



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

Association of Universalist Women

May 2010: From the Editor

Kathy Urberg



The AUW year is drawing to a close, **but wait** - there are great events still to come in May.

On May first, May Day, the traditional Mother/Daughter Banquet has been re-imagined as a May Day Celebration including the making of May baskets, a May Pole dance, prize drawings, and singing.

In the Mother's Day service on May 9, the AUW will continue a four-year tradition of reading Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Peace Proclamation.

We will wind up the year with our year end meeting and potluck on Sunday evening, May 23rd. You'll want to be there. The Spices are going to be singing!

Watch for the next newsletter in late summer. May your summer be a glorious one!

AUW Mothers & Daughters Mayday Celebration, Saturday May 1st, 2 - 4pm, Chalice Room

Calling all daughters! Bring any and all important females in your life to the AUW's annual spring fling! Or just bring yourself - singles are welcome too. This year, instead of a dinner banquet, we're throwing an afternoon party to honor women and girls.

We'll make bouquets, sing together and learn a May Pole dance. Everybody gets a ticket for the prize drawing, too. Among the offerings: 9 gorgeous flower girl dresses donated by Rush Bridal, purses, jewelry, gardening stuff and more. Naturally, there'll be a delicious snack buffet. Childcare is available for wiggly ones. Tickets are \$5 and even less for groups of more than three.

Men & boys are very welcome of course! Just show up! (If you can, RSVP via auw.firstuniv@gmail.com so we have enough chocolatey treats, but really, don't worry about it.)

Friday Get Connected

May 14: We will discuss the book "Committed" by Elizabeth Gilbert, author of "Eat, Pray, Love". The meeting is from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Library. Light refreshments will be served. For questions, call Jeni Klotz at 612-721-1483 or email jklotz1@cs.com. The book is new and available only in hard cover. Reserve a copy of the book at your favorite library soon.

AUW Annual General Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, May 23 5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

All friends and members of AUW are invited to our last event of the year, the Annual AUW General Meeting. We will honor the two women chosen as 2010's Clara Barton sisters, share a potluck dinner, and celebrate the highlights of the last year. By popular demand, Spices, the vocal ensemble, will be back to entertain and inspire.

AUW members will vote to approve a projected budget for 2010--2011 presented by the treasurer and to elect new board members to 2010-2012 terms.

Socializing and Dinner 5:30 - 6:30
Program and Dessert 6:30-7:30

Please bring a dish to share (Clara Barton sisters are not expected to bring food) and RSVP to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com, or sign up at the AUW table. You may also call Liz Permar at 612-869-2756 with questions.

AUW Social Justice Campaigns

AUW/MUUSJA Sacred Choices: Reproductive Justice Committee

On Good Friday, 13 First Universalist members and friends marched in solidarity with Planned Parenthood outside the Highland Park Clinic in St.Paul. A prayer service was led by Rabbi Sacs and United Church of Christ Minister and Co-chair of the Religious

Coalition for Reproductive Choice RCRC), T. Michael Rock. Jody Beresford gave a UU prayer, which included supporting Women's Health, and children's prenatal and postnatal health and development.



Everyone attending signed an agreement of engagement agreeing not to engage at all with the anti-choice protesters. Sara McMillan said, "We were overjoyed to receive so many horn honks and thumbs up from passers-by, especially truckers!"

Pictured are Tracy Yue, Sara McMullen-Krueger, Cathy Pernu, Jody Beresford, Cecelia Newton, and Cathy Apostle

The AUW Reproductive Justice: Sacred Choices Committee has had five active and successful years as a working group of MUUSJA, sponsoring educational events, political actions and supporting actions of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights.

Next year we will take a short rest and recharge time, concentrating on a late Winter Intergenerational Film and Discussion night, Reproductive Rights Lobby Day at the Capitol, and the Good Friday spiritual counter-demonstration at Planned Parenthood. We will continue to support the events of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and MUUSJA.

