



# 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:

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

**May 6 - Spring Gardening**



## February 2011: From the Editor Kathy Urberg

Ah, Spring! I am assured that it will come and that these huge banks of snow will melt. I have started to dream of spring and have ordered the seeds to help make my dreams come true.

The AUW has dreams as well, and to make our dreams come true, we need new, energetic board members. Board members serve two-year terms and help plan and carry out the vision of the AUW. Do you have computer skills, party planning skills, a passion for social justice? We could use your skills and passion. Are you a detail person or a big-picture person, a leader or wanting to develop leadership skills? We would welcome you as a board member. See more details below.

Speaking of spring, save May 14 for our annual get together of women and girls. This was formerly known as the Mother-Daughter Event, but the AUW board decided a name change was in order. Many women who didn't have daughters or daughters living nearby, or living mothers, or mothers living nearby, believed that this event was not for them. Not so! The board has declared this to be a festive event, celebrating spring for all women and girls in the congregation. Save the date and plan to join us. Details will follow next month.

## Help Wanted

The Chair of the Library Committee coordinates the activities of the Library Committee.

Duties currently include:

1. Prepare, call and chair the monthly committee meetings. Send out minutes when needed.
2. Coordinate library responsibilities handled by the committee such as:
  - a. hosting the library on Sunday mornings
  - b. technical support of the library computer and software
  - c. cataloging of library materials
  - d. selecting and ordering of library materials and supplies
  - e. library book sale
  - f. library PR
3. Monitor the library budget.
4. Serve as liaison to the church staff, board, and committees as needed.

If you have an interest in libraries, good people and organizational skills, and comfort in using computers this position may be for you. It requires about 5-10 hours a month, and the current chair will train you.

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

The retreat has filled, but we are starting a wait list. There are always a few women who register, then find that they are unable to attend. If you were late in deciding that you want to come, contact Julie Stewart: 612-321-1355, or [juliestewart@mindspring.com](mailto:juliestewart@mindspring.com). The cost is \$170 for members and \$200 for non-members.



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.

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](#).

## AUW Board Members Needed

Want to build relationships with cool, progressive women? Then get involved with the AUW Board! The Nominating team is seeking applications for four new Board members, whose two-year term will start in July 2011. After a review process, nominated candidates will be voted upon by members at the Annual Meeting on May 27.

The Board's mission is to foster relationships and connections amongst women in our wider community. In so doing, members of the Board deepen relationships with each other and with the membership. Our main work is to organize and support programs & activities that facilitate woman's relationships and spiritual growth. These include:

- Fall workshop and Spring retreat
- "Friday Get Connected" monthly gatherings
- AUW Friendship Groups
- Reproductive and Voting Rights advocacy and social justice actions
- Women and Girls events, Holiday Tea

Board Member Duties include attending monthly meetings, planning and coordinating events, talking to people about AUW, making new friends, and -- always -- having fun.

If you're interested, or even just a little curious, please contact Tracy Yue (tksytutu@gmail.com, 612-777-4488) or Jeni Klotz (jeni.klotz27@gmail.com, 651-592-6466). We look forward to speaking to you soon.

## **Social Justice: Reproductive Choice** by Sara McMullen

**NARAL Pro-Choice Escort Training taken by 15 First Universalist women and one man.**

We joined Cathy Apostle and Judi Carlson from AUW who have been quietly doing this work every month for several years at a local health clinic where abortion services are available. Since only 13 percent of counties in the U.S. offer safe abortion services, those who received the training spoke of taking their pro-choice convictions to the next level. We fear that already many women feel too threatened to come to the clinic for abortion services. We learned how to provide a non-confrontational, peaceful presence as they arrive, park and walk into the health clinic. Those fortunate to have partners and family members who accompany them also benefit from the calm presence of an escort. We agreed to volunteer once a month.

Our beloved Kelli Clement guided us in a spiritual reflection, reminding us of our UU heritage in relation to a woman's right to safe and legal abortion. Before 1973 UU ministers were part of an underground clergy counseling system. UUs in Texas provided key

leadership in winning the case of Roe vs. Wade in the US Supreme Court which guaranteed women the right to a safe and legal abortion.

### **Men, We Need You!**

One man attended the escort training, my husband Greg Krueger. Greg expressed concern that he was the only man at the training. He is sure that the need for escorts is "not just a woman's issue." He is especially concerned that so many of the protesters are men who berate, belittle, and sometimes try to torment the women coming to the health clinic. Greg's motivation for becoming an escort is his empathy for the women and their partners. He would like to know how to reach other men to be involved in this work. Contact Sara and Greg with your thought and ideas at [mckru@comcast.net](mailto:mckru@comcast.net).

## **Social Justice: Reproductive Choice** by Kelli Clement

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

About a dozen folks from First Universalist participated in Pro-Choice Lobby Day at the State Capitol. For the first time in the 15 year history of the event a sitting governor addressed the crowd; Gov. Mark Dayton, who is solidly pro-choice, gave us his assurance that he will hold the line for choice in the face of draconian measures introduced by the so-called pro-life legislature.

The lobby training for faith communities was well attended as was the noon rally. About 200 people attended the day in total, and we logged lots of time with our representatives. NARAL Pro-Choice MN and the other organizers did a great job of setting up the visits and keeping the day moving. Special thanks to the indefatigable Cathy Apostle for rallying the troops at First Universalist!

If you have not done so, I invite you to support the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and follow our work counseling women and offering training for comprehensive sexuality education. Find us on Face Book or online at: [www.mnrsrc.org](http://www.mnrsrc.org). 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

### **Doing the Best We Can**

When we do the best we can,  
We never know what miracles will await.  
Helen Keller

# AUW Calendar: March, April and May 2011

## 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 at Koinonia.

22 Good Friday Counter-Protest at Planned Parenthood.

25 Women Who Read: The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Hosts: 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.

## May

14 Spring Event for Women and Girls. Details to follow.

23 Women Who Read: Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver. Hosts: Adele Hersey, 4412 Grimes Av S, Mpls 952-926-2486; Co-hosts: Helen Ellenbecker, Dimi Karras. All are welcome, but please let the host know if you are coming.

27 AUW Annual Meeting and board elections. Details to follow.

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