



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

JUNE, 2011

From President Anne Perron:

Dearest Congregation,

This winter, I took the adult RE course "purpose & principles." It had been quite a long time since I had really taken a serious look at our UU principles, and it was wonderful to go through them, one by one, and enter discussion.

It's funny how we have our own ideas about what things mean. Discussing in a group gave me the opportunity to read and hear other perspectives and grow my understanding of how very precious those principles are. Our lives are full of learning and striving to live out those principles, which is very hard work. What a great group (and congregation) to do this work with.

I would strongly recommend this class to anyone to better understand the words we say in church each week.

Thank you Peter for your leadership and insights. I look forward to another Adult RE class!

Yours in Service, --*Anne Perron*

News from Team Sabbatical – June, 2011

Team Sabbatical formed in early fall of 2010 as Jodi began detailed planning for her sabbatical leave. Once we learned how to spell the word (two "b's", one "t"), the team began to jell. Most importantly, Team Sabbatical got bright aqua T-shirts, and chose a slogan, "Rooted, Growing, Soaring", and a logo (a Tree with roots and a bird ready to fly).

Following that important work, we met monthly and planned how to divide up the multiple jobs that Jodi handles, how to disseminate information, and to make sure that someone would be "at the crossroads" for helping to direct issues to the right person, committee or board.

The Team compiled a brochure of information which included a schedule of visiting ministers and worship associates, information on the sabbatical itself, and information on who would be filling specific jobs in Jodi's time away. The Team also helped plan Jodi's going away party, and Anne Perron constructed a bulletin board to disseminate information. The Team worked with Worship Associates to craft an announcement as well as bulletin information for each service.

The Team has continued to meet monthly to discuss issues that have been brought to our attention, and working to act as "back-up" for the Board, Worship Associates, and others who may need help or support. The Team will stay in place until Jodi returns and will help plan for her return.

The Team remains available to assist with managing/delegating and rarely solving problems. Our T shirts are still decent and the bulletin board has been a great resource for welcoming guest ministers and listing information that comes to us through our Team Sabbatical role.

The church has so many wonderful volunteers, that our job has been relatively easy. Recently, a few more issues have come up. The discussion we have had is that the more things we can deal with among ourselves, and the more we all can resolve issues ourselves, the more time Jodi will have to be the amazing minister she is. Rooted, growing, soaring!!

Warning: writer's opinion: What a wonderful opportunity for us to hear and meet Jodi's contemporaries and colleagues. What a wonderful opportunity for us to understand just how special Jodi is and how deserving she is of this Sabbatical leave.

---Ellen O'Brien, for Team Sabbatical

Festival of Preaching Sundays

June 5th: ***Religious Exploration Sunday***, a celebration of our Religious Exploration program. Director of Religious Exploration Clara Bolduc will lead the service, with the help of the children of the congregation and leaders of RE.

The Church Annual Meeting will follow this service in the sanctuary – see official notice below.

June 12th: ***Flower Communion***, Member Service: Craig Saddlemire.

Craig has been attending the First Universalist Church of Auburn since 2009 and currently serves on the Worship Associates Committee. Since graduating from Bates College in 2005, he has been deeply involved in The Visible Community, a group that organizes around housing and redevelopment policy in downtown Lewiston. He also co-founded Spoke Folks, which repairs used bicycles and donates them to local community members and non-profits. In addition, Craig produces videos for non-profits, schools, and community groups.

Please bring flowers to exchange during the Flower Communion.

June 19th: Rev. Sue Gabrielson (formerly Kingman)

Sue has been the Minister of the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church since 2003. Prior to her settlement in Maine she served as the student minister for The First Parish of Watertown, MA for two years and as their Director of Religious Education for a year.

Before attending seminary at Andover Newton Theological School, Sue worked as a Police Officer and Undercover Narcotics Officer for five years in New Hampshire.

June 26th: Kathleen Connelly

Kate is a member of First Universalist in Yarmouth and was a part-time intern at First Universalist Auburn during the fall of 2010. She just received her Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological seminary on May 20th. She will be preaching about Universalist heroine Clara Barton.

