



Scenes from the Gingerbread Fair on November 19, 2016; more on page 7



FIRST UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH of AUBURN
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

An official Welcoming Congregation
All are worthy, all are welcome

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www.auburnuu.org

JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

How is it with your spirit these days? How are you taking care of your tender selves? Are you filling your well with the same speed you are dipping out of it to quench the thirst of our parched world?

We are needed right now: our gifts and our commitment. And we are in this work for the long haul.

That means, among other things, that we need to take care to replenish our inner resources on an ongoing basis. So, please allow this season of deep and gentle dark to remind you to honor the call to pause, breathe deeply, find moments of stillness, and turn toward the richness that often lies hidden within.

And may your days and nights be blessed.

— Jodi

Excerpt from the November 9 prayer service:

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

— Arundhati Roy

Come into this space where, tonight, held by beloved community, bringing our fear and our fire, our hopelessness and our fierce hope, we remind ourselves of the promise that a new world is possible, even if we can't hear her breathing quit yet....”

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past month several members of the Auburn UU board of directors took part in a webinar hosted by the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. "Re-Imagining Congregational Leadership" offered much to consider, from practical suggestions for running efficient committee meetings to—true to the title of the webinar—suggestions for re-imagining how church leadership can function. A key theme in the presentation included the conscientious use of language that celebrates congregants' contributions to church life—language that conveys such contributions as themselves a spiritual practice. Another theme stressed appreciation for the range of ways in which we act as leaders.

It's heartening to contemplate how often this already happens at the First Universalist Church of Auburn, from representing the church at our local chamber of commerce breakfasts to volunteering in an RE classroom. This November leaders among us organized and held the Gingerbread Fair, our most important annual fundraiser. Others provided much-needed camaraderie with a potluck following the election. Thanks to vital contributions of church leadership, this past month our long-awaited, revamped website (www.auburnuu.org) went live, and another monthly installment of this newsletter was published.

That we are a congregation full of leaders is a message that Jodi expressed marvelously in a recent children's focus that reflected on the lessons imparted in "The Conference

of Birds," an epic poem from Persia nearly a millennium ago. Simon Bolduc astutely summarized the point of the parable: "We can all be leaders." In this spirit, it seems appropriate to heed the very requests Jodi made of our children: that we consider the qualities that we ourselves have as leaders, and that we engage in at least one act of leadership in the coming month. There will be ample opportunity to do so within our church community, and beyond.

Members of the board will continue to consider this commitment to leadership when we next meet, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12, in the church office.

— Eben Miller



Meet the Auburn UU Board of Directors

Standing, L-R: Eben Miller (President), Rev. Jodi, Bill Phillips (At-Large), Paula Spruill (At-Large), Tom Wylie (At-Large)

Sitting, L-R: Kerry Lathrop (At-Large), Ginny Starbird (Clerk), Peter Floyd (Vice President)

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE PRESENTS ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS

**Thursday, Dec. 1
7:30 p.m.**

For tickets visit
[http://www.
brownpapertickets.
com/event/2683412](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2683412)

Concerts for a Cause is proud to host internationally-acclaimed Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and famed "traditional" cello virtuoso Natalie Haas on Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The concert will raise funds to help the church and to support Advocates for Children, a community-based organization dedicated to fostering programs to both prevent child maltreatment and empower children and families to lead healthy, productive lives.

Fraser, acclaimed by the *San Francisco Examiner* as "the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling," has a concert and recording career spanning 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and featured performances on top movie soundtracks ("Last of the Mohicans," "Titanic"). He has been sponsored by the British Council to represent Scotland's music internationally, and received the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for outstanding contributions to Scottish culture and traditions.



The 25-year-old Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, was just 11 when she first attended Fraser's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School in California. She responded to Fraser's challenge to find and release the cello's rhythmic soul. Four years later, when Natalie was just 15, Fraser and Haas played their first gig together. The duo are creating a buzz at festivals and in concert halls throughout Europe and North America.

For more information and tickets, visit uuconcerts.org or call the church at 207-783-0461.



Christmas @ Auburn UU

Christmas Eve Service — December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual candlelight service. Per our tradition, if your family has welcomed a new child since last Christmas, please share the name and birthdate, so they can be listed in a special Order of Service. Send the information to office@auburnuu.org.

