



THE OPEN DOOR

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

OCTOBER, 2010

Jodi's Corner - Words from our Minister

Fall Song

“...I try to remember when time's measure
painfully chafes, for instance when autumn

flares out at the last, boisterous and like us longing
to stay - how everything lives, shifting

from one bright vision to another, forever
in these momentary pastures.”

~ Mary Oliver

Moving into October, we are finally saying goodbye to what has been a truly glorious summer- a summer rich in sun, warmth, clear skies, lush gardens... Such summers are somewhat rare in these parts, and it's hard to see it go. What will we do without those long days, the fresh food, the sweet smells of cut grass and blooming flowers?

But as Mary Oliver reminds us, “everything lives, shifting from one bright vision to another...” Cling though we might to what has brought us joy and fulfillment in the past, everything...shifts. If life is to continue, the flowers must fade, the grass must brown, the gardens must die back. The earth must rest, transforming itself from a place of exuberant life to a place of replenishing stillness.

We, of course, are the same. Our own lives shift, moving from one bright vision to another. Though it “painfully chafes” at times to let go of what has been precious to us, that letting go creates the space for the next bright vision of our lives.

In these upcoming months, may we allow ourselves a moment of gratitude for what has been that no longer need be, and joyfully turn our faces toward what is yet to come. And may your days and nights be blessed, *Jodi*

Sermon Excerpt:

From “*Like Your Enemies?*” preached by Jodi 9.19.10

....So there are actually two separate spiritual practices: There is the *emotional* practice of deconstructing the “mysterious other,” pulling apart that emotional construct until we are able to see within that person or group the sacred flame of humanity we all share. And there is the *active* practice of behaving in a loving manner.

A lot of the time we take those two separate practices and we stack them. We rest our ability and our willingness to act in a loving manner toward someone upon our ability to feel love for them. Which makes perfect emotional sense. It’s a lot easier to treat someone in a loving manner if we don’t hate them; if we feel compassion for them; if we perhaps even like them. But the reality is that there will always be people we don’t like. I mean, can we just get that on the table, please? There will always be people we don’t like at any given moment...and if we rest our willingness to behave in a loving manner upon our ability to feel love or compassion for someone, then our loving behavior is like a house built on shifting sands...

Questions and Answers with the Sabbatical Committee

Q: Who’s taking a Sabbatical?? A: Jodi, our Minister.

Q: When? A: Early March through Late August, 2011 (exact dates TBD).

Q: How do you spell Sabbatical? A: Sabbatical. Two b’s, one t.

Q: Really? A: Yes.

Q: Why does Jodi need a sabbatical? A: Jodi has been with us for 10 YEARS!! That’s a long time. She will be taking time to recharge her ministerial batteries. A lot happens in 10 years. Not only has she been our full time minister, but she came just out of Seminary, she was engaged, married, and now has two lovely children.

Q: Who will help the Church through this time? A: There is a Sabbatical committee up and running (see title of the article for example). The committee consists of: Rick O’Brien, chair, Ellen O’Brien, assistant chair, Jodi Hayashida (until the Sabbatical), Bob Wolf, Ann Perron, Virginia Starbird, Don Johnson, Clara Bolduc.

Q: Why does she need a Sabbatical again? A: A sabbatical is a time for rest, renewal, reading, meditation, reflection, study and travel. Sabbatical leaves are most common in education and the caring professions, where the emotional and psychological demands are great and the benefits from recharging and renewal are immediate. Most Unitarian Universalist congregations today provide their ministers with sabbatical leaves similar to what our minister, Jodi, will be taking during the spring and summer months of 2011.

Q: Who will do Sunday services? Who will help with other ministerial duties such as hospital visits, weddings, funerals and counseling? A: The Sabbatical committee and others are working right now to line up guest ministers for Sunday services who will work with our worship associates as Jodi does now. Other pastoral care duties will be distributed to other church members and professionals as appropriate. Rest assured that that Jodi’s duties will be covered and specific information will be available to all as the time gets closer.

Q: Hmm...A: The sabbatical committee will distribute an informational pamphlet with a calendar about Sunday services, and with a listing of who to call for what needs within the church. The committee chair, Rick, promises that he won't be preaching - at all. That is not his job.

Q: How will we know what is happening? A: The committee will do it's best to circulate information. In addition to a pamphlet, we will provide monthly newsletter articles, inserts in the weekly bulletin, posts to the website, and Sunday announcements. We will also have a bulletin board.