Our guest minister on May 15, Rev. Richard Beal, was a founding member of the UU Partner Church Council - learn more about it at <http://www.uupcc.org>.

CALL TO MEETING

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist, Auburn, Maine

The Board of Directors requests your attendance at the **Annual Spring Congregational Meeting** of the members of the First Universalist Church on **June 5, 2011**, immediately following worship service. The agenda for that meeting contains the following items:

- Acceptance of Minutes from Spring and Fall Meetings 2010
- Report from Sabbatical Committee
- Acceptance of Reports from Committee Chairs (in Annual Report booklet)
- Vote on Leadership Slate
- Presentation of Rose Window Award
- Presentation of Proposed Budget

As always, members and friends are invited and welcome to attend all meetings; however, only members are permitted to vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

--- *Emily Wright-Timko*, Board Clerk

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

If you change your email address, please share it with the office or Toby at baywest@roadrunner.com. Visit the church Facebook page for events and updates about church doings!

May Board Briefs:

Gratitude: Thank you to these great folks for all their work organizing the service auction: Nicole Rush, Hillary and Augie Schau, Don Jalbert, Susan Conley, Dollie Simmons, Curt and Judy Webber.

After several drafts, we adopted this month a final version of a Board Covenant. This new Covenant will eventually become part of our first ever Board *Policy* Manual. Our Covenant delineates how Board members will strive to fulfill the highest ideals of our congregation and denomination. It encompasses a statement of sixteen ways in which we pledge together to use our minds and hearts to do the work of governance. With this Covenant and other components of our *Policy* Manual, the Board will eventually focus solely on refining the

broader church vision and developing strategy to carry out our congregational mission. The "ministry" work (the task, and the doing...) will be in the hands of our committees and staff.

We also received word from Deni Ballard, our wonderful office administrator, that her last week in the office will be at the end of July. She is moving out of Maine to be closer to family. She loves her job here, and we are so grateful for the wonderful work she does, but everyone can see that this move represents many great opportunities for her, about which we're all excited. **Thank you, Deni, for all you do! We will miss you!** We are working on a process for filling the office coordinator position.

Other activity this month included working with the nominating committee to prepare for the annual meeting, addressing some building and grounds concerns, and receiving updates about the canvass.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the report, please contact a board member. Please note that all Board Meetings are open to all. Our next meetings are tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13th and Monday, June 27th.

-- *Emily Wright-Timko, clerk*

ANNUAL CANVASS RESULTS

This year's canvass ended with a record amount of \$120,000 in pledges. Thank You! This amount is, for the most part, due to the efforts of our canvassers who took the time to visit so many of you. It appears that the face to face method accomplishes both greater connections in the church as well as increased pledging. You all "stepped up" when we could clearly say we needed the money to give our staff a raise. The average increase of 13%, across all pledged amounts, says a lot to our leadership. We can do things we set out to do, even in what is still a tough economy.

In the process, your canvass team learned a lot. We need to start sooner and end much sooner. We need more canvassers, as many people did not get a face to face visit. We learned, I think, that many families with less disposable income are unable or unwilling to make a pledge and instead put their money in the plate. While we appreciate all gifts, it's not possible to count on that money when planning a budget. So, maybe there are ways we can convince people to look at what you give in the plate annually and pledge a similar amount. We learned that communication is difficult in spite of (or maybe because of) multitudes of communication devices people employ. We had many foiled attempts to reach people through every medium. We did reach out to every member and friend in our system. Some may have drifted away and not told anyone. But reaching out actually brought a few people back, while clarifying that others are no longer part of the church.

Canvassers and the Finance Committee and others interested will have a debriefing session soon to see what worked well and where we can improve for next year. We know there is more potential giving and would love to increase it so we're less reliant on other fundraising. I am planning to lead this effort again next year because I love the church, what it does for the community, and what a liberal religion can mean to so many of us. Look around at all the vacant churches. Ours is strong and vibrant. Let's keep it that way!

