

AN OFFICIAL WELCOMING CONGREGATION
ALL ARE WORTHY, ALL ARE WELCOME.

169 Pleasant Street, Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 783-0461 - office@auburnuu.org
Website: www.auburnuu.org

*Rooted in the Sacred and strengthened by our diversity,
we equip ourselves to minister through the transformative power of Love.*

Getting Through January Is

Like running a ten-K over rutty roads made more hazardous by black ice that looks like pavement but isn't.

You begin the new year fresh and fit still buoyed up with Christmas joy and filled with high resolve for the twelve-month ahead.

"I can do it!" you crow,
forgetting the snares and potholes of other years—
roof groaning under its snowy burden,
the door that freezes to the sill,
prisoning you inside; the wheels that spin going nowhere;
the omnipresent oil man reeling in your lifeline.
By midmonth you're eating cereal for supper to avoid facing the winter winds that push you back from the market.
Day follows day, follows day until suddenly the end seems blessedly at hand
You burst through the tape a winner on the thirty-first, jubilant, having stayed the course yet awakening to this reality—
you are only half way through the race;
and on your gravel-strewn doorstep sits February, leering.
So after Groundhog Day reveals this ghastly truth, you grasp your second wind and run some more.

Pearl Tibbetts Sawyer



JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

*Now I understand that there are two melodies playing,
one below the other, one easier to hear, the other
lower, steady, perhaps more faithful for being less heard
yet always present.*

— Annie Lightfoot

I am thinking of how love calls us forward into this world, how it is insistently present when we choose to listen to it and when we do not. Part of what we practice in church is learning to hear that "other/lower, steady, perhaps more faithful" song, when our instincts, ego, or desires would rather we pay attention to their own more superficial demands. I am grateful to be part of a community that challenges us to do this good and sacred work. As we continue to discern who and how we want to be in this world, I hope we will continue to listen deeply and love fiercely.

May your days and nights be blessed.

Jodi

Please join us **Sunday, February 14** during Coffee Hour for a **Valentine's Day potluck and poetry reading with Pearl Sawyer**. Bring a dish or a dessert, and beat those February blahs by sharing food and fun with your beloved community! Auburn UU will gratefully accept goodwill donations.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This church year, the First Universalist Church of Auburn board of directors has been balancing a “view from the balcony” approach with the ongoing, nitty-gritty work of maintaining our collective institution.

In the past month this has included authorizing an ad hoc task force to create an Auburn UU website that serves as a virtual front door to our congregation. Our hope is to extend our welcoming spirit, while also conveying the congregational mission and vision.

We are also poised to accept new policies related to fire safety, emergencies, and a ban on weapons within the church. Among other tasks, board members have consulted insurance company protocols, mapped emergency exits, and compared the practices of other congregations. (In case you are wondering: yes, a fire drill will occur in the near future. No surprises are planned, however; any emergency drill will be announced in advance and timed not to interfere with Sunday services.)

The creation of new policies offers an opportunity to reflect on our policy based governance system. This system, implemented over the past several years, ensures stability and transparency of process—even with transitions in board membership specifically, and church leadership more broadly, our collection of church policies provide consistent guidance.

It is a pleasure to lift up my fellow board members—Bill Phillips, Dana Rickman, Ginny Starbird, Kerry Lathrop, Paula Spruill, Peter Floyd, and Jodi—for their continuing dedication to these necessary, if behind the scenes, tasks. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, at 6:30 in the church office.

– Eben Miller

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

ALL MUSIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Theme:
“Grace and Gratitude”

To contribute a selection
contact ned.claxton@roadrunner.com.



SAFETY REMINDER



If you are last to leave the building, please be sure that the **Pleasant Street doors are closed tightly and locked** behind you. Thank you for your vigilance!

PAGAN POTLUCK AT AUBURN UU

We will offer a family-friendly Pagan potluck and ritual on **Wednesday, February 3**, to mark



Imbolc. This ritual is free and open to church members and the greater Pagan community. Potluck meal

begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by ritual at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a “potluck kit” (plate, cup, utensils, cloth napkin), and a dish to share. If you have allergies or special dietary needs, please provide appropriate foods for your family. For the ritual, bring 3 feet (approx.) of fabric ribbon, or a fabric strip, to be blessed.

