



THE OPEN DOOR

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
(UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST) AUBURN, MAINE
159 PLEASANT STREET (SIDE DOOR) AUBURN, ME 04210
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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

NOVEMBER, 2011

Jodi's Corner - Words from our Minister

As we move into November, a month traditionally given to the intentional practice of gratitude, I am swept away by the poem "Miracle Fair" By Wislawa Szymborska. In it, he writes of:

*The commonplace miracle:
that so many common miracles take place.*

*The usual miracles:
invisible dogs barking
in the dead of night.
One of many miracles:
a small and airy cloud
is able to upstage the massive moon*

Later, he goes on to notice:

*A run-of-the-mill miracle:
winds mild to moderate
turning gusty in storms.
A miracle in the first place:
cows will be cows.
Next but not least:
just this cherry orchard
from just this cherry pit.*

Still later he rejoices at:

*A miracle (what else can you call it):
the sun rose today at three fourteen a.m.
and will set tonight at one past eight.*

And finally, settles upon what is for him, the most startling:

*An extra miracle, extra and ordinary:
the unthinkable
can be thought.*

Especially in this season of gratitude, may we, like the poet, give ourselves over so thoroughly to thanksgiving that we find ourselves constantly marveling at the “commonplace miracles” that surround us.

And may your days and nights be blessed, *Jodí*

Sermon Excerpt

From “Grounding Ourselves in Hope: The Occupy Wall Street Movement” preached by Jodi on 10/23/11
“...Optimism relies on faith in a particular outcome, and when that outcome proves itself out of reach, at least for now, it can be hard not to tumble into despair, a sense of helplessness and futility.

But that isn’t the end of the story, not for us. For we aren’t called to root ourselves in optimism, we are called to root ourselves in *hope*, and that is a very different thing.

If optimism is the expectation of a certain outcome, a “calculation of probability,” as theologian Cornel West calls it, hope is almost it’s opposite. Bruce Marshall says, “Hope is...an attitude that looks for possibility in whatever life deals us. Hope does not anticipate a particular outcome, but keeps before us the possibility that something useful will come from this.” Rather than relying upon the success of a plan, hope finds its strength in the endless possibilities, often yet to be imagined, that present themselves when we least expect it.

Cornel West again speaks of hope in even more powerful terms. He says, “... *Hope wrestles with despair, but it doesn't generate optimism. It just generates this energy to be courageous, to bear witness, to see what the end is going to be. No guarantee, unfinished, open-ended. I am a prisoner of hope. I'm going to die full of hope.*

As co creators of this world, we are not called to be optimists, not called to be optimistic. We are called to be hopeful. We are called to be courageous. We are called to bear witness, be attentive to the possibilities that arise so that we can seize them, and follow wherever they lead...”

Fall Congregational Meeting

The Fall Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 6th, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. It will directly follow the worship service and refreshments in the church sanctuary. All are invited to attend to learn more about the functioning of our congregation, although voting is a privilege of church membership.

From President Anne Perron

Dearest Congregation,

Diego, Carmen and I went to Pumpkinland the other day. It was sooo fun! We climbed all over a fire truck, I pretended to be a shark swarming around a lobster boat, ran through a fun house, shot an air cannon, ate a lot of pizza, drank hot cider, got misplaced in a corn maze, went on a hay ride, chased Diego around a pile of hay bales, watched a huge smile stay plastered across his face. How amazing it is to make a 7 year old boy have an amazing Halloween! While I was chasing him over the hay bales, another little boy asked me to chase him as well. It was a bit awkward. His [woman and man] guardians were standing at the entrance to the event and were trying to convince him to "not waste his time with this

nonsense and go do something else.” It was sooooo obvious that he absolutely loved the idea of jumping from hay bale to hay bale getting chased about and discovering for himself that HE COULD JUMP FROM HAY BALE TO HAY BALE. Something we all could learn as adults is to trust our bodies and our senses and push our limits. It dawned on me at that point.....how very important it was to see what someone, like a child in our life, really enjoys and appreciates, and look beyond ourselves and what we think is important. To really allow someone to be themselves and love and cherish them for who THEY are and what THEY enjoy, not how we want them to be.

May we all learn to listen more than speak, observe more than demand.

Yours in service, Anne Perron

UU Theater presents...

"Whuu Done It?"

written/directed by Karen Lane

Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7pm and Sunday, Nov. 6 at 1pm (matinee)

UUT hopes the matinee time will make it easy to attend the Fall Congregational Meeting, then head downstairs for an eventful lunch.