Q: Who should we talk to if we have concerns? A: As the time gets closer, if you still have questions, feel free to talk with Jodi, Rick, the Board or other Sabbatical committee members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Hello All!

I hope everyone had a great summer and got a lot of spiritual growth, healing and renewal from the warm weather and the relaxing times of the season.

Our In-Gathering (Water Communion) has come and gone and it is now time for our Spiritual Community to come back together and renew itself as a whole. It was GREAT to see all of you after the summer of not seeing many of you.

It was a busy summer for me with camping, yard and garden work, injuries and surgeries and job changes. All of that done and over with, it is time to get back to work with our Spiritual Community. It is time to move forward, building our Community, making it stronger and more apparent to those around us, and opening it to those who are seeking a safe environment to share their spirituality.

As I was working recently at a retreat for persons living with HIV/AIDS, I fell into some interesting conversations about spirituality and the belief, from many of the retreat attendees, that they are looked upon as non-spiritual beings. I was very saddened by this and continued to listen to many of them. In the end, I wondered how many others are out there that may feel the same way as these people do, and where they go to get confirmation that they are truly spiritual beings?

It is my hope that in the coming year we will see our Community become more transparent, grow within the greater community, and that people will begin to realize that there are places around them where their spirituality can be expressed. This is important to me because I used to be one of them and was lucky enough to find our Spiritual Community. It is my fervent hope that we can do that for others who are out there floundering as well.

In closing I would like to thank all of you who were at the annual meeting and the input that you gave. It is a spiritual honor, for me, to be the Board President and know that open concerns and discussions can be had, regardless of the topic/issue and that this Spiritual Community can move forward.

AOYSA

--- Donald C. Johnson, Board President

September Board Briefs

Gratitude: Thank you to *Linda Limerick* for repairing our church banner, *Nate Babb* for his work on the website, *Gordon Twitchell* for landscaping, and *Alene Staley & Ron Spofford* for organizing the new social events committee and initiating events throughout the summer! What wonderful ways members find to lend their gifts to the church!

Leadership Training: Almost all of the Board, and additionally some members of the congregation, will be attending the UU Northern New England District Leadership Training sessions, the first coming up in October.

Student Placement: We'll be hosting a student from Bangor Theological Seminary for a 3-month unpaid student internship. Stay tuned to hear how she will join us in our work!

Fall Congregational Meeting: We set the date for the Fall Congregational Meeting: November 14th directly following the service. At the top of the agenda will be voting on the budget. Plan to attend!

--Emily Wright-Timko, Clerk

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

For me, the year still begins in September, but instead of the first day of school, it's marked by the Water Communion service at church. Fall is the time to reconnect with friends I haven't seen over the summer, and time to get back to business – church business, that is. In that spirit, let me share with you the following:

After paying our Fair Share dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Northern New England District at the end of June, we ended our 2009-2010 fiscal year with a small surplus, thanks in large part to a mild winter and lower than anticipated building and grounds expenses.

We came up short in building use income when the defeat of the equal marriage law last November put our plans to celebrate same-sex weddings in our sanctuary on hold (for the moment, anyway). The good news was that our rental income remained steady; it was basically unchanged from the previous fiscal year.

We came very close to realizing 100% of our budgeted pledge income. There were two areas where our budgeted pledge income fell short, though – pledge income for the previous fiscal year that was received in 2009-10, and new member pledges. We only received a few hundred dollars in previous fiscal year ('08-09) pledges this past year, and because most of you paid your pledges in full by June 30 - or let us know that your financial circumstances prevented you from completing your pledge - we didn't anticipate receiving much, if any, previous year's pledge income so the Finance Committee removed that line item from the budget this year.

Additionally, the committee intentionally chose not to continue a separate line item for pledge income from new members, since we don't have any good way of determining either the number of new members who will join during the upcoming year or the amount they will pledge. Instead, we will continue our efforts to encourage people who are ready to commit to membership at First Universalist Church to contribute an amount that reflects their level of commitment and ability to give (2-5% of household income is suggested, but we welcome all levels of giving). These changes will allow us to further refine our budget process by providing us with conservative and reliable income estimates.

