



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

Association of Universalist Women

Friday Get Connected

Friday Get Connected is an informal gathering to discuss thoughts and ideas, laugh, learn and have fun. We meet on the first Friday of the month in the Library from 7- 9 pm. Light refreshments will be provided. No RSVP necessary. For free childcare, reserve one week in advance; contact Lily@firstuniv.org, (612) 825-1701 x107.

Sept. 7: Rhythms of the Night Sky

Friday Get Connected kicks off with "Rhythms of the Night Sky" led by Judith Grittner. She'll use her fabric art to discuss where and when to look for zodiac and other constellations, visible planets and the phases of the moon. All women are welcome!

Upcoming topics:

Oct 5: Social Media

Nov 2: Writing

Dec 7: Cookie Exchange

From the Editor



Hi, I'm Theresa Jarosz Alberti, the new editor of the AUW newsletter. I live in Minneapolis with my husband, Bob, and our three kids: Gennie (21), Leo (21) and Dante (17). We've been members of First Universalist for 23 years, but amazingly I only joined AUW two years ago. I'm glad I finally did!

I work at home as a writer, and have had four books published-- three non-fiction books for kids and one book of poetry. I've also written magazine articles, other newsletters, and recently figured out how to create my own website for promotion and blogging (if interested, you can see it at <http://penandmoon.com>). I've also been involved with [National Novel Writing Month](#) for ten years-- a fun challenge every November of writing a 50,000-word novel draft in a month. Local participants gather to write together... very fun!

I'm looking forward to learning more about AUW through this newsletter, and getting to know more of you. Have a great September!

Come to the AUW Kick-off!

Please join us on Friday, Sept. 28 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm in the Social Hall for dinner, camaraderie and fun!

Whether you are new to First Universalist or AUW, or have been a member for years, all women are welcome at AUW's Fall Kick-off.

You'll see old friends and make some new ones, learn of the many events and programs AUW organizes and supports -- and enjoy a nice dinner, too. Get the scoop on monthly Friday "Get Connected" gatherings, the annual fall and spring retreats, friendship groups, social justice work and more.

Bring a friend! You do not need to be a member of First Universalist to participate in AUW programs.

This event is free. RSVP to auw.firstuniv@gmail.com or sign up at the Hub. As always, childcare will be provided on request. Contact Lily Franz one week in advance at Lily@firstuniv.org or (612) 825-1701 x107. If you'd like to help with this event, you are most appreciated! Please contact Evelyn Browne at ewbrowne57@gmail.com.





Looking for a Few Good Women...

Get involved with AYW programming and you'll get to know lots of great women! Volunteering is a wonderful, easy way to meet people and give back. Sign up for a one-time task, or share your skills by joining an event team or sub-committee. AYW programs are successful only because of many helping hands. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be at the Hub and at the Kick-off Dinner. You can also email aywfirstuniv@gmail.com. Thank you!

Did You Hear?

AYW granted \$500 to First Universalist's Marriage Equality campaign to make Heart + Heart buttons.

The buttons are being sold at the church to show support for marriage equality.



Come be a part of the joy, the community, and the energy that AYW has embodied for over 100 years! Find more info about AYW at 1uayw.org.

Leave your virtual social network aside.

Come revel in the energy and joy of the real social network found within the AYW community.

Time to Join or Renew Your AYW Membership

Why join? AYW organizes meaningful, fun events throughout the year for the women of the First Universalist community and financially supports women's social justice programs. Your membership fee of \$25 (or \$15) is directly responsible for ensuring these opportunities continue. How so? Because the church does not financially support AYW. We raise all our own funds through memberships, donations, the poinsettia sale, and charging for a few events. The vast majority of our budget is from membership dues.

Membership has its privileges! To encourage early membership sign-up, members get a discount on the fall Mini-Retreat and the April weekend retreat. Why now? AYW memberships run from September to September. Regardless of when you paid dues last year, you need to renew now. You can join or renew by picking up a paper Membership Form at the Hub in the Social Hall or at any AYW event. Fill it out and hand it in with your dues to the Hub at anytime. Thank you!



L to R: Carol Gilbert, Suzann Willhite, Kristin Siegesmund, Tracy Yue, Sharon Ramirez, Evelyn Browne, Risë Nybakke, Mary Sandbo

Introducing the 2012-13 AUW Board of Directors

Welcome to the new members of the AUW Board of Directors: Carol Gilbert, Fawzia Khan, Marilyn Lamoureaux, Risë Nybakke, and Kristin Siegesmund! They will be joining current members Evelyn Browne, Sharon Ramirez, Mary Sandbo, Suzann Willhite, and Tracy Yue for a fabulous year of AUW endeavors.

Current board members will be re-introduced in future issues of the newsletter, but for now, here's an introduction to each of the five new board members.

Carol Gilbert: Carol has been coming to First Universalist since she was 16, and has the distinction of having been married by both John Cummins and Kate Tucker (to different spouses). Carol is empty-nesting with Liz Permar, while son Tim is in town, and daughter Hannah is away at the University of Vermont. Carol has served on the Board of Trustees and in the RE program. After being a public health nurse and jail nurse, she currently works a normal day job at Cigna. Liz no longer worries about where Carol's hands have been all day.

Fawzia Khan: Fawzia has been attending First Universalist since moving to Minneapolis in 2003. Formerly an Ob/Gyn, she is now a visual artist working mostly in 3-D. She, husband Blair and son Ian live in Hopkins. Fawzia was a co-leader of the AUW Holiday Tea three years ago with Sarai Brenner and Theresa Schroer; her mother made the delicious samosas featured that year.