FMI or to RSVP contact Cynthia Grimm at DRE@AuburnUU.org. Donations of supplies and ritual items are welcome.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Second Collection is taken on the first Sunday of each month.

FEB 2016 Souper Sunday for Trinity Soup Kitchen

Next Second Collection Cycle

The new Second Collection group rotation will start in March. Thanks for your nominations. Special thanks to Anne Kinney for vetting all nominees and creating our voting board.

* * * * *

Local Hero?

Auburn UU's Saturday morning Trinity Team still needs volunteers to do food pick-up on the first weekend of each month. This can be on a rotating schedule. For more information, contact Skip Gans at 786-8680 or office@auburnuu.org.

Excerpt from a sermon preached by worship associate Karen Lane on January 17th, 2016

"...What do we get out of being more open to the actual truth around racism today? A better understanding of ourselves, of our society. Better relationships with others. That matters a lot, especially as our country, our communities, become more diverse. We also get the awareness that is required to create urgency for necessary and effective change. Because little progress will be made until a large enough group of us wants it. And it's well beyond time for another step forward.

Our resistance to the truth about the racism that still exists and harms people of color in our country has been described by a label that is very uncomfortable to hear: White Fragility. Unitarian Universalism calls us to be strong, not fragile, in facing unwelcome truths..."



From left to right: Helen Cunningham (high school junior) of A2U2, Mike Williams of A2U2, Melanie Lanctot and Mary Simpson, UUC Augustus Mary Ann Larson of First Parish Portland, Isabel Denham of A2U2, and Jane Pentheny of Auburn UU.

MUUSAN Update

Maine's UU State Advocacy Network climate change committee recently met with Senator Collins' staff to promote environmental policies that reflect our UU Values, such as a carbon tax on the biggest polluters. Our own Jane Pentheny was there!

MUUSAN meets on the 2nd Saturday of every odd-numbered month, at 10am in Augusta to address 3 issues: democracy in action, healthcare for all, and climate change. For more information, contact janepentheny@verizon.net

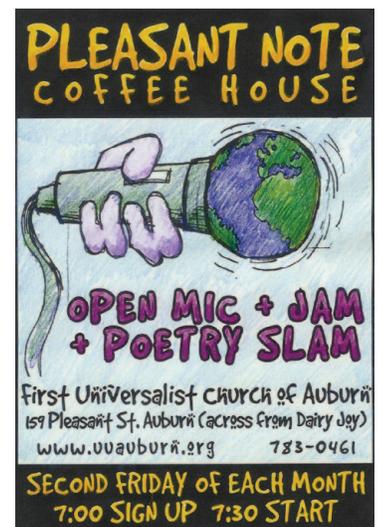
*– Toby Haber-Giasson and Jane Pentheny, OD,
Social Justice co-chairs*

OPEN MIC CHALLENGE!

**Last chance: Friday,
February 12, 2016**

You have only ONE more chance to take the Open Mic Challenge to check us out before the 10th anniversary in March!

Join us on the second Friday of each month, from 7:30–9:30 p.m. in our vestry. Sing/play/ recite or just LISTEN. Refreshments for sale to benefit the Organ Fund. Free; all ages!



UU THEATER

V-Day aUbUrn 2016 Announces Cast

Director Pat Gardiner has announced the cast of *The Vagina Monologues*, to be presented on Saturday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 28 at 1:00 p.m. at Auburn UU.



The cast includes Sara Camolli-Braband, Roxie Devoe, Dianna DeCosta, Tara Humphries, Sara Karam, Karen Lane, Rebecca Lynch, Justine Meader, Danielle Miller, Rita Moran, Dawn Sullivan, Rachel Swanson, Klara Tammany, Ashley Thibodeau and Danielle Woodbury.

V-Day celebrates the right of women and girls to live free from fear and violence. Proceeds will benefit the Center for Wisdom's Women, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (SAPARS), Safe Voices, United Somali Women of Maine, and Auburn UU.

Tickets: \$7-10 donation. For more information call 783-0461 or email office@auburnuu.org.

* * * * *

Correction

The **Wings of Spring Drag Show** will now be staged in April (not March) at the Elks Lodge.

THE MIC IS YOUR FRIEND

It helps us to hear you!



