



# ***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, 2011***

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

How, in this column, do I greet you, my beloved congregation, after 6 months away? "Dear First Universalist?" Or, "Hello you wonderful people?" I'm blocked from offering a Gaelic greeting, fresh as I am from Ireland, only by the fact that the whole month we were there I never learned one. (But I did learn the words for "rock" and "hill" which must count for something!)

And how do I express my gratitude for these past six months during which I found some healing and hope and rediscovered my joy and curiosity? How, especially, do I thank those among you who, in addition to serving in your own capacity as active members of the church, served in *my* capacity, covering my ministerial roles with such love and care that I felt free to turn my gaze away for so long?

The written word, while a powerful medium, is completely inadequate to the task at hand- expressing my joy at being among you again, my thanksgiving for the blessings of the sabbatical time, and my curious excitement (excited curiosity?) about *your* experiences and how we will walk into the future together.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in person and talking face to face. For now, suffice it to say, I am joyful. I am thankful. I am so glad to be with you once again.

And may your days and nights be blessed,

*Jodi*

## ***News from Team Sabbatical***

**Where's Jodi? Really Final Edition from Team Sa\*\*a\*\*ical. OK, how do you spell it?? How many "b"s, how many "t"s??**

**Q: Where's Jodi?**

A: Jodi is back in town. In fact, she is back in the office!

**Q: When will we see her again?**

A: Jodi will be preaching again on September 11. I, for one, will be very glad to have her return. She is in the office, catching up on news, email, mail, calls and just getting her feet back under her. Please welcome her back gently. We have all been given a great gift, time for Jodi to renew, time for us to grow as a congregation.

**Q: What did Jodi do for 6 months?**

We'll have to wait for Jodi to tell us, when she is ready. We know she had treasured time with her family, and we know she explored the mystery of the Irish landscape. She had time for herself to process more than 10-years of helping all of us cope with everything from September 11, 10-years ago, to sadness within our church family. These months belonged to her and her family to find their own meanings.

**Q: How will Jodi be welcomed back?**

A: With open arms and hearts on her first day back. We'll also celebrate on Sunday, September 4, at the rescheduled (Good bye Irene) all-church picnic at the Tucker-Thorpe cottage.

Thank you all for leadership, good humor, strength, and UU values during Jodi's absence.

Over and Out.

Team Sa\*\*a\*\*ical:

Rick O'Brien, Chair

Bob Wolf

Ginny Starbird

Anne Perron

Anne Kinney

Ellen O'Brien

PJ Mears

*---Ellen O'Brien, for Team Sabbatical*

## **Guest minister for Sunday, September 4, is Karen Lane**

Karen has been a migrant worker, a welfare advocate and a lawyer, and is now the office administrator here at First Universalist. Born and raised in Lewiston, she returned here after 15 years away when her daughter Sawyer was 9 months old. Karen joined the church in 2008 and serves it through UU Theatre, the Committee on Ministry and as a worship associate.

## **Church Picnic**

*Following this regular 10am service at our Auburn church, the picnic, postponed because of Irene, will be held at the TUCKER/THORPE GROUNDS AT TRIPP LAKE, POLAND, ME.*

*NOTE: Do not rely on GPS for this destination! Go over Elm St. RR tracks, turn left.-- Follow Rte 11 for 15 miles. At Mechanic Falls, Rte 11 turns left, then straight thru 5 Corners at Rte 26. 3 miles past Rte 26, turn right at a blinker light (Megquier Hill Rd). Go past the Tucker house at #38 and turn right at the Thorpe sign post, #50 Megquier Hill Rd. Problem finding us? Call Esther and Erland at 998-5359.*

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

We will celebrate our Ingathering/Water Communion on September 11th. 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.

*Council of Committees invites you to the Opportunity Fair in the vestry, immediately following the Water Communion. Amid coffee and conversation, browse our committee displays and learn about ways to become more deeply engaged in the life and work of this church.*

From President Anne Perron:



Dearest Congregation:

Giving to this great church is very fulfilling to me. It feels great to do something and not need compensation or reward. Kind of like the fulfillment Gerry Fox gets from taking care for our grounds weekly and Bob Thorpe's diligent care for the building. There are also sooo many others, like Toby who keeps us informed with postings and emails, not to mention entertained with plays and Open Mic. All the various things Mary Kay does with only a few noticing. Bonnie Soper taking such good care of our children every week. And Ron Spofford always there to lend a hand whenever he can. These are only but a handful, as there are so many more helpful and extremely

dedicated people. I am amazed by all the love and community we have here. So it's a give-and-take. For me, it is fulfilling to give a conference table for the board room. It was a brainstorm and sometimes I just have to let the spirit flow. Wachain and I worked on it at night. Thank you for letting us have a place to express our imagination and for letting us give in a way that we can. Yours in service,

*--Anne Perron*

### **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 **September 18 at 11:30** in the Outright room.

### **Summer Board Briefs:**

The Board efforts this summer have been focused on evolving the leadership structure of the Board as a result of meetings with Mary Higgins earlier this year. A Leadership Development Committee has been defined and approved and we are working our way through development of a Board Policies Manual. We are looking forward to Rev. Jodi's return.