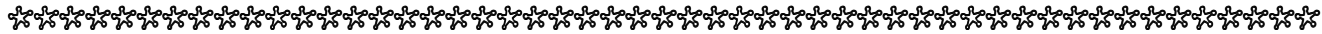
Finally, there is of course, still an opportunity to pledge before July 1 for the coming year. Those of you still on the fence who haven't pledged, every penny will help us achieve our goals.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

---*Jim Chaplin*

COUNCIL of COMMITTEES (CofC)

CofC 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 **June 12 at 11:30** in the Outright room.



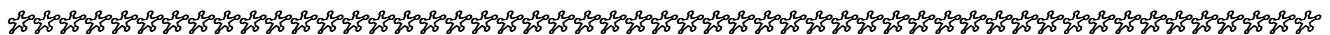
News From Religious Exploration

June 5th is RE Sunday, the annual celebration of our Religious Exploration program! DRE Clara Bolduc will be leading the service with help from the children of the congregation. Come enjoy the talents of our children and youth and celebrate the volunteers that make our program possible.

SUMMER'S COMING! Our regular Sunday morning RE program draws to a close with our annual multigenerational Flower Communion on June 12th. From mid-June through early September, we'll have multiage crafting activities available for children on Sunday mornings in place of our regular classes. Classes will resume again in September.

Volunteer Opportunities: We're looking for volunteers to lead Sunday morning crafting activities for children during the service. If you've volunteered in RE before, and you'd be interested in helping out, please see Clara for more details!

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



From the Membership Committee

My Cultural, Spiritual, Social Justice Manifesto

Open dialogue and collaboration are in my blood. Benevolence and authenticity will always be at my core. Whether I am in a church Sanctuary or at the supermarket, I hope to always model respect for the worth and dignity of every person. I have a deep abiding respect for nature. Know that I am a firm believer in the interdependent web of all existence. I pledge to lend my imagination and my enthusiasm to a wide variety of projects. My strong sense of the possible will motivate me to continue to be a problem-solver. My studies in multicultural diversity have served to strengthen my commitment to seek justice and to learn from other cultures. Because I see each person's process of becoming as spanning the entire life cycle, I hope my interests in gerontology and life-long learning will prove to be valuable tools. I do not think my penchant for influencing the growth and maturation of people can ever be extinguished. My concern for others' feelings of self-worth is simply who I am. Future-oriented, I will still strive to honor our rich UU history. I vow to trust my intuitive powers. In the face of certain death, I intend to live an impassioned life.

It is the mission of this church to foster each person's individual search for truth and meaning so I encourage you to reflect upon your own personal UU statement of faith.

---Beth Ayotte, Membership Committee Chair

UU Theater

UUT has made its annual pledge to the church, donating \$2500 plus an additional \$500, for the church's general fund. Please remember that when you support UU Theater, you are supporting our church!

UU Theater is about to announce a casting call for its summer show, which will explore bullying. Watch for information about auditions for this summer show, as well as performance dates. Bring the family- it will be

suitable for mixed ages. If you would like to help out on the production, please contact Toby at baywest@roadrunner.com.

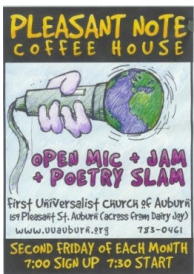
V-Day aUbUrn donated \$100 to the Women of Haiti. We also donated \$100 to each our local partners Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Safe Voices.

On Another Foggy Morning in May

Beyond the gloom
that wraps itself
unrelentless like
funereal robes around
the fields and houses,
defiant lilac blooms
shrug off the confinement
of winter jackets
and next door
the red maples shout a
challenge to the reluctant
sun. And green, my God!
florescent green pulls
it all together, enough
to make me blind.
Weather or not, spring
will have its way.

---Pearl Tibbetts Sawyer

OPEN MIC



The next Open Mic will be **Friday, June 10, at 7:15**. For over 5 years, people make their way to our unique space, on the second Friday. Our vestry offers good sound quality and a warm, friendly audience to share a passion for the spirituality of music and spoken word. Join us at this free monthly celebration.

****Watch the next issue of L/A Magazine for a feature on Auburn UU's Open Mic/Poetry Slam!****

Doings in our Northern New England District (NNED)

Our much loved NNED District Executive, Rev. Mary Higgins, has announced her retirement at the end of this year. Mary has been a particularly supportive presence for our Auburn UU Church Board and we will deeply miss her. We have met with her a number of times to examine how we function and communicate and to envision new forms of leadership.

