



# ***THE OPEN DOOR***

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
(UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST) AUBURN, MAINE  
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WEBSITE: [WWW.AUBURNUU.ORG](http://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*

***JANUARY, 2011***

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## *Jodi's Corner - Words from our Minister*

"Here is the road: the light  
comes and goes then returns again.  
Be gentle with your fellow travelers  
as they move through the world of stone and stars  
whirling with you yet every one alone.  
The road waits..."

- Arlene Gay Levine

It is part of the human experience to wander through the days of our living trying to strike a balance between understanding ourselves as individuals, and understanding ourselves to be a single strand woven into the fabric of our communities. On the one hand, we are sacred in and of ourselves- unique beings whose holy work is to discover who we are at the deepest level. On the other, we do not and cannot exist alone- we are supported, challenged, and transformed by those around us, and it is also our work to offer ourselves to the world as a holy blessing.

Those two practices- focusing inward to discover our authentic center, and focusing outward that we might bless the world- are themselves woven together. If we do not take the time to discover who we are, the gifts we give are not as rich or textured as they could be. If we do not step outside of ourselves and care for others and the world itself, our sense of our place in the world is anemic and self serving.

As we move into this new year, may we all honor the rhythm that best lends itself to discovery of that balance, stepping into times of reflection and activity as our spirits demand.

And may your days and nights be blessed,

*Jodi*

## Sermon Excerpt -

Preached by Jodi on Christmas Eve:

"... Perhaps they understood, blinking uncertainly in the dim light of the stable, that the birth of this child was a sign to them- a promise of a new terrain altogether, a world that existed beneath and within the world they already knew. It would continue to be true that power would be given to those with the highest rank, and the most gold, and the biggest army. But in that moment, perhaps they remembered a deeper power: power neither wielded by the few nor kept from the many; power neither paid for with the tears of the powerless nor stolen from them; power that did not weaken when others grew strong, but rather strengthened when others came into their own; power that would not stretch their pocketbooks or smite their foes, but rather deepen their spirits so profoundly they would be able to meet whatever came their way with their heads held high, rooted in that deep power- the knowledge of the holiness they all now knew they shared..."

## News from Team Sabbatical: "The Festival of Preaching"

So, Jodi is going to be on sabbatical from the end of February to the end of August. Does that mean the pulpit will be empty on Sunday mornings? Not at all! Sabbaticals are a very common practice among many denominations, including UUism. It is standard procedure for fellow ministers in the region to pitch in and substitute for those on sabbatical. We have been in touch with other ministers from the Northern New England area, and have received an overwhelming response. In fact, we currently have visiting ministers "booked" well into the summer. We also have our own Worship Associates, and others within the congregation who have proven in the past that they are very capable of handling the reins on any given Sunday. All of this should provide us with a refreshing change of perspective, which is part of the basic concept of a sabbatical in the first place. This is not to say that we won't be excited by Jodi's return at the end of summer. But the pulpit will certainly not be empty while Jodi is away!

While Jodi refreshes, renews and recharges her ministerial skills during the sabbatical, the congregation may be doing some reflective work of its own. Stay tuned for more information on that process.

Team Sabbatical plans to publish a brochure with dates for visiting ministers, and worship associate services. We will also be providing information on who to call for what. There will be a bulletin board dedicated to sabbatical news and information, as well as regular updates in the weekly bulletin and this very newsletter.

You are also welcome to contact "Team Sabbatical" members:

Chair: Rick O'Brien

Jodi Hayashida (not during the sabbatical though!)

Ann Perron

Bob Wolf

Ellen O'Brien

Ginny Starbird

## From the Treasurer's Desk

A brief update on church finances:

On the income side, we made \$5813 after expenses (16% above our budget goal!) on the Gingerbread Fair. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for and/or shopped at the Fair.

Pledge income continues to be steady and on track at the end of December, halfway through our fiscal year. Contribution acknowledgment letters for the 2010 calendar year will be sent out in January. If you haven't received a statement by the end of the month, or if you have any questions, please contact Collector Linda Borth ([lrborthmmm@aol.com](mailto:lrborthmmm@aol.com) or 786-6720).

