



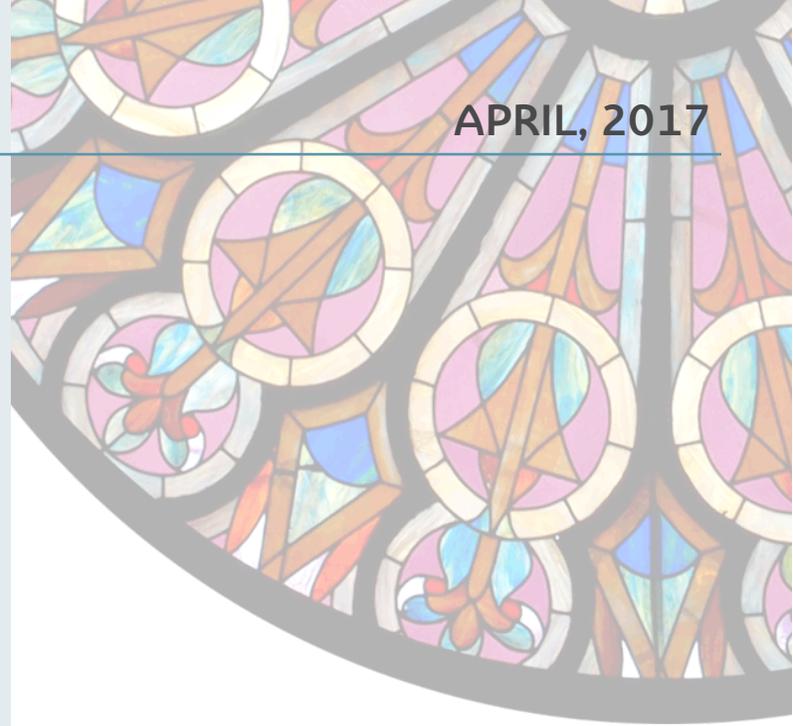
Photos from our exuberant family contradance on March 19



**FIRST UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH of AUBURN**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

An official Welcoming Congregation  
All are worthy, all are welcome

169 Pleasant Street, Auburn, ME 04210  
(207) 783-0461 - [office@auburnuu.org](mailto:office@auburnuu.org)  
[www.auburnuu.org](http://www.auburnuu.org)



## JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

The need for beloved community is clearer than ever, and the weight of that need and the work required to meet it can feel overwhelming at times. And, in the face of the negation of so much that seemed obviously good, it can be hard to see how to move ahead. But the ways in which we are called to build and strengthen that community are constantly being revealed—a dance of discovery, creation, and release that reminds us there is always a way forward, even if it's on a path we've never taken before. May we remain hopeful in these times that need our commitment, and joyful in the power of the work that we have been given to do.

And may your days and nights be blessed,

— Jodi

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is striking to see the congregational vision proudly proclaimed from the banner now hanging over the church entrance. Thank you to all who had a hand in its raising.

One of the responsibilities of the board of directors is to maintain the church mission and vision. In recent years, the board played a critical role in creating these two statements. A day-long "vision summit" in January 2014, for instance, resulted in the first draft of our congregational vision statement. While I knew I was engaged in valuable work during that meeting, I also know I was not prescient enough at the time to realize how vital that message would ultimately come to feel. With the political transformations on the national level, however, realizing our role as a local beacon of fierce hope and radical love is all the more powerful.

Writing these words on the day after the Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress abruptly halted their attempt to scrap the Affordable Care Act, I can't help credit this stunning development to citizens' concerted efforts to demand continued access to health care. As gloomy as it felt on November 9th, March 24th offered glimmers of the power of fierce hope.

I hope we feel all the more emboldened to ensure that the work of our church continues. From purchasing a suet feeder made by the children in RE to participating in the annual stewardship campaign this spring, there are any number of ways to support the vision of the First Universalist Church of Auburn. Let's make sure this beacon keeps shining.

The board will continue its work when it meets again on Monday, April 9, at 6:30 in the church office.

– Eben Miller

Oh, Holy Mystery,  
For the sadness we cannot yet fully name;  
For the pain of broken trust, its pieces shattered and sharp;  
For disappointment this is both hollow and heavy;  
For anticipation of emerging ministries;  
For relief, echoed in a sigh;  
For persistent hope;  
For the communities we serve, and those we strive to protect;  
For those we hold, and who hold us;  
For the many ways that we are wounded, that we cause harm,  
that we can heal;  
For commitment, rising;  
For the chrysalis—dissolving, re-forming, preparing to emerge,  
may we be expressions of the Love that will not let us go.