UU Theater will present an original mystery dinner theater featuring local talent and locally-grown food. The cast includes Jay and Alicia Fiori, Toby Haber-Giasson, Stephanie Hughes, Russ Perham, Giselle Scherle, Matthew Stevens and Judy Webber.

The show introduces us to a cast of colorful characters trying to unravel the mystery of missing endowment fund money. There's an ethereal leader, a popular board president, a bean-counting finance chair, a righteous social justice chair, a charismatic music director, the obsequious secretary, and two 'unorthodox' detectives who try to untangle the mess. [Any resemblance to actual persons is strictly coincidental!] Each of them has a reason to take the missing money, and the audience will be asked to vote for the culprit before dessert.

Please **make a reservation**, so we can have enough meals prepared. Tickets include entertainment and 3-course meal, at only **\$12 adults/\$5 children**. The entree features locally raised beef and vegetables, to fulfill our goal of sustainability (a vegetarian entree is available upon request).

UU Theater thanks our Social Events Committee for volunteering to serve the food. Thanks also go to Nicole Rush for playbill layout, and to Giselle Scherle for designing the poster and cover.

Coffee Hour

We have had a hard time getting people to volunteer to cover coffee hour, and have decided to try to do it the way the Norway UU church has been doing successfully for 10+ years.

I will be posting a list of teams covering the entire year, Each team will be expected to cover their Sunday . There will be 4-5 people per team and most teams will only need to cover 1 coffee hour, though some teams may have to cover 2 per year. There will be coffee hour instructions posted in the kitchen (set up, what to bring, cleanup) I will check in with everyone on each team to make sure they are all set. In the event you cannot cover your shift there will be a back up list of names that so that you can contact a replacement.

Coffee hour is a really important part of our Sunday-a time where we can all connect and also welcome and get to know the new folks coming in through our doors. If you have any questions, please let me know.

---*Carmen Brochu* 751-6973 - carmenb64@yahoo.com

GINGERBREAD FAIR 2011 * Saturday, November 19 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

We need your help to make this year's fair successful. Here are some suggestions for specific areas. If you have questions or want to sign up, stop at the Fair Display in the Vestry during coffee hour or contact Mary Lou Hofmann @ 777-1833 or the church office @783-0461.

WHITE ELEPHANT: Useable household goods that work and have all of their parts, Xmas items, sports equipment sell well. We would like to add more children's games, toys, equipment that are in good condition. We are trying to raise the quality of our goods, so we can generate more income for the amount of work that is involved. Please DO NOT bring any clothes, mugs, or electronics/technology or items that are worn, torn, tattered or distressed and should really be thrown out. You may bring items and put them on the stage in the vestry starting Monday, Nov. 7.

We need 3-4 people to help sort, price prior to the Fair and also to work during the Fair.

GIFT BASKETS: Please start bringing in your gifts baskets ASAP. We must wrap and label each basket. It is impossible to do them all on Friday evening before the Fair. Our goal is 70 baskets. If you need baskets or ideas, check at the Fair Display in the Vestry after Church each Sunday.

CRAFTS: If you sew, crochet, knit, decoupage, make cards, paint, make jewelry, do woodworking or anything else that is "crafty", please consider donating one or two (or three) items to the Craft table.

LUNCHEON: We need 2-4 people to assist with the preparation and serving of the luncheon on Saturday.

RAFFLE: Purchase and/or sell raffle tickets for our Hannaford Gift Card. You don't have to pay for the tickets when you take them. Ideally we would like to have every church member purchase/sell \$10 worth of tickets.

BOOKS: Shoppers especially like new or gently used current author hardcovers/paperbacks, children's books, cookbooks. Current CDs/DVDs are good as well. DO NOT bring textbooks, condensed books, magazines, records, 8-track or cassette tapes.

WREATHS: We will be taking orders for wreaths to be delivered after the Fair. We will need volunteers to help decorate the wreaths once they arrive after the Fair. Watch for date/time for decorating activity.

JEWELRY: Donate your interesting but unwanted jewelry that is in good condition.

BAKED GOODS: Contribute your homemade cookies, bars, cakes, candy, coffee cakes, breads. Attractive, fancy packaging generates greater interest and more sales. We need items on Friday pm or first thing (8:30) Saturday am.

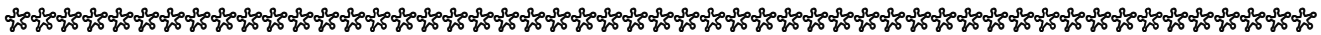
PIES: Fruit (apple particularly), pumpkin, mince pies sell well. We avoid cream pies due to refrigeration issues. Please DO NOT bring store bought pies as shoppers want homemade. We need items on Friday pm or first thing (8:30) Saturday am.

