



Friday Get Connected

Friday Get Connected is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts and ideas, laugh, learn and have fun. We meet in the Library from 7- 9 pm. Light refreshments and childcare (on request) will be provided.

May 4: Understanding Ourselves and Each Other

Friday Get Connected is all about getting acquainted with each other. We'll use the Myers Briggs personality test as a way of understanding ourselves and our ways of interacting with others.

Since we would like to spend as much of our time together as possible discussing the types, we are asking women to take the test ahead of time.

A limited number of copies of the test are available from AUW Board members near the Hub.

You can also take it online at www.myersbriggs.org or come early at 6:30 pm on May 4th.

Questions? Contact Judith Grittner at 612-839-2280 or

From the Editor



Summer is coming and everyone seems to be planting gardens and planning summer trips. With summer comes the winding down of the AUW year. There are a few events yet in May, the biggest being our Annual Meeting where Rev. Kate Tucker will be with us for the last time. We plan to

send her off right!

Friday Get Connected should be a fun time of getting to know each other in a new way, with the Meyers-Briggs Personality test. The Voting Rights group is still working hard to defeat the Voter ID amendment in November. They will work through the summer. See the article in this issue for the many ways you can get involved. And the knitters at Ascension Place are still going strong. Enjoy your summer and stay connected!

AUW Annual Meeting and Dinner with very special guest Rev.

Kate Tucker



5.30 - 9pm, Fri, May 11th, in the Social Hall.

Please join in the last event of AUW's season! Come enjoy a lovely dinner with wine and entertainment as we gather to honor the newest Clara Barton Sisterhood awardees, outgoing Board members and our many wonderful volunteers. **This year we will especially recognize and thank**

Rev. Kate Tucker for her unflagging support for AUW's work during her 15-year tenure. We'll also elect new Board members and discuss AUW's activities and support for social justice.

Please volunteer a bit of your time to make this evening memorable! Tasks include:

judithgrittner@mac.com RSVP is not necessary. Just come!

JOIN US

Would you like to further AUW's mission of building community and develop leadership skills and connections at the same time? **Please consider joining the AUW Board or serving on a sub-committee.**

The Board oversees all AUW activities and relationships with the church and other organizations. Board terms are two years long. We are seeking nominations for Secretary, Treasurer and Members-at-large. Sub-committee positions include: leading Events and Programs such as Holiday Tea and Friday Get Connected; Newsletter Editor and other communications; volunteer recruitment and Nominating Committee; Hub teams; and social justice teams. The type of commitment varies according to the area, so there are opportunities for introverts and extroverts alike!

If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please let us know ASAP! Board elections will be held on May 11 at the Annual Meeting. **Contact the Nominations team:** Suzann Willhite at s.willhite@yahoo.com, Evelyn

- assist chef Linda McNary in the kitchen earlier in the day
- decorate
- help set up & serve the buffet
- help clean up after event
- drive carpool for guests who need rides
- help deliver body-care products to Ascension
- general assistance

If you're interested in helping please contact Tracy Yue at tkstutu@gmail.com

We'll also be collecting small body-care products to donate to Ascension Place and St Anne's Place for Mother's Day gifts (nice soap or lotion).

Please note, only members of current standing may vote in the elections; however, all women are welcome at this celebration. **Please RSVP to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com or sign up at the Hub as soon as possible.**

Free childcare is available: contact Lily Franz at least one week in advance at Lily@firstuniv.org, 612-825 1701 x107.

GRATITUDE IS OUR GOOD NEWS

-Tracy Yue, President 2011-2013

In keeping with this month's sermon theme and on behalf of the AUW Board and members, I would like to practice the good news of our spiritual faith by loudly proclaiming our deep gratitude to outgoing Board members Isabel Quast, Jeni Klotz, Kathy Urberg and Nora Page, and to former Board member and current newsletter editor Sarah Warner who is also retiring.