– Lynn Gardner

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## THE YARD SALE IS COMING...

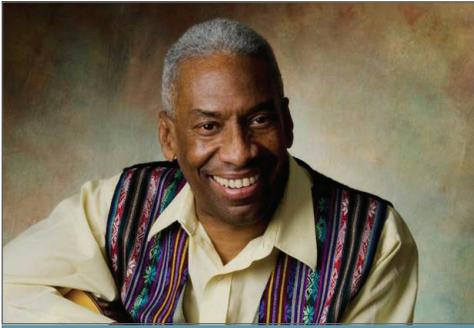
Auburn UU will hold a Spring Yard Sale on **Saturday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** in the Vestry. You may bring in your donations and put them on the stage in the Vestry between Sunday, April 16 and Thursday, April 27. We will NOT accept items after Thursday, April 27 so we will have time price everything.

Donations *must be clean and in good condition.* Items that sell well: kitchen items (dishes, silverware, pots/pans); small appliances (toasters, microwaves, mixers, blenders); books/cookbooks; CDs/DVDs; children's games/toys; crafting/sewing; materials/items; sports equipment; musical instruments; holiday decorations; small furniture (tables, lamps, small chairs); collectibles

We can NOT accept technology (computers, printers, cell phones, etc), adult or children's clothing, and any items that don't work or are missing parts.

We need folks to help with set-up on Friday and to work on Saturday. Please contact Mary Lou Hofmann @ 777-1833 or even.sleeves@gmail.com.

## CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE PRESENTS REGGIE HARRIS



Friday, April 7 @ 7:30 p.m.

CFAC is proud to host musician and storyteller Reggie Harris. Harris combines traditional African-American spirituals and freedom songs with original folk, he sings of life, love, the quest for freedom, concern for our environment, and the human need for community. Proceeds will be shared with Trinity Jubilee Center.

Tickets are \$18 at the door or \$15 in advance at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2722930> Church members may use the promo code CFAC0417 for a \$2 discount (good until Thursday, April 6 at midnight).

For a full story on Reggie Harris, see <http://www.sunjournal.com/news/encore/2017/03/25/reggie-harris-perform-concert-cause/2096967>

### BEAN SUPPER!

Ginny Starbird and Nancy Pinkham present a bean supper benefit to help Casey & Peter "Bring Nasty Home!" **Saturday, April 22, from 4-6 p.m.** in the church vestry. Adults: \$6 Kids \$3



We are looking for donations of beans, hot dogs, coleslaw, bread, dessert and drinks, and for help in serving and clean up.

There will be a few raffle items as well.

To donate items or volunteer, please contact Ginny directly at 524-3455 or by email at [ginstar38@aol.com](mailto:ginstar38@aol.com) by April 14.

### EASTER FLOWERS



If you will be bringing flowers for the chancel in honor of someone who has passed away, please let Karen in the office know by Wednesday, April 12:

[office@auburnuu.org](mailto:office@auburnuu.org) or 783-0461.

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

#### Sermons

Selected sermons are now available on our website and on our Facebook page under "Notes." Check it out!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Chamber Connection

Will you represent Auburn UU at one of these upcoming LA Metro Chamber of Commerce events?



- **Chamber Breakfast:**

Thursday, April 13, 7:00-9:00 a.m. at the Ramada in Lewiston (\$20). Speaker: Peter Lowe, employment lawyer

- **Business After Hours:** Thursday, April 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at MUNKA, 213 Lisbon Street in Lewiston (free)



On March 26, Cathy Stackpole, Executive Director of Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center, led our worship service. Cathy is shown here with Ferry Beach planning committee members John Spruill, Katy Gallagher, Jan Vachon, Anne Kinney, and Ron Spofford.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

### SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

April 2..... New Beginnings

May 7..... Immigrant Resource Center

June 4 ..... Greater Androscoggin Humane Society

### LIVING WITH FIERCE HOPE & RADICAL LOVE

► Thank you, **Tom Wylie**, for speaking with us on March 12 about your work with the High Street



Food Pantry. Help Tom collect books for young children by placing donations in the box outside the sanctuary.

