

**November 2011 Newsletter**  
**Association of Universalist Women**

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Writing**

The editor is looking for a few good writers who would be interested in writing short profiles occasionally of some of the many outstanding women in our community. Send her an email if you are interested at

[sarah.froggoddess@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.froggoddess@gmail.com).

### **Poinsettia Sale**

Help is needed taking orders on Sundays after each service and on delivery day. Delivery is at the AUW Tea on Saturday, December 10 and after each service on Sunday, December 11. Contact Lisa Sinclair at 612 827-7478

[lpsinclair7982@yahoo.com](mailto:lpsinclair7982@yahoo.com)

or Mary Weeks 612 929-0909  
[mokey@sihope.com](mailto:mokey@sihope.com) if you can help.

### **Holiday Tea**

If you are interested in decorating a table for the Holiday Tea, please contact Jody Beresford at 612-669-9977 or [spice777@aol.com](mailto:spice777@aol.com). If you can bring treats or help set up or clean up please sign up at the AUW table or at the Hub.

## **Friday Get Connected**

Friday Get Connected is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts and ideas, laugh,



## **From the Editor**

I love this time of year. It's cool and crisp in the morning, but not yet so cold that I dread going outside.

People are starting to get geared up for the holidays, but the frenzy hasn't started yet. It's a good time of year for walks and long talks with good friends. Many of those friends can be found at AUW events.

AUW is gearing up for the annual Poinsettia sale in November, and there are details about that in this newsletter. Saturday, December 10 we have the Annual (for 80 years!) Holiday Tea, which always proves to be a good time. Look in this newsletter for more about that also. Think about if you'd like to decorate a table, and contact Jody Beresford.

## **AUW Annual Poinsettia Sale**



Start thinking about how you might use some lovely poinsettia plants for the holiday season.

Gifts, decorating, donating?

Beautiful plants come in three sizes and eight colors.

Sales kickoff will be at the Fall Mini-Retreat (October 29th) and will continue through November 27th in the Social Hall.

*Delivery:* At the AUW Tea on December 10th or after/between services on December 11th.

**We would love to have a few volunteers to take orders on Sundays or to help on delivery day.**

*Questions:* Lisa Sinclair 612-827-7478

[lpsinclair7982@yahoo.com](mailto:lpsinclair7982@yahoo.com) or Mary Weeks 612-929-0909  
[mokey@sihope.com](mailto:mokey@sihope.com)

## **Annual Holiday Tea**

learn and have fun. We meet in the Library from 7- 9 pm. Light refreshments and childcare (on request) will be provided.

**November 4 'Introduction to Meditation'**. Are you curious about meditation? Come and learn more. Kathy Urberg will talk about what meditation is, some of the reasons you might want to meditate, and how to get started. There will be a short session of seated meditation (including loving kindness meditation), as well as walking meditation. You can sit either on a chair or on a cushion. There will be a list of resources for those who would like to learn more.

**December 2 'Annual Cookie Exchange'**. Last year was such fun that we decided to do it again. Bring four dozen cookies to exchange and a container for bringing your goodies home. As UU's, some of us were raised in other faith traditions and the holidays can be a challenge to dance with. We will have time to share joys or concerns on how each of us dances (or slogs?) through the holidays.

For questions or to RSVP or request childcare, please contact Jeni Klotz at 651-592-6466, [jklotz27@gmail.com](mailto:jklotz27@gmail.com).



Come and join us for the traditional (80 years and going strong) AUW Holiday Tea December 10th, from 1-3pm in the church Social Hall. We are continuing the

tradition of having each table decorated by a different volunteer. There will be coffee and tea, conversation and song, and delicious treats. Martha Bird and Betsy McMillan will continue their tradition (not quite 80 years old) of pouring coffee and tea for us from our silver tea and coffee servers.

We will also be collecting small stocking stuffers for the children at St. Anne's Place, a residential facility run by Ascension Place that helps women with children transition to better options. Since most of the children are under the age of 5, consider small toys or treats that would brighten their holidays. Stuffers for older children are welcome as well.

Come and join us for a wonderful start to the holiday season. Sign up in the AUW book at the Hub during coffee hour or email [Auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto:Auw.firstuniv@gmail.com). There is no charge for the tea. **Please indicate if you need childcare at least two weeks in advance.**

If you would like to decorate a table please contact Jody Beresford at 612-669-9977 or [spice777@aol.com](mailto:spice777@aol.com). If you can bring treats or are willing to help set up or clean up, please sign up at the AUW table or at the Hub.

## Social Justice Campaigns

### Reproductive Rights

Friday Get Connected, October 14: "Walking with Our Sisters." Ten women met and discussed our individual and shared values about the right to choice. We learned about our AUW and First Universalist church history, discussing the 2004 church resolution supporting every person's right to reproductive choice and endorsing AUW's co-sponsorship of the March for Women's Lives in Washington, DC. A beautiful quilt that was made by members of AUW concerning Reproductive Rights was shared, along with details about the quilt itself. There was time for personal sharing as well as discussing upcoming events.

#### Upcoming events are:

Friday, February 10, 2012 6-9:30pm: Intergenerational movie and discussion to be held in the Social Hall.

Wednesday, February 15: Pro-choice Lobby Day: More details coming.

