



THE OPEN DOOR

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
(UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST) AUBURN, MAINE
159 PLEASANT STREET (SIDE DOOR) AUBURN, ME 04210
(207) 783-0461 - UUAUBURN@MYFAIRPOINT.NET
WEBSITE: WWW.AUBURNUU.ORG
SUNDAY WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AT 10 AM**

***AN OFFICIAL UUA WELCOMING CONGREGATION:
ALL ARE WORTHY, ALL ARE WELCOME!***

We need not think alike to love alike - Francis David

FEBRUARY, 2012

Jodi's Corner - Words from our Minister

As of this writing, we've had two of our three planned conversations around mission and visioning- and they have been absolutely fascinating and inspiring. I'll be the first to admit that the conversations have not taken the shape I expected they would. I rather thought we would leap right into discussions around the practical form we hoped our church would take- justice oriented or community oriented, focused on worship or education.....Instead people have stepped in even deeper. We have found ourselves sitting with questions such as "what is the difference between 'faith' and 'belief?'" What would it mean to equip every member to "minister" to the larger community- and how could we define that word, "minister" in such a way that our members feel compelled and not turned off? What does it mean to change our lives, and can we actually change anyone's life except our own?

The conversations we have been having point to a deep hunger for a religious community that doesn't skim the surface of life- where form is not more important than substance, where we are willing to sit with complexity rather than insist on superficiality because it is more comfortable. These conversations open the door to possibilities we cannot yet even articulate.

If you have not yet shared with leadership your hopes, dreams, and questions for and about this church please take the time to do so. The future is ours to create together, and every voice matters.

And may your days and nights be blessed,

Jodi

Sermon Excerpt from "Let it be a Dance," preached by Pearl Sawyer, Jan. 22d;



"... I daresay that the wisest advice I ever gave was at age sixty-four to a young man voicing his hope to reach the same ripe old age as I. Figuring he was putting me on, I simply advised, "Keep breathing, John." I think that was good counsel but only as a prerequisite to personal growth. You can't have one without the other. I have learned also the great importance of humor in maintaining a balance and perspective. . I have come to respect and acknowledge that it's not all skittles and Baxter Beer, you know, and a continued affable state of mind is hard to maintain while experiencing the seeming betrayals of our increasingly fragile bodies. I find great recuperative power in the daily comics and if you don't read them, by all means begin. Start with the late Charlie Schultz's

"Peanuts" for your daily mental health treatment and Snoopy's disdain for the human condition. Then move on to Garfield and his diabolical chicanery. And don't take it too seriously when sadistic Sarge stomps Beetle Bailey into the ground. Rest assured, Beetle will recover and straighten out his mangled body to defy authority again And teen-aged, boy-crazy Luann will find true love in time.. There are profound lessons about human nature along with the belly laughs and a warning not to take ourselves too seriously. Truly, we are the comics.

I have aged. I have experienced some or all of the losses that Judith Viorst recounts in her book, "Necessary Losses." But I am not diminished. I have narrowed my needs down to the two essentials to my late-life well being and they are fun and love. Fun in the broader dimension which encompasses enjoyment of life itself, overshadowing all the losses. I love. I am loved. I am learning to love. I stand here in the light of the Rose window in my beloved church surrounded and supported by love. Could I ask for more than that?..."



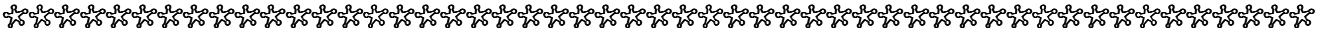
All-Church Birthday Party will be held Sunday, February 5th after services – fun – food - fellowship

Fragrance Sensitivities at Church!!

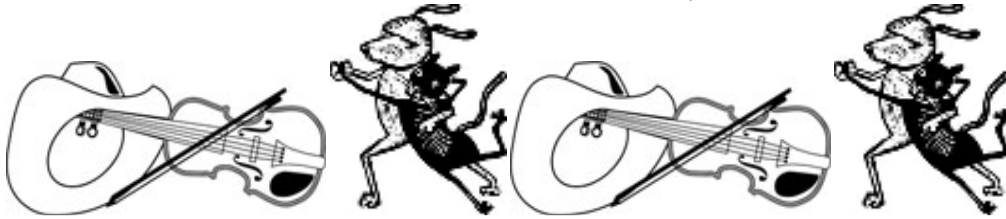
Did you know there is a growing number of our members and friends who find themselves unable to attend a service or participate in a church activity without risk of becoming very ill? The truth is, there are many people who report mild to severe allergic, asthmatic, immunologic and neurological reactions to perfume, cologne, air fresheners, cleaning products, paints, and stains.

