



# ***THE OPEN DOOR***

**NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
(UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST) AUBURN, MAINE  
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WEBSITE: [WWW.AUBURNUU.ORG](http://WWW.AUBURNUU.ORG)  
SUNDAY WORSHIP AND RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION AT 10 AM**

***AN OFFICIAL UUA WELCOMING CONGREGATION:  
ALL ARE WORTHY, ALL ARE WELCOME!***

*We need not think alike to love alike- - Francis David*

***SEPTEMBER, 2010***

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

We will hold our Ingathering/Water Communion service Sunday, September 12th- an opportunity to celebrate the re-gathering of our precious church community and the ties that bind us together. For many of us, stepping back into the rhythm and embrace of congregational life (if we were among those who stepped out for the summer) is like slipping on a favorite sweatshirt- it's easy, comfortable, and familiar. We reconnect with friends we have known for decades, or at least years-people we have worked with, prayed with, eaten with, grown with. It is a joyful time that calls us into remembrance of all that we share together.

But I am especially aware this year of those who are newer among us, those for whom stepping into this community is not a simple, or comfortable, act. It can be hard to remember, when we ourselves are so at ease, what it feels like to be new- to be unsure of one's place, the "rules," one's welcome...

It is a life giving part of our holy work as a community of faith to joyfully reach out and draw our newer friends into this community. The ways in which we can do this are numerous and simple. We can wear our nametags- remember what it felt like to be surrounded by a crowd of unknown people, be told their names once, and then feel bad that you couldn't remember them? We can make it our very first act at coffee hour- not after chatting with friends or addressing business, but our very first act, to greet and drawn in those we don't recognize. We can assume it is our responsibility, not anyone else's, to invite newer folks to church events- even potlucks and game nights can feel intimidating when we don't know anyone. A personal invitation can make all the difference.

It feels natural, on our brief Sunday mornings together, to turn to our friends and deal with the church business at hand. But part of our faith is an insistence that there is room for all of us here. It is ours to make sure we embrace that teaching and keep our doors open wide. And may your days and nights be blessed,

Jodi

#### ***Water Communion Reminder***

**We will celebrate our Ingathering/Water Communion on September 12th. Please bring a small vial of water to represent your travels- whether geographic, spiritual, or both, to the service. Every year, during this traditional UU service, we gather this water to remind ourselves of the strength and power of community. We then purify it and use it throughout the year for such rituals as child dedications.**

#### *Sermon Excerpt:*

Adapted from the sermon "Religious Freedom in a Time of Brokenness," preached by Jodi on August 15th:

Sept 11th was a moment of intense national brokenness. We were a country completely at sea. And we, as a nation, found ourselves facing the same choice we all face individually in moments of deepest grief: are we going to live that moment as a passage to hatred and despair, or are we going to allow it to bring us to something newer and wider and deeper? I believe that as a nation we chose the former. We allowed the brokenness of Sept. 11th to lead us into a place of hatred, rage, and fear...

And I believe that at this point we are being asked to make that same choice again. The controversy around the Islamic cultural center in NY has forced us to step back into that place of brokenness- a painful awareness of most intense grief and suffering. And we must once again choose- will we live out this grief as a passage to hatred and despair, or will we this time make a different choice?...

#### **Copies of Sunday Morning Services**

Sunday morning services are recorded on a CD and downloaded on the computer in the library. Blank CDs are there next to the computer. You will find specific instructions on how to make a copy also next to the computer. The dates of the services, who gave the sermon, and the sermon titles, are all listed for your convenience. Feel free to make a copy of the wanted service on a CD yourself, or call Deni in the Church office (783-0461) to order a copy. The requested donation per copy is \$1.00.

#### ***Community Relations News***

Big thanks to Nathan Babb, our new webmaster for the church website. We look forward to offering a responsive website to members, friends, as well as people shopping for a caring liberal faith community like ours. Thanks, Nathan!

In the Preferences survey, you told us that the main ways you get church news are via the newsletter, reminder emails and the announcements in the Order of Service. Did you know you can also find out about events on the **homepage of our website**? If you go to [www.auburnuu.org](http://www.auburnuu.org), you will see an events blog with photos and event info. This lets us advertise events on the internet, and make up-to-date changes on details. Make sure to check it out!

## *Membership Committee Notes*

I love the cooler weather, scarecrows, and pumpkins of autumn! Seeing the broad palette of hues in the falling leaves always stirs my appreciation for the sacred enduring elements and reminds me of the interdependent web of all existence. I so enjoy the myriad of qualities and personalities we share with each other and the diversity of perspectives our church offers.

Let's energize our congregation this fall by being as welcoming as we can be toward old friends as well as newcomers who might be interested in knowing more about our religious home. We encourage anyone who would like more information about our church to fill out a green Visitor Card found in the Sanctuary and drop the completed card in the collection plate. After the service, we invite everyone to join us in the Vestry (downstairs) for coffee where we plan to hold nametag-making sessions once per month.

