



# ***THE OPEN DOOR***

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
(UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST) AUBURN, MAINE  
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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

***JULY-AUGUST, 2010***

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

When I casually asked my family over lunch this afternoon what I should write in this column, Kaia surprised me with an immediate answer about what church was all about. She told me that I should write about, "how you like to go to church, and you like to spend time with the kids, and you like to tell stories to the children, and you like to spend time with the adults, and you like to make the world a better place." It didn't take me too long to realize that she had already pretty much figured church out for herself, and that I really liked her vision.

Essentially, though in slightly more ministerial language, Kaia told me that church was about coming together in multi-generational community, telling sacred stories that deepened the spirit, and helping to create a world of deeper love and greater justice. Add an overlay of honoring the mysterious holy wherever we find it (and by whatever name we call it), and you've got yourself the makings of a pretty fantastic church.

I especially appreciated her assumption that all these aspects of church were enjoyable. She didn't tell me to write about going to church or making the world a better place but rather how I liked to go to church and I liked to make the world better- not burdens but blessings, not tasks to check off or even resent but events to anticipate with excitement.

I wonder how many of us are as clear on what church means to us- and what it is about it that makes our spirits rejoice? Perhaps these expansive summer months are an appropriate time for us to sit with the questions and see what rises up from within.

May your days and nights be blessed,

--Jodi

Reminder: our ALL CHURCH PICNIC and WORSHIP SERVICE will be held this year on July 25th beginning at 10am at the Tucker/Thorpe Camp on Tripp Lake. There will be no worship service at the church proper on that day. Look for more details below in this newsletter.

### *Sermon Excerpt*

Offered by Ell Fanus on May 30th

“...What may begin as a solitary moment of transcendent peace, a nearly imperceptible quiver, is sent out on a thread connecting with the undulations of another’s desire for peace, and to another’s vision of a world without war, to a collective vibration of hope that shakes the universal web with the radical possibility of peace.

So how do we begin to consider peace, here in the midst of our personal and global chaos? We begin within our own minds and hearts. It is here that we find the core of peace. And despite any unrest we also find there, we may honor our fluctuating feelings without judgment, without attachment, and mindfully pursue a deeper peace.

And as we focus on the peace within, may we consciously practice peace with our neighbors and in our communities and in the world at large...”

### *June Board Briefs*

#### *Status of Micro-loan Funds*

Social justice is not ready to abandon the ability to offer micro loans. They have committed to look at options over the summer before they shift the focus of the money that was donated and agreed upon by the congregation for this purpose.

#### *Council of Committees*

The Council of Committees has put out a survey on the website and are asking for input to make committees stronger, and more beneficial to the congregation.

#### *Program Committee*

The Program Committee is being revived and would like to rename the committee to Events Committee. Alene Staley and Ron Spofford are heading this up. The board decided unanimously to allow this committee to stand as an ad-hoc committee due to bylaws and to rework the Program Committee within the bylaws.

#### *Annual Meeting*

The Board held a discussion regarding the process of the Annual Meeting and the Slate of Officers. It was decided that the slate would be clarified and that the new members of the Nominating Committee would be oriented to their function to make the process more refined and clearer.

#### *Discussion of Chapter 5 of “The In-Between Church” by Alice Mann*

Why are we willing to make the Sacrifice? What are we looking to do and how can we best do it? Clarity of purpose was discussed and the need for a Mission Statement that truly reflects our purpose as a congregation.

#### *The Board*

The Board will be meeting socially in July but will not have a formal meeting. This social gathering is to relax and Team Build. We will be back in action in August.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this report, feel free to contact a Board member. Please note that all Board meetings are open to all, and are held on the third Monday of each month unless it's a holiday. Our next meeting will be Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

~*Donald C. Johnson*, Board President

Building and Grounds Committee encourages all our church friends and neighbors to enjoy our beautiful gardens as they change through the summer reflecting the continuing work of our dedicated gardener, Holly Cooney. Thank you, Holly.

### *From the Treasurer*

With slightly less than a week until the end of our church's fiscal year, I wanted to share some fantastic news with you. We have just sent the Northern New England District (NNED) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) our final "fair share" dues payments. We are once again recognized by the UUA as an Honor Society, which means we have paid 100% of our dues based on our certified membership.

More good news: as of June 20, we have received 94% of our total pledge amount for the year. Over 70% of our 82 pledge units have contributed 90% or more of their pledge amounts to date. And 16 of those have contributed over 100% - they have given MORE than they originally pledged!

These two pieces of news are not unrelated. Without the commitment of our members and friends, we would not be able to honor our collective commitment to the District and the UUA. We began the church year with the goal of paying "what's right, not what's left" (at the end of the year) by sending monthly contributions towards our Fair Share goal. About two-thirds of the way through the year, though, our financial situation looked rather worrisome, and the Finance Committee made the difficult decision to suspend our dues payments until we had a clearer picture of where we would end the year. In June, we re-evaluated (following a successful auction and receipt of significant pledge income in May) and were able to send our final dues payments just in time to be counted as a fair share congregation.