Remember:

- Touch the button 'til the green light comes on.
- Speak directly into the top.
- Hint: If you hold it like an ice cream cone, your voice will pass over the top and into the void... and that's just sad!

THANK YOU, PLAYBILL ADVERTISERS

FULL PAGE

Central Maine Electrolysis (Ami Seamon)
Cubicles in Maine/Affordable Office Solutions
Goin' Postal
Lewiston/Auburn YMCA
Maine Family Credit Union
Mechanics Savings Bank
Jamie Pittman



HALF PAGE

84 Court
Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn
Dr. Stephen Kottler, HMC
Roy's All Steak Hamburgers



BIZ CARD

Brian's Barber Shop (Brian Bickford)
Community Credit Union
Country Auto Repair Service (Pete Vachon)
Bill Eldridge
Fireside Stove Shop
John Geismar
Great Falls Security
Marc's Auto Body
Nicole Rush, Certified Personal Trainer
Ouelette & Associates, P.A.
PJ Massage (Pam Price-Wharff)
Perfect Image (Christopher Dufour)
Roopers
Judy Webber



If you would like to advertise in the playbill, please contact Toby at news@auburnuu.org.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

will be held on **March 6, 9 and 13, 2016**

Attendance is not a commitment to join, but it is required if you do wish to become a member.

For more information please contact Peggy Cox at 689-5653 or call the office

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS



There are so many wonderful people in our congregation and I thought I'd take this chance to share a brief biography of one of our most active members. **Ron Spofford** grew up at Auburn UU,

as a Boy Scout and member of both Youth and Senior Choirs. He returned here in 2003. His involvement has been extensive since then. He started with involvement in the Trinity Jubilee Center effort when members served meals one Saturday each month, and he continues to be one of several volunteers from our church who do the Saturday Food Rescue Program there. In addition to that Ron has been active with Ferry Beach retreat planning, in the Choir, and in Building and Grounds activities. Any time there is a need, Ron can be counted on to help meet it. Ron received the Rose Window award in 2010. When I asked him what his favorite activity is, he shared that all activities collectively feed his soul, and that the fellowship of Coffee Hour especially reminds him of how grateful he is to be part of such a caring network of people. We thank Ron for all he is and does for us and we encourage everyone to find an outlet for their caring, too.

– Blessings, Peggy Cox, Membership Chair

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Mike and Toby Giasson accepted our new member plaque at the January chamber breakfast

Auburn UU just joined the Chamber of Commerce, to put a friendly face on our organization in the wider community. Would you like to be that face? Donate the \$20 registration fee and represent the congregation at a chamber breakfast on second Thursday of each month! Contact Toby at news@auburnuu.org.

NOTE: Please put news@auburnuu.org in your address book to contact Toby for church news and info.



**Chili Cook-Off
March 20th:
Sign-Ups
This Month**

Our annual Cook-Off is a fundraiser for the all-church Ferry Beach Retreat each spring. It guarantees relief from the winter cold and any mid-season doldrums. Hot and spicy, or mild and soothing – our Auburn UU Chili Cook-Off is an all-family, fun-filled event.

In advance: plan to sign up your chili offering with a unique name, or to provide a side dish, as needed. Please see Anne Kinney or Ron Spofford with your questions or for more information during a coffee hour.

**A Contra Dance, sponsored by our R.E. Committee, will follow the Cook-Off.
Save the date!**



photo by Shelley Reno

The **Cakes Group**—our women’s spirituality group—welcomed the New Year with some whimsy, using Maine beach stones, sea shells and beach glass to spark their creativity this past month.

The artwork was part of their program that focused on Roman Goddess Jana (like January) who presides over doorways, new beginnings, and transitions. Group members enjoyed this fitting transition from the realm of the “cerebral” into the realm of the more lighthearted.

OPEN DOOR SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for the March newsletter is
Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Submissions should be simple and reader-friendly (no longer than 275 words, please) and should pertain to church or denominational events, announcements, reports and activities. If photos or graphics are desired, please send them along with your submission or contact the editor for assistance. You will receive an acknowledgement from the editor when your submission is received. Please send submissions to Tracey Miller at newsletter@auburnuu.org.

LATHER/RINSE/REPEAT

Can you launder tablecloths after Sunday coffee hour?

Contact Skip Gans at 786-8680.