Good Friday April 6: Pro-Choice march at Planned Parenthood in St Paul. More details coming.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved with this group, please email Jeni Klotz at [jklotz27@gmail.com](mailto:jklotz27@gmail.com)

### Voting Rights



Women are particularly at risk from proposals to require voter photo ID's. To learn more and find out how you can help, contact Jenny Thomas

[jjewell.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:jjewell.thomas@gmail.com) or Carol Johnson 612-825-3322.

### Fall Mini Retreat



Thirty-six women attended AUW's annual Fall Mini-Retreat on the last Saturday afternoon of October.

In her keynote presentation, "Creating from the Deep Feminine", life coach Marcy Nelson-Garrison invited the guests to ask themselves "What do I know? What wisdoms do I want to hold up and pass on?". One exercise involved writing a

dialogue between ourselves and a 'wisdom figure' or muse, using the non-dominant hand to write from the muse's perspective. Another had participants choose an image card from a pile on the table, observing why it attracted their attention, and seeing what message it might have held for them.

With Hallowed Eve and Dia de Los Muertos around the corner, the break-out sessions on Day of the Dead altars and on Shamanism were a timely opportunity to honor spirits of loved ones and spirits of the earth, respectively. Artist Briana Goetzen brought many images from Dia de Los Muertos traditions to collage onto paper altars or star-shaped

boxes. Long-time AUW members Hannah Mitchell and Betsy Allis introduced Shamanism and its rituals to a packed crowd in the library, including calling the Four Directions and Drumming the Journey. "Ritual frees up the body so you can connect to the spirit more easily", said Hannah.

Lots of mingling time before and after the keynote allowed many connections to be made among the guests. Talking about the image cards was a great way to share bits of wisdom and personal truth, as well as meet someone you didn't know before.

Much gratitude goes to a raft of volunteers who helped make the Mini-Retreat a wonderful event: Liz Dunn, Jeni Klotz, Esther Maki, Linda McNary, Cecelia Newton, Isabel Quast, Sharon Ramirez, Mary Sandbo, Sue Searing, Lisa Sinclair, Eliz Snyder, Kathy Steinhauer, Ann Wells, Suzann Wilhite, Tracy Yue. Thanks also to Kelly, our child-minder!

"We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time."  
~ T.S. Eliot

## **Book Group- A Woman's Eye View of American Transcendentalism**

After enjoying Kate Tucker's inspiring sermon about Margaret Fuller this summer, Candace Mainville and I found ourselves saying, "I want to know more about this Margaret Fuller." So we started our Margaret Fuller Book Club and began reading *The Woman and the Myth -Margaret Fuller's Life & Writings*, by Bell Gale Chivigny. We're learning a great deal about women in 19th-century American society, and Margaret herself is an inspiration!

Originally about 10 people expressed interest in joining us. We have met twice, and at our second meeting we were disappointed to be down to only three. We'd like to invite others to join this exploration. We will be glad to have a second discussion of the first two sections of the book ("The Problems of Identity and Vocation" and "The Friend"), which we've already discussed but which contain so much information and inspired such great discussions that we would enjoy exploring them again with others. And that would allow newcomers to catch up.

The book is available used over the Internet. As a biography, it's organized in a very interesting way, containing information the author gleaned from research about Margaret's life as well as writings about Margaret by people who knew her; it also includes some of Margaret's own writings.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, November 30 at 7pm Gayle Burdick's house- see address below.**

I will provide hot tea and, if it remains as cold as it is as I type this today, a fire in the fireplace.

Please contact me if you plan to join us, so that we know how many will be coming.  
Gayle Burdick

1869 Ashland Avenue

St. Paul  
651-645-2425  
[geburdick@earthlink.net](mailto:geburdick@earthlink.net)

Please note: This is not an AUW group. Please direct any questions to Gayle Burdick.

## Words To Ponder

from "Moments of Real Grace" by Oriah Mountain Dreamer

Sometimes, during my early-morning meditation, a place within me opens and parts of myself let go that I did not even know were holding on. In these moments I feel all the hard parts in my heart and body yield to a great softness carried on my breath...

A great faith washes through me, a knowing that everything that needs to get done will get done. My shoulders drop an inch, the small but familiar ache in my chest eases, and the moment stretches. There is enough: enough time, enough energy, enough of all that is needed. A great tenderness for myself and the world opens inside me, and I know I belong to this time, to these people, to this earth, and to something that is both within and larger than all of it, something that sustains and holds us all. I do not want to be anywhere else. I am filled with commitment... and compassion. (WOMANPRAYERS p. 54)

## Calendar

### November

**All month** Poinsettia Sale (order deadline is before Thanksgiving)

**4** Friday Get Connected: 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Library: *Introduction to Meditation*. Dress Comfortably.

**17** Women Who Read: Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe; 1:00 pm, First Universalist library.

**28** Women Who Read: Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe: 6:30 pm Hosts: Nancy Browne and Anne Frenchick. At 1480 Applewood Ct. W#121, Roseville, 651-636-6002. All are welcome, but please RSVP to the hosts so they know how many to expect.

### December

**2** Friday Get Connected: 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Library: *2nd Annual Cookie Exchange*.

**10** Annual Holiday Tea: 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Social Hall.

**Mark it now! The Annual Women's Retreat is April 13-15 2012.**