**Thanks to all who have joined us in our support of women and families.
Watch for our late winter 2011 activities!**

Voting Rights Update

The Voting Rights team presented a program on April 20 addressing the pros and cons of recent proposals to require state-issued Photo IDs to vote in Minnesota. Our work on this issues is a collaboration with the Minnesota Voting Rights Coalition, which includes our non-partisan partners: Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota, the League of Women Voters Minnesota, and Common Cause Minnesota. Proponents of photo ID cite the recent implementation of the law in Indiana. However, the results there support our conclusions because, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, "More citizens of Indiana have been disenfranchised by Indiana's voter photo ID law in the last two years than the number of reported cases of impersonation at the polls cited to the Supreme Court - from anywhere in

the country - in the last two decades." Click [here](#) for more information.

On June 6 at the First Unitarian Society, attend a forum to discuss the merits of the "Judicial Reform" amendment to the Minnesota Constitution, a vote by citizens whether or not to retain a judge, that incorporates a Judicial Evaluation Commission.

On Thursday, June 24 at 4:30 pm at General Assembly (GA), join our panel discussion on same-day voter registration featuring church member and MN Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, and the Executive Director of the LWVMN, Keesha Gaskins, on "Honoring Inherent Worth of Voters for 36 Years."

Retreat 2010

After Koinonia
sunlight starlight candlelight
moon
wisdom soul hearts
on fire
music art faerie house
dreams
gift of grief in safe space
strong silly supple
women journey
together

Read Kelli Clement's poem and you have a picture of what happened at this spring's AUW Retreat at Koinonia, (April 9 -11). Over 90 women attended "The Journey . . . Together." We listened to personal stories, sang, ate, danced, hiked, participated in activities and workshops, enjoyed Ann Reed's concert, walked the labyrinth, signed up for massage of body and soul, and talked deeply about our lives - Where have we been? Where are we now? Where would we like to go?

The Journey Together. . . , the theme of the Retreat, intentionally wove the idea of journey, the stages of pilgrimage and the search for identify and fulfillment into three days of deep connection, wrapped in the best spring weather any of us could have wished for. To all who attended and who led workshops for the 11th AUW Retreat, a hearty thanks for making the event a resounding success. To the committee -- Kathy Coskran, Meadow Muska, Dinah Patrykus, Caren Stelson, Sarah Warner, and Suzann Willhite -- thank you for your year of planning. And to next year's 2011 Retreat Committee -- Carol Gilbert, Judith Grittner, Ann Hobbs, Kattie Johnson, Linda McNary, Ann Rice, Julie Stewart, Kathy Urberg -- thank you for volunteering to carry on our AUW tradition. See you next spring at Koinonia to continue our journey . . . together.



Diane Rowse leading nature walk, and Dinah Patrykus, a woman of many hats.

Words to Ponder, brought to you by Jeni Klotz

I Have So Much I Can Teach Her

I have so much I can teach her
And pull out of her.
I would say you might encounter defeats
But you must never be defeated.
I would teach her to love a lot.
Laugh a lot at the silliest things
And be very serious.
I would teach her to love life,
I could do that.

Adapted from a poem by
Maya Angelou

AUW Calendar 2010: May and June

May

1 Mother and Daughter Get Together: 2:00 - 4:00 pm in the Chalice Room.

14 Friday Get Connected: Discussion of the book Committed by Elizabeth Gilbert from 7:00-9:00 pm in the

library. Light refreshments will be served.

23 Annual Meeting and Potluck: 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Chalice Room.

24 Women Who Read Book Group: Returning to My Mother's House, Gail Straub HOST: Adele Hersey, 4412 Grimes, Minneapolis, 952-926-2486, co-host Heloen Ellenbecker

June

24 General Assembly panel discussion on same-day voter registration featuring church member and MN Secretary of State, Mark Ritchie, and the Executive Director of the LWVMN, Keesha Gaskins, on "Honoring Inherent Worth of Voters for 36 Years," 4:30 pm; check GA program for place.

28 Women Who Read Book Group: PLANNING MEETING at 6:30 pm in the church social hall. Whoever shows up has a voice in next year's selections and helps set up or clean up.