Look for **Skip Gans's** testimonial on April 9.

► Reverend Jodi led a blessing of our banner on March 26, saying, "We celebrate this step toward becoming a "beacon and catalyst for a community of fierce hope and radical love."



► We continue to recommend one or more **Actions of Fierce Hope and Radical Love** each week. Find these actions in the Order of Service, in our email blasts, or on the website at **auburnuu.org/actions**. The Social Justice email list receives even more suggested actions. To join, contact Toby at [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org).

### Social Justice Recommends:

*Tuesdays at 11:30*

Demonstrations at Sen. Collins' office,  
55 Lisbon St., Lewiston

*April 2 – 4:30 to 6 p.m.*

RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)

*April 3 – 8:30 a.m.*

Support Black Lives Matter arrestees  
205 Newbury St., Portland

*April 5 – 5:30 p.m.*

SURJ meeting

*April 11 – 6:00 p.m.*

350 Maine presents Solar advocate training

*April 16 – 4:30 to 6 p.m.*

RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)

*April 30 – 12:00 to 4 p.m.*



YMCA Central Maine's 6th annual Stand Against Racism conference. This year's theme: "Women of Color Leading Change." A day of education, dialog and action. All are welcome. Childcare provided. Central Maine SURJ will present a session.

For more information:

<http://goo.gl/IFZmgX>

<http://goo.gl/uExgYQ>

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

## AND THE COOK-OFF WINNERS ARE...



Congratulations to the winners of our spirited annual Cook-Off. **Andrew Pape** (top right), creator of Chili #10, took the grand prize in the chili category, and added to a growing Pape family tradition. **Karen Lane** (bottom right, with Anne Kinney), now known for Chowder #16, won the balloting in the first-ever chowder competition with her corn chowder entry.

Both champs received certificates and hand-made Ferry Beach chalice pendants to signify their top honors.

The March Cook-Off is our annual fundraiser for scholarships to help church members attend our all-church Ferry Beach Retreat May 5th, 6th, and 7th – and this was our most successful to date.

Cook-Off turnout exceeded our expectations as tasters crowded the vestry to sample 18 outstanding different chili and chowder options. Many volunteers contributed homemade breads, coleslaws, sandwiches, desserts and drinks, plus paper and plastic goods to round out the exceptional offerings.

We raised a total of \$588 for retreat scholarships, which again included a generous donation of \$100 from Betsy Jo Whitcomb from herself and in memory of her mother, Marion Emery.

In addition to providing scholarship help to church members who seek assistance, we also pay the way in full for our church staffers to attend the retreat.

Others who can help build the scholarship fund may make a direct contribution by check or cash to Anne Kinney or Ron Spofford, or by mailing a donation to our church office. If writing a check, please indicate "Ferry Beach fund" in the memo line.

To the many donors of food and supplies for the Cook-Off, and to all those who supported it – a big thank you.

– Anne Kinney, Retreat Coordinator



### GOT RETURNABLES?

Bring yours to our neighbor, RC Redemption, at 120 Spring Street, open Monday-Saturday 9-5. Just say it's for First Universalist: they give us 6 cents for every bottle you bring them.



### DRUMMING CIRCLE

ALWAYS ON THE 3RD THURSDAY

OPEN TO ALL BRING OR BORROW

APRIL 20 - 6:30-8:00

For more info, contact Peter Floyd: [floyd6of7@yahoo.com](mailto:floyd6of7@yahoo.com)



## OPEN MIC

Our Eleventh Anniversary in March was a hit! Fifteen performers shared their passions with a large crowd.



Friday, April 14 will be a special poetry edition, featuring budding poets from ELHS in addition to music and spoken word. Join us! Sing/play/recite or just LISTEN. Refreshments for sale to benefit the Organ Fund. Free; all ages!

## ANNUAL SERVICE AUCTION ON MAY 21: CALL FOR DONATIONS

Bill Frayer will organize and host our service auction again this year. Church members donate services or items to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. All proceeds of the auction go to the church to help us continue our mission and stay in our beautiful space.