We passed a temporary deficit budget for the 2010-2011 church year at the annual meeting in June. On November 14, we will have another congregational meeting to re-evaluate the budget now that we have final

pledge numbers and a better handle on anticipated income and expenses. More information on the annual meeting will be included in the notice which will be sent to all church members. You do not need to be a member to attend the meeting; however, only members are allowed to vote.

In other news, we had a great summer FUNdraiser, a barbeque hosted by Cindy Greathouse and Linda Borth, which raised over \$600 towards closing our budget gap. And next month, we will have our annual Gingerbread Fair (Saturday, November 20 – be sure to save the date!) featuring a wide variety of vendors, food, holiday gifts, baked goods, entertainment – and the new Auburn UU cookbook! The Fair is one of our two major fundraising efforts during the year (the other is the Goods and Services Auction in March), and volunteers are needed to help make this community-wide event a success.

---Christine Babb, Treasurer

Membership Committee Notes

Thinking of joining the church? New Member Classes will be held with three sessions beginning Sunday after church on October 24th, Wednesday evening at 6PM on October 27th, and again after church on October 31st. We welcome those who are considering becoming a member of our faith community or anyone who is seeking to learn more about the history, theology, and practices of Unitarian Universalism. Those interested in participating may call the church office at 783-0461, email uuauburn@myfairpoint.net, or contact Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida or Beth Ayotte, Membership Committee Chair.

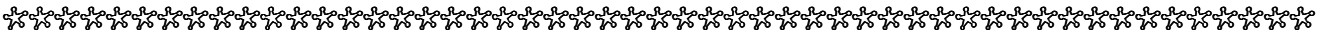
--- Beth Ayotte, Membership Committee

NEW MEMBER PROFILE: Craig Saddlemire

Craig Saddlemire came to Lewiston in 2001 to attend Bates College. Since his graduation in 2005, he has lived in the downtown and dedicated much of his time to volunteer work with The Visible Community, Spoke Folks Community Bike Program, and many other local organizations that strengthen the downtown community. In 2008, he helped to start the second housing cooperative in the State of Maine with 3 other friends, where they continue to live and grow food in their new vegetable garden (which was once a gravel driveway). Craig is an enthusiastic user of alternative modes of transportation, including bikes, buses, and leg hands (aka feet)! He is also an independent business person, operating his own video production company, Round Point Movies, for over five years. He is proud to be an existentialist, humanist, and worshiping member of the First Universalist Church of Auburn, Unitarian Universalist.

Bates Clean Sweep Results

Thanks to all who participated in the Bates Clean Sweep project in May and June. We earned \$1,466.65 for our efforts and helped to keep a lot of unneeded "stuff" out of the waste stream. Yeah!



News From Religious Exploration

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND ALL-CHURCH SLEEPOVER

Our annual Halloween Party and All-Church Sleepover will take place from Saturday, October 23 at 4 p.m. to Sunday, October 24 at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend this multigenerational event. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the whole event. YOU DO NOT have to spend the night to attend the event!



Activities will include a Potluck dinner, a haunted house (put on by the Senior Youth Group), pumpkin decorating, games, and a costume parade.

Keep an eye out for more information and to sign up!

PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

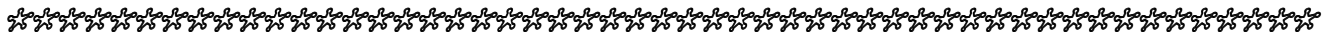
As you may have heard, this year in RE we're asking the parents to volunteer as an assistant or teacher in the RE program one Sunday per month. One parent per family, one Sunday per month. If you have a small child who you need to care for during the service, you are not expected to volunteer on Sunday mornings!

IF you haven't yet signed up for volunteering in October and November, please see Clara to choose a date that works for you!

RE Committee Meeting

The RE Committee will meet on October 3rd, after the service. Parents, volunteers and other interested folks are welcome to attend! We'll be planning our fabulous Halloween Party and All-Church Sleepover.

Clara's office hours are Wednesday mornings and by appointment. She can be reached at DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net.



Council of Committees

Thanks for making the Opportunity Fair a success! Members and friends found out more about groups within the church. If you missed it, call the office and tell us what you were interested in. We encourage you to get involved, so you can feel the joy that comes from giving to our faith community.

The next meeting of the Council of Committees will be October 24, at 11:30 in the Outright room. Committee chairs are asked to attend, or send a committee representative, to plan, coordinate and schedule upcoming church activities with other groups.