Our four Board members have served the AUW Board steadfastly for three years each, including kindly extending their original term by a year to provide continuity and guidance to a new group. These women, along with Sarah, have dedicated time, talents, leadership and insight to keeping AUW's mission -- to deepen women's meaningful connections to each other, to the spirit and to social justice -- alive in the world. Their contributions are priceless, from steering AUW's many events and mentoring the Retreat committee to warmly welcoming women every Sunday at the Hub.

Without these women, and indeed all our dozens of

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ewbrowne57@gmail.com or
 Liz Permar at
elpermar@gmail.com.

volunteers, First Universalist wouldn't be the same. It is a fact that AUW is integral to many women's experience of community here. And it connects us with women's issues that make a difference in all our lives.

We give our heartfelt gratitude to Isabel, Jeni, Kathy, Nora and Sarah, and to all our volunteers, for their wonderful dedication and generosity of spirit. Please practice the good news and take a moment to say "thanks" the next time you see them at church.

My Experience at the AUW Retreat

-Theresa Jaroz Alberti



I'd heard tidbits about the AUW retreat for years, what a not-to-be-missed experience it is. This year, I overcame any obstacles of uncertainty and scheduling, took the leap and signed up. I'm glad I did! After a drive to the country with my lovely carpool companions, Marion and Martha, we arrived at Koinonia Retreat

Center and I was caught up in the swirl of the retreat. There was a hum of energy, so many friendly and open women to meet or reconnect with, and such a variety of interesting workshops and activities that it was hard to choose.

I especially enjoyed Maria Genne's enthusiastic talk about dance and movement... the wisdom Ruth Mackenzie shared about balance as a verb, and "mercy, moderation and modesty"... learning and seeing so much on the sunny nature walk with Diane Rouse... the inspiring movie "What I Want My Words to Do to You" about women writing in prison... the tea ceremony... dancing and chatting with Tracy, Liz and a few others to salsa and disco music... "The Sex Talk!"... meditation in the mornings... Caren Stelson's writing workshop... and sitting at meal tables with different women each time, easily falling into conversation. I'm pretty sure I came home from the retreat glowing-I'd gotten the chance to relax and recharge, to learn, laugh and ponder. I thank the retreat committee for their year of hard work and dedication, and thanks to my fellow retreat companions for being so welcoming and warm. I look forward to the next AUW retreat.

Social Justice Campaigns: Reproductive Rights



Dear AUW,

Thank you for your generous support of the INTERFAITH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, April 6, 2012 Honoring Women and Choice. Thanks to AUW, almost 50 liberal religious people took a chartered bus to Planned Parenthood in St. Paul.

An Interfaith prayer service was held to support all the staff, escorts and clients at Planned Parenthood, and to remember those who put their lives on the line for comprehensive sexuality education, family planning health care, and safe and legal abortions.

With respect and appreciation for AUW and all you support, Sara McMullen, Cathy Apostle, Connie Diercks and Cathy Pernu, Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Justice Committee. We are members of the Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice that works for reproductive health, reproductive justice, and reproductive freedom. MN RCRC strives to accomplish this mission through education, pastoral care, and advocacy. Learn more at <http://www.mnrcrc.org>.

Social Justice Campaigns: AUW/MUUSJA Voting Rights



We are working to educate UUs and our community about the harm that would come from the constitutional amendment headed to the ballot in November.

Summary of the Amendment

The proposed Minnesota constitutional amendment on voting is significantly more than just "Voter ID." If passed, the amendment would make it harder to vote for hundreds of thousands of citizens - who could also not be sure their vote would be counted, especially for:

- more than 500,000 eligible voters who register on election day,
- nearly 250,000 registered voters who vote by mail (including absentee and overseas voters), and
- more than 84,000 registered voters without a government-issued photo ID.

It would introduce Provisional Ballots in Minnesota (often called "placebo ballots" in other states because they are so often not counted!). The widespread use of Provisional Ballots would likely delay our election results for days and encourage lawsuits over uncounted ballots.

