

Meet a Member: Cathy Apostle



Anytime you open your email you may find that you're being invited to attend Grandmothers for Peace meetings, visit your representatives at the capitol about reproductive choice, sign on to make pillows for our UU High School Seniors or any number of other good projects. Who's the person with all the initiative?....Cathy Apostle. She embodies the idea of "Walking the Talk." It takes gumption to be a companion on a cold Saturday morn to someone making the difficult choice to seek abortion. She does it. It

May 2011: From the Editor Kathy Urberg

The AUW year is winding to a close, with the last three events of the year this month. The last Friday Get Connected meets May 6. The May 14 Spring Fling is for all women and girls in the congregation and their friends and relatives. Last year's event drew rave reviews and we expect it will be even better this year.

There has been a change of date for the AUW Annual Meeting. It will be on May 20th at 6:30 rather than May 27. Come and help us elect new board members and party a bit before we take a vacation for the summer.

Spring Fling, Saturday May 14th, 2 - 4 pm

Calling all women and girls of First Universalist! Come celebrate spring with the AUW. Like last year's very successful event, we'll have snacks, singing and a dance around the May Pole. Plus we'll decorate flower pots for the women of Ascension Place Housing who have just moved into their very first apartment. Please bring friends. This is intentionally intergenerational - 'adopt' a mother/grandmother, daughter/granddaughter, sister/aunt/niece, and bring them too!



The Fling will be in the Social Hall. Entrance is free, but donations are welcome. Boys are certainly welcome to join us, but if you think they would prefer a separate activity, then please request childcare one week in advance (contact Lily in office, lily@firstuniv.org).

takes fortitude to head out very early Wednesday mornings to join protesters at Alliant Techsystems, one of the largest supplier of war munitions. She does it.

Moving here a few years ago from New York State, she soon linked up with First UU and began her busy life of being "a doer." In her years out east she was a teacher, administrator and mother to 3 children and 4 stepchildren. She still makes her family a priority, spending many hours with granddaughter Zoe. Her friends from her Friendship Group will attest to their many good times. She doesn't do "Idle." At home, her cherished dogs, perennial garden, quilting, and books on tape fill any empty spots in the day, often accompanied by songs by her favorite singer, Pete Seeger. If you haven't yet, you'll probably meet her before long because she's one of the friendliest people around.

RSVP to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com or sign up at the Hub. There will be sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with this party, as well. Questions? Contact Tracy Yue at tkstyutu@gmail.com or 612-770-4488.

May 20, AUW Annual Meeting: Connect, Honor, Elect! Liz Permar

I'd like to personally welcome all of you to our last event of the AUW year, the Annual Meeting. We'll gather at 6:30, eat a light supper, listen to Spices and a Minister (to be named later) will bless us. We'll thank our volunteers and departing board members. The business part will begin with the treasurer's report and budget. We'll elect some new board members, hear about this past year's greatest hits and get a preview of what's coming next year. My favorite part of the evening is when we honor our newest Clara Barton Sisters. Officially we end at 8:30, but we've reserved the social hall until 9:00 for anyone to have another cup of tea and keep talking. To give us an idea of how much food to prepare, please sign up at the Hub or RSVP to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com. There will be sign-up sheets for volunteers. You can also contact me directly at elpermar@gmail.com.

Social Justice: Reproductive Choice Jenny Thomas

Planned Parenthood on April 22, Good Friday.

First Universalist and AUW members were out in strong numbers to support choice at the annual Good Friday demonstrations at Planned Parenthood in St. Paul. We counted at least 23 First Universalist Church folks at the support march at 10:30 am. We saw UU friends from other congregations, too. We were "standing on the side of love" and of CHOICE. Undaunted by chill and rain, the intergenerational crowd sang 'Love, Love, Love' and celebrated being united in our cause. The religious service at 10:00 am featured our own Kelli Clement and Rev. David

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.

May 6 - Spring

Gardening: May is the month to start thinking about gardening! Finally, after what seemed like a really long winter and a cold windy May Day, we can look forward to playing in the dirt. We'll discuss how to start a rain garden and talk about possibly sharing plants or garden space later in the growing season. For the garden of your soul - what would you like to plant or cultivate?

Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to help Tracy Yue with some of the tasks for the Spring Fling for women and girls on May 14. If you can help contact Tracy at tkstutu@gmail.com or

Breeden of Minnesota Valley UU, a rabbi and speaker from Temple Israel, and a UCC minister. The dramatic regalia of the Knights of Columbus gave momentary flair to the anti-choice crowd, but our hats were warm and our eyes bright as we stepped forward in our commitment to CHOICE. Rev. Justin Schroeder was scheduled to speak at the 1:00 pm service, so First Universalist made a strong public witness of our values. This is the work of our church.

612-770-4488.

New Clara Barton Sisters Named

The Clara Barton Sisterhood is a national honor for UU women. It honors women 80 or older who have made significant contributions to their church and community. We are pleased to give the honor this year to two First Universalist women.

Carolyn Moe is being honored as a Clara Barton sister for all the many ways she gave of her time and talents to the church. She has been an AUW member for 35+ years, serving as AUW Board secretary at one time. She spent years teaching RE on Sundays, as well as being in charge of the memorial services committee for 8 years. She was in charge of the Opportunity Sale/Rummage Sale for several years and helped for many years with getting the Liberal out. Finally, she and her husband, Bob were leaders of the Loaves and Fishes program. She and Bob truly deserved the certificate of most loyal volunteers they received one year!

Fran Addington is being honored as a Clara Barton sister this year for the 25+ years of service she gave to the church while being on the Visual Arts Committee. An artist herself, she has also had her work displayed at the church. She has been a life-long Liberal, an artist and a writer who is currently writing a book for young people about the natural environment and global warming that she plans to self-publish.

Social Justice: Voting Rights Jenny Thomas

We strongly oppose the "Voter ID" bills that are entering the final stretch at the state legislature. SF 509, would create the most restrictive voter ID system in the country. With thousands of Minnesotans unemployed and the state facing a historic budget deficit, the legislature is intent on pushing through a bill that fails to solve any problems and instead would block tens of thousands of legal citizens from voting. We expect this bill to be vetoed by Governor Dayton. [You can help](#). Get informed, tell your friends, contact your legislators and the Governor and sign our petition [here](#).

We expect Voter ID to go to a constitutional amendment for the 2012 ballot. We will be offering trainings over the coming months to teach the talking points on the issues to use with your friends and/or to share in public speaking engagements. Our elections systems in Minnesota are consistently shown to be the best in the nation, but Voter ID (and the related introduction of provisional ballots and the end of vouching) would be a

huge step backward. Please contact us now to sign up for a training session and join our efforts. It will take a large effort to educate the public on this critical threat and we need your help! FFI: Jenny Thomas jjewell.thomas@gmail.com and Carol Johnson at 612-825-3322.

AUW Women's Retreat

The predicted storm held off, and the ice was out far enough on the lake that at least two intrepid women jumped in after their sauna. We moved, sang, danced and told stories. We got massages, stayed up late to get caught up with the lives of old friends, met new friends, walked the labyrinth and played in the creation station. If you missed it this year, watch for the announcements next January and February, and join us for this fabulous retreat on April 13 - 15, 2012.



Words to Ponder brought to you by Jeni Klotz

Earth Teach Me

Earth teach me stillness
as the grasses are stilled with light.
Earth teach me suffering
as old stones suffer with memory:
Earth teach me humility
as blossoms are humble with beginning.
Earth teach me caring
as the mother who secures her young.

Nancy Wood

AUW Calendar: May and June 2011

May

6 Friday Get Connected: Spring Gardening 7 - 9 pm in the Church Library.

14 Spring Event for Women and Girls from 2 - 4 pm in the Social Hall.

20 AUW Annual Meeting and board elections from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Social Hall.

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.

June

27 Women Who Read: Planning Meeting for next year. Host: Joyce Sutherland, 6104 Westridge Blvd, Edina, 952-927-8390; Co-host Nora Page. All are welcome, but please let the host know if you are attending.