With Mary's gentle good humor and competent guidance, the Board has begun to chart a significant transformation in how we do church work and board governance. As we move forward, we are extremely grateful to Mary for helping us to lay a good foundation for a new concept of Policy-Governance where we will focus on our mission and vision and articulate clear strategy for what we wish to achieve. We send Mary special wishes for joy and peace, and especially for a vast canvas for her many artistic expressions as she follows her new path.

Upcoming UU events of note in our district and denomination are:

- **Gold Mine 2011 / July 9th-15th:** An intensive 6-day youth leadership school to be held at Ferry Beach.
- **UUA General Assembly / June 22nd-26th:** The annual meeting of all Unitarian Universalist congregations in Charlotte, N.C. ***Watch all of these events online via streaming video!***
 - **Wednesday, June 22:** Opening Celebration and Plenary I
 - **Thursday, June 23:** Plenary II; □ Service of Living Tradition
 - **Friday, June 24:** Friday Morning Worship; □ Plenary III; □ New Epiphany Revival; and Synergy Worship
 - **Saturday, June 25:** Saturday Morning Worship; □ Plenary IV; □ Plenary V; □ and Ware Lecture Delivered by Karen Armstrong
 - **Sunday, June 26:** Sunday Morning Worship; Plenary VI; □ Plenary VII; and □ Closing Celebration

Anne Kinney will serve as one of the UUA's 35 "off-site" delegates this year in an experiment with real-time online participation that will include opportunities to speak and vote during deliberations of the entire assembly. If successful, off-site delegates will be routinely incorporated into future General Assemblies, expanding access to those who have financial or mobility challenges in traveling to the various meeting locations.

- **District-wide Focus on Hunger / Sept. 25th-Oct. 1st:** Week-long Food Drive collections in all UU churches.
- **Harvest the Power Leadership Training:** Upcoming trainings will be held at the AMC Highland Center in Crawford Notch, N.H.
 - **November 11th-12th, 2011 and December 2nd-3rd, 2011:** *First Training*
 - **March 30th-31st and May 4th-5th, 2012:** *Second Training*
---*Anne Kinney*, Denominational Affairs Representative

Social Justice Corner

Second Collection is taken on the first Sunday of the month, to benefit the following groups: June, Outright/LA; July, Center for Prevention of Hate*; August, Lots to Gardens.

*SJ has learned that the Center for Preventing Hate will be closing in 2012. However, this will not interfere with our scheduled collections in July and November.

Microloan Update: Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) has sent us their new annual report. If you would like to see it, please call the church office. It will also be available at the Annual Meeting.

Ethical Eating- our NASAP farmers are returning in June to sell their locally grown produce! Look for them in our parking lot. Also, you may have seen a short documentary about Hawa and Batula as part of the Lewiston-Auburn film festival- ask for their autographs with your purchase!

Our farmers are offering CSA shares, if you are interested. Contact 761-4769 or www.cultivatingcommunity.org.



Immigration as a Moral Issue- Cheryl Hamilton presented her one-woman show "**Checkered Floors**" at our church. Nearly 150 people took this opportunity to learn about the immigrant experience in our community, and to taste Somali cuisine! Thanks to all who came to the show, and to our community partners, Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Safe Voices, NASAP and International Women Crafters, for their presence.

ZOOM bus between L/A and Portland - this bill unfortunately died in the Transportation Committee. If you still want some transit options, here are some suggestions:

1. Let the members of the Committee know you wanted a ZOOM - they didn't think there was much interest in transit ridership between L/A and Portland. Jot them a quick note!
2. Carpool using the GoMaine carpooling system. at: <http://www.clf.org/blog/clean-energy-climate-change/carpooling-for-dollars/>
3. Become a member of the Maine Alliance for Sustainable Transportation at: <http://www.mainesustainabletransport.com/> or follow them on Facebook.

SJ will take the summer off. Join them again in September.

