



# 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:

**February 4 - Introduction to Shamanism**, presented by AUW members Mary Melia and Hannah Mitchell. They will share with us about what shamanism is, as well as their path on this journey.

**March 4 - Judith Grittner** will discuss with the group her passion for fabric art, as well as discuss her works that are on display in the Social Hall.

**April 1 - It's April Fool's Day**, so what better topic than Whimsy. Bring your

## February 2011: From the Editor Kathy Urberg

AUW has a lot going on this spring! New Friendship Groups are starting, the Retreat is coming up, Friday Get Connected has interesting programs coming up and both of our social justice programs have major events coming up soon. Read on to find out the details.

## AUW Women's Retreat April 8-10, 2011 at Koinonia

Mark your calendars - registration for our very popular Women's Retreat begins on Feb. 6, 2011 for AUW members and Feb. 20, 2011 for everyone. Come to the AUW table on Feb. 6 or the Hub on following Sundays throughout February to register. Brochures and registration forms will also be available in the church office beginning on Feb. 6. Online registration begins Feb. 20. The cost is \$170 for members and \$200 for non-members. Some scholarships are available.



This year's retreat, entitled *Awakenings ... through time and experience*, features keynote speaker CathyAnn Beaty. CathyAnn is an ordained minister and master InterPlay leader, dancer, and visual artist. She has been working with groups of therapists and clergy for the past 10 years through her business SoulPlay, [www.soulplay.org](http://www.soulplay.org), and has developed new approaches to healing based both on her professional and personal experience.

whimsical self and any objects of whimsy and share with the group. Light hearted fun only!

### **May 6 - Spring Gardening**

Awakening is about reviving, renewing, rebirth. But more, it is about waking up to this precious present moment! Using the easy, doable and fun forms of InterPlay, CathyAnn will lead us to explore what it means to awaken our spirit, body and heart. Playing in community can lead us into our body's wisdom about what we really need and want from our individual and group awakenings. As winter turns into spring, our bodies want to move, tell stories and connect. InterPlay's technique and philosophy offers ease, connection and lots of laughs!

For more information on this year's retreat, visit us at the Hub or [click here](#).

## **Ready for a New Group of AUW Friends?**

Sign up at the Hub in the Social Hall for an AUW Friendship Group or on-line [www.luauw.org](http://www.luauw.org). **Deadline for registration: Sunday, February 20.**

**Kick-Off: Sunday, February 27, in the Church Library, 1-2 pm.**

For the past six years, AUW has sponsored and organized Friendship Groups, small groups of 5-7 women who come together for friendship and deep conversation. Sometimes conversations are based around agreed upon discussion topics, sometimes conversations are free-flowing. Some of our AUW Friendship Groups have become "lifers" and groups of friends continue to meet year after year; other groups celebrate and find closure after meeting the recommended 5-7 times then continue to enjoy their friendships in other ways. A Friendship Group's success is defined, not in the number of meetings, but in the joy of connection and community. Interested? Come join us.

Questions? Contact Caren Stelson at 612-729-1528 or [carenstelson@gmail.com](mailto:carenstelson@gmail.com) or Susan Schonfeld at [schohicks@juno.com](mailto:schohicks@juno.com) or 612-722-1360.

## Help Take the "Next Step" Toward Ending Long-Term Homelessness



Ascension Place—a transitional housing program located in North Minneapolis, provides housing and supportive services to women experiencing Challenges such as mental illness, chemical dependency and domestic violence. Their goal is to offer women in crisis or transition a stable environment and an opportunity to explore options for their future so that each will experience the highest level of independence possible. In 2011, Ascension Place will be launching their Next Step Housing Program, a brand new permanent, supportive housing facility for women who have graduated from Ascension Place.

**Current "Welcome Home" Needs List:** (all items may be gently used) dressers, couches, vacuums, microwaves, comforters, blankets, TVs, TV stands or entertainment centers, lamps.

Won't you please help us make a new home for these women?

If you have questions, feel free to call AUW and Ascension Place Board Member Nancy McCall at 612-205-6152 or email [Nancymccal@aol.com](mailto:Nancymccal@aol.com). To make arrangements to drop off your donations, contact Deven or Julianna at 612.588.0861, or email at [devennelson@ascensionplace.org](mailto:devennelson@ascensionplace.org) or [juliannadavis@stannesplace.org](mailto:juliannadavis@stannesplace.org). Thank you for making a difference for these women.

### Meet a Member: Judith Grittner



Judith, a Minnesota native and fabric artist, has been sewing since age eight. She started doing fabric art when she was living in Arizona, taking care of her ailing husband. A year ago, after her husband died, Judith came back to Minnesota and soon found First Universalist Church and the AUW. Her art, beading and stitching beautiful designs is inspired by her interactions with her world community. Her art will be on display in the Social Hall at First Universalist starting on February 20.

AUW is one of Judith's passions. She is helping to plan this spring's Women's Retreat. She can often be found discussing the latest book with Women Who Read. In March she is facilitating the First Friday Get Connected activity.

Judith has a daughter who lives in Germany, a son in Arizona, and a step-daughter who just returned from serving in Kuwait. She has seven grandchildren whom she adores, although she doesn't get to see them often. She does video conferencing with the granddaughter in Arizona and is glad to have the technology that allows it.