Christmas Brunch — December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we would like to offer a Christmas Pot Luck Brunch in the vestry, instead of a regular service. This would be open to all of our church members, family, and friends. If you're willing to assist in the planning and organization, please contact Lorelei at 577-5946 or firebornspirit@yahoo.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

Dec 4 Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

Jan 1 Greater Androscoggin Humane Society

Next Second Collection Cycle

Throughout December, you may nominate organizations for the **next Second Collection cycle**. Groups must be non-profit; reflect our mission and UU values; and benefit the L-A area. Fill out a nomination slip in the pews, and put it in the collection plate. In January, you may vote for any three.

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Many Thanks

A big thank you to NASAP farmer **Habiba** and her daughter **Muslimo** for selling us local produce once again this season, and for the sambusas made with harvest leftovers. Yum!



Community Needs

Trinity Jubilee Center needs **mens winter clothes**: hats, and gloves, coats, especially in large adult sizes. Please give if you are able.

As always during Sunday services, we welcome **non-perishable food donations** for Trinity Soup Kitchen (our children collect them during Childrens Focus) and **grocery store gift cards** for the collection plate.

Fierce Hope & Radical Love at Auburn UU

In these troubling times, we all need to remember that **social justice is part of our UU faith**. Here's how we'll do it:

- During worship, Rev. Jodi will present actions to combat hopelessness. You are encouraged to carry them out as a spiritual practice as you are willing and able.
- Members will share testimonials about their personal ministries with us.
- Look for a new banner with the words from our Vision: **"Let's live with Fierce Hope and Radical Love."**
- Auburn UU signed a statewide pledge to protect our immigrant neighbors, who strengthen us with their diversity (see below).

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

A Maine Pledge to Protect the Civil Rights of Immigrants

<https://mainesupportsimmigrants.wordpress.com>

To our immigrant friends, neighbors, colleagues, and fellow community members:

We support and pledge to defend your civil rights and to work toward building communities of compassion, dignity, and safety for all.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS

The 2016 RE Pageant rehearsals are underway! We are repeating last year's pageant with a new name, "Opening Doors, Opening Hearts." Join us on **Sunday, December 18** to follow the journeys of refugees throughout history. We'll check in with famous refugees Joseph and Mary, the Wise Men, The Dalai



2015 RE Pageant

Lama and monks, Anne Frank and her family, the Von Trapp family, and poet Warsan Shire. Will they find welcome or walls? Ian Lathrop will reprise his role as Tariq ("he who knocks at the door" in some Arabic dialects). There will be some changes in the story to reflect some changes in the political atmosphere in our country. Be sure to be in church that morning and please invite your friends!

We still have time to fit a few more young actors into the script, so if your child would like to be involved, please contact Cynthia no later than December 4th. We will be rehearsing during our regular RE classes, staying a little longer after the service, and we will also have a **rehearsal**

on Saturday, December 17 from 12:30 to 2:30. We are looking for the following items for costumes: turbans for the wise men, a hijab for Warsan Shire, and a military jacket of some sort for Captain Von Trapp. If you can help us with any of these items (loaned or donated), please contact Cynthia.

In other RE news, we have a thriving Senior Youth Group added this year, under the guidance of Michael Hayashida. Our younger children made some fabulous crafts for our annual Gingerbread Fair, including cute reindeer with reindeer food inside and a variety of ornaments. Many items are still available and will be set up on the RE table in the vestry during coffee hour for the next few weeks with an honor bucket for donations. We will also be repeating last winter's suet sale! Watch for order forms in January.

May all your winter holidays be blessed and the blessings upon you and your family be great.

—Cynthia Grimm, DRE



"Many of us...feel like this election season has been a referendum on our place in this country. And the results of that election—violence and terrorizing directed toward others—may feel like an affirmation that you don't belong. So let me say clearly, on behalf of this community: if you are afraid, you are safe here. Here you are recognized as a sacred being who is filled by the holy love that holds us all. You are ours and we are yours."

—Rev. Jodi Cohen Hayashida, Nov. 13, 2016

COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

Refresh your spirit with sermon quotes posted on our church Facebook page. It's a great way to keep in touch with Rev. Jodi's message!

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Our church "stood on the side of love" and spoke out recently against the raffling of an automatic weapon by the LA Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has pulled the raffle.

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Big props to Jesse Sargent for representing us at recent LA Chamber breakfasts, putting a smiling face on our faith! Would you be that face at the **December 8** breakfast? Contact Toby Haber-Giasson at news@auburnuu.org.