Minnesota has zero cases of voter impersonation, the only ineligible voting a photo ID could prevent. Our group works to make elections as accurate and inclusive as possible. This amendment would not improve accuracy and would make it harder to vote for thousands, while costing taxpayers millions of dollars. We support the Governors of both parties who have required that election reform achieve broad bi-partisan support. This amendment failed to achieve any bipartisan support.

We need to prevent this damaging overhaul of our election system from being permanently etched into our constitution. Let's stop this amendment and send the legislature back to the

drawing board to develop legislation that actually improves our elections for all Minnesotans.

Here's how you can help:

1. **Sign our petition** circulating in the Social Hall on Sundays to authorize the introduction of a resolution opposing this amendment, for consideration by the members of First Universalist at the Annual Meeting.

2. **Attend the Annual Meeting on June 3** and support our resolution opposing the voter amendment.

3. **Wear an "I Oppose Voter ID" button** and help us educate voters that it's about much more than "Voter ID." (We encourage you to keep extra buttons handy to give to others who oppose the amendment.) Thanks to AUW members for the funding of 2,000 buttons that are being distributed statewide. Thanks also to the many individuals for making donations to help us buy many more.

4. **Attend one of our information sessions** to learn more:

a. Tuesday, May 15, 7-9pm, Cummins Room

b. Thursday, May 24, 6-8 pm (dinner will be provided for those who RSVP to Jenny below), Cummins Room

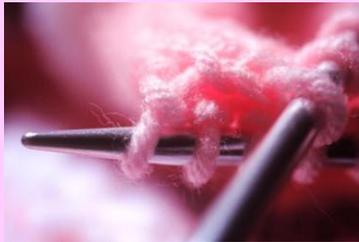
c. Wednesday, May 30, 10am - noon, Cummins Room

5. **Join our working group on Voting Rights.** We meet the 3rd Saturday of each month at First Universalist, Room 204, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Mark your calendar and join us when you can: 5/19, 6/16, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15, 10/20. (Call Jenny's cell if you can't get in the building 612-386-5724). Newcomers are welcome.

6. People who have some knowledge and are interested in speaking publicly are invited to attend our **advanced speaker training** on Thursday, May 17. RSVP required; contact Jenny for information.

FFY: Carol Johnson 612-825-3322 or Jenny Thomas jjewell.thomas@gmail.com .

Ascension Place Knitting



AUW women and friends have been volunteering at Ascension Place for the past three months teaching the women there how to knit. Ascension Place offers housing for women needing a safe and nurturing environment in which to live while recovering from chemical dependency or needing support with mental health issues. There is no time limit on how long they can stay.

On any given Thursday night we have six to eight women joining the group for an evening of knitting.

Everyone is working on the same project: a square wash cloth, learning to cast on, the knit stitch, and bind off. Once they complete the wash cloth we are moving on to learning how to knit on a circular needle and knit a hat. The evenings are fun and the women are excited about learning a new skill. Often they mention how relaxing it is to knit and it gives them something to do in their free time.

We are always looking to add more volunteers to our team of knitters. Please contact Barbara Melom at bjm@visi.com if you are interested in helping.

"Properly practiced, knitting soothes the troubled spirit, and it doesn't hurt the troubled spirit either."

-Elizabeth Zimmerman

Words to Ponder

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

- Melody Beattie

Calendar

May

4 Friday Get Connected: Understanding Ourselves and Each Other: Myers-Briggs. 7-9pm First Universalist Library

11 AUW Annual Meeting: 5:30-9pm in the Social Hall

19 Voting Rights working group: 9-11am: First Universalist room 204

17 Women Who Read: 1pm in Church Library: **The Green Glass Sea** by Ellen Klages

21 Please note: This is a change in location.

Women Who Read: 6:30pm. **The Green Glass Sea** by Ellen Klages: Host, Marion Bauer: 508 Montcalm Place, St. Paul 55116. 651-340-7120 or ormdanebauer@aol.com Potluck. Please RSVP so the host knows how many to expect.