We Are One Religion

We are one.
We are the same.
We are one religion.
With differences.
But we are one.

We celebrate love.
We love others.
We are considerate
of others.
We are one.

Our differences
Only belief.
We are deniers
of each other.

You deny science,
Evolution,
And global warming.

We deny you hereafter,
Heaven,
And Hell.
But we are one religion.
“The religion of love.”

It ain’t politics, people!
It is religion,
Pure and simple.
Always was.
We have differences
Of belief.

Our loves
Must be this large
And gigantic
To reconcile
For peace
To endure.

—Bob Bishop

Read at Pleasant Note Coffee House on January 8, 2016. For more of Bob’s writings, visit www.spharnx.com.

FERRY BEACH RETREAT: “TREASURED TIMES” Duct Tape Hats Are Back!



Treasured Times! What a rich ring that has to it...and it is the theme for our 2016 All-Church Ferry Beach Retreat. Now that you’ve saved the Retreat dates—April 29th, 30th, and May 1st—it’s time to consider program offerings for our oceanfront gathering.



By popular request we’ll again offer **Duct-Tape Hat Making** during an activity slot. These are several of the stunning creations our members and friends made a few years ago.

To prepare for the vast possibilities this year, *we need your donations of duct tape*. Please bring in a roll and drop it into the duct tape donation box during Coffee Hour with a Retreat Team member during the next two months.



Other retreat programs offered by volunteers will include a TED talk with Bill Frayer, a nature walk, drumming, morning yoga, pick up choir, and some unique crafts still in creative stages.

What else? Do you have a program idea? Can you link it with “Treasure” or “Treasured Times?” Please speak with Anne Kinney or Ron Spofford about it!

– Ferry Beach Retreat Team: Anne, Ron, Jan, Mike, Barbara, Harmoni

WOMEN NOMINATED FOR UUA PRESIDENT

For the first time in the history of the UUA, both nominees for President of the UUA are women: Rev. Alison Miller and Rev. Sue Phillips. The UUA Presidential Search Committee announced in January that it has nominated both to vie for election at General Assembly 2017 in New Orleans. Other candidates may enter the race beginning on February 1, 2016.



Rev. Phillips (left) has served as a District Executive and now as the UUA’s Regional Lead in our New England Region, since 2007. She worked at Partners for the Common Good, a socially responsible loan fund, the Catholic social justice lobby NETWORK, and the Housing Assistance Council, a \$55 million community development loan fund serving the poorest US rural communities.

Rev. Alison Miller (right) has served as Senior Minister of the Morristown, NJ Unitarian Fellowship since 2005. She is Chair of the Board of Church of the Larger Fellowship, and on the Boards of the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ and United Way of Northern NJ. She previously served as Assistant Minister at All Souls New York City, as Intern Minister at All Souls in Tulsa, OK, and as part of the UUA Development Staff for a \$32 million Capital Campaign.



Incumbent President Rev. Peter Morales is completing his second 4-year term. According to current bylaws the new president will serve a 6-year term and not be eligible for re-election.

– Anne Kinney, Denominational Affairs Rep. & NNED Board Member

FEBRUARY EVENTS

www.auburnuu.org/news-events/calendar/

Wed, Feb 3	5:30 p.m.	Imbolc Ritual (vestry)
Sun, Feb 7	10:00 a.m.	All Music Worship Service (multi-generational) <i>Souper Sunday to benefit Trinity Soup Kitchen</i>
	11:30 a.m.	RE Committee Meeting
Mon, Feb 8	6:00 p.m.	Board Meeting (in the office - open to all)
Fri, Feb 12	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, Feb 14	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Religious Exploration classes
	11:00 a.m.	Valentine's Day Potluck & Poetry with Pearl Sawyer
Mon, Feb 15		Office closed
Thurs, Feb 18	5:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
	6:30 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Sun, Feb 21	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Religious Exploration classes
	11:00 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting
Tues, Feb 23		Newsletter submission deadline for March issue
Sat, Feb 27	7:00 p.m.	V-Day Auburn/UU Theater presents <i>The Vagina Monologues</i>
Sun, Feb 28	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Religious Exploration classes
	1:00 p.m.	V-Day Auburn/UU Theater presents <i>The Vagina Monologues</i>