



Association of Universalist Women

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

New Friendship Groups Starting

Interested in participating in an AUW Friendship Group? New Friendship Groups will begin in February. If you'd like to join for the first time, or find a new group, please register by February 7th.

Registration forms will be available soon at the AUW table after church and from the coordinator, Susan Schonfeld at <mailto:schohicks@juno.com>. Susan will group people together PRIOR to the February Kick-Off, based on the timeslot indicated for your availability on the registration sheet. Any special requests must be specified on your registration form.

At the Kick-Off gathering, you will meet your new group members and receive

January 2010: From the Editor

Kathy Urberg



I missed the Holiday Tea this year, but everyone I have spoken to said they had a fabulous time. Many, many thanks to the planning team of Fawzia Khan, Sarai Brenner, and Theresa Schroer.

Mark your calendars and hold the date for the upcoming AUW Mini Retreat on Saturday, February 20 from 12 - 4 pm. The topic is JOY. We will all need a pick-up by this time this winter. A talk by Karin Hering from Unity and a choice of workshops including belly dancing will certainly shake us out of the winter doldrums. See column on left for more information.

Friday Get Connected

On **January 8** from 7-9 pm, come and create a necklace to either enjoy yourself or give as a gift to someone else. These beautiful necklace kits can be ordered through strandsofhope.com. Joy Throm, with several other women, created this website in hopes of sharing their sense of compassion, hope and support to other women who might be going through a difficult time. Joy suggests that women who are interested in attending this event go to the web site and look at the necklace kits that are available to order. Instead of ordering online, email your request to Joy at <mailto:jthrom@comcast.net> Light refreshments will be served. For questions, call Jeni Klotz

information and guidance on how to get started. As soon as the date and room for the February Kick-Off are confirmed, the information will be available at the AUW table, as well as in the church weekly update.

For existing Friendship Groups if your group is open to new members, please contact Susan.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP CENSUS

If you are participating in a Friendship Group formed prior to 2009, please do us a favor! Take part in our 'census' -- because we don't know who all is out there. Simply send names and contacts for your members to Susan at

<mailto:schohicks@juno.com>

or drop off a list at the AUW table. Thanks.

Mini Retreat

The retreat will be Saturday, February 20 from 12-4 pm. The keynote speaker will be Karin Hering, the Literary Minister at Unity Church, St Paul. Topic is JOY. Lighten up the weary days of February with your pick of

at 612-721-1483 or email <mailto:jklotz@cs.com>

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

Each year in the US, 1.3 million abortions occur, but the topic is still so stigmatized it's never discussed in polite company. Powerful, poignant, and fiercely honest, *I Had an Abortion* tackles this taboo topic.

Cutting across age, race, class and religion, the film unfolds personal narratives with intimate interviews, archival footage, family photos and home movies. Arranged chronologically, the stories begin with Florence Rice, now 86, telling without regret about her abortion in the 1930s. Other women speaking out include Marion Banzhaf, who, inspired by both the Miss America protests and the Stonewall rebellion, raised funds on her campus to pay for her abortion, and Robin Ringleka-Kottke, who found herself pregnant as an 18-year-old pro-life Catholic. With heartfelt stories that are never sentimentalized, *I Had an Abortion* personalizes what has become a vicious and abstract debate.

AUW Holiday Tea

The 77th Annual AUW Holiday Tea was a smashing success! Ninety people attended the event, which featured authentic Pakistani masala chai (cardamom tea) and samosas (triangular pastries filled with spiced meat and vegetables).

The Reverend Justin Schroeder led us in a moving welcome, and set a tone of gratitude for, and celebration of the generations of women who have touched our lives. Mary Junge shared stories of two of our long-term members, Dru Cummins and Mae Warner, (both recently passed away), who attended many Teas and were active members of First Universalist Church and the AUW.

one of the following four workshops:
Drumming/Chanting, The Spiritual Practice of Joy, Circling/Journaling, and Belly-Dancing. The cost is only \$10.00. Check the AUW table for further information.

Members signed up to decorate a table and brought centerpieces and personal collections of china, each with a unique story. Examples included a 100 year-old collection of china brought from Germany, a collection of tiny faerie tea cups, a Hispanic theme that featured Frida Kahlo and the Day of the Dead, "Cancer Ribbons of Hope," and a treasured collection of Carnival Glassware.

Members of our Senior High Youth Group delighted us with their musical talents. Elena Miller sang, Ben McCullough played his original composition for electric guitar, Emerson Hunton introduced us to the euphonium, and Sophia Mickman played jazz on her saxophone. Generous contributions were collected that will assist in funding the students' spring trip to Boston.

We closed with a sing-along of "The UU's Twelve Days of Christmas" written by Sarai Brenner. An assortment of personal care items was collected for the Simpson Shelter for Women and Children. It was a Holiday Tea to remember.

Photos from the Holiday Tea



AUW RETREAT: The Journey ... Together



JOIN!

*Every long journey begins with
small steps.*

--Ann Reed

ANN REED

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THE JOURNEY . . . TOGETHER

11TH ANNUAL AUW RETREAT

APRIL 9 - 11, 2010

Registration February 7 - 28, 2010

See AUW website, www.1uauw.org for details.



For the latest retreat information and to get started on the journey, click [here](#)

MEMBERS' FUN FACTS MATCHING QUIZ

How well do you know your fellow AUW members? You might be surprised! Match facts in the column on the right with the women in the column on the left. Answers are at the end of newsletter. Options in the Column on the right may be used more than once.

For extra credit: do not look at the answers and bring the quiz with you to church. Find these women and ask them in person - a fun way to meet new people!

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|---------------------|---|
| 1) Kathy Urberg | a) An expert on MN apples at the State Fair |
| 2) Suzann Wilhite | b) Spoke on Fox News on Hats for the Homeless. |
| 3) Isabel Quast | c) Sculpts and also makes a mean cup of chai |
| 4) Alison McGhee | d) On a state championship volleyball team in high school |
| 5) Edie Karras | e) A Master Gardener |
| 6) Margit Berg | f) Works at the Dept of Natural Resources |
| 7) Mary Weeks | g) Mom to 4 children originally from Russia and Guatemala |
| 8) Catherine Mandel | h) Exhibited photographs this fall featuring kids |
| 9) Fawzia Khan | i) volunteers as an escort at Planned Parenthood |
| 10) Gail Splinter | j) Donated a weekend at her Lake Superior cabin to the church auction |
| 11) Cathy Apostle | k) award-winning author whose young-adult novel was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. |

If every AUW member fills out the new Members Survey, we can all learn such interesting aspects about each other! Please click on http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=JUyfGZ5p6PqidR3_2ffFcFyw_3d_3d to complete the online survey. It will take only 5 min. Deadline is February 15th!

Words to Ponder, brought to you by Jeni Klotz

Let us know peace
For as long as the moon shall rise,
For as long as the rivers shall flow,
For as long as the sun shall shine,
For as long as the grass shall grow,
Let us know peace.

-Cheyenne

AUW Calendar 2009: December, January and More

January

8 Friday Get Connected: Come and create a necklace of hope for yourself or to give. 7 to 9 pm in the Social Hall.

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.

20 Mini Retreat: A workshop on Joy, 12 to 4 pm in the Social Hall.

22 Women Who Read Book Group: Broken For You by 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.

Answers to membership quiz: 1) e 2) f 3) a 4) k 5) h 6) j 7) e 8) b 9) c 10) g 11) i