The Board expressed gratitude to: Peggy Cox, Emily Wright-Magoon and PJ Mears for their service on the Board; Linda Borth and Cindy Greathouse for hosting the fundraiser picnic; PJ Mears for conducting the Board leadership retreat; Toby Haber-Giasson and UU Theater for their financial and social justice support; Peggy Cox, Ron Spofford, Cathy Thorpe, Carla Gill and Wachain Welch for their efforts in cleaning the vestry kitchen.

Board Leadership Retreat: PJ Mears conducted a retreat the afternoon of 7/31. The members completed DISC surveys and shared their results with the group to provide greater understanding of behavior styles among Board members.

Open Positions Filled: Anne Kinney accepted the position of Vice-President of the Board and Karen Lane has filled the Office Administrator position. There has been a considerable amount of work and discussion around the need for a Sexton and we are close to having a job description and hiring plan finalized.

New Board Room Table: Anne Perron and Wachain Welch delivered a newly crafted round boardroom table with a chalice inlay. It is BEAUTIFUL and is sure to make communication during meetings around it better.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the report, please contact a board member. Please note that Board meetings are open to all. Our next meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and September 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Linda Borth, Clerk*

## UU Theater

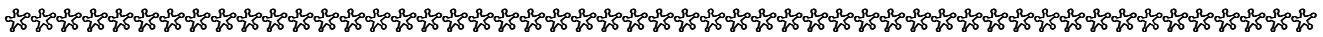
The one-show matinee of "The Bully Show" generated \$350 to jumpstart UU Theater's fundraising year. This award-winning show by Brian Guehring challenged the audience to reconsider some of their assumptions about bullies and to realize some of the consequences of bullying.



Our cast included many young members and friends: (front from left) Isaac Shawver, Sawyer Templeton, Cameron Johnson, Harmoni Larrabee, Kayla Harding; (center) Lillith Price-Wharff, Molly Gallagher; (top) Madie Johnson, Paige Weber, Emma Galipeau-Eldridge, Kate Audet and Gabe Sears. Not pictured: Willa Gallipeau- Eldridge. Director Toby Haber was assisted by Leah Galipeau-Eldridge and Sarah Jane Carbonneau. Special thanks to Mike and Renee Giasson, Sean Galipeau-Eldridge, Barbara Larrabee and Nicole Rush.

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

If you change your email address, please share it with the office or Toby at [baywest@roadrunner.com](mailto:baywest@roadrunner.com). Visit the church Facebook page for events and updates about church doings! Also, church news is on the homepage of our website at [www.auburnuu.org](http://www.auburnuu.org).



# News From Religious Exploration

WELCOME to a new year of Religious Exploration! We'll celebrate the start of the new RE year, as we always do, with the multigenerational Water Communion service on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. RE will then start off on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 2011-12 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 4<sup>th</sup>. WE ASK THAT ALL REGISTRATION FORMS BE RETURNED BY THE START OF RE CLASSES ON SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>. Thanks!

## PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Our program is growing, and so is our need for volunteers! Please speak with Clara if you're interested in helping out.

PARENTS are asked to commit one Sunday per month to volunteer in the classroom. That's 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 in the life of your child. (More information on volunteering is available with your registration forms.)

FAMILIES are also asked to bring snack three Sundays out of the year. The snack will be provided to our youngest children as part of their Sunday morning activity. (Some say it's the best part of the morning!) If you'd prefer to donate to the snack fund, that's fine as well!

## RE Committee Meeting

The RE Committee will meet on September 11<sup>th</sup>, after the service. Parents, volunteers and other interested folks are welcome to attend! We'll be planning the RE calendar and refreshing ourselves on our plans for the year.

**Director of Religious Exploration Clara Bolduc can be reached at [DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net](mailto:DREuuAuburn@myfairpoint.net).**



## ***From the Membership Committee***

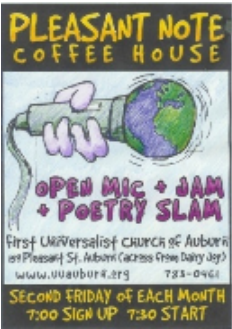
Thinking of joining the church? Wishing you could learn more about the responsibilities and benefits of membership as well as the history and principles of Unitarian Universalism? Looking to meet other newcomers or to find out about our diverse activities and programs?

Why not join us for NEW MEMBER CLASSES? New Member Classes are being scheduled for the Fall. Exact dates and times to be announced. To sign up visit the Membership Committee table at the Opportunity Fair following our Annual Fall In-gathering Worship Service on Sunday, September 11th.