The Membership Committee has assumed responsibility for scheduling Sunday Greeters. Since we have drafted a fun and brief instruction sheet entitled Guidelines for Sunday Greeters, everyone might want to participate in this cool opportunity.

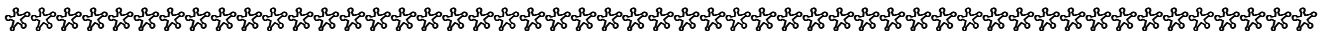
Come see us at the Opportunity Fair September 12 following services.

--- *Beth Ayotte, Membership Committee*

Bookmark it:

[www.auburnuu.org](http://www.auburnuu.org)

**Check out the website homepage events blog!!!**



## *News From Religious Exploration*

WELCOME to a new year of Religious Exploration at First Universalist Church of Auburn! We'll celebrate the start of the new RE year as we always do, with the multigenerational Water Communion service on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Our regular RE classes will start up the following Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

### 2010-11 RE Registration

It's that time again! We need updated registration information for ALL children who will be attending our Sunday morning program. Registration forms will be available on September 5<sup>th</sup>. WE ASK THAT ALL REGISTRATION FORMS BE RETURNED BY THE START OF RE CLASSES ON SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>. Electronic versions will be emailed to everyone on the RE email list, as well. If you don't receive one, drop me an email – contact information below!

### PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

As we all know, our fabulous RE program is a result of our fabulous RE volunteers. As our program grows (and becomes even MORE fabulous!), so grows our need for volunteer support. The strongest RE programs are the ones in which the families of the church are committed to supporting the program. (We need support from the rest of the church, as well; but the commitment of families is the cornerstone of a healthy program.)

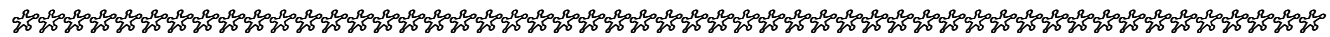
WE'RE ASKING FOR YOUR COMMITMENT! This year, we're asking the parents to get involved in two ways. The first is to volunteer as an assistant in the RE program one Sunday per month. One parent per family, one Sunday per month. It's a small commitment – just over 10 hours out of your whole year! But it'll make a big difference in the life of the church, and we hope in the life of your child. (More information on volunteering be available with your registration forms.)

The second way we hope all parents will get involved this year is to bring in a snack two Sundays out of the year. The snack will be provided to our youngest children as part of their Sunday morning activity. (It's their favorite part of the morning!) We know some of you are really busy, and might prefer to donate to a "snack fund." That's fine as well! Just let me know what you prefer, and we'll make it happen.

### RE Committee Meeting

The RE Committee will meet on September 12<sup>th</sup>, after the service. Parents, volunteers and other interested folks are welcome to attend! We'll be planning out the RE calendar and refreshing ourselves on our plans for the year.

*Director of Religious Exploration Clara Bolduc's office hours are Wednesday mornings and by appointment. She can be reached at [DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net](mailto:DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net).*



## Council of Committees

The Opportunity Fair is coming! Visit the fair on **Sunday, September 12**, in the vestry following the Water Communion. It's a great "opportunity" to find out more about groups within the church.

You can talk with committee members and find out what they do in the church community. Find one that fits your interest, and get involved, so you can feel the joy that comes from giving to our faith community.

Thanks to over 70 members and friends who responded to the surveys on SurveyMonkey. Your feedback will help our committees plan around your interests in group and fellowship activities.

## *Indian Summer*

It's like a big old juicy orange,  
too goldenly beautiful  
to violate.

Still, you yearn to suck it dry,  
drain it of every luscious drop  
of shuddery sweet decadence.

Drunk as a fool on such  
intoxicating nectar

you throw open your house doors.

Leaving behind life's deadly dailiness  
you dance, reel, spin yourself  
into the befuddled delusion

that in these few remaining lovely hours  
before the curtain's last-act drop,  
you and the world may be young again

*---Pearl Tibbets Sawyer*

## ***Social Events News***

The Social Events Planning Group has been meeting during the summer making plans for social activities for the upcoming church year. We had our first outing on Friday August 20 when 14 participants car pooled to the Portland Museum of Art to see the American Moderns and other exhibits. The group also enjoyed dinner together at Dogfish.

Upcoming Events:

**September 11** - Outing to the Greek Festival in Lewiston. The festival is free. Greek food and pastries are for sale. Free music, Greek dancing and socializing.

**September 12** - Opportunity Sunday at Coffee Hour - Meet the committee members, share ideas for future events, sign-up for events and groups:

**Hiking Group** - Bonnie has offered to lead fun local easy hikes for all ages and abilities. Sign up to be on the contact list.