To all of you who have given so generously of your resources during the 2009-2010 church year, I want to thank you for your support.

One more piece of good news: as of mid-June, our pledges for the upcoming church year totaled \$110,235. This figure includes ten new pledges (wow!). We are still looking at a deficit budget as we begin the year, but we have closed the gap quite a bit.

Just a quick reminder: attendance at worship services tends to drop off during the summer - but (unfortunately!) our bills don't go on vacation. So please take a few moments to set up automatic payment of your pledge if your bank or credit union offers that option, or make a note on your calendar to drop a check in the mail if you will not be in church for awhile.

Once again, the Board, Finance Committee and I would like to express our appreciation for your patience and support as we strive to improve the financial transparency, processes and financial condition of our beloved church community. With your feedback, we intend to continue that effort in the coming year as well.

--*Christine Babb*, Treasurer

### ***Events Committee News***

Do you think it would be great if our church had more organized social events? We think it would be. Ron Spofford and Alene Staley have formed a committee with the approval of the board to begin planning some social events for the church to start this coming fall. We need your help. We are hoping that others will join us in this venture. We would like to meet several times this summer to make some plans. We hope we will be able to get ideas from all segments of our church community so we can plan social events that will be of interest to all. So step one is for you to let us know that you are interested in joining the group.

We also would like your ideas even if you cannot attend a meeting. After we know who is interested in joining the Events Committee, we will schedule our first meeting to brainstorm ideas. We are very excited about this project and we hope you are too.

We also would like to see if there is any interest in planning some social events for this summer. Please let us know if you would like to see a potluck this summer, or perhaps an outing to a beach. Also would you like to form a group from the church to attend the free concerts this summer at Bates? Call and let us know and we will get it organized.

--*Alene Staley*

### ***CHURCH PICNIC, SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2010***

SAVE THE DATE FOR WORSHIP AND THE ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH PICNIC AT THE TUCKER/THORPE COTTAGE AND GROUNDS AT TRIPP LAKE, POLAND, MAINE.

#### **Worship will be at 10 AM (rain or shine)**

- \* Bring a picnic lunch (grill available)
- \* Transportation available via golf cart to the picnic area and beach
- \* Bring bathing suit (nice sandy beach)
- \* Water safe for children
- \* Kayaks, canoes and row boat available
- \* Field activities including jam session--bring instruments
- \* Enclosed screened in porch to use for games and fellowship if weather is unfavorable for outside activities

-- **PETS ONLY IF ON A LEASH** --

### ***Membership Committee***

WELCOME- Whether you may have seen our website or heard about us from a friend and are exploring how you might become more involved in our faith community, we want to make you feel welcome. We hope the traditions of our congregation will give meaning to your lives. If you would like to receive a newsletter or more information about the programming at our church, we invite you to fill out a green Visitor Card and place it in the collection plate. After Sunday service, we invite you to join us downstairs for coffee. We are eager to share who we are and what we do and to help you connect with others.

---*Beth Ayotte*, Membership Committee

## Social Justice Corner

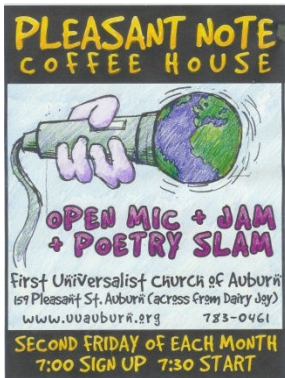
Ethical Eating: We've started our summer farmers market again with Fresh Start Farms. These farmers make it easy for us to “do the right thing” selling fresh local items after Sunday services. Support local produce while also supporting our refugee and immigrant neighbors!

At the end of June, SJ held a visioning meeting for what it wants to focus on in the coming church year. Old business plus new items fresh from General Assembly informed our work.

Trinity Soup Kitchen- Our friends at Trinity need help serving Sunday dinner. If you can help, contact Trinity at 782-5700

--*Social Justice Committee*

## OPEN MIC



Who's got the longest-running open mic in town, with over 4 years of monthly shows? Who offers an all-ages forum to celebrate the spirituality of music, spoken word, dance and anything that moves ya? Why, it's our own Auburn UU! Join us on Friday, July 9 and Friday, August 13 at 7:15 or an always amazing evening of FREE entertainment by friends and newcomers.

Refreshments are available; proceeds benefit the Organ Fund. Children's room available to keep the little ones happy. Bring your friends!