-- **Social Justice Committee**



Love at Life's End



Our *Welcoming Congregation* and *Social Justice* committees are pleased to sponsor the dramatic reading, **A Finished Heart**, a performance which shares a poignant personal journey of devotion, grief, dying, love, and forgiveness.

Wrapped in a musical tapestry, **A Finished Heart** will be presented by Elliott Cherry, based on his journal, at our neighboring church - the High Street Congregational Church - 106 Pleasant Street, Auburn, on Thursday, June 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Cherry is a Portland composer who kept a diary of his conversations with his husband, Chris Chenard, as he cared for Chris at their home during three months of illness. When Chris died of pancreatic cancer four years ago, Cherry expanded his writings with poetry and prose to create ***A Finished Heart***. He then wrote an accompanying musical score which will be performed here by pianist Bruce Fithian.

Cherry's dialogues express what the couple of 16 years taught one another, how they each were changed, and their transformed understanding of the end of life experience. His reading reveals how his profound loss also altered his relationship with the world. Cherry encourages the audience to stay for a post-performance discussion and reception.

The event is also sponsored by the *Androscoggin County Speakers Bureau for Equality*, a subgroup of GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders), recently formed to promote marriage equality in Maine. More information about this presentation is available at www.afinishedheart.com, or by calling 212-4113.

Alive With Pride at 25

The **25th Southern Maine Pride Celebration** takes place the week of June 12th-19th, culminating in the Pride Parade and Festival on Saturday, June 18th in Portland. The Parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. in Monument Square and finish at Deering Oaks Park where the Festival celebration will continue until 5 p.m.

Auburn UU members and friends who wish to march in the parade should ***look for the Allen Avenue UU Church banner in the parade line-up***. We marched with them last year to create greater UU visibility and we will do so again this year. Please speak to Anne Kinney in advance if you are willing to help carry ***Auburn UU's Social Justice/Pride Banner*** to proudly display our participation!

The Pride Festival is a family-friendly event with live music, dance entertainment, comedians, arts & crafts, food vendors and more. Since the Festival has outgrown its customary area at the bandstand, the festivities will now center around a new stage located by the duck pond, allowing more opportunity for people to sit and relax in the sun or shade, or get up and dance. Families and children will be able to enjoy the Bowling Green area with plenty of room for activities, while vendors will be spread out along Bowling Green Road.

---Anne Kinney for the Welcoming Congregation Committee

Doing Shopping Online??

If so, consider using www.iGive.com/auburnuu. We are registered with this shopping gateway, and any purchases made with any of the 600 + retailers available through this site will earn our church a percentage of the sale. This a great way to increase our fundraising budget without any extra work or additional \$ out of our own pockets. There are many great retailers available through this gateway -- JC Penney, Lands End, LLBean, Kmart, Brookstone, Disney Store, HSN etc. If you are an online shopper, check this site out and help your church at the same time. Thanks to those who recently shopped and helped us earn some \$!

UU AUBURN - JUNE, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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<p>5</p> <p>RE Sunday at 10am, then ANNUAL MEETING in the Sanctuary- Second Collection - Outright L/A</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Membership Meeting 6:30pm Men's Group 6-9pm (R) 4pm Wedding Rehearsal (R)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4 pm Wedding (R) OPEN MIC 7pm Outright LA "Drop-in" 6pm (R)</p>	<p>11</p>																																										
<p>12</p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, Craig Saddlemire FLOWER COMMUNION, then Coffee Hour- 11:30 Finance Committee - 11:30 Council of Committees (Outright Room)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Sabbatical Committee 5:15pm -Board Mtg 6:30pm- Co-Counseling 7-9pm (R)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Membership Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's Group 6-9pm (R)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm Outright L/A "Drop-in" (R)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRIDE PARADE - PORTLAND</p>																																										
<p>19</p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, Rev Sue Kingman - then Coffee Hour</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7-9pm Dance Recital (R)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6-9pm Men's Group (R) 6:30 "A Finished Heart" at High St. Congo Church</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm Outright L/A "Drop-in" (R)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>																																										
<p>26</p> <p>Worship and RE at 10am, Kate Connelly- then Coffee Hour</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Board Meeting 6:30- 8pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Men's Group 6-9pm (R)</p>																																												

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