We want to do our part to help. We do not want to have barriers in our church that keep people from fellowshiping with us. Anything that prevents access - or precludes the ability to choose to access - is a barrier.

Since First Universalist Church strives to maintain an environment comfortable for all, we respectfully ask that our members and friends please refrain from wearing scented products when coming to church.



News From Religious Exploration



The annual All-Church Contra Dance and Potluck Luncheon will take place on Sunday, February 12, from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. With music by our very own Pam Weeks! The dance is free (donations are welcome!) and all ages are encouraged to attend. Please bring a dish to share, of your choosing!

Don't like to dance? Don't worry! Everyone is welcome to just sit and enjoy some fabulous music!

The potluck luncheon will also be the annual pen pal lunch, where our secret pen pals will have a chance to meet and eat together. Please contact Leah Galipeau-Eldridge or Clara Bolduc for more details!

Child Dedication Ceremony

We'll be holding a church-wide Child Dedication Ceremony on February 12th, during the service. All children who have not yet been dedicated to the church are welcome to participate in this UU ritual. Membership is not required. Sign up forms are available from Clara, and also on the Bulletin Board. Please return forms by Sunday, Feb. 5th!

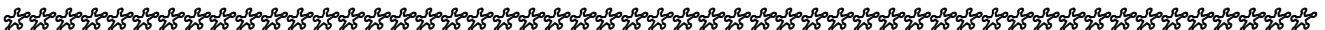
About the UU Child Dedication Ceremony:

Rather than holding Christian-style baptism ceremonies, First Universalist Church of Auburn, like most Unitarian Universalist congregations, offers a child dedication ceremony for infants, adopted children, and all other children whose families have joined the congregation.

The dedication ceremony is an official welcome to the child into the spiritual life of the church. It is a celebration of the blessing of each child's life, an expression of our hopes for the children of our congregation, and a call to the parents and the congregation members to lead and nurture our children's spiritual development throughout their lives.

If you have any questions, please contact Clara or Rev. Jodi!

Director of Religious Exploration Clara Bolduc can be reached by email at DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net



Attention all volunteers

Have you ever helped clean up after an event? Wonder what to do about the kitchen doors to the vestry? **The kitchen doors should be closed when the kitchen is not in use**, thus saving a few gallons of oil with a cold kitchen. **The door inside the Outright suite should be kept open-** this door leads to the glassed-in 'sunken' room.

Membership Committee Notes

A NEW MEMBER REUNION will be held in the Arlene Conant Sieckowski Memorial room on Sunday, March 4th, at 11:30 AM after the worship service.

We invite all those who have recently become new members to our informal gathering. We wish to see you and hear from you so we can become better informed about the opportunities for connections you are seeking. Come and be welcomed.

Among those recognized at our November 20 HONORING OUR SAGES service was Joanne Charpentier:

About her church involvement: Lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Joanne has attended this church for 57 years. Joanne is at least a 4th generation UU, preceded by her mom and followed by her daughter. It may go back even further than that. She has been attending this church for 57 years. She has always felt like a minority in our church because she's one of the few who didn't come from another church. Joanne participated in Junior Liberal Religious Youth, and Senior Liberal Religious Youth. She sang in the children's choir and then 30 years in the adult choir. Five of those years, she served as the chair of the Music Committee. Joanne served as the clerk on the board under Cynthia Prescott and managed the Pleasant Note Coffeehouse with Tom Rowe.

An especially memorable occasion: There are several! Her wedding, performed on May 24, 1977, by Donald Hinckley and her uncle Fred A. Russell, Jr., Joanne's daughter's dedication, and then HER wedding in 2010 (soon to be followed by her grandson's dedication, we hope!)

A wish for the future: Joanne just wishes to see the church continue and thrive, hopefully always in this very building.

-- *Beth Ayotte, Chair*

Raven Beauty

It's a flyover
a convention
a caw-cus
a family reunion.
Nightly now
they gather in the

pinnes beside the
river to nestle together
and crow among
themselves
as blackbirds
of a feather.