## UU Theater News

UU THEATER - SUMMER SHOW A HOT TICKET

Save these dates: **Saturday, July 31, at 7pm, and Sunday, Aug. 1, 2pm matinee.**

Our award-winning UU Theater will present “**Aesop's Fables Redux**,” a family-friendly production featuring members and friends of Auburn UU. Please support this delightful show which supports the church!

Come support these church members and friends in the show: Sierra Ballard, Arel Doyle, Jay Fiori, Emma Galipeau-Eldridge, Noah Gill, Attigan Knight, Birch Knight, Karen Lane, Mary-Atala Lessard, Jephthah Peters, Lilith Price-Wharf, Alicia Proulx, Madison Rush, Nicole Rush, Sawyer Templeton, Sabrina Yocono. The show is brought to you by UU Theater: Ell Fanus, Toby Haber, Karen Lane, Pat Phillips and Nicole Rush.

If you would like to help usher, or donate refreshments, please contact one of us!

In the fall...look for UUT news about the Katrina Project, a show looking at Hurricane Katrina as we mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this national tragedy.

## *GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT- the wonky version*

Greetings from Minneapolis! I was honored to be able to represent our congregation at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association this year. And this year, I enjoyed being a delegate (instead of covering workshops as a journalist for the web team). There were 1500 voting delegates and a total of 3800 Uus present from over 500 congregations around the world.

What was it like? We worshipped, heard from diverse voices in our faith, and new UUA president Rev. Peter Morales. We sang along with UU composers Jim Scott and Peter Mayer (Ned Claxton's favorite) and enjoyed the new UU Children's Choir. We heard reports from programs we support through our membership dues, such as UU Service Committee, (UUSC), the UU/UN office, UU Women's Federation, Standing on the Side of Love, Beacon Press, and five "breakthrough" congregations who have seen a surge in membership (including the Babbs' former church in Sherborn, MA). We were welcomed by Secretary of State Mark Richie (UU), Rep. Keith Ellison (Muslim) and Senator Al Franken (Jewish).

In an action of Public Witness, we all marched down to the Minneapolis Pride Festival to witness for marriage equality with an interfaith group of clergy. Did I mention (this is worth looking for on the website) that we marched behind a chariot carrying a same-sex couple, drawn by roosters. I can't interpret the symbolism, but I can tell you it was a hoot.

We conducted some rather important business, like changing the term of service for UUA President and Moderator from 4 years (max two) to a 6-year term (just one). A Presidential Search committee will nominate at least 2 qualified candidates, but others can run by petition. Also, the UUA had to cut 13 positions and reorganize its departments. As part of this effort, UUA is examining their board and committee structure to make it less cumbersome and more responsive to needs of congregations.

Headline news: the UUA had planned to hold the 2012 GA in Arizona, and there was a proposal to boycott any business in that state because of its recent anti-immigrant legislation. The amazing thing is that UU congregations from Arizona said they need our help. As a result of a process of listening and compromise, as only UUs can do, we actually voted to make it a first-ever "Justice Assembly" focusing on helping local partners in the state, with a minimum of UUA business. Since we had just adopted "Immigration As A Moral Issue" as the new Study Action Issue, it let us affirm our values.

We adopted a Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, after several years in the making. An expert panel explored it for 4 years, but last year it failed to be adopted. A task force reexamined it and this renewed process resulted in a statement that delegates accepted enthusiastically.

With robust debate, Actions of Immediate Witness were adopted on the following issues:

- Oppose Anti-Immigrant Measures at the State Level (Arizona's SB 1070 and others) and Hasten Federal Immigration Reform
- Gulf Coast Environmental and Economic Justice
- Clean Up the Clean Energy Bill

Responsive resolutions included a unanimous call for non-discrimination protection for GLBTQ employees, and a marriage proposal (yes, a GA first). More information on all these matters (also video and pictures) is available at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

In local news, all district board leaders are spending the year pondering how to make us better represented in the Association. They have dedicated themselves to working out ways to increase awareness and participation from every member church. More as that develops!

--- *Toby Haber-Giasson*

#### ARE YOU CRAFTY?

Do you sew, or wield a mean glue gun? The church banner, recently featured in the GA banner parade in Minneapolis, is in need of some TLC. Contact Toby or the church office, if you can help restore it to its former glory.

### ***UU COOKBOOK***

We are ready to roll with the UU Cookbook!

Our goal is to have the books available for the Gingerbread Fair in November, so we need your help in providing your recipes in a timely fashion. September 3<sup>rd</sup> is our deadline for having everything ready to go to the printer, so we need your recipes asap. (See instructions below.)

We have set up a special email address where you can email your recipes –[uucooks@gmail.com](mailto:uucooks@gmail.com). If you do not have email, you may mail your handwritten recipe/s to the church office. We will also have a section for advertisers, so if you are interested in advertising your business or know of someone who would be, please let one of the Cookbook Committee know. Likewise, if you would be willing to type and proof recipes, please let one of us know.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact anyone on the committee. We look forward to this being a fun, yummy, and profitable project!!

