



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

Association of Universalist Women

Friday Get Connected

Every first Friday of the month from October until May we meet in the Church Library from 7-9 pm. Snacks are provided.

Next Meeting:

January 7- Open Labyrinth Walk.

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. We will meet in the Social Hall rather than the Library. Judith Grittner will co-host this event. Her phone number is 612-839-2280 if anyone has questions.

February 4 - Introduction to Shamanism, presented by AUN members Mary Melia and Hannah Mitchell. They will share with us about what shamanism is, as well as

January 2011: From the Editor

Kathy Urberg

Spring will come and with it the annual AUN Retreat. Be sure and scroll down to read the announcement of this year's retreat: *Awakeningsthrough time and experience*. AUN members get priority in registering for the retreat. Members-only registration begins Feb 6. Here's a tip - you can join AUN by going to the website [here](#). You can then register starting February 6 and get a price reduction.

Message from the President

New Years greetings from AUN! New faces at our events, new food at the fall membership kickoff, more women coming to the Friday Get Connected evenings, the Holiday Tea with even more wonderful tables decorated by members, a new fall mini-retreat, but still the same AUN mission: to build community, deepen our spiritual lives and act for social justice.



We've had to get creative about publicizing our events without the AUN table in the social hall after services this year. Look for AUN board members around the Hub wearing "Ask Me About AUN" badges, and we'll be happy to talk about upcoming events, get feedback, or answer any questions you have about the Association of Universalist Women.

their path on this journey.

Social Justice: Voting

AUW/MUUSJA Voting Rights working group is sponsoring a panel discussion:

"Voter Fraud and Photo ID" Sunday, February 6, 12:30-2:00 pm, in the Cummins Room. Come learn about the recent survey of Minnesota's County Attorneys published by MUUSJA/AUW and Citizens for Election Integrity, "Facts About Ineligible Voting and Voter Fraud in Minnesota," and join our discussion on the implications for election reform in Minnesota. A light lunch will be served. FFI: Carol Johnson 612-825-3322 or Jenny Thomas
jjewell.thomas@gmail.com.

I noticed on our online calendar that we have AUW Sunday listed. We haven't put any programming into place for that this year. This doesn't mean AUW Sunday is gone forever; but it's not going to happen in 2011.

I'm finding such joy in my second year as AUW Board President. I'm exciting about what we're creating together and for what's coming up in 2011. The retreat committee is planning a spectacular weekend for us in April. There will be a Mother-Daughter event. A nominations committee will be seeking new AUW Board members, and we'll finish off with our Annual Meeting and awards ceremony at the end of May.

If there are any questions or concerns you'd like to bring directly to me, my email is elpermar@gmail.com. Or talk to me on Sundays between the two services; preferably after I've gotten my coffee.

Liz Permar

**Awaken, all Universalist Women!
Announcing the 2011 Women's Retreat**

As the April sun brightens and warms the earth, the First Universalist Women will also be awakening to joy, reflection, community and fun at the annual Women's Retreat. Join us on April 8-10, 2011 at Koinonia as we put aside our daily cares for a long weekend of rejuvenation, connection-building, and spiritual deepening. *Awakenings ... through time and experience* will feature keynote speaker CathyAnn Beaty, ordained minister and master InterPlay leader, dancer, and visual artist. We will play and ponder, laugh and sing, tell our stories, rediscover the wisdom in our bodies through gentle movement, and maybe shed a few tears along the way. You'll be able to engage your body, your mind, your heart and your spirit with a rich array of activities to choose from, including such favorites as yoga, writing, guided nature walks, the labyrinth, a book discussion, arts and crafts, or maybe just a solitary ramble by beautiful Lake Sylvia; there will also be several exciting new workshops this year ... stay tuned! Registration for Association of Universalist Women members begins Feb. 6 in the Social Hall after the service; general registration, including online registration, begins Feb. 19.

Reflections on Community: Jeni Klotz



I recently had total knee replacement surgery. As I'm home recuperating and doing my knee exercises (ouch!), I feel so blessed to be a part of the community we call AUW. I also feel blessed to be a part of our larger church community. As my family is unable to help me, I am relying almost totally on my church family and especially my AUW family.