One of the art pieces Judith is working on is a lectern banner for the church based on "We Will", the song written by Ann Reed to celebrate First Universalist's 150th birthday. She is also working on a piece called Loons on Lake Calhoun and another piece of the Northern Sky. Look for her art in late February and find Judith at the early service most Sundays. Of the AUW and First Universalist communities, Judith says they enfolded her at a time when she really needed community.

## **Social Justice: Voting**

### **Civic Engagement and Election Integrity**

Learn about the implications of changing Minnesota's election laws. Attend a panel discussion including **Mark Ritchie**, Minnesota Secretary of State; **Laura Wang**, Interim Director, League of Women Voters Minnesota and **Kathy Bonnifield**, Associate Director, Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota. The discussion is sponsored by: the working group on voting rights for Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) and the AUW.

The panel, "Keeping Minnesota Number 1," will feature a summary of the recent survey of Minnesota's County Attorneys published by MUUSJA/AUW and Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota, "Facts About Ineligible Voting and Voter Fraud in Minnesota." The report is available at [www.ceimn.org](http://www.ceimn.org). Carol Johnson and Kathy Bonnifield are taking the report on the road to educate people about the findings, as well as other issues surrounding the impact of requiring a photo ID for voting. Our event on February 6 is the first one scheduled. The panel will also feature discussion of related election legislation recently proposed in the Minnesota legislature.

"Keeping Minnesota Number 1;" Sunday, February 6, 12:30-2:00 pm in the Cummins Room. A light lunch will be served.

## **Social Justice: Reproductive Choice**

### **MN PRO-CHOICE LOBBY DAY, February 23, at the State Capitol, downtown St Paul**

November elections brought an anti-choice majority to the MN House and Senate, putting into jeopardy our right to make decisions about our bodies and our families. They wasted no time.

Last week on January 24th, legislation was introduced at the Capitol that would ban state funding for abortions in Minnesota. Let's make our voices heard at MN Prochoice Lobby Day, February 23 from 9:30 - 2:30. You can come for some or all of it. The noon Rally in the Rotunda will feature a speaker from First Universalist Church!

Registration starts at 8:45 am, a program begins at 9.30am, followed by training sessions, a rally, and group visits with your legislators. A free box lunch is available if you register at [www.ProChoiceMNLobbyDay2011](http://www.ProChoiceMNLobbyDay2011), or contact [LobbyDay@prochoiceminnesota.org](mailto:LobbyDay@prochoiceminnesota.org).

A carpool from First Universalist, will leave at 8.15 am. If you want to carpool please contact Cathy Apostle, [caquilt51@aol.com](mailto:caquilt51@aol.com), or Jody Beresford, [Spice777@aol.com](mailto:Spice777@aol.com) or 612-669-9977. You can also:

- 1) Contact your US and MN representatives!
  - See how each US House Representative voted.
  - Send a letter to your Representative: Stop "Stupak on Steroids".
- 2) Encourage friends and relatives, especially those who live in non-metro districts, to talk to their legislators. (Forward the links above to them.)
- 3) Keep track of the Health Bill and women's health and reproductive issues.
  - NARAL Pro-Choice America [www.prochoiceamerica.org](http://www.prochoiceamerica.org)
  - National Women's Law Center [www.nlwc.org](http://www.nlwc.org)
  - Population Connection [www.populationconnection.org](http://www.populationconnection.org)
  - Fact Sheet on Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act (H.R. 217),

Please mark your calendar for the Good Friday counter-protest at Planned Parenthood on Friday, April 22.

## Words to Ponder brought to you by Jeni Klotz

Mother, Father, God

For the sacred circle of family and friendship,  
we thank you and ask that, with your  
guidance, we may widen and deepen those  
circles by touching others with love and  
understanding. Blessings Be.

Sue Patton Thoele

**AUW Calendar: February, March and April 2011**

## February

**4** Friday Get Connected: Introduction to Shamanism from 7 - 9 pm in the Church Library.

**6** - AUW Retreat registration begins for AUW members in the Church Social Hall.

- Voting rights working group: "Keeping Minnesota Number 1." Panel discussion on Voter Fraud and Photo ID, 12:30 - 2 pm in the Cummins Room. A light lunch will be served.

**19** General registration (including online) begins for AUW Retreat.

**20** Deadline to register for new Friendship Groups. Contact Caren Stelson, [carenstelson@gmail.com](mailto:carenstelson@gmail.com) or Susan Schoenfeld, [schohicks@juno.com](mailto:schohicks@juno.com) to register.

**23** Prochoice Lobby Day at the State Capitol, registration begins at 830 am.

**27** Friendship groups kickoff from 1 - 2 pm in the Church Library.

**28** Women Who Read: Unaccustomed Earth, by Jhumpa Lahiri Host: Susan Schonfeld, 3215 E 24th St, Mpls, 612-723-1676; co- host, Julie Stewart. All are welcome, but please let the host know if you are coming.

## March

**4** Friday Get Connected: Judith Grittner discusses her fabric art from 7 - 9 pm in the Church Library.

**28** Women Who Read: Memory of Trees by Gayla Marty Host: Marion Dane Bauer, 508 Montcalm Place, St Paul, 651-340-7120; Co-host: Kathie Wasson. All are welcome, but please let the host know if you are coming.

## April

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

**8 - 10** AUW Annual Retreat Koinonia.

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

The newsletter editor is Kathy Urberg. Email her at [auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto:auw.firstuniv@gmail.com) with "newsletter" in the subject line.