Building use income is somewhat lower than we would like for this point in the year. The Finance Committee is looking into revising the rental rates we charge to make sure they are in line with other similar facilities in the area.

Things on the expense side are looking pretty good, too. With the exception of some additional work done in conjunction with the new boiler, we have not incurred any unbudgeted expenses. Oil prices are climbing, though, so the Finance Committee will continue to keep an eye on them and recommend adjustments to the operating budget if needed.

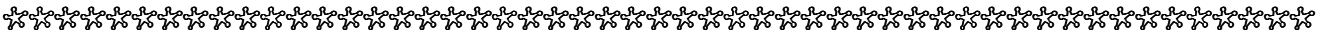
One final note: our annual stewardship drive will be getting underway in February/March. Each year, we ask our members and friends to make a pledge of financial support for the upcoming fiscal year. Pledge income is our single largest income line item, accounting for approximately 2/3 of our budget. We hope that everyone who participates in the life of the church will give as generously as they are able. With your support, we will be able to strengthen our community and continue to be a beacon for liberal religion in the greater Lewiston/Auburn area for many years to come.

*Christine Babb, Treasurer*

### **HYMNALS**

We have noticed lately there has been a shortage of hymnals in some of the pews. This makes it difficult to participate in the responsive reading and the music portions of the service. If you have borrowed one of our hymnals, please return it to the sanctuary. If you enjoy having your own copy at home and would like to purchase one for yourself (or to help purchase some for the church), please contact the Music Associates. We are researching the cost and will be submitting an order soon.

*---Hillary Schau, (336-3605) for the Music Associates*



# News From Religious Exploration

## **CHILD DEDICATION**

Our church will be holding a group Child Dedication Ceremony on February 13<sup>th</sup>, during the service. This Unitarian Universalist ritual is a time when a child is formally welcomed into the life of the church and the congregation affirms its commitment to support each child throughout his or her spiritual development. If you are interested in having your child participate in the ceremony, please see Clara or Jodi for more details!

## **Mark your calendar!**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, we'll be hosting an All-Church potluck luncheon and Contra Dance. The luncheon will take place immediately following the service, with the dance lasting from noon until about 2 p.m. The Contra Dance is geared towards dancers of all ages, and non-dancers are always welcome to stay, watch, and enjoy the music.

## **Secret Pen Pals**

Our annual Secret Pen Pals program will be starting up soon! This year's program will be a little different, and a little shorter, making it easier for more adults and kids to participate! Keep an eye out for details.

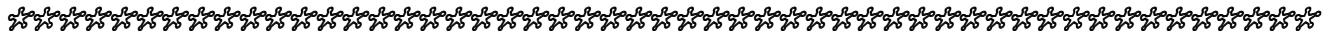
## **Guest at Your Table**

Our annual Guest at Your Table fundraiser will wrap up on Sunday, January 10, 2011. This is the biggest annual fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which works around the globe working to advance human rights. More information at [www.UUSC.org](http://www.UUSC.org).



Please bring your Guest at Your Table donations to church on that Sunday morning. We would greatly appreciate it if you would convert your donation to check form, made out to "UUSC." Questions? Contact Clara!

[Director of Religious Exploration Clara Bolduc](mailto:DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net) can be reached at [DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net](mailto:DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net).



**Council of Committees** will host the All Church Birthday on January 23, following services. Make plans to be there. What a great opportunity for food/fun/fellowship! Share delicious birthday treats with members and friends who share your birthday month!

## Early Snow

If this were to be  
my last moment of life,  
I would ride out to meet  
the hereafter with this  
earthly vision---two windows  
filled with images of birch and  
flowering quince and, beyond,  
fence posts, deck rails,  
my neighbor's roof, all wrapped  
in fluffy white bunny fur, smiled upon  
by a sky innocently blue  
as though last night's snowstorm  
were a mirage, a slippage  
of my failing memory.

