



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

Association of Universalist Women

Writing with Friday Get Connected

Fri., Nov. 2, 7-9 pm,
Library at First Universalist

Join Friday Get Connected in the Church Library for a writing workshop. Kathy Coskran will feature short writing exercises for self-discovery. Beginning and seasoned writers are welcome.

"FGC" is a series of casual, relaxed discussions or activities on the first Friday of each month, and a great way to meet women in our community! Light refreshments provided. No RSVP is necessary to attend. Free childcare is available (see separate article for info).

Future FGC Topics:

Dec 7: Cookie Exchange
Jan 4: Exploring Shiatsu
Feb 1: Art Making Visible
March 1: Seeking Financial Balance



Last Week to Donate Coats and Boots for Ascension Place

Sunday, November 4th is the deadline for donating gently used women's and children's winter boots and coats for St Anne's Place and Ascension Place in

From the Editor



As I sit here at my laptop in my kitchen, it's not hard to believe that winter is on its way. Most of the colorful leaves of this brilliant autumn have exited the trees, and the bare branches against the gray sky have that stark Thanksgiving Day look. I get cold easily, so I'm wearing a hat and fingerless gloves, a blanket on my lap. I know these 40 degree temps will feel warm in a few months' time... but the cold takes some getting used to!

For now, I'll concentrate on remembering the cozy comforts of the season-- cups of tea, pots of soup bubbling on the stove, a cat on my lap, and the warmth of sharing with family and friends.

2012 A UW Holiday Tea "Roots and Wings"

Sat, Dec 8, 1:00-3:00 pm,
First Universalist social hall

Please join us for our Annual A UW Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 8, from 1-3 p.m. at the First Universalist Church Social Hall. The A UW theme this year is "Roots and Wings" which will be reflected in our Holiday Tea as well as in other A UW events throughout the year.



A UW has been presenting this Annual Holiday Tea for over 80 years. This is a tradition that links us with the First Universalist women who came before us. It provides a relaxed and festive occasion to share the holidays with other women, connecting across generations. Join us as we continue this tradition. As in recent years, each table will be beautifully decorated by a different volunteer. **Coffee, tea, light savory munchies and sweets will be served.** We will continue our tradition of pouring coffee and tea for our guests from our vintage silver tea and coffee servers. During the event, we will entertain you with music and poetry readings, and you can join us in a holiday sing-along.

We will also continue our tradition of service by **collecting small stocking stuffers for the women of Ascension Place**, a residential facility that helps women with children transition to better options. The holiday season is a time of delight and reflection for the 32 women

and reception table in north Minneapolis. Please bring to the designated box in the Social Hall up through November 4th. If you'd like a receipt for tax purposes, please pin your name and address onto the items you are donating. Thank you for your generosity!



The Auction Is Coming!

The All-Church Auction Party is almost here and we could use your help to make it a fabulous event! What can AUW members do?

Donate! Donations accepted through November 4. Enticing items, Gift Certificates, Personal Services, and Great Gathering ideas are all appreciated. Perhaps a thematic gift basket from a couple of friends?

Volunteer! We still need some shifts filled to make the auction spectacular. Info in the Social Hall following services.

Come and Enjoy! Great company, food, and fun. On **Saturday, November 17 from 6-10:00 pm**, gather your friends and make a night of it. Tickets are on sale in the church office during the week and in the Social Hall following services. \$25 for adults and \$5 for child care.

You will find tempting Great Gatherings offered by AUW members Jody Beresford, Jeni Klotz, Suzann Willhite, Kristin Siegesmund and others. There will be fabulous items to bid on donated by AUW members

in residence-- they are often separated from family during this time and your gift can go a long way in helping to share holiday cheer. These stocking stuffers are fun little items that bring big joy: nail polish, \$5 bus cards, mittens, books, socks, puzzles, jewelry, lotion, lip balm, hot chocolate, scented shower gel, pens, stationary, and deodorant. Please bring a few items to spread the joy of the season.

The Annual Holiday Tea is also the time that people can **pick up the poinsettias** that they have ordered through AUW.

Join us for a wonderful start to the holiday season. Sign up at the Hub in the Social Hall during coffee hour after Sunday services, email Auw.firstuniv@gmail.com, or click [here](#) and fill in your information.

There is no charge for the tea. Please indicate if you need childcare by November 28. If you would like to decorate a table please contact Judith Grittner at judithgrittner@mac.com.

If you can bring treats or are willing to help set up or clean up, please indicate that when you sign up for the Tea at the Hub. To see a description of various volunteer opportunities, click [here](#).

We hope to see you at this fun event!

Get Festive with the Annual AUW Poinsettia Sale



The holidays are just around the corner and the Poinsettia Sale has begun!

This is AUW's only church-wide fundraiser. AUW receives no money from the church and is entirely funded by membership dues, donations and the Poinsettia Sale. Proceeds provide poinsettias for those in our community who have experienced serious illness or loss in the past year; the Congregational Care team and volunteers deliver the plants personally. The remaining proceeds cover scholarships to AUW's Spring Retreat and event expenses.