ITEMS NEEDED – GINGERBREAD FAIR SILENT AUCTION TABLE

The silent auction has become a fun and profitable feature at our annual Gingerbread Fair. Items are needed to stock this table. Things that have been popular in the past include original or fine reproduction artwork, old toys (especially Tonka trucks), antique glassware and knickknacks, furniture, and sporting goods in good condition. You might have considered giving something to the church; but, decided against it because” it will never fetch what it is worth.” At the silent auction, the donor may set a minimum bid and we will be happy to provide the donor a tax receipt, reflecting the fair market value of the item donated. Please call Marc Ayotte (782-5007) or see me at church to donate your items. Thanks for your help and do drop by to check out our wonderful and unique offerings while you are at the fair. *Mark Ayotte*

RAFFLE PREP

Pick up orange raffle tickets for the \$150 Hannaford Gift Card from TOBY any Sunday in November, before the fair. Tickets are 6 for \$5 but you only pay when you turn them in. Take some to sell to your friends and neighbors.



News From Religious Exploration



Holiday Crafting for the Gingerbread Fair

On November 6th, following the service (and during the Fall Meeting) children will have an opportunity to create some holiday crafts to sell at the Gingerbread Fair! We'll also be looking for kids to sign up for a shift selling the crafts at the fair. See Clara or the bulletin board for more details.

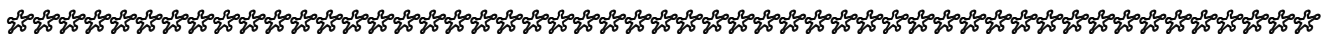
Thanks for the HALLOWEEN FUN!

Thanks to everyone for making this year's Halloween Party and Sleepover a great success! We had over 50 people in attendance, including 33 children and youth. Do you have pictures from the event? Contact Clara if you'd like to share them with our congregation!

HOLIDAY PAGEANT TIME

This year, we'll be performing a traditional Christmas Pageant for our annual holiday pageant. ALL CHILDREN are welcome and encouraged to participate! We'll be rehearsing the pageant on 11/27, 12/4, and 12/11. Our performance will be during the Sunday morning service on 12/18. IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT on 11/27, but still wishes to participate, PLEASE notify Clara ahead of time so she can make arrangements.

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



UU Building and Grounds, November 2011

That mobile crane with the two-man working platform on the end of an 85' boom you saw in the parking lot a couple of weekends ago had just completed repair work on the slate roof on both sides of the church (with one location near the ridge line). While on site, we asked the workers to check the wood boards defining the openings for the bell tower. They caulked a few places that may have been the source of water in the steeple with driving rains. They recommend we schedule repair of the exterior skin in the next year or two.

Also, in October, our masonry contractor repaired several brick pilasters on the North side of the church (especially where flowers were growing out of the loose brick joints). The church budget should include an amount annually to continue repair of serious deterioration as they develop.

Projects this month by our B&G volunteers include installing motion detector operated LED spotlights for our parking lot near the kitchen entrance doorway. Gathering items for the Gingerbread Fair, installing bulletin boards for RE and working on a new trial layout for Sunday Coffee Hour goodies in the vestry.

--*Bob Thorpe*, for the Building and Grounds Committee

Decorating Instructions

Morning has broken
unlike, perhaps, God's first
and lackluster in most
aspects. The sky, glowering
a baleful promise,
its canopy low with
dripping draperies.
The challenge, then, is this:
to put my creative eye,
my decorative touch to task,
refurbish my inner home
with color and finest fabric
that I may live
while I live.

---*Pearl Tibbets Sawyer*

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 **November 20 at 11:30** in the Outright room.

The revised Open Door policy, which emphasizes brevity of information submitted for the newsletter, was discussed at our October meeting. Also, our **Publicity Guidelines request you** submit your church event news to both Toby and Karen, so your info may then be used in our many church media outlets.

Activities/Events Committee Calendar

Nov. 12 7:30 PM Bowdoin Orchestra concert @ Bates College Olin Arts Center
Nov. 13 3:00 PM Frank Glazer Piano Concert @ Bates Olin Arts Center
Nov. 20 2:30 PM CD Release Concert, Women In Harmony @ Cathedral Church of St. Luke, 143 High St., Portland. \$5 at the door.
Dec. 3 8:00 PM Bates College Choir with conductor John Corey.
Hope to see you join us!

---*Diane Chasse*



OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic/Poetry Slam will be **Friday, November 11 at 7:15**. For over 5 1/2 years, people make their way to our unique space, on the second Friday of the month. Our vestry offers good sound quality and a warm, friendly audience that shares a passion for the spirituality of music and spoken word. Join us at this **free** monthly celebration. Refreshments and children's room available.