Sawyer

---*Pearl Tibbetts*

COUNCIL of COMMITTEES (CofC)

Council of Committees offers a unique opportunity for dialogue and coordination between the many groups in church. Chairs (or designated committee members) attend these monthly forums. If you are curious, you are welcome to join us! Our next meeting is **February 26 at 11:30** in the Outright room.

**ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN THEME...”MISSION
IMPOSSIBLE”**

“Your assignment, if you choose to accept it... is to be a good steward of the First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist, of Auburn, Maine.”

We have begun planning for our Annual Stewardship Campaign. Our Stewardship Committee thinks that the MISSION-~~IM~~ POSSIBLE theme, derived from the TV show “Mission Impossible” combines the elements of mission development, currently underway, and the Stewardship Campaign into a catchy phrase...MISSION POSSIBLE. The show also had a great theme song, which you will probably hear from time to time. Stewardship manifests itself in many ways, such as fulfilling leadership responsibilities, completing tasks of committees, taking active roles in worship, teaching our children, picking up after coffee... And, most importantly, in sharing our financial support.

Last year we achieved the highest pledged total of all time. We know we can do even better this year, especially with the excitement being generated by the mission development process. Together, we will make a difference in support of our faith community.

We are hoping to involve everyone in this year’s Stewardship Campaign. There are “openings” for a variety of tasks and fun activities. We will be asking for your help in making this year’s canvass the best ever. We have complete job descriptions and experienced campaign leaders so you will know what the expectations are before you jump in. It will be FUN to work together.

Our Stewardship Campaign will kick-off on **MARCH 24** with a dinner and program at the church. The program will, undoubtedly, include a skit based on our theme. **Please save the date!** Thank you, all, for your own stewardship and commitment to Unitarian Universalism in this community.

Social Justice Corner

Second Collection funds over the last year totaled \$2,836. SJ is so proud of our congregation's generosity! Your Social Justice Committee thanks you for voting in our 2nd collection selection process for the new cycle:

Feb 2012, Souper Sunday for

Trinity Jubilee Center

**March 2012 Minister's Discretionary
Fund**

April 2012 New Beginnings

May 2012 Good Shepherd Food Bank

June 2012 Safe Voices

July 2012 New Beginnings

Aug 2012 Good Shepherd Food Bank

Sept 2012 Safe Voices

**Oct 2012 Minister's Discretionary
Fund**

Nov 2012 New Beginnings

Dec 2012 Good Shepherd Food Bank

Jan 2013 Safe Voices

Help us support the good work of local non-profit groups

Our friends at Safe Voices are starting their Lucky March Prize Calendar fundraiser. Tickets go on sale February 1st! Call Lana at 795-6744 x14, email at lwhitemore@safevoices.org or go to www.safevoices.org for more information. This year you can also buy your tickets instantly online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/lanawhitemore/lucky-march-prize-calendar>.

Our friends at New Beginnings need these items: blankets, shampoo, warm socks, hoodies, tooth brushes. To donate, place them in the red box in the lobby.

Our friends at Center for Wisdom's Women need these items:

- sturdy round kitchen table and chairs.
- new or gently used) soup pots, large casserole dishes etc.
- couple dozen plastic drinking glasses
- food processor & blender (preferably an immersion blender).
- metal serving cart on wheels.
- kitchen island on wheels.
- bath towels and bath mats, laundry basket.
- 2 new cork bulletin boards (2'x3; & 3'x5')



The Banner outside our church reads, "Standing on the Side of Love". Social Justice is again this year sponsoring our Valentine Gift Bag Project to put these words into action. For the second year, Social Justice is facilitating reaching out to a group in our community who may not always feel loved, and demonstrate our ability to love by providing them with goodie bags near Valentine's Day. This year's recipients will be the Outright Youth. We are looking for donations of candy and trinkets to fill these bags. Our Religious Education Students are making cards, and we have already received some donations. If you, too, want to take a stand on the side of love, please donate items in quantities of 40 (the number of bags we will be making) to any member of the Social Justice Committee. Contact Anne Kinney at uma@megalink.net, or Sara Karam at s.karam@hotmail.com. Donations are needed by Feb 1.

ETHICAL EATING:

Winter Farmer's Market- every 3rd Thursday of the month, November through April. Market operates from 5:00pm - 7:30pm at St. Mary's Nutrition Center, 208 Bates Street in Lewiston.