Marilyn Lamoureaux: After her first visit to First Universalist in 2009, Marilyn joined an AUW Friendship Group and discovered what a great organization AUW is. Marilyn and Jon have two adult daughters and two grandchildren. When recently laid-off from her software career, she decided to follow her heart and start her own photography business. Marilyn's Friendship Group members have been the first models for her portrait project called "Women of a Certain Age."

Risë Nybakke: Risë and husband Keith chose First Universalist 17 years ago when her daughter Amelia was aged four, and have stayed because of the community and the UU message. Risë teaches in Minneapolis schools and has been involved in First Universalist's RE program. She enjoys traveling, cooking, knitting and spending time with family and friends.

Kristin Siegesmund: Kristin has been coming to First Universalist for 16 years. She lives with her partner Suzann Willhite (also on the board); daughter Kathleen is in college. An attorney, Kristin has worked at Legal Aid for over 20 years. She's enjoyed many AUW events and has led bonfire sing-alongs at the annual AUW spring retreat for several years. Kristin enjoys biking, theater, traveling and having good conversations, especially with interesting women.

Knitting at the Fulton Farmers Market



Come have fun and "knit in public" with UU knitters at Fulton Farmers Market on Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 am -12:30 pm. This is an opportunity to gather, knit for charity, and talk about the need for warm winter hats and scarves to be given to our homeless neighbors this winter.

Beginners are welcome. Experienced knitters and crocheters will be there to help, and free hat patterns will be available.

Hats for the Homeless began in 2009 with 300 hats created and donated to Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis on Christmas Eve. The project grew in 2011 to 1200 hats and 200 scarves donated to Simpson and other shelters, with knitters and crocheters contributing from all over the Twin Cities. To read more about this project, visit the Hats for the Homeless blog at hats4thehomeless.blogspot.com.

Location: 50th Street and Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis

Date/Time: Saturday, September 22, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Questions: contact Barb Melom, bjm@visi.com

Please bring your yarn and knitting needles for a hat or scarf project, and invite a friend to join us. An ideal needle size for a beginner is a #7 16-inch circular needle, along with a skein of worsted weight yarn, preferably washable yarn in a dark neutral color. Support your local neighborhood yarn shop and tell them what you'll be knitting and they will be happy to help.

You'll also want to bring a bag or basket to shop the market vendors, and remember there is plenty of delicious food for sale. Last year's event was on a beautiful fall day, perfect for knitting in public. We hope you'll join in!

Social Justice Campaigns: AUW and MUUSJA Work for Voting Rights



The AUW Voting Rights Working Group is actively working to educate voters to help defeat the proposed Voter Identification Amendment to the Minnesota constitution. This amendment would significantly overhaul the state's election system and restrict voting rights.

The public needs to know that the amendment is about much more than having a photo ID; if passed, it would be more difficult for anyone who registers to vote on Election Day, or for citizens who vote absentee, by mail, or without a valid government-issued ID with a current address. This could negatively impact as many as one third of eligible

voters. In addition, taxpayers would have to cover the on-going cost to implement the amendment and would be impacted by the inevitable delays in election results and costly lawsuits.

The AUW Voting Rights Working Group partners with MUUSJA and the MN Council of Nonprofits Our Vote Our Future coalition, including LWVMN and CEIMN. In June, the Group did a presentation on voter ID for a program on Reclaiming Democracy at General Assembly in Phoenix, their third year presenting at GA. The Group will be presenting again at a UUA webinar in September.

Thanks to church members at the First Universalist annual meeting in June for supporting the Voting Rights resolution opposing the amendment.

Do your part to help educate citizens on this harmful measure: post a lawn sign, wear a button, host a house party, sign up for phone banking and help register voters. For further information, contact Jenny Thomas (jjewell.thomas@gmail.com) or Carol Johnson (612-825-3322).



Friday Get Connected gathering

Summer Update: Friday Get Connected

Friday Get Connected met over the summer at the homes of AUW members.

In June we had a backyard outdoor fire and plenty of fine food and conversation.

In July we did some beading, jewelry making and repair.

In August we met at the Lake Harriet band shell to listen to a female singer. This photo is of us at the band shell.

--as reported by FGC leader, Velma Wagner

Poetry to Ponder...

The Journey

by Mary Oliver

One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting
their bad advice --
though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.

"Mend my life!"
each voice cried.

But you didn't stop.
You knew what you had to do,
though the wind pried
with its stiff fingers
at the very foundations,
though their melancholy

was terrible.
It was already late
enough, and a wild night,
and the road full of fallen
branches and stones.
But little by little,
as you left their voices behind,
the stars began to burn
through the sheets of clouds,
and there was a new voice
which you slowly
recognized as your own,
that kept you company
as you strode deeper and deeper
into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do --
determined to save
the only life you could save.

Calendar

September

7 Friday Get Connected: Rhythms of the Night Sky, led by Judith Grittner, 7 - 9 pm, First Universalist Library

22 Knitting at the Farmers Market, 9 am - 12:30 pm, Fulton Farmers Market, Minneapolis

28 AUW Kick-off Dinner, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, First Universalist Social Hall

Upcoming (Check back for additional details next month.)

October 5 --Friday Get Connected: Social Media

October 27 --Fall Mini-Retreat

November 2 --Friday Get Connected: Writing

December 7 --Friday Get Connected: Cookie Exchange

December 8 --AUW Holiday Tea

The newsletter editor is Theresa Jarosz Alberti. Email her at auw.firstuniv@gmail.com with "newsletter" in the subject line.