Before I had surgery, friends said that they would borrow the equipment I would need to manage once back home. There were numerous offers of meals, holiday goodies, rides, help with errands, as well as help with cleaning. Ritual sisters did a healing ritual for me the evening before surgery. One friend went with me to the hospital and stayed until I was out of surgery, and then called family to say things had gone well. Other friends stayed with me after surgery. I received a gift of a comfort shawl and enjoy the warmth it gives me. There were phone calls to check on me and many wonderful cards, especially one that reminded me to breathe in and breathe out.

My story is just one of many that are part of what makes the women of AUW so wonderful! Imagine how many lives have been touched over the 105 years that AUW has been around. Sitting with my feet up as I write this, I have an image of an undulating dance where each woman has one arm stretched out before her and one are stretched behind. Each dancer is weaving in and around offering one hand to help and the other hand to receive help. This is who we are, helping and being helped.

Thank you and Blessings.

Social Justice Campaigns: Reproductive Choice

The last election put into jeopardy a right we UUs tend to take for granted - the right to make decisions about our bodies and our families. This is a time to: **Remember, Reconnect, Recommit!** Plan to join us on Friday February 18 in the Social Hall from 6 - 9 pm for pizza and dessert and an important program.

We will revisit one of the largest marches ever held in Washington DC through a 40-minute documentary film. It was in April of 2004 and many of you reading this were at the March for Women's Lives. We will continue revisiting the day through photos and anecdotes from men, women and children who were there! The evening will end with a panel about the imperative to recommit and information about contacting our legislators, both national and state in preparation for MN Pro-Choice Lobby Day. If you have photos and/or stories about the March that you'd like to share, or to RSVP for this event, please contact Cathy Apostle at (952) 941- 0642, caquilt51@aol.com.

MN Prochoice Lobby Day is February 23 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. Registration starts at 8:45 at the State Capitol. The program begins in the Great Hall at 9:30. There is no charge for lunch in the Great Hall, but please register so they can plan for the number of people. At 12 noon the Rally in the Rotunda will have a speaker from First Universalist. To register go to [www. ProChoiceMNLobbyDay2011](http://www.ProChoiceMNLobbyDay2011). If you want to carpool to the capitol from First Universalist, contact Cathy Apostle or Jody Beresford at 612-669-9977. The carpool leaves at 8:15.

AUW Holiday Tea

The tables were beautifully decorated, the food was set out, and more than 80 women showed up for the Holiday Tea

despite the terrible weather. There was singing, a message from ministerial intern Ruth McKenzie, and laughter and sharing of holiday stories around the tables. It was a great start to the holidays.

Thanks to all of you who contributed money and/or items to Simpson Shelter. We collected things specifically for use by the women at the shelter, including socks, underwear, shampoo, deodorant and feminine hygiene products. The money was used to purchase additional items, all of which were delivered to the shelter on December 9th. Thanks



Betsy at her yearly post, looking as lovely as ever in her "tea lady" hat.



Spirited Conversation around the Holiday Table

to your generosity, we were able to donate over \$250 worth of items to the women at Simpson Shelter!

Words to Ponder, brought to you by Kathy Urberg

Blessing in the Winter Dark

Where there is no candle, may you be the Light

Where there is no song, may you be the Music

Where there is no laughter, may you be the Joy

And may you be enfolded in the Deep Source

of all Light, Music and Joy

by Ole Lund, Minneapolis, MN

AUW Calendar: January and February 2011

January

7 Friday Get Connected: Open Labyrinth Walk from 7 - 9 pm in the social hall.

24 Women Who Read: The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbary. Hosts: Carol Gilbert and Liz Permar, 7340 Fremont Ave S, Richfield, 612-869-2756. All are welcome, but please let host know whether you are coming.

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: Panel discussion on Voter Fraud and Photo ID, 12:30 - 2 pm in the Cummins Room. A light lunch will be served.

18 Social Justice: Reproductive Choice: *Remember, Reconnect, Recommit*. Movie and Pizza supper, 6 - 9 pm in the Church Social Hall.

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

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

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 whether you are coming.

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