



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

# Association of Universalist Women

## Cookies with Friday Get Connected

December 7, 7 - 9 pm,  
Cummins Room

Join us for a Cookie Exchange. **Bring 4 dozen of one type of cookie** and go home with a mixture of cookies made by other AUW women. We will share fond memories, stories or traditions about the holidays. If you don't want to exchange cookies, come anyway for the camaraderie and fun. Remaining cookies will be donated to the next day's AUW Holiday Tea.

"FGC" is a series of casual, relaxed discussions or activities on the first Friday evening 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).

### Upcoming topics:

Jan 4: Exploring Shiatsu  
Feb 1: Art Making Visible  
Mar 1: Seeking Financial Balance



## From the Editor



December seems to be a good time to think about AUW history. On December 8th, we'll come together for the Annual Holiday Tea, which has been a tradition at First Universalist for over 80 years. As

we drink from our vintage silver tea pot and coffee servers, **it's easy to imagine our foremothers celebrating the holidays decades before us**-- living in a different time with their own challenges, yet sharing so many of the feelings, joys and concerns that we have today. In this issue, we present an excerpt from "100 Years of Liberation 1905-2005 AUW Association of Universalist Women - Minneapolis," Mary Junge's book on our AUW history, which gives us rich details about who our founders were and the activities and traditions they began. We plan to share more from Mary's book in future issues, and to discover the source of AUW's strength, commitment and activism. Happy Holidays!

## 2012 AUW Holiday Tea "Roots and Wings"

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

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



AUW 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 in a holiday sing-along.

## Ascension Place Thanks You!

Our coat and boot drive was a great success. Thank you to all of you who helped organize and donate your warm, gently used clothing. They will go to the women and children at the St. Anne's Place facility. When Nancy McCall (pictured above) dropped off a van-ful of coats and boots, the women were very eager to help get the donations inside. Your generosity and partnership is greatly appreciated!



## Babysitting Reminder

Free childcare is available at all AYW events. Please send in your request at least a week in advance to Emma Schlatter in the church office at [Emma@firstuniv.org](mailto:Emma@firstuniv.org), (612) 825-1701 x135.



## AYW on Facebook

Are you on Facebook? Share and read up-to-the-minute news and opinions via the "Association of Universalist Women (Minneapolis, MN)" page on Facebook. Please "Like," comment and share posts!

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 of Ascension Place; 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 AYW.

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 or email [Auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto:Auw.firstuniv@gmail.com). There is no charge for the tea. If you would like to decorate a table please contact Judith Grittner at [judithgrittner@mac.com](mailto: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.



## A History of Our Own

[Excerpt from the book "100 Years of Liberation 1905-2005 AYW Association of Universalist Women - Minneapolis" by Mary Junge]

The women's group at First Universalist Church of Minneapolis has a history that is long and rich indeed. **The Association of Universalist Women (AYW) was first incorporated in 1907**, but it had already changed its name and mission several times before this.

**Its evolution was influenced dramatically by periods of social change: women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, Roe versus Wade, and the movement for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.** It evolved from two early women's groups in the church: the Ladies' Social Circle and the Women's Association. Members of these two early groups were identical; both groups devoted themselves to the needs of the wider community as well as those of the church.

The Women's Association organized in 1904 as a branch of the Ladies' Social Circle. The organization was reorganized in 1905 under a constitution framed by a committee consisting of Mrs. Marion D. Shutter, chair; Mrs. J.H. Cook, president of the Social Circle; Mrs. Weed Munro; Mrs. J.E. Rhodes; Mrs. C.C. Lyford, secretary of the Social Circle; Mrs. F.R. Chase; and Mrs. Alfred Paris. It was organized for the purpose of connecting the work of



## Check Out Our Website!

Next time you're surfing the Internet, be sure to stop by the A UW website at [luauw.org](http://luauw.org). We've had a **makeover**, and information will be updated now on a timely basis. Add a book-mark for handy reference!



## Poinsettia Pick-Up

If you placed an order through the A UW sale, your poinsettias will be available for pick-up at the **A UW Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 8th** and after church services on **Sunday, December 9th**. Thank you for ordering and contributing to this annual fundraiser!