Some different types of donations to consider:

- Hosted meals
- Delivered meals or individual food items
- Help with home chores
- Special experiences
- Lessons/services
- Items for sale

Please talk to Bill at church, email him at [billfrayer@gmail.com](mailto:billfrayer@gmail.com), or call 891-2993. Peggy Cox will be assisting Bill in soliciting donations, so you may hear from her as well. If you already have an idea for a donation, please send Bill:

1. What you'd like to donate
2. Any special limitations or instructions
3. The estimated value of your donation
4. A minimum bid, if you require it
5. Your phone number/email

Thank you!

### GREEN CARD AWARENESS

If you use a **green informational card** as a hymnal bookmark, please be sure it is visible/available to others when you're done. Thanks!



## SABBATICAL PLANNING

The time to plan for Jodi to take a sabbatical has arrived again. For those who are not aware, we offer our ministers paid leave every 5-7 years in order to rest, rejuvenate, and study.

Thom S. Rainer gives five reasons churches offer their pastor sabbatical\*:

1. A pastor has emotional highs and lows unlike most other vocations.
2. A pastor is on 24-hour call.
3. Pastors need time of uninterrupted study.
4. Pastors who have sabbaticals have longer tenure at churches.
5. Pastors who have sabbaticals view the time off as an affirmation from their churches.

Jodi has been working very hard over the last six years and is ready to begin the planning process for another sabbatical. If you are interested in discussing sabbatical and what it looks like for our community, or want to be a part of the planning, please reach out to Jodi. Members of the board are also willing to converse about sabbatical. Keep your eyes and ears opened for ways to help support the church during Jodi's time away. Sincerely,

– *The Church Board*

\*Five Reasons Your Pastor Should Take a Sabbatical, February 1, 2014. [thomrainer.com/2014/02/five-reasons-your-pastor-should](http://thomrainer.com/2014/02/five-reasons-your-pastor-should)



On March 11, RESIST Central Maine and Auburn UU Social Justice hosted a well-attended People Power (ACLU) grassroots activist training.

## PERHAPS

by Emily Grace Murray

If I release my poems to the rest of the world  
And let them fly through people's minds like birds  
To be judged  
What will happen to them?  
Will their feathers lose their beautiful sheen  
Each time they are read  
A little more each day?  
Will they lose their wings  
And never fly through me again  
Because I cannot read them without thinking  
About anyone else's opinion shaping them the  
wrong way?  
I once wrote  
All who read, are writers  
If that's true  
Will my poems be read at all?  
Or is a new one created  
With every glance at the page?  
Maybe my poems will only ever be read by me  
And are immune to other people's minds  
Because, upon reading, the readers become poets.  
Perhaps each time I read,  
I write a new one, too.  
Maybe I lost the first ones long ago.  
Maybe all the birds will join sometime, return,  
And sing outside my window.

*Emily Grace Murray, the 16-year-old granddaughter of Bob Thorpe, loves to write poetry. She lives in Norwood, Massachusetts with her parents, Crystal and Brian. Crystal grew up in our church in Auburn and sang in the choir until she went away to college. She now attends the UU church in Canton, Mass. She and her family have attended the Ferry Beach retreat for the past three years. Emily's poem "Perhaps," above, was recently chosen to receive a Scholastic Art & Writing Silver Key Award for Poetry.*

## LAST CALL TO REGISTER FOR FERRY BEACH RETREAT



Retreat registration is well underway, but it's not too late to sign up! Dorm space at our all-church retreat fills up quickly, so mail in your registration ASAP. Registration deadline is **Sunday, April 16**—Easter Sunday. Sunday, April 9 is the last day to apply for scholarship assistance, thanks to funds we just raised with generous church support at our Chili & Chowder Cook-Off.



Registration packets are available at Sunday coffee hours through April 16, OR from our new Retreat website: <http://www.ferrybeachallaubnor.com> OR from the church website: <http://www.auburnuu.org>. The retreat itself takes place May 5-7, 2017 at the Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center campus on the beautiful oceanfront in Saco.

In a few short weeks, we'll join the Allen Avenue and Norway UU churches in sacred community. We'll sing, commune with nature, play games, and worship together. We'll have our own Variety Show and there's lots of music jamming. Stay the whole weekend, or just come for the day!