Bookmark it:

www.auburnuu.org

Check out the website homepage events blog!!!

Bird Feed

Under a gentle
morning mist the
finches gather
jostling for position
on slender perches
humming birds

come home for breakfast
home is where they feed us
the hearth pours out the love
that keeps us living
another day.

---*Pearl Tibbetts Sawyer*

Social Events News

The Social Events Planning Committee has been meeting during the summer and planning and hosting events. We still consider ourselves as a "start-up" group and we would most welcome more members. If you are interested in helping to organize and plan social activities for the church please contact Alene Staley or any other member of the group.



Events that were held during the summer included a trip to the Portland Museum of Art and dining at a Portland restaurant. Great fun was had by the over 12 participants. We also organized meeting up at the Bates Concerts this past summer. Many church members did attend the concert series. We had our first party, a pizza and card party on Friday September 17 and that was quite a success. We hope to schedule monthly pot luck parties with opportunities for games of all kinds. It was a very fun night.

The next event will be a Pot Luck and Card Party on Friday October 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring something to share. We will play Whist. If didn't attend last time we will teach you. It is very easy. We will also have cribbage available for those who would like to play that game. Children's games will also be available. All are welcome. No need to sign up.

On Opportunity Sunday we signed folks up for three social activities. A Hiking Group, Circle Suppers, and a Lunch Bunch. The committee is now in the process of organizing these groups. Those who signed up will be contacted and there will be opportunity to continue to sign up. We had hoped to organize the first Circle Supper for October 2, however we were not able to do that. See the article on Circle Suppers for more information. We hope to see you all at future events.

---*Alene Staley*

Other members are: Ron Spofford, Hillary Schau, Jody Cyr, and Bonnie Soper

Circle Suppers Organizing Meeting

The Social Events Planning Group tried to organize Circle Suppers to be held on October 2 and unfortunately that did not work out. So we are re-grouping and trying it again. In order for Circle Suppers to work there is a need to have hosts and guests. At the organizing meeting we will talk about how Circle Suppers work and what is involved in hosting. Hopefully we will find some folks who are able to host a Circle Supper in their home, and then we will try again to sign guests up. Everyone interested in Circle Suppers is encourage to attend the meeting. Circle Suppers are a traditional UU social activity and are a great way for church members to meet and get to know each other in a comfortable setting. Circle Supper Organizing Meeting - Sunday October 24 after church.

Building and Grounds

The leaning chimney at 159 Pleasant Street, Church Office Building, has been rebuilt from the roof line to the top. It sports a new chimney cap and now has a stainless steel liner to the boiler flue connection in the basement. Chimney repair work to the church chimney will follow soon.

Building and Grounds volunteers have trimmed the lawns along all the sidewalks and other pavement and installed crushed stone under the eaves along the Elm Street and Spring Street sides of the church. This stone, in a sense, is being recycled, since it is part of the rock hill being removed for expansion of the new runway at the Auburn – Lewiston Municipal Airport and is crushed for use on various area construction projects.

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

Social Justice Corner

AWAP Event: Since October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and since AWAP is one of the local organizations we support through the 2nd collection, we are sponsoring an informative conversation on the topic: "***Responding as friends and family to suspected domestic abuse***" on **Sunday, Oct. 17 at 11:30.**

This event is a joint venture with the Cookbook Committee, providing a light "tasting" lunch for a small charge, to defray their printing costs. The format will be a lunch and learn, meaning we will be able to eat during the presentation. Please join us.

MEIPL offers free Energy Efficiency Workshop at Trinity

Maine Interfaith Power and Light (MEIPL) will hold an event on Sunday, October 24th from 3 to 5 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lewiston. The event is a workshop on building energy efficiency - focusing both on faith buildings (churches, synagogues, mosques) and on residential buildings. MEIPL is pleased to be cooperating with Efficiency Maine on this effort by working with an engineer who is skilled at assessing energy use in buildings like churches. MEIPL also has detailed information on funding opportunities for homeowners (up to \$4,500 back) currently available through Efficiency Maine for insulation and other energy upgrades.

The workshop is free and open to anyone who would like to attend. Please pre-register by visiting www.meipl.org or by calling 721-0444.

