



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

Association of Universalist Women

Meet a Member: Sarah Warner



Sarah has seen a lot of the great outdoors since she graduated with a major in English from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Her growing up years prepared her to love the outdoors as her family came from Ohio each summer to their great grandparents' cabin on Lake Minnewawa near McGregor, MN. After college she worked at the idyllic retreat center, Holden Village, set in hilly Washington state, and later

October 2010: From the Editor

Kathy Urberg

We had a wonderful kick-off event on September 24th, and the AUW year is off to a great start. The deadline for signing up for a new friendship group is upon us. You have until October 6 to sign up, either online [here](#) or at the Hub in the Social Hall after church. The groups are a great way to deepen your connections to a small group of women and to the church.

The date for the annual Holiday Tea has been set for December 4, but we don't have anyone yet to make it happen. It would be a shame to have to cancel it for lack of an organizer. If you feel moved to make this event happen, contact Liz Permar, elpermar@gmail.com; or Nancy McCall, nancymccal@aol.com.

Mini-Retreat: The Power of Joy

The AUW mini-retreat "The Power of Joy" on Saturday afternoon from 1 - 4:30, October 16th is quickly approaching! Our keynote speaker is Kelli Clement, Master of Divinity, (Unitarian Universalist Candidate for Ministry) who will lead the group by sharing provocative thoughts, readings, and questions. There will be music and time for personal reflection and sharing with others.

The break-out sessions include:

she led canoe trips for youth in the Boundary Waters. She moved to Minneapolis in 2003 and likes the diversity of her neighborhood.

Sarah likes to write poetry, enjoys reading, and has developed an interest in theoretical physics. That happened after reading interesting articles in a publication called Mental-Floss. Her father, grandfather and great grandfather were all lawyers so she has periodically considered going to law school with the goal of aiding people with disabilities. School seems a daunting task right now, however, because she's had to put much of her energy into recovering from several years of fibromyalgia. None-the-less she served on the 2010 planning committee for AUW's annual retreat, and right now she's involved with helping to plan the fall mini retreat.

Simon the cat is her companion and she admits to spoiling him. She also mentioned that her grandmother used to make china dolls, painting, assembling and dressing them. She saw so much of the work in the making of over 200 dolls that she's hoping to sometime try her hand at it.

Mary Junge will lead you into the joy of writing poetry. Under her leadership even the novice will find the poet inside.

Join Sherry Saterstrom's session for a chance to play and move with other women. Playing with all the possibilities of a body in motion can bring a whole lot of joy.

You will feel the beat with Janice Hunton's workshop on drumming. Drumming can be a powerful emotional experience, and Janice can get even the rhythmically impaired on the beat.

A beautiful arrangement of flowers brings a quieter joy. Learn some principles of arranging flowers and make an arrangement to take home with Pat Foulkes.

The cost for this event is \$15 for AUW members, \$20 for non-members. For those on a limited income, pay what you can. **Registration opens at 12:30.**

To reserve your space for this event, send an email to Jisabelquast@gmail.com.

To volunteer for this event, send an email to Sarah.Froggoddess@gmail.com.

For more information about the event, contact Nancymccal@aol.com.

Social Justice Campaigns: Voting

The AUW/MUUSJA Voting Rights working group remains committed to two key objectives: To protect the right and access to voting for all citizens, and to ensure that all votes cast are counted and reported accurately. Initiatives this past year have included events with local, state and national impact:

- April: We hosted an event with our partners at the MN Voting Rights Coalition featuring the facts

Her quirkiest hobby: a small collection of plastic eyeballs. Ask her how that started.

Friday Get Connected

We meet in the Library from 7 - 9 pm, greet new friends and share a relaxing evening together. This is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts, ideas, laugh together and have some fun. Light refreshments will be provided.

October 1: Who are your hero(ines)? What were some of your favorite books when you were younger? Did you identify more with opinionated Jo Marsh or with quiet Meg? What did you especially like about those books? Did your heroines inspire you to a career or a hobby?

November 5: In November we celebrate Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Who or what are you grateful for in your life? Has that changed over time? Come and share with others.

The AUW Gift

about proposals to require registered voters to provide a Photo ID before voting at the polls.

- April-June: To document the incidence of ineligible voting and convictions for voter fraud in MN, Carol Johnson conducted a survey of MN County Attorneys with our partner www.CEIMN.org. No one collects or reports this critical information currently.
- June: We hosted a program at the UUA General Assembly on same-day voter registration, which helped UUs from across the country learn from Minnesota's success with election-day voter registration. Since 1974 it has helped Minnesota achieve the nation's highest voter turnout.
- July-November: We are currently helping prepare the report on our Spring survey of County Attorneys regarding ineligible voting and recommendations for policy. We expect it to be published before the next MN legislative session.
- November 2 election: We urge all AUW members and friends to vote, to remind others to vote and to participate in Get Out the Vote activities in their communities.
- Post election: We invite all to participate as citizen observers of the post-election audit organized by our partners at CEIMN. Sign up online: www.ceimn.org/2010-mn-audit/sign-up-observe.