A dazzlement of sun and a  
coercive breeze conspire to  
soon erase this transformation  
to Wonderland that fills my  
morning eyes. Yet even so, I will have  
left the scene while still privileged,  
walked out the door beguiled by  
an image of unparalleled beauty,  
walked out the door into a pure white  
eternal moment.

*--Pearl Tibbets Sawyer*

## Social Justice Corner

2nd Collection news: January: Advocates for Children, Feb: Trinity Jubilee Center for Souper Sunday.

2011 2nd Collection voting will take place on Sunday, January 9 only. You must be present to vote. Descriptions will be available in advance, so you can make informed choices. The new groups will begin with the collection in March.

Our 2nd collection began after a Tsunami struck Indonesia in 2004. We took an extra collection which was donated to recovery efforts there. The congregation was so generous that we began to wonder about showing our concern for the local community. We now vote annually on which local groups we will collect for, and SJ carries out that process.

Microloans- \$5,000 has been transferred to Coastal Enterprises, Inc. Annual reports from CEI are available for examination- contact Deni at 783-0461. The Social Justice Committee is grateful to the congregation for such a thoughtful decision-making process.

At the Fall meeting, the congregation adopted SJ's recommendation to invest the majority of the \$6,000 set aside from the Arlene Siekowski bequest in a L/A area small business loan program, as originally tasked, and a portion to be invested in leadership development.

Lewiston Winter Farmers' Market, Thursday January 13, 5- 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Nutrition Center at 208 Bates Street in Lewiston.

Feed the Hungry - You can train at Calvary kitchen Saturday, January 15, from 11-11:45am, then volunteer once a month to cook, set up, or serve a meal on a Wednesday evening (4:30-6:30pm) or a Sunday morning (7:30-9:15) at Calvary Church in Lewiston. Join members of other churches who have served 3000 meals at Calvary in 2010. To sign up for volunteer training, call Diane Nelder at 782-3221.

Environmental Activism- Allen Avenue UU Church will host Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream on January 29th from 10am - 4pm. The Symposium is created by the Pachamama Alliance, a world wide group of environmental activists working with indigenous cultures to change the 'Western Dream' by promoting environmental sustainability, spiritual fulfillment and social justice. Their website, [www.AwakeningtheDreamer.org](http://www.AwakeningtheDreamer.org), is an inspirational link to this world wide effort.

Facilitators will offer an experiential program to encourage involvement with environmental and social issues. \$10 suggested donation/lunch provided. Register with John Burdick. at 978-771-6535 or [John@YourKitchenImagined.com](mailto:John@YourKitchenImagined.com).

-- **Social Justice Committee**

## ***UU Theater News***

UU Theater has been asked to stage an encore of "The Katrina Project" at a Portland theater- we'll share details as they become available! We're excited and honored to have been asked.

### **UU Theater - How can YOU Play a Part?**

- Support our playbill advertisers -- tell them you appreciate their ad and show of support for us:

\* Major support comes from Mechanics Bank, Jim's Rent-It and Marc's Auto Body.

\* Strong support comes from Evergreen Subaru and Roy's All-Beef Hamburgers.

\* Neighborly support comes from: Beal's Cleaners, Brad's Auto Repair, Bread Shack, Calm Health, Cascia, Dillingham's Funeral Home, Dr. Haltof, Fireside Stove, Godin Auto, Goin' Postal, Handy Anne, High-5 Massage, Holly's Own, Michel Giasson Architect, Minuteman Auto Sales, Next Level Business Coaching, Orbitz Hair Salon, Pam-Price-Wharf massage, The Pop Shoppe, Susan Dube Realty, Vectorsonics, The Village Inn, Judy Webber and Wicked Illustrations.

## ***OPEN MIC***

Open Mic had a great show in December- you should have been there! Old friends and new ones joined to share in the spirituality of music and spoken word. Please plan to attend on January 14. Our free show on the 2nd Friday of the month begins at 7:30pm in the vestry. Thanks to Hillary and Augie Schau for running the refreshment table!

PS- Your goodwill donations have funded some new equipment for Open Mic. Thanks for your generosity!