Maine Interfaith Power & Light is a non-profit organization. Inspired by diverse faith perspectives to care for the natural world and its most vulnerable inhabitants, MEIPL engages the faith communities of Maine in efforts to counter climate change through education, advocacy, energy conservation and the use of clean, renewable power.

In pursuit of Ethical Eating, we're continuing our farmers market into October. Please support local produce while also supporting our refugee and immigrant neighbors!

Second Collections are taken on the first Sunday of each month. The Fall '10 schedule:

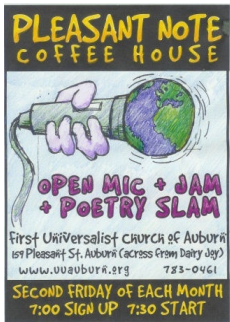
October: Minister's Discretionary Fund, November: Abused Women's Advocacy Project, December: New Beginnings.

Feed the Hungry - 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.

Early voting reminder: registered voters can vote at town hall anytime after August 2nd, so everyone is able to vote asap. To vote absentee, go to <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot> in order to request a ballot through the mail (see very bottom of the webpage).

--*Social Justice Committee*

The Deadline for the November *Open Door* will be Thursday, October 28. Please submit items in Microsoft Word, or in the body of your email, to robertewolf@myfairpoint.net



OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic, **Friday, October 8**, is a free monthly show in our vestry. If you haven't come down yet, please join us on the 2nd Friday of every month, at 7:15, when we transform the vestry into a groovy coffeehouse to share the spirituality of music, dance and spoken word. Refreshments and the children's room are available. Goodwill donations are accepted.

UU Theater News

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 6 at 7pm and Sunday, Nov. 7 at 2pm for "**The Katrina Project: Hell and High Water.**"

To mark the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and to salute those of you who served on our church's mission trip to New Orleans, UUT is mounting this multi-media show looking at a national tragedy. Karen Lane and Toby Haber-Giasson are co-directing this show, with help from Nicole Rush, Marissa Jalbert, Grayling Cunningham and Pat Phillips.

*We're sorry to announce that **Walkin' Jim Stoltz**, the musician, photographer and environmental activist, who performed "Forever Wild" in our church in Spring '09, has lost his battle with cancer.*

Call for new Playbill ADS

We are accepting new ads for our playbill! Local companies can help their business while supporting our efforts to bring our UU values to the public. Will your company join us? Contact nicole04240@hotmail.com

Full page \$55 -- ads for 3 shows \$150

Half page \$45 in our UUT season \$120

Business card size \$25 and \$75

Advertisers get 2 complimentary tickets to any show in our season, as a "thank you."

Gingerbread Fair

The annual Gingerbread Fair will be Saturday, November 20 from 8:30 am - 2 pm in the Vestry. Attached is information on the various tables and activities that go to make up this event, one of our two most important fundraisers. Please review the info and determine how you would like to help and contact me or the appropriate table chair. We have identified certain areas where we need particular help this year.

Craft Table: we would like 1 or 2 more people to help organize this table. If you like to craft yourself and/or could help solicit crafts from others in the congregations, we would love to have your talents.

White Elephant Table: This is a very popular area with fair goers. It requires a significant effort prior to the fair to organize and price the donations that we receive. In addition, we need folks to help staff the area during Fair day. We are looking for a team of people (5-7) who would be willing to assist with these activities. If you frequent yard sales or have done yard sales, your expertise and help would be much appreciated.

We need everyone's help in making this year's fair success. Plus working on the fair is a great way to meet new people and help raise money for the church at the same time.

---Mary Lou Hofmann, Chair

GINGERBREAD FAIR - 2010

Below are listed some needs of the various tables/activities at the Gingerbread Fair and ways you can help. Sign up on the poster in the Vestry or contact the committee chair listed below. Donations of cash are requested to help reduce expenses. Each table/activity needs people to work the day of the Fair. Assistance is also need with set up on Friday and take down on Saturday.