To join us or FFI: Jenny Thomas
jjewell.thomas@gmail.com or Carol Johnson 612-825-3322.

For many years, the Association of Universalist Women (AUW) has chosen to make an annual donation to First Universalist Church. We look for an area where we feel our dollars are needed and would be well spent. Recent gifts have included contributions to the new dishwasher, the machine for making CD copies of sermons and the items used in child dedications including the panel that hangs in the front of the sanctuary during these ceremonies.

This year we decided to donate \$1,000 towards the beautiful fabric panels that Kristen Mengelkoch has designed for the Chalice Room. In addition to being bright and colorful, they are also constructed using soundproofing materials that help to soften the noise level in the room. Look for the panels in the Chalice Room, high above the windows and doors. Know that this is our



The 2010 AUW Board

Embracing Joy at the AUW Kickoff

The AUW fall kick-off was Friday September 24. More than sixty women attended and fun was had by all. Tracy Yue, with help from other AUW members, prepared a fantastic dinner for us and the ubiquitous chocolate fountain was in attendance. There was plenty of time to socialize while we ate dinner before the program began.

AUW President Liz Permar introduced the rest of the board, which includes, Jeni Klotz, Julie Stewart, Tracy Yue, Isabel Quast, Catherine Mandle, Nancy McCall, Nora Page, Kit Ketchum and Kathy Urberg. This year's retreat committee announced the title of the retreat,



gift to the church!

"Awakenings." Jenny Thomas told us what the voting choices campaign is working on this year. Cathy Apostle talked about the sacred choices campaign and urged us to not take our reproductive rights for granted. Susan Schoenfeld explained how friendship groups work and encouraged women who don't yet participate in a group to sign up.

We had a chance to walk around and ask each other what brings us joy and there was also a fun skit to help us get to know each other better. All in all it was a great evening. Lots of fun and service-oriented things are happening in AUW this year. Come join us!

Help Wanted

Holiday Tea, December 4

We do not yet have a planner/organizer for this event. If you love the tea, talk to a friend and volunteer together to make this event happen. Contact Liz Permar, elpermar@gmail.com or Nancy McCall, nancymccal@aol.com.

Friendship Group Kickoff, October 10.

A few people are needed to help with setup and cleanup of this event. Contact Caren Stelson, 612-729-1528, carenstelson@gmail.com or Susan Schonfeld, 612-964-7067, scholhicks@juno.com

Time to Join or Renew Your AUW Membership

Why join? AUW organizes meaningful, fun events and programs throughout the year for the women of the First Universalist community and financially supports women's social justice programs. Your membership fees are directly responsible for ensuring these opportunities continue.

Did you know that the church does not financially support AUW? We raise all the money we spend. This is done through memberships, donations from members and friends, fundraising through the poinsettia sale, and charging for some of our events. The majority of the money comes through memberships. To be able to keep up our great programming

for the women of the church we need you to join or renew this fall.

Membership has its privileges! To encourage early membership signup, members save on the fall Mini Retreat and the April weekend retreat.

Why now? AUW memberships run from September to September. Regardless of when you joined last year please renew now. Now you can join or renew your membership ONLINE! Just [click here](#). In less than five minutes, you can take care the \$25 or \$15 membership fee and even make a donation if you wish. You can also join in the Social Hall after church, at the AUW kickoff or the Mini Retreat.

Words to Ponder, brought to you by Jeni Klotz

The Flowers

The flowers come and go
Filled with light
Breath and color
Reminders
That some things
Can be counted on
To bud and bloom
Linger awhile
Then die.
The meaning of their life is known
By the hands that held them
The bowl that contained them
The hearts that loved them
The air that was filled
With their fragrance
And
The breath-taking change
They made in the Universe
Wherever they were.

Betty McAfee

AUW Calendar 2010: September to December

October

1 Friday Get Connected: Who are your hero(ine)s? 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the church library.

10 The Friendship Group Kick-off: 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Church Library.

16 Mini Retreat: The Power of Joy! 1:00 - 4:30 pm in the Chalice Room.

25 Women Who Read: The Patron Saint of Liars by Ann Patchett Hosts: Nancy Browne, 1480 Applewood Ct. W. #121, Roseville, 651-636-6002; Nancy Wangler. All are welcome, but please let host know whether you are coming.

November

5 Friday Get Connected: Gratitude, 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the church library.

22 Women Who Read: The Master Butchers Singing Club, Louise Erdrich HOSTS: Julie Stewart, 4350 W lake Harriet Pkwy, Mpls, 612-321-1355; Kathy Urberg

December

Women Who Read: No meeting this month.

3 Friday Get Connected: Cookie Exchange and discussion of holidays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the church library.

4 AUW Holiday Tea