## Getting to Know You

The A UW Board would like to have a section in this monthly newsletter listing the accomplishments of A UW members-- highlights, achievements, awards, challenges met. The desire is for all of us to learn about our members and develop deeper connections. So, toot

the women of the church with the Women's National Missionary Association. The 1905 yearbook of the church stated, "The constitution and by-laws of the Ladies' Social Circle were revised to harmonize with those of the Women's Association."

The Ladies' Social Circle raised money through bazaars and sales. They carefully disbursed their funds according to their social concerns and favored charities. **Through an endowment, the Eastman Fund, they supported the work of Unity House**, and in 1905 entirely supported the Unity Kindergarten as well as conducting a sewing school at Unity and paying part of the salary for the settlement house's probation officer. In 1908, the Social Circle voted to apply the total results of their work for a full year to furnishing the new Unity House.

Over the years, the organization has offered traditional programs such as the yearly Christmas Tea and accepted, and sometimes rejected, once-traditional jobs such as keeping the kitchen. **The A UW's roots were firmly planted in the earliest social action causes and projects**, locally at **Unity Settlement House** as described above; nationally in programs such as the **Clara Barton Camps for Diabetics**; and abroad in such places as the **Blackmer Home in Japan**. In the 1960's, when women had not yet entered the workforce in great numbers, A UW members met for socializing, but they also sent nylons to Japan for a women's textile industry and **rode the bus downtown together so that they could see for themselves how African Americans were being treated at Dayton's**.

The organization has long encouraged its members to join the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF) (the national sister organization) in Boston. The UUWF was responsible for resolutions in our denomination including those related to gender-fair language, violence against women, clergy misconduct, racism, and cultural diversity. **Dru Cummins once served as president of the UUWF and Betty Benjamin was its advocate for responsible abortion laws** and a frequent spokesperson for reproductive rights at the biennial conventions. In 1975, **Sharon Bishop was the UUWF official advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment**. In 2000, **Dru Cummins was awarded the Ministry to Women Award** by the UUWF. The award was started in 1974 during her tenure as president of the federation.

As with most UU women's groups across the continent, the influx of women into the workforce initially had a negative impact on A UW membership. However, by offering programs at alternative times and planning multigenerational events, the organization has remained strong.



## Victory Report from A UW Voting Rights Working

your own horn... don't be shy! Send any tidbits you want to share to editor Theresa Alberti at [sapphire@albatross.org](mailto:sapphire@albatross.org) with "AUW" in the subject line.



## Group

We're delighted that Minnesota voters rejected the proposed "voter restriction" constitutional amendment! **Thank you for your help in educating voters** that it was too costly, complicated and had too many consequences. We partnered statewide building relationships that will help us move forward with meaningful election reform in Minnesota. And our group hopes to return to promoting national reform that would give us elections in every state that are accurate, verifiable, transparent and accessible. Voters recognized that Minnesota isn't broken, and our election system is the Gold Standard for the nation. **Thank you to the AUW board and members for helping fund our red buttons and lawn signs to help get out the word. It worked!** Watch for announcements about how you can join us after a needed break. For information: Jenny Thomas [jjt@jjthomas.net](mailto:jjt@jjthomas.net) or Carol Johnson (612) 825-3322.

## News from Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

**Save the Date:** Jan. 22, 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of **Roe v. Wade**. MNRRC joins the MN Choice Coalition for a big event featuring Dr. Willie Parker, the last abortion provider in Mississippi. Details about the event to come.



**Rev. Kelli Clement will be preaching on Sunday, Jan. 20, at First Unitarian Society** in Minneapolis. 10:30 am at 900 Mount Curve Ave, Minneapolis.

**Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!** You'll get access to great articles on reproductive justice, learn when to contact your legislator on an upcoming vote, hear what others in our movement are doing to bring about a world made fair. **Rev. Kelli can be found on Twitter @revforchoice. On Facebook, search for Minnesota Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and "like" the page.**

Executive Director Rev. Kelli Clement can be reached at 612-889-3654 (cell) or by email, [execdir@mnrcc.org](mailto:execdir@mnrcc.org)



Hats for the Homeless

## The Faithful Knitter

by Barbara Melom

Grab your needles and a skein of yarn and start knitting ...the clock is ticking, cold weather is on its way and hats are due by mid-December. **Last year the "Hats for the Homeless" project collected over 1200 hats in addition to 200 scarves.** These items provide warmth to our homeless neighbors who spend much of their time out on in the streets and in the cold. They will be delivered to local shelters in mid-December.