DRUMMING CIRCLE: 3RD THURSDAY



+ BRING OR BORROW +
DECEMBER 15 - 6:30-8:00

For more info, contact
Peter Floyd: floyd6of7@yahoo.com

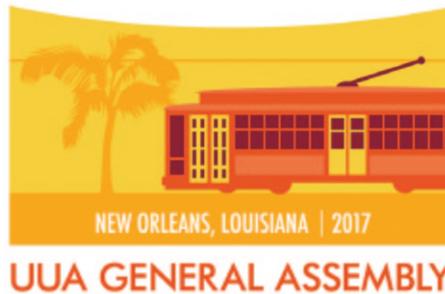
OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic is on **Friday, December 9**, 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!



JUSTICE-MAKING 2017 UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW ORLEANS

Planning has begun for our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly 2017 to be held at the New Orleans Convention Center **June 21-25, 2017**. Auburn UU is entitled to send three official lay delegates along with any other members interested in attending.



Designated as a "Justice-making GA," the 2017 theme for the gathering is *Resist and Rejoice*.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Our attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; but congregations must certify annually by February 1 to send voting delegates.

Our 2017 meeting site of New Orleans is a city steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean and Africa, and is one of our country's most culturally and historically rich destinations.

It is especially known for its music, food, architecture, and festivals. Average temperatures there in June range from 71 to 89 degrees.

New Orleans is especially a place of re-birth following Hurricane

Katrina in 2005. A large group from Auburn UU contributed time and funds there in an effort to help rebuild in the devastated 9th Ward and assist UU congregations in the area.

For those interested in traveling to New Orleans for GA 2017, we can celebrate our successes and recommit to the relationships that have been forged with this community.

GA registrations open March 1, and rates increase on May 1. Financial aid applications will be accepted between March 1-31. Full GA information is at <http://www.uua.org/ga/>.

– Anne Kinney, *Denominational Affairs Rep.*

GINGERBREAD FAIR NEWS

Another Gingerbread Fair has come and gone. Our goal was \$4,000 and we have reached our goal and most likely exceeded it. We have some expenses to pay and some additional revenue to come in, and I am pretty sure that our net income will definitely be over our goal. So, all-in-all we did very well in what was somewhat of a challenging year.



I would like to offer a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped, whether before, during or after the Fair. Thank you as well to those who made cash donations and to those of you who were customers at the Fair. Everyone's effort helped us achieve success.

While this is one of our major fundraisers and therefore financially important, it also provides an wonderful opportunity for us to work together as a congregation towards a common goal, getting to make new friends and reconnecting with old ones and just having fun. What a great tradition!

– Mary Lou Hofmann, Chair

UU THEATER NEWS

Ho-Ho Holiday Drag

Lift your spirits at this 5th annual church benefit on **Saturday, December 17** at the Elk's Lodge, at 1675 Lisbon Road, Lewiston. Whether you've been naughty or nice, come share in the Christmas Cheer!

Christopher Dufour will emcee the show, featuring a cast of unforgettable performers. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for an hour of meet and greet. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Drinks, pub-style food, and a 50/50 raffle will be available; dancing and karaoke will follow the show. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/GoldenGoddessProductions.

Is this the year YOU speak out against domestic violence?

V - D a y
aUbUrn 2017
will present
a very
special tenth
anniversary
of "The Vagina Monologues." Will you join us?



We are looking for performers and co-directors. Auditions will be announced soon. Women and those who identify as female may perform. The show will be staged the weekend of February 25, 2017.

CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION TO BENEFIT THE BARTON CENTER



Every year our church donates 10% of the Christmas Eve collection to the **Barton Center for Diabetes Education, Inc.** The Barton Center offers many inspiring and empowering programs for children with diabetes and

their families. As Clara Barton herself fought a continuous battle to meet the needs of others, let us also help to meet the needs of this worthy cause. To make a special donation for the Campership Fund, checks should be made to the Barton Center, earmarked "Campership." For more information, please browse the most recent issue of the "Barton SPIRIT!" newsletter, posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule opposite the Pleasant Street entrance.

— Esther Tucker

MEMBERSHIP: GREETERS NEEDED



One of the duties of the Membership Committee is recruiting Downstairs Greeters for Sunday mornings. It's so important to have the first face that greets you to our sacred space be a kind and welcoming one. If you would like to take this opportunity please let me know. We'll schedule you along with a long-time greeter from the Membership Committee. Welcoming is our shared responsibility and a friendly greeting to everyone is part of what makes us who we are. Blessings,

— Peggy Cox, Membership Chair

Our Church's History of Support for Diabetes Education and Treatment

Each December, when thinking about Christmas, Universalists remember Clara Barton, who was born on Christmas day. Barton, raised a Universalist, was the founder of the American Red Cross. In 1921, the Women's National Missionary Association of the Universalist Church purchased the Clara Barton Birthplace at North Oxford, Massachusetts, to make it into a monument to her life and work.