**Day Time Lunch Bunch** - We would like to start a Lunch Bunch which is group for adults which will meet once a month for a weekday lunch and socializing. Sign up to be on the list.

Sign up for **Circle Suppers** (See below).

**September 17** **Pizza and Card Party**

**October 2** - Circle Suppers are a long-standing UU tradition. We will have Circle Suppers on October 2. They are small pot luck suppers held in church members' homes. The first step is to sign up to participate. Signups will be available at church during the coffee hour on September 12th and September 19<sup>th</sup>. Information will be provided at Opportunity Sunday about how Circle Suppers work.

## **Social Justice Corner**

In pursuit of Ethical Eating, we've continued our summer farmers market this summer. Buying fresh local produce after Sunday service from the ladies of Fresh Start Farms makes it easy for us to "do the right thing." Please 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. Plans will be announced soon.

Your efforts last spring helped The Visible Community, a grassroots community advocacy group, succeed in convincing Lewiston and Auburn to improve the bus system. To find out about bus route modifications and Saturday bus service, visit: <http://www.visiblecommunity.org/campaigns.html>

2nd collections are taken on the first Sunday of each month. The Fall '10 schedule is as follows:

September: Advocates for Children

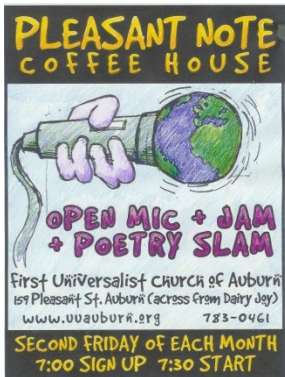
October: Minister's Discretionary Fund

November: Abused Women's Advocacy Project

December: New Beginnings

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.

*-Social Justice Committee*



## **OPEN MIC**

### **Open Mic Hits Half Note in September**

The next Open Mic on **Friday, September 10**, will mark 4 1/2 years of free monthly shows 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.

Summer Open Mics were well-attended, and featured a variety of styles and forms from old friends as well as many brand-new ones! Our secret is out- new folks are coming from "away" to participate.

Open Mic thanks Heidi Audet's Yoga Camp participants for donating beautiful handmade candles for our enjoyment in July.

## ***UU Theater News***

This summer, our award-winning UU Theater presented “**Aesop's Fables Redux**,” a family-friendly production which featured members and friends of Auburn UU. In supporting this show, you've supported the church!

UU Theater has pledged to generate another \$2500 for the general fund this year. Your patronage- whether buying tickets or playbill ads- helps us meet that pledge.

To mark the 5th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and to salute those who served on our church's mission trip to New Orleans, UUT is mounting "**The Katrina Project**," a show looking at Hurricane Katrina as we mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this national tragedy. Auditions will be Sunday, Sept. 19, after church.

Please join UUT in sending positive energy to **Walkin' Jim Stoltz**, musician, photographer and environmental activist, who performed in our church in Spring '09. Now battling cancer, Jim has cancelled all his "Forever Wild" appearances. How fortunate we were to have hosted Jim's multimedia show while he was still able to perform. If you would like to contribute to Jim's medical fund, visit:

[http://www.walkinjim.com/Jims\\_Medical\\_Fund.php](http://www.walkinjim.com/Jims_Medical_Fund.php)

## UU Cookbook Update

It has been 10 years since our last UU Cookbook. We are excited about the opportunity to share our best-loved family recipes with each other. In addition, it will be a fun and yummy fundraiser!

***Please send us your recipes as soon as possible. We need to have all of them no later than Saturday, September 17!*** Our goal is to have the cookbooks ready for the Gingerbread Fair and your holiday shopping!

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 Pleasant St., Side door, Auburn ME 04210.

You are welcome to submit as many recipes as you like, but 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.

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, etc.
- 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.
- To support healthy eating and sustainable farming, recipes that are healthful and delicious and minimize the use of processed foods are most desirable.
- If you know a recipe is heart healthy, good for those with other health issues, please indicate that.
- If you have a comment about the history, special use, or what you always serve it with, 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 the ingredients list and directions, and 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," NOT 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.

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

## Gingerbread Fair

Even though we are still shaking sand out of our beach shoes, it is not too early to start thinking about – guess what?! – The Gingerbread Fair. In mid-September, we will begin in earnest planning for this event, one of our two major fundraisers. As always, we need lots of help with this major fundraising event. Start collecting the things you no longer need or want – jewelry, books, CDs, household items – for the white elephant. Start thinking about what type of fun basket you might like to make. Maybe you can find the items on sale now! If you are a crafter, you can get started on some items that you might like to donate to that table. And also be thinking about joining the Committee or helping with a specific table. Your time and talents are always needed. Watch for upcoming notices about how you can get involved and mark your calendars for Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> for the Gingerbread Fair.

*---Mary Lou Hofmann, Chair*