These beautiful plants come in 24 colors and sizes, and are very well-priced. Please think about ordering poinsettias for the office, as gifts for the holidays, or as a donation to Congregational Care for church members or friends who have experienced difficult times this year.

Forms are at the Hub in the Social Hall now. **Fill out your order and submit with payment any Sunday up to November 18th (Sunday before Thanksgiving).** All poinsettias will be available for pick-up at the AUW Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 8th

donated by AOW members
Pat Foulkes (pottery),
Marilyn Lamoreaux
(photographs), Carol Johnson
(cookies), Jacki Fleming (bird
watching weekend get-away)
and others.

Questions? Contact Paul
Robinson at
Paul@bancorgroup.com

and after church services on Sunday, December 9th.

If you have a spare hour, we'd love your help taking orders on Sundays and also sorting orders on delivery day. **Please contact Mary Sandbo at mary.sandbo@yahoo.com, (612) 226-3778, or Sydney Dunitz at (612) 952-3395.**



Jerry Sattinger, Joy Throm, Karen Parsons, Marilyn Lamoreaux, Shawn Hartfeldt, Susan Erstad, Betsy Allis, Dinah Patrykus, Cindy Alstad, Sarah McMullen, Lynda Borjesson (missing from photo: Hannah Mitchell)

Friendship Group Connections

Are you interested in getting to know a small group of women by joining a new or an existing AOW Friendship Group? Sign-ups for new friendship groups started at the Fall Kickoff, but **you can still join in** and make connections. Visit an AOW representative at the Hub on Sundays to fill out a form. Those

who sign up are assigned to a group of 6 - 8 women.



Suzann Willhite, Nancy McCall, Jill Andersen, Kathy Urberg, Mary Melia.

Suzann Willhite has been in a Friendship Group since these groups were started in the fall of 2006. "We started with the Welcome folder, with suggestions on topics and resources and how to structure the group. Out of the eight original members, one woman never met, one woman was only involved a short time, one woman moved after a couple of years and the rest of us have continued to meet over the years.

"It is hard to believe it has been six years that we have made time for one another by meeting every month. We take turns meeting at our homes, catching up on our lives over a light dinner and discussing a chosen topic of interest. I have enjoyed getting to know these women and sharing our lives along the bumpy road of life."

Ginny McAninch said about her Friendship Group experience, "We are still meeting. We are beginning our 6th year; we had our first meeting in Oct 2007. One person has left. But the rest of us are steadfast. When one member spent a year in Chile, she Skyped in to our meetings. When another accepted a job in California, she remained a part of the group, also via Skype. For a few months we set up two computers to Skype them both in. Our Chile traveller is back so we only Skype one member now. We meet about every three weeks and the host decides if dinner will be involved or just snacks. We gather at 6:30 or 7:00, again the host's choice."



Pictured from L to R: Fawzia Khan, Nora Page, Nancy Ward, Debbie Cash, Susan Peploe and Sylvia Rudolph.

Current Friendship Groups: Please Report--- We

would like to hear from you and share your stories!

The AUW Board is seeking to document this wonderful AUW program. If you are in an active Friendship Group, please send a photo and/or a story about your group to: AUW.FirstUniv@gmail.com. Also, if your group would be open to new members, please contact Suzann Willhite at s.willhite@yahoo.com or Carol Gilbert at cgilbert123@gmail.com.

Babysitting Reminder

Free childcare is available at all AUW events. Please send in your request at least a week in advance to Emma Schlatter in the church office at Emma@firstuniv.org, (612) 825-1701 x 135.



Barb knitting in public at Fulton Farmers Market

The Faithful Knitter

by Barbara Melom

There is so much happening within our knitting community, I decided it was time to give the column a title.

Ascension Place... we are off to a good start this fall with teaching knitting and crocheting to the women living at Ascension Place. We were greeted with hugs and smiles from several of the women returning from last spring and we welcomed new members into the group. We have two sessions each month-- the first Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and the third Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me: **it is mandatory that a background check be completed** before volunteering there.

Hats for the Homeless... hats are rolling in; just this week I received a call from a woman in California who heard about the project from a niece and is shipping 50 hats to us. Charity knitters at General Mills have signed on to knit for the project. Knitting in public at local farmers markets has given us more visibility in the community. Last year we collected close to 1200 hats; it's time to get knitting. Hats/scarves are due the beginning of December. The Visual Arts committee will have a basket for displaying the items located near the elevator. See our website at hats4thehomeless.blogspot.com

The Day of Charity Knitting is scheduled for Saturday, November 17th from 11 am to 3 pm at Steven Be's Yarn Garage located in a former fire station on 35th and Chicago Ave. S. It's a potluck lunch with beverages provided. Bring along your knitting project--comfort shawls, hats, scarves-- whatever you are working on. Knitters at all levels are welcome and there will be plenty of experienced knitters on hand to help out. RSVP for this event: bjm@visi.com.

The women who are learning to knit at Ascension Place have been invited to attend this event.

"What Does the *Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice* Do?"