You can rock in the porch chairs, stroll the beach, follow trails in the woods, read, and relax. OR you can choose from activities and workshops our church members and friends are preparing for you, such as: *Ice cream social, Sing-Along, Henna Tattoo Art, Face-Painting, Campus Tours, Morning Yoga, Fairy Houses in the pines, Guided Photography, TED Talk on Healing Our Divisions, Scavenger Hunt, Card-Making, Conversation About Race, Drumming Circle, 7th Principle Games, Water Color Painting, Nature Walk, Pick-Up Choir, and Worship Planning.*

For more information, contact Anne Kinney before the 16th at [akinneyuu@gmail.com](mailto:akinneyuu@gmail.com).

### ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

*first Monday of the month*

**Next meeting: Monday, April 3 at 6:00 in the parlor**

FMI contact [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our projector is available for your sermon, church event or presentation.

Contact Toby at [baywest@roadrunner.com](mailto:baywest@roadrunner.com)



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By the time you read this *Open Door*, we will have concluded our Spring New Member classes. We look forward to welcoming our new members during an upcoming service. Membership takes an active interest in safety issues in our sacred space. With help from **Peter Floyd** we recently toured the building to familiarize ourselves with the locations of fire alarm calls and extinguishers and all exits. We encourage everyone to take a few moments to note these locations throughout the building. Blessings,

— *Peggy Cox, Membership Chair*

## BATES HAPPENINGS

### Mar 31 & April 1/2/3 Spring Dance concert: "What We Find"

Featuring choreography by Mallory Cohen '17 (senior thesis), students in DANC 251 Dance Composition, and students in DANC 351 Advanced Composition Seminar.

For free tickets: <http://goo.gl/TdajJQ>

### Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

(6:30pm if it's your first time) in the Gomes Chapel, 285 College Street. Zen Meditation with Zen Priest Jaimie McLeod of Treetop Zen Center.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### Homosexuality in Israel

Same-sex lovemaking was legalized by the Israeli Knesset in 1988, overturning a law against "sodomy" that had been unenforced since 1963. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation has been outlawed since 1992. For nearly a decade, same-sex couples have also been allowed to adopt children, but they have to wait in line behind heterosexual couples.

Tel Aviv has a reputation as a very LGBTQ-positive city, Jerusalem far less so; in 2016, for example,

*"If Israel is a haven for the LGBT community, it's because of the community, the organizations that are working very hard to make it a good place... to live."*

Jerusalem's chief rabbi denounced homosexuality as "an abomination." The Netanyahu government has vetoed bills that would have recognized civil unions, banned "conversion therapy"

for minors, and required that medical students be educated about sexual orientation.

In a 2015 survey to establish a "Gay Happiness Index," involving over 115,000 gay men in 127 countries, Israel ranked 7th in the world (Iceland topped the list).

"If Israel is a haven for the LGBT community, it's because of the community, the organizations that are working very hard to make it a good place for LGBT people to live. It's not because of the government policies. It's in spite of the government policies." — Mike Hamel, Israeli activist

## APRIL EVENTS

[www.auburnuu.org/news-events/calendar/](http://www.auburnuu.org/news-events/calendar/)

<b>Sun, Apr 2</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes <i>Second Collecton for New Beginnings</i>
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine meeting
<b>Mon, Apr 3</b>	6:00 p.m.	Eldercare support group
<b>Wed, Apr 5</b>	5:30 p.m.	SURJ meeting
<b>Fri, Apr 7</b>	7:30 p.m.	Concerts for A Cause: Reggie Harris
<b>Sun, Apr 9</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes
<b>Mon, Apr 10</b>	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting (open to all)
<b>Tues, Apr 11</b>	6:00 p.m.	350 Maine presents Solar advocate training
	7:00 p.m.	Council of Committees ZOOM Meeting
<b>Fri, Apr 14</b>	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
<b>Sun, Apr 16</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes
	4:30 p.m.	RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)
<b>Tues, Apr 18</b>	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
<b>Thurs, Apr 20</b>	5:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Drumming Circle
<b>Sat, Apr 22</b>	4:00-6:00 p.m.	"Bring Nastya Home" Bean Supper
<b>Sun, Apr 23</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes
	4:00 p.m.	Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm)
<b>Mon, Apr 24</b>	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
<b>Sat, Apr 29</b>	8:30-2:30	Church Yard Sale (vestry)
<b>Sun, Apr 30</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes
	noon-4 p.m.	YMCA Central Maine's Stand Against Racism conference