Social Justice Corner

Join us: The Social Justice Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 in the RE classroom. However, due to conflicts, we will meet **Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30**.

Second Collection is taken on the first Sunday of the month, to benefit the following groups:

Nov'11: Center for Prevention of Hate*

Dec'11: Lots to Gardens

Jan'12: OUTRIGHT/LA

*Note: Center for Preventing Hate will be closing in 2012.

In December we will take nominations for the next 2nd Collection cycle, and you vote in January.

"THINK INTERFAITH"- In keeping with this theme from the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love campaign, Auburn UU is cooperating with humanitarian efforts led by other denominations in our area.

High Street Food Pantry- Did you know there is a food pantry open every Thursday at High Street Congregational Church (106 Pleasant)? This important program serves 50 households/month through the cooperative effort of several local churches. Needy persons can apply to receive 1 package/month, if they meet federal guidelines. Also, you can directly designate this pantry on your United Way donation.

Food Pantry Needs:

Pickup-truck Thurs 8am-10 to deliver food from Good Shepherd Food Bank (no loading necessary)

Volunteers for Thursdays 10:30-noon- esp. for 5th Thursdays -contact Eric Howes at howes@roadrunner.com

Food items or money- they pay only \$.16/lb for food at GSFB, also can specify them in your United Way donation

-Clothing Donations will be brought to the "Clothes Closet" at the Court Street Baptist Church for distribution. The Center for Wisdom's Women is not able to accept clothing at this time.

--- **Social Justice Committee**

Use *iGive.com* and Benefit our Church

If you are shopping online, now or for the holidays, please consider using www.iGive.com. When you order through this portal, our church receives a percentage of each sale. Just go to www.iGive.com to sign up or order. A great way to earn some extra income for the church by doing what we already do!

Community Relations

The **Editorial guidelines for the Open Door newsletter** have been revised. Contributors have been made aware that brevity is the most important aspect of a newsletter story viewed online. Open Door strives to be more concise, to serve the reader's busy schedule. We hope you notice the difference! Continue to send your Open Door church newsletter items to Bob Wolf at robertewolf@myfairpoint.net.

Publicity Guidelines- please submit your church event news to Toby (baywest@roadrunner.com) and to Karen (uuauburn@myfairpoint.net). Your info may then be used in many outlets: OOS, email, webpage, & Facebook. Karen is only responsible for the OOS. Please help us make our system work, to serve the congregation better.

The Auburn UU leaders board has been revamped to include not only the Board and staff, but committee chairs, as well. Thanks to the design talents of Hope Tracey, this attractive display in the vestry allows you to see 'who's who' at Auburn UU.

*If you change your email address, please share it with the office or Toby at baywest@roadrunner.com.

* Visit the church Facebook page (at First Universalist Church of Auburn) for events and updates about church doings! Also, church news is on the homepage of our website at www.auburnuu.org.

From the Membership Committee

It is our hope that all who participate in NEW MEMBER CLASSES find an atmosphere where their personal beliefs and individual spiritual odysseys are honored. Newcomers come with a variety of religious backgrounds and values. We celebrate independence of thought and encourage everyone to develop their own theology.

Last month we offered a brainstorming exercise to class members. We divided the group into teams and then asked the teams to write down as many words or items they could think of in 10 minutes related to the phrase, "putting your faith into action". It was exciting to see the 2 ft x 2.5 ft sheets of paper fill up so quickly: ...Care of the earth, unite, being humble, feeding the hungry, compromise, donate time, speak out, donating money, protesting, recycling, educate self... this is a small sampling of the many words that emerged.

What a simple way to illustrate the many ways Unitarian Universalist principles guide us in putting our faith into everyday actions and life choices.

---**Beth Ayotte**, Membership Committee Chair

UU AUBURN - NOVEMBER, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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6 Worship and RE at 10am followed by Fall Congregational Meeting (Kids Crafts). Second Collection: Center for Prevention of Hate- WhUU Done It 1pm - Yankee Boyz 3-5 (R) Daylight Saving Ends	7	8 Election Day	9 Social Justice 6:30pm	10	11 Veterans Day OPEN MIC 7:15	12																																										
13 Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry	14 Board Meeting 6:30pm	15	16	17	18 Gingerbread Fair Set-up	19 Gingerbread Fair 30am-2:30pm																																										
20 Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry - Council of Committees, 11:30 in Outright Room	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26																																										
27 Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry - Rehearse for Christmas Pageant	28 Board Meeting 6:30pm	29	30																																													

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