FMI greatfallsmarket@gmail.com.

Local Community Supported Agriculture Opportunity: Indoor Farmer's Market at the Auburn Public Library on Friday, February 24th will provide a place to meet farmers and get info on the right CSA for you.

--- Social Justice Committee

UU Theater

UUT was pleased to present Out of the Box Theater's "**Chosen: Adoption Stories**" in our space last month. Audiences heard writer/director Linda Britt's original monologues about the topic, told from different viewpoints. The talented cast featured our own Pat Phillips!

To complement the show, UUT gathered professionals representing all types of adoption, from DHHS, the Bar Association and MAPS. Philip DuBois lent us his installation called The Heart Gallery, which consists of photos of children in Maine awaiting state adoption through DHHS. UU Theater thanks Karen Lane, Toby Haber, Sara Karam, Ell Fanus and Nicole Rush for their help. Big thanks go to Bob Thorpe for coordinating technical requirements with OOTB.



Join us on **Friday, Feb. 17 for Miss Roxanne's Drag and Talent Show Extravaganza.**

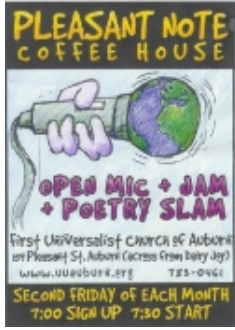
Director Russ Perham and Co-Director Giselle Scherle have put together a real "first" for UU Theater, featuring a line-up of fabulous and familiar performers. UU Theater is even offering free admission for our Outright youth, and the energy should be infectious!

Show time is 7 PM and tickets are just \$5. Please come down and support this new and creative fundraiser, to benefit the church!



UU Theater is proud to host Coffee Hour on Sunday, Feb. 19. Join us for a theatrical refreshment experience!

OPEN MIC



It's wickedly cold outside but the Open Mic/Poetry Slam offers a warm, receptive audience to share the spirituality of music and spoken word. Join us on Friday, **February 10**, for the next happening. It's free; goodwill donations are accepted.

Plan to join us on Friday, **March 9** when Open Mic celebrates its 6-year anniversary.

Join OMic's Facebook page at "Auburn UU Open Mic and Poetry Slam" to see pictures and receive event reminders.

READ

Acts of Faith

The story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation
by Eboo Patel

TALK

Discuss

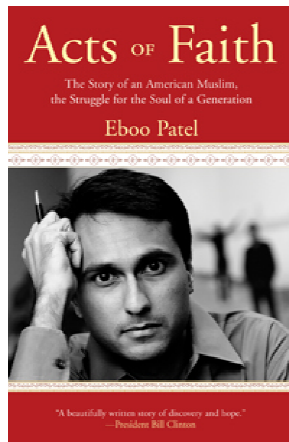
and build community in our congregation by sharing an experience based on deep meaningful conversation.

ACT

Work Together

on interfaith dialogue, understanding and action.

Participate in a UU "Common Read" by independently reading *Acts of Faith* and then share your experience by joining a discussion group!



Three 90 minute sessions
from
7:00 – 8:30,
Tuesdays
2/28, 3/6, 3/13

Registration and location
information to follow

"I am an American Muslim from India. My adolescence was a series of rejections, one after another, of the various dimensions of my heritage, in the belief that America, India, and Islam could not coexist within the same being. If I wanted to be one, I could not be the others. My struggle to understand the traditions I belong to as mutually enriching rather than mutually exclusive is the story of a generation of young people standing at the crossroads of inheritance and discovery, trying to look both ways at once."

So writes Eboo Patel at the beginning of his remarkable account of coming of age and coming to understand what led him toward religious pluralism rather than hatred.

Acts of Faith is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people, and to the notion that we find the fulfillment of our identities in the work we do in the world.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Did you know the homepage of www.auburnuu.org features a news page with our latest events? Visit it and see. It's a good quick way to check in on the latest church events!

Thanks all of you who have joined the First Universalist Church of Auburn Facebook page! This is a fun way of spreading news about events, and sharing pictures after the events. If you have not yet joined, please do!

In the community:

Lewiston/Auburn 101 starting this March. It's a fun, 10-week group training to introduce the people who make our cities great, and learn about the inner workings of local government.