Thousands of lives have been touched and improved by that decision. In 1932, the Clara Barton Birthplace Camp for Diabetes Education and Treatment was established. The camp was the only one of its kind in the world focused on helping children to see a brighter future while living with diabetes. The donations of the Universalist women's groups maintained the camp and also made it possible to offer camperships.

In 1960, when the Unitarian and Universalist Denominations merged to become one denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation adopted the program. Locally, as long as our church had an organized women's group, there was an annual ingathering service in December or January to commemorate the birthday of Clara Barton. Dime cards in the shape of baseballs (for the boys) and stockings (for the girls) were filled with donations for the Barton Center and for the Elliot P. Joslin Camp for Boys with Diabetes (now owned by the Barton Center). The women's group also raised money to send a local girl to the camp.

Starting in 1989, when there was no longer an organized women's group in the church, an Ingathering Service was held during a service in December to continue our support. In 1998, instead of the Ingathering Service, the policy to give 10% of the collection received at the Christmas eve service was adopted. In our November newsletter each year, I like to remind everyone of our long-standing involvement with the Barton Center. I hope it will remain a focus for many years to come.

— Esther Tucker

LEARNING NEW TOOLS FOR LEADERSHIP

Nine church members gathered recently for “*Re-Imagining Congregational Leadership*,” an evening webinar put together by staff from our UU New England Region and sponsored by our Denominational Affairs Committee.

Pictured below, our webinar participants were Jane Pentheny, Paula Spruill, Toby Haber, Peter Floyd, Merry Carver, Anne Kinney, Eben Miller, Bill Phillips, and Peggy Cox (our photographer: not pictured).

We considered ideas for developing and nurturing leaders here at church in a way that focuses on our leaders’ growth as Unitarian Universalists and allows each of us to feel more blessed than burdened with responsibility.

Anyone interested in leadership is invited to meet Sunday December 11 at 11:30 a.m. with Council of Committee members to talk further about realigning our congregational infrastructure, using follow-up materials from the webinar. We’ll explore expanding our pool of task participants on committees to liberate the energy we have here via collaboration and covenanted church community.

If you are curious about Leadership please join us Dec. 11 as we anticipate breathing new life into leadership development at our church.

– Anne Kinney, Denominational Affairs Rep.



PAGAN YULE SUNDAY DEC 18

Have you been curious about Earth-Spirituality, Wicca, or Paganism? Then come celebrate Yule (the Winter Solstice) with Lorelei in the vestry on **Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m.** We’ll have a ritual and pot luck, and some activities for kids and adults such as coloring pages, and crafts. Please bring a pot luck dish to share; beverages will be provided.

All are welcome! Email firebornspirit@yahoo.com for more information or visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1185947568133103/>



INTRODUCTION TO PAGANISM

Gather with like-hearted folk on Sunday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Auburn UU. You will learn about the history, methods, and spiritualities of modern day Paganism. This will be a series of at least eight classes. Please bring a notebook and pen and something to drink. Chairs are provided, but bring a special chair or cushion if you prefer.

Please contact Lorelei at firebornspirit@yahoo.com or 577-5946 to sign up. Classes begin **Sunday, January 15, 2017.**

Council of Committees Meeting

Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 a.m.

DECEMBER EVENTS

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

Thurs, Dec 1	7:30 p.m.	Concerts for A Cause: Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas
Sun, Dec 4	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes <i>Second Collection: Immigrant Resource Center of Maine</i>
Thurs, Dec 8	6:45 a.m.	LA Metro Chamber Breakfast
Fri, Dec 9	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, Dec 11	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes
	11:30 a.m.	Council of Committees Mtg.
Mon, Dec 12	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting (open to all)
Thurs, Dec 15	5:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Sat, Dec 17	12:30 p.m.	RE pageant rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Ho Ho Holiday Drag Show (Lewiston Elks Lodge)
	7:30 p.m.	Annual Holiday Concert with Dave Rowe, Phil House, and Denny Breau
Sun, Dec 18	10:00 a.m.	Multi-Gen Worship Service & RE Holiday Pageant
	6:00 p.m.	Yule Ritual (vestry)
Tues, Dec 20	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
Sat, Dec 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sun, Dec 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Potluck Brunch
Mon, Dec 26	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
Wed, Dec 28		Extended deadline for Jan. newsletter submissions