Hopeful new perspectives and possibilities

# Creating a Bold New Future



Join with others who are aware, and care about Environmental Sustainability, Spiritual Fulfillment and Social Justice.

Attend the *Awakening the Dreamer, Changing The Dream Symposium*, and come together with people who care about what's happening in the world, our community and with our families. We'll look at our biggest challenges *and* opportunities:

- The state of our industrial world -- and the thinking that got us where we are.
- A new dream -- how creativity and imagination can lead to surprising meaningful solutions.
- You can be part of what's emerging -- because you already are!

**Saturday, January 29, 2011 10AM to 4PM**

Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church  
524 Allen Avenue, Portland ME

FMI visit [www.AwakeningTheDreamer.org](http://www.AwakeningTheDreamer.org)

Registration necessary at [www.a2u2.org/contact.aspx?e=72](http://www.a2u2.org/contact.aspx?e=72)

Or contact John Burdick at cell # 978-771-6535

or at [John@YourKitchenImagined.com](mailto:John@YourKitchenImagined.com)

Suggested donation \$10

**Sponsored by the Social Action Committee  
of Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church**

In conjunction with



**THE  
PACHAMAMA  
ALLIANCE**

# UU AUBURN - JANUARY, 2011

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                              | Wednesday   | Thursday                                      | Friday   | Saturday   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2011</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>M</td> <td>T</td> <td>W</td> <td>T</td> <td>F</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> |  |                                      |   |   |  | S  | M | T | W | T | F | S |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |  |  |  |  |  | <p><b>1</b></p> <p>New Year's Day</p> |
| S   | M  | T                                    | W   | T   | F  | S  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
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| 2   | 3  | 4                                    | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| 9   | 10   | 11                                   | 12  | 13  | 14   | 15   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| 16  | 17   | 18                                   | 19  | 20  | 21   | 22   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| 23  | 24   | 25                                   | 26  | 27  | 28   | 29   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| 30  | 31   |                                      |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, then Coffee Hour - Second Collection- Advocates For Children- Adult RE 11:30 Council of Committees 11:40 Yankee Boyz 3-5pm</p>   | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>7-9pm Guy2Guy (R) 7-9pm Co-Counseling Support (R)</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>7-8pm AA (R)</p>  | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Social Justice - 6:30pm</p>      | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Men's Group (R) 6-9pm</p>  | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>6pm Outright L/A "Drop-in" (R)</p>                  | <p><b>8</b></p>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, then Coffee Hour - Adult RE 11:30 Finance Committee 11:30 2nd Collection Voting</p>  | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Co-Counseling Support (R)</p>  | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>7-8pm AA (R)</p> | <p><b>12</b></p>                                    | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>Men's Group (R) 6-9pm</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Outright L/A "Drop-in" (R) 6pm OPEN MIC 7:30pm</p> | <p><b>15</b></p>   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, then Coffee Hour - Adult RE 11:30 - Music Associates 11:30</p>  | <p><b>17</b></p> <p>Board Meeting 6:30 - Co-Counseling 7-9pm (R) - Guy2Guy 7-9pm (R)</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>7-8pm AA (R)</p> | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30pm Membership Committee</p> | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Men's Group (R) 6-9pm</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Outright Movie Night 6pm (R)</p>                   | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Outright Planning Meeting (time T/B/A) (R)</p> |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, then Coffee Hour - Adult RE 11:30 ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY</p>   | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Board Meeting 6:30 - Co-Counseling 7-9pm (R) - Guy2Guy 7-9pm (R)</p>                                   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>7-8pm AA (R)</p> | <p><b>26</b></p>                                    | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>Men's Group (R) 6-9pm</p> | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Outright L/A "Drop-in" (R) 6pm</p>                 | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Outright Planning Meeting (Snow Date) (R)</p>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |
| <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, then Coffee Hour - Adult RE 11:30 - Baby Shower in Vestry (R) 1-4pm</p>   | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>Co-Counseling 7-9pm (R) - Guy2Guy 7-9pm (R)</p>  |                                      |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |  |  |                                       |

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