When: Every Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m., February 29 – May 2

Where: Various locations in the Twin Cities

Cost: \$15 for supplies (scholarships are available)



Crisis Happens: *Is Our Church Ready?*

Workshop on preparing for smaller and larger scale tragedy

Saturday March 10th: First Universalist Church of Auburn 10 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Topic: *Congregational Response to Crisis*

Cost: \$30 per Team of 4 Congregational Leaders, \$15 for each additional person. Bring a 3-person team from a neighboring non-UU congregation for free!

Goals of this workshop:

1. Build community/team among leaders within and between congregations
2. Understanding reasonable congregational preparation for crisis
3. Understanding resources available in crisis: To get help or be helpful.
4. Network for crisis response beyond individual congregations

Email NNED Administrator, [Joy Blanchette](mailto:Joy.Blanchette@nnew.org), for a registration form and workshop flyer. These items are also posted on the NNED [website](http://www.nned.uua.org) :

<http://nned.uua.org/calendar.shtml?trumbaEmbed=eventid%3D98488817%26view%3DDevent%26-childview%3D>

Sponsored by the Northern New England District of the UUA



Come to our 2012 FERRY BEACH *ALL-CHURCH* RETREAT
APRIL 20-22, 2012 Friday through Sunday noon
(Please Note: April 8th Registration Deadline!)

Our retreat, inviting members and friends from Auburn UU, Allen Avenue, and First Parish UU churches, begins on Friday April 20th with orientation, a campfire sing-a-long, and an ice cream social at 7:00 p.m. and ends on Sunday morning April 22nd, after worship and friendship circle.

- **REGISTRATION BEGINS ON SUNDAY March 4th:** The April 8th deadline is important to give us an accurate head count for meals. Registrations will be accepted on a “first come” basis. (This is a popular Retreat!!)
- You will receive a tentative schedule, directions, and information regarding what to bring in the registration packet at church with more information sent to you after you register.
- *If you are interested in leading or assisting with an activity, or have program suggestions, please contact Anne Kinney, below.*
- All meals will be provided and prepared by the Ferry Beach food service. (You will **love** the delicious choices being offered!) Dietary needs will be accommodated within reason. Please bring your own favorite between-meal snacks & beverages to share. (*Coffee, tea, milk, and fruit are provided.*) Alcoholic beverages are allowed at social gatherings....BYOB.

Questions? Please contact our Ferry Beach Retreat Coordinators:

- Anne Kinney at uma@megalink.net or 782-7497
- and / or Ron Spofford at 740-4084

Ferry Beach is our UU Camp and Conference Center in Saco (1/2 hour drive south of Portland). It offers a beautiful campus on a sandy beach with pine grove and woods. Rooms accommodate 2-6 people in twin-size beds. Bathrooms (showers) are located on each floor. (BYO bedding & towels.)

These photos are from January's Martin Luther King Jr. Day service. Here's the basic idea:
Bad words "stuck" to Clara- they hurt, and were hard to ignore. But nice words also stick (see hearts), and if you have enough of them, the bad words roll off.



UU AUBURN - FEBRUARY, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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5 Worship and RE at 10am - followed by All-Church Birthday Party- Second Colection:Trinity Jubilee Center - 1pm Drag Show rehearsal - 3pm Yankee Boyz (R)	6 7pm Guy2Guy (R)	7	8	9 6pm Men's Group (R)	10 7:15 OPEN MIC 6pm Outright L/A (R)	11 7pm Outright L/A Dance (R)																																										
12 Worship and RE at 10am - Child Dedication Service-followed by Pen Pal Pot-Luck and Contra Dance - 3pm Drag Show rehearsal	13 6:30pm Board Meeting	14 Valentine's Day	15 6:30pm Membership Committee	16 6pm Men's Group (R) 7pm Komen LGBT Breast Cancer Awareness	17 6pm Outright L/A (R) 7pm Drag Show	18																																										
19 Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry - Music Associates meeting	20 Presidents' Day 6:30pm Finance Committee	21 Equality Maine Public Meeting	22	23 Newsletter Deadline 6pm Men's Group (R)	24 6pm Outright L/A Movie Night (R)	25																																										
26 Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry - Council of Committees 11:30	27 6:30pm Board Meeting	28 7pm Komen LGBT Breast Cancer Awareness 7pm "Acts of Faith" discussion	29																																													

For an up-to-date calendar, visit auburnuu.org and click on "Calendar." - (R) is a rental event.