Those interested in participating may also call Karen Lane, Church Office Administrator, (783-0461), email [uuauburn@myfairpoint.net](mailto:uuauburn@myfairpoint.net), contact Rev. Dr. Jodi Cohen Hayashida or speak to Beth Ayotte, Membership Committee Chair.

*--Beth Ayotte, Membership Committee*

## OPEN MIC



The next Open Mic/Poetry Slam will be **Friday, September 9 at 7:15**. For over 5 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

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

September: Outright L/A

December: Lots to Gardens

October: Minister's Discretionary Fund

January: Outright L/A

November: Center for Prevention of Hate\*

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

"A Call to Remember, A Call to Action" on August 31- Our church rang its bells at noon as part of a state-wide awareness effort in the wake of the domestic violence homicides this summer. Our community partner, Safe Voices (formerly AWAP) asked us to ring our bells as a faith community that promotes ending domestic incidents.



After the church bells were tolled, Victoria Williams and Kelley Glidden (front, l to r) join First Universalist Church of Auburn's Toby Haber-Giasson, Rev. Jodi Hayashida, Anne Kinney and Karen Lane (back) to reflect on the two groups' partnership for both raising awareness through the Social Justice committee's educational events, and fundraising around domestic violence through V-Day aUbUrn's theatrical events.

Thanks go to Karen Lane for actually ringing the bells. Safe Voices asked AUburn UU to join them for this photo opportunity on the day of this statewide event for faith communities to "speak out" against domestic violence.

*-- Social Justice Committee*

## 'Growing' Auburn UU's NEW Church Leaders!

At this June's UU General Assembly I heard our UUA President Rev. Peter Morales speak about several critical issues we UU's need to address. One of those was to "**grow leaders!**"

So, how do we identify, nurture, and empower the natural leaders already in our congregation?

This past year all of us on the Board, and several others in the congregation, committed ourselves to an intensive leadership training program that our District offered, called *Harvest the Power*.

That training prompted us to look at how we approach congregational leadership. And importantly, it guided us to the concept that leadership in a congregation can be a spiritual practice.

With these thoughts, the Board is revamping our former Nominating Committee into a *Leadership Development Committee* (LDC)! The LDC will meet on a year-round basis, and will be charged with providing resources and opportunities to prepare potential church leaders (you!) to serve on our Board and to lead our Committees. The LDC is expected to direct our "future leaders" to district trainings or to offer in-house leadership workshops. We have funding in place to support this.

If you are asked to consider serving on the *Leadership Development Committee*, or to *participate as a future leader* in leadership trainings, please consider how deeply significant this work can be to your own spiritual mindfulness and to the future of the congregation.

---*Anne Kinney*, Denominational Affairs Representative (And Board V.P.)

## Gingerbread Fair

In mid-September, we will begin in earnest planning one of our two major fundraisers – **The Gingerbread Fair**.

As always, we need lots of help:

- Start collecting the things you no longer need or want – jewelry, books, CDs, household items – for the white elephant table.
- 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 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.
- Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for the Gingerbread Fair**.

---*Mary Low Hofmann, Chair*

# UU AUBURN - SEPTEMBER, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p>Sep 2011</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Sustainable Living 6pm - Outright (R)	<i>3</i>
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<i>4</i> Worship at 10am Second Collection Outright L/A. Followed by picnic at Tucker/Thorpe's in Poland	<i>5</i> LABOR DAY 6-8pm in Parlor Adult RE, Growing Your Spirituality	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 6:30pm Social Justice Committee	<i>8</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Principals and Purposes	<i>9</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Sustainable Living 6pm Outright L/A 7:15 Open Mic in Vestry	<i>10</i> 1pm Wedding (R)																																										
<i>11</i> Worship at 10am WATER COMMUNION followed by coffee hour and OPPORTUNITY FAIR in the vestry. RE Committee meets 3-5pm Yankee Boyz (R)	<i>12</i> 6:30pm Board Meeting 6-8pm in Parlor Adult RE, Growing Your Spirituality 7-9pm Women's Support Group (R)	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Principals and Purposes	<i>16</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Sustainable Living	<i>17</i>																																										
<i>18</i> Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry (Religious Exploration Begins today.) - 11:30am, Council of Committees	<i>19</i> 6-8pm in Parlor Adult RE, Growing Your Spirituality 6:30 Finance Committee	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Principals and Purposes	<i>23</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Sustainable Living	<i>24</i> Wedding (R)																																										
<i>25</i> Worship and RE at 10am followed by coffee hour in the vestry 1pm Jim Scott Concert to Benefit Brunswick UU	<i>26</i> 6-8pm in Parlor Adult RE, Growing Your Spirituality 6:30 Board Meeting	<i>27</i> October Newsletter Deadline	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Principals and Purposes	<i>30</i> 6-8pm in Parlor - Adult RE, Sustainable Living																																											

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