**A collection basket has been set-up next to the elevator.** Hats come in from all over the community and we currently have about 500 hats. If you have a favorite hat pattern, **please knit it in large or extra-large and preferably washable wool in dark solid colors.** Otherwise check out the website at : [www.hats4thehomeless.blogspot.com](http://www.hats4thehomeless.blogspot.com) for patterns and more information about the project.

November 21st was knitting day at Ascension Place and we had one knitter join us today....but it was still worth our time to drive up there. Let's call the knitter "Pearl."  
She came into the room with the biggest smile on her face wearing a beautiful green woolen hat; this was the first hat she had knit and she was so proud of it. But that's not all, Pearl had a big pile of "Show N Tell" items that she had made: a scarf, a crocheted shawl and a table runner. She told us how thankful she was to now have something to do with her free time. We got her started on another scarf and hat which she will be giving as presents to someone in her family this Christmas. Pearl joined us at Steven Be's last Saturday, and that's when she started the hat she was wearing today. **Thanks to the AUW knitters who are volunteering your time at Ascension... Each one of you have touched Pearl's life in a positive way.**

#### On-going Knitting Fellowship at Ascension Place

Join one of two monthly groups: either 1st Mondays 6:30 -8:30 pm or 3rd Wednesdays 1:30- 3:30 pm. at Ascension Place in North Mpls at 1803 Bryant Ave North, off Broadway Ave & Hwy 94. Upcoming dates: Dec 3 & 19th, Jan 16th, Feb 4 & 20th.

#### Hats for the Homeless Literally in the News!

The Hats for the Homeless project was recently featured on the 5:00 pm KARE-11 news broadcast. The filming took place at Steven Be's Yarn Garage. Here is the link to the video:

[http://www.kare11.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=1000111](http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=1000111)

## Mini-Retreat Participants Listened to the Rhythms of the Heart



Keynote speaker, Elizabeth Grambsch, gets everyone up and moving

About 45 women attended the AUW Fall Mini-retreat on Saturday, October 27. Keynote speaker Elizabeth Grambsch led a lively and interactive session on Listening to the Rhythms of Your Heart. Using brain gym techniques, movement, music, and small group discussion, **Elizabeth taught participants about the power of heart rhythms and how to create a more peaceful heart.**



Cross-crawls to help the two sides of the brain communicate better



More cross-crawls



Practicing Hookups - a powerful tool in eliminating stress

## Photos From Friday Get Connected



November Friday Get Connected Writing Workshop with the presenter Kathy Coskran in purple.



Writers hard at work on assignments



## Words to Ponder...

### House Beautiful

I expected Martha Stewart or House Beautiful  
when we arrived for the holiday piano recital,  
home of a student's family.

I imagined Victorian elegance:  
gleaming dark wood, evergreen swags  
draping stair banister, plush  
rugs, and everything just so.

We knocked and were welcomed into  
Regular Life:

small home, bustling with crowd,  
old-fashioned kitchen,  
plain wood paneled living-  
room, two simple poinsettias  
smiling on the piano.

Nothing was perfect, nothing  
just so as  
we sat in cramped miscellaneous  
chairs behind the piano,  
listening to our children  
perform. Later, cookies and bars  
in the kitchen, sipping hot  
Swedish glogg while  
kids raced and played.

I relaxed, laughing,  
warming from a deep freeze.

I met neighbors who'd come by  
to help the host,  
heard about their closeness,  
neighbors who visited and shared  
on this city street.

I felt the love in that place,  
pined for that kind of life,  
marveled at how I'd been fooled  
into thinking Martha Stewart  
or House Beautiful was something

Real, something

I should even  
want.

-Theresa Jarosz Alberti

## Calendar

### December

- 3 Knitting Fellowship at Ascension Place, 6:30-8:30 pm
- 7 Friday Get Connected: Cookie Exchange, 7-9:00 pm
- 8 AUW Holiday Tea, 1-3:00 pm
- 8-9 Pick up poinsettias in Social Hall
- 19 Knitting Fellowship at Ascension Place, 1:30-3:30 pm

### Upcoming (Check back for additional details next month.)

January 4 --Friday Get Connected: Exploring Shiatsu

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

*Happy Holidays!*



The newsletter editor is Theresa Jarosz Alberti. Email her at [auw.firstuniv@gmail.com](mailto: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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