Crafts Table: make and donate your own (ornaments, holiday decorations, hand knitted/crocheted/sewn items, baby items, pet items, jewelry), and help solicit crafts from others, clip newspaper coupons for discounted supplies for Craft Mania, WC Moore, Michaels, etc. and donate to committee. ***Need Co-Chairs***

Gift Basket Table: assemble items for a complete "theme" basket or donate baskets/other decorative containers as well as items to put in them. All items should be new, attractively packaged and/or colorful so baskets, which are wrapped in cellophane and tied with ribbon, will look "classy". You do *NOT* need to wrap your basket. Bring your items to church as soon as you have them. ***Susan Jalbert, Dollie Simmons & Susan Conley***

Gingerbread Treats: Help bake, decorate, package gingerbread treats. ***Mary Lou Hofmann***

Raffle/Silent Auction table: Donate or help solicit donations of smaller items i.e. movie tickets, gas, car wash coupons for the raffle table, and higher priced items i.e. L.L. Bean Gift Certificate, handmade/crafted items (quilt, stained glass mirror, wooden birdhouse, framed photography, have sold well in past) quality children's toys, collectibles for the silent auction. Items should be new. Volunteer to sell raffle tickets for grand prize (Grocery Store Gift Certificate) to family/friends/co-workers. ***Raffle: Toby Haber-Giasson Silent Auction: Marc Ayotte***

Wreath Table: Help decorate wreaths after the Fair from orders taken at the Fair. Donate new decorations i.e. pinecones (small/medium work best), ribbon etc. or recycle decorations you saved from last year's wreath: ***Mary Kay Weisenberger and Clair Hebert***

Baked Goods Tables: Contribute your favorite home-made cookies, bars, cakes, candy, fudge, coffee cakes, bread. Attractive/festive packaging increases appeal and sales. ***Chair: Peggy Cox***

Pie Table: Make and donate a homebaked pie in a tin you don't need returned. Apple (particularly), pumpkin, mince sell well. Since pies are displayed without refrigeration, we avoid cream pies. ***Need Co-Chairs***

Book Table: Donate your fairly new or used books. Paperbacks from current authors, children's books, cookbooks sell very well. Please no Reader's Digest Condensed books or textbooks as they do not sell! *Bob Wolf*

White Elephant Table: Donate your household items, games, toys, one-of-kind items, sports equipment, etc. *Please, please*, all items must be in good condition, clean, be in working order, and have all of their parts. No electronics - they do not sell well. *Need Co-Chairs and helpers*

Jewelry & Accessory Table: Donate your interesting but unwanted jewelry that is in good condition, as well as gently used accessories such as belts, scarves, gloves (think long opera gloves), evening bags (how about the one you carried your lipstick in to your prom in the 50's, 60's). We also need boxes for various types of jewelry for elegant packaging. *Nina Lindley*

Luncheon: Volunteer to make soup, gingerbread before the Fair or work in the kitchen the day of the fair. Cash donations are especially helpful here to help reduce costs and increase profits. *Peter Mauro and Don Johnson*

Consignment: Tables are available for vendors from church or community. *Chair: Mary Lou Hofmann*

HARVESTING OUR POWER

Leadership Development training is coming to a Unitarian Universalist (U.U.) church near us! This fall our district, the Northern New England District of the UUA, is offering its congregations in Maine, N.H., and Vt. a series of in-depth training sessions for our emerging and existing congregational leaders. Most of our current Board members and several others from our church committees have signed up for the program.

Called ***Harvest the Power***, this 12-unit training is part of our denomination's ***Tapestry of Faith*** series. The heart of the program is its guidance of participants through integrating their spirituality and their leadership skills. In the process, those attending will learn:

- how our congregation functions as a system;
- the differences between management and leadership;
- how adaptive leaders function;
- how U.U. history and polity inform leadership in our churches;
- how to manage anxiety and conflict;
- and how our faith grows when we lead from our centers.

The 12 units of this program will be presented on three separate Saturdays: Oct. 16th, Nov. 13th, and Jan. 8th in Portsmouth, N.H. The sessions will provide personal and spiritual reflection through our individual and communal stories. Attendees will probe what it means to be a leader in a faith community, learn how they can serve in the world, and specifically prepare to help lead our congregation into the future.

Our participation in this training is made possible by money provided by the Arlene Sieckowski Bequest, as encouraged by both our Sieckowski Memorial Committee and our Social Justice Committee. Your Auburn U.U. Board members are extremely grateful for this rare opportunity to nurture our Unitarian Universalist identities, our spiritual growth, our transforming faith, and our vital community of justice and love.

Although our registration deadline has gone by, if there is anyone interested in this leadership training who was not made aware of it, please speak with Rev. Jodi Hayashida about any potential last minute openings. ---*Anne Kinney*, Denomination Connections Representative