Because AUW recently made a generous gift to the work of MNRRCRC, let us tell you about the work we do. MNRRCRC is the state affiliate of the national RCRC; we've been active in MN since 1989. Using a social justice model of service,



education, and advocacy, we bring together people of many denominations to grow robust support for reproductive justice (RJ) because of our faith, and not in spite of it.

Our direct service work offers pastoral counseling to women who are facing a decision of whether or not to continue a pregnancy. A woman receives our hotline number from her clinic, and we match her up with a clergy person from her faith to offer pastoral counseling without prejudice or coercion for her decision. MNRRCRC is unique in MN in offering this service. Our educational work includes training clergy for this and other counseling in Reproductive Loss, and training Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality educators. For advocacy we work with policy makers to frame issues of RJ from a faith perspective. Politicians repeatedly tell us how important it is to hear RJ positive messages from people of faith, because they so often hear from people whose faith tells them not to trust women to make their most intimate and personal decisions.

Our voices matter. To learn more and join our work, check out our website: www.mnrcrc.org, "like" us on Facebook, and follow me on Twitter [@revforchoice](https://twitter.com/revforchoice).

With gratitude and hope,
Rev. Kelli Clement
execdir@mnrcrc.org
(612) 889-3654

Recent Events with Friday Get Connected



The September Friday Get Connected used fabric art to explore astronomy. Pictured are Judith Grittner, the artist, and Carol Flint-Kallie



Learning to navigate Social Media at the October Get Connected. Standing are the presenters, Rita Petersen and Jeanne Verdick.

Be Minnesota Nice, VOTE NO Twice on November 6!

From the Voting Rights Working Group:

AUW's Voting Rights working group encourages all eligible voters to VOTE NOVEMBER 6 and to vote NO on both constitutional amendments.

Make sure you can vote: If you didn't vote in the primary, please [confirm your voting location](#) because many changed due to redistricting.

Don't forget that eligible voters can [register at the polls](#) on election day (although "same day" registration will be at risk in future elections if the voter restriction amendment passes).

Help other citizens vote: Drive someone to the polls or vouch for a new neighbor.

Photo ID is NOT required for pre-registered voters in this election; report any improper requests for ID to city or county elections officials.

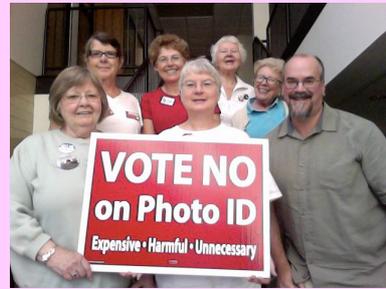
Help defeat the Voter Restriction Amendment: Vote NO on the "photo ID" constitutional amendment.

Sign up to help [Get Out The Vote](#) with Take Action MN.

TALK with 5 voters between now and the election to explain that this amendment is [too costly](#) and is much [more complicated](#) than what will appear on the ballot. It would make it harder for hundreds of thousands of eligible voters to vote and wouldn't solve any problems. Unlike every other state with voter ID, the Minnesota amendment would [prohibit any exemptions](#) making voting uncertain for many including overseas military, seniors in nursing homes and absentee voters. Vote no and send this amendment back to the legislature.

Join us: Our work will not end November 6. While Minnesota has an outstanding election system, we remain extremely concerned about the reliability of elections in many other states. Turnout is the best remedy; encourage your friends in other states to vote!

For further information please contact Jenny Thomas (jjt@jjthomas.net and 612-386-5724) or Carol Johnson (612-825-3322).



Front left, counterclockwise: Judie Carlson, Catherine Dorr, Ralph Wyman, Cathy Apostle, Carol Johnson, Jenny Thomas, Susanna Presselle

Words to Ponder...

Life will break you.
Nobody can protect you from that.
And living alone won't either,
for solitude will also break you with its yearning.
You have to love.
You have to feel.
It is the reason you are here on Earth.
You are here to risk your heart.
You are here to be swallowed up.
And when it happens that you are broken

or betrayed
or left
or hurt
or death brushes near,
let yourself sit by an apple tree
and listen to the apples
falling all around you in heaps,
wasting their sweetness.
Tell yourself that you tasted as many as you could.

—Louise Erdrich

Calendar

November

2 Friday Get Connected: Writing 7 - 9 pm, First Universalist Library

4 Last day for donating coats and boots, or Auction donations

17 All-Church Auction, 6-10 pm

17 Day of Charity Knitting, 11 am - 3 pm, Steven Be's Yarn Garage

now through Nov 18 Poinsettia sales orders

Upcoming (Check back for additional details next month.)

December 7 --Friday Get Connected: Cookie Exchange

December 8 --Holiday Tea, 1-3 pm

December 8-9 --Pick up poinsettias

January 4 --Friday Get Connected: Exploring Shiatsu

Save the Date! Spring Retreat: April 12-14 2014

The newsletter editor is Theresa Jarosz Alberti. Email her at auw.firstuniv@gmail.com with "newsletter" in the subject line. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please click "Safe Unsubscribe" at the bottom of this message.

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