30pm. Contact Tracy Yue for more information ksytutu@gmail.com or 612-770-4488

18 Voting Rights working group 9-11 am at First Universalist, room 204

26 General registration begins for Annual Spring Retreat.

27 Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **Finding Nouf** by Zoe Ferraris: Hosts, Susan Schoenfeld and Ann Hobbs: 3215 E 24th Street, Minneapolis 612-723-1676. **Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.**

March

2 Friday Get Connected: 7-9pm in the Library: Start seeds outside now using the "Winter Sowing" technique

22 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library: **Room** by Emma Donoghue.

26 Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **Room** by Emma Donoghue: Hosts, Liz Permar and Carol Gilbert: 7340 Fremont Ave., Minneapolis 612-869-2756. **Potluck. Please RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.**

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