Mary Lou Hofmann

Linda Borth,

Janet Miles,

#### **Instructions for Submitting Recipes for 2010 UU Cookbook**

Thanks for submitting your best-loved recipes to our cookbook. Please keep the following thoughts and instructions in mind when choosing and submitting recipes.

- We are looking for recipes in all of the following general categories – appetizer & beverages, soups & salad, vegetables, main dishes, breads & rolls, desserts, cookies, candy, recipes kids can make, recipes for pets.
- To help make our book appeal to a wider audience, we want to include recipes that kids can make or are especially for kids. Likewise, if you have recipes for food or treats for pets or other animals, they would be a welcomed addition.
- Since we are trying to support healthy eating and sustainable farming initiatives, recipes that are healthful and delicious and minimize the use of process foods are most desirable.
- If you know a recipe is heart healthy, good for those looking to lose weight, or those with other health issues (blood sugar, gluten, lactose), please indicate that.
- If you have a comment about the history, special use, what you always serve it with, (i.e. “It has been part of our Thanksgiving celebration for 2 generations”, “Perfect with crusty bread and a spinach salad”), please include it.

- Be sure to include your name and phone number so we can contact you if we have a question.
- List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz pkg, 24-oz can, 9"x13" pan
- Keep directions in paragraph form, not in steps (it saves on space for printing)
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "combine flour and sugar." DO NOT use statements like "combine the first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, baking, chilling and/or freezing times.
- Indicate number of servings the recipe makes when appropriate.

You are welcome to submit as many recipes as you like. We can't guarantee that we will be able to print all of them as printing costs vary depending on the number of recipes included in a book. We also want to have as broad a selection of recipes as possible.

Please email your recipes to the following address: [uucooks@gmail.com](mailto:uucooks@gmail.com) or you may snail-mail them to the church office @ 159 Side door, Auburn ME 04210.

***We need your recipes as soon as possible*** as we need to send everything to the printer by September 3. We need to allow time for us to contact you with any questions we may if needed. Our goal is to have the cookbooks ready for the Gingerbread Fair and your holiday shopping!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Cookbook Committee:  
Mary Lou Hofmann , Linda Borth, Janet Miles.

### *Poems by Pearl*

Spring, '99

Perhaps I'm overreacting,  
( a vague realization of mortality.  
a denial, perhaps.) However that may be,  
my eyes are seeing with newly-ground  
lenses. I am in love with the green  
frenzy exploding just beyond my  
window. Fledgling leaves propel  
themselves like little missiles, shooting out  
of twig ends; grass proliferates, marching  
across the lawn like an invading army;  
adding new recruits as it advances in a  
volley of green that blows me away,  
blinds me with fat, brassy dandelions  
spatter-painted like camouflage.  
Tulips and daffodils rouse from winter rest  
popping up like jacks-in-the-box  
out of the cool ebony sanctuary of their  
beds. It's such a hurry-up thing, spring is.  
Like sudden unexpected windfall of wealth,  
too much to absorb. I want to uncork it

slowly, like an extraordinary wine, to linger  
over the tangy taste, it's bright bouquet.  
I want to press the hold button, to etch  
this day of springtime onto my eyeballs  
and save it for instant replay when all the world  
is frozen and my heart with it.

*And for August, this tribute to a beloved local institution:*

At Whiting's Farm Market

"Seeding is believing."  
An eloquent testimonial  
hangs from the wall in this place  
of faith. Walk reverently on this  
concrete floor, past abundant  
piles of this area's pride, her sweet corn,  
most greatly prized for its fleeting  
tenure. With the little wire basket  
dangling from your arm, cruise  
the periphery of the bins----  
green and wax beans coexisting like  
fraternal twins next to the chard  
and beet greens, the broccoli and  
cauliflower---"Our own,"the farmer  
boasts, these products of sweat and  
back-challenging endurance.  
Eggplant, gleaming black, vies for  
attention next to a mountain of pickling cukes;  
and nearby the perennial plethora  
of zucchini nudges the modest browntones  
of potatoes, honored mostly for the simplicity  
and plenitude of them. Celebrating it all,  
tomatoes and peppers glisten like Christmas  
tree balls, crimson and green and brilliant gold.  
Smile and be at peace amidst the profusion.  
This is an oasis in the arid desert of  
chaotic times, reminding us that life does,  
and will, continue for all who have the faith to let it.  
Seeding is believing and, perhaps, believing is seeding.  
How beautiful the chard is today!

---*Pearl Tibbets Sawyer*

*Some Unitarian Universalist churches have only lay-led services, or even close completely, in the summer. Perhaps you've heard this joke before:*

*Q: Why do UUs have the summer off from church?*

*A: Because they're the only ones God trusts to come back in the fall*