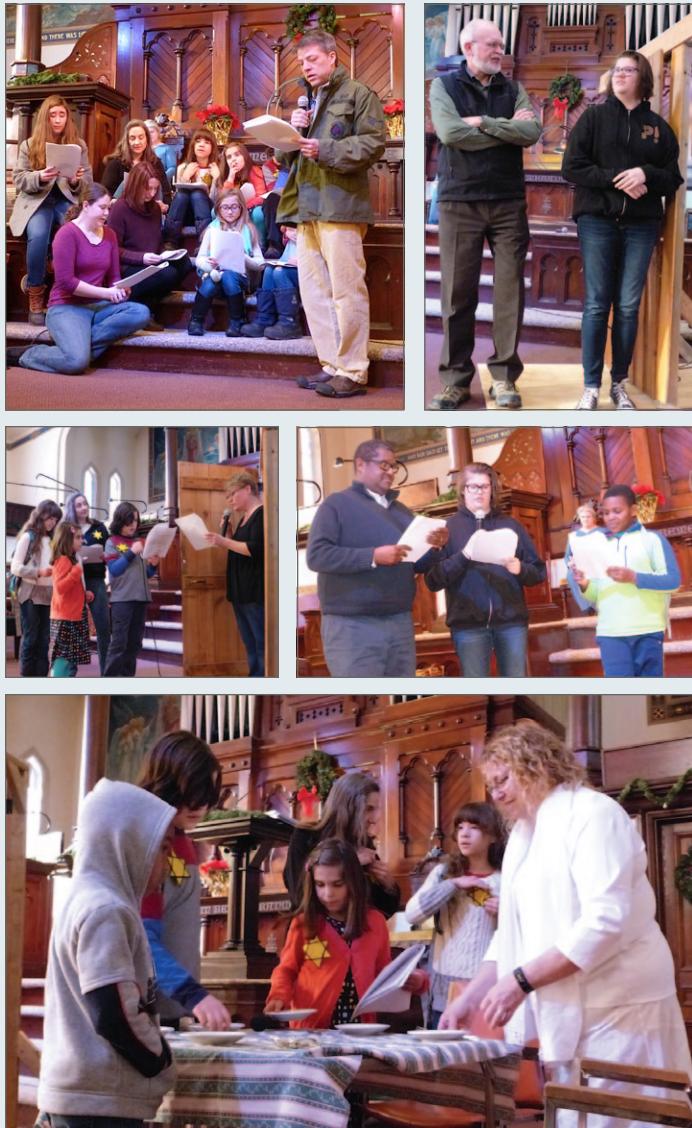


the OPEN DOOR

FEBRUARY, 2017



After several delays, RE recently staged "Opening Doors, Opening Hearts," a holiday pageant written by our DRE Cynthia Grimm.



**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

www.auburnuu.org

JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

*The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.*

*You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.*

*People are going back and forth across the door sill
Where the two worlds touch.*

*The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.*

—Rumi

Stay awake. In response to actions some are choosing to take that fly in the face of the values of our faith, others are coming together as never before. We are finding our way towards one another with more vulnerability, a greater willingness to admit our complicities in oppressions, and a deeper commitment to do the work of creating beloved community. It's easy, right now, to be overwhelmed by our fears and grief. I sure feel that way at times. Which makes it all the more important to keep our eyes open to the growth, strength, beauty, and goodness that is bubbling up to meet the ills of our times. Stay awake—not just to what is broken, but also to what is healing...and demanding that we join in.

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.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Year is here and with it have come new challenges and opportunities.

On a national scale, the transition to the Trump presidency will demand reckoning with and squarely facing the coming challenges to citizens' access to affordable health care, birth control, human dignity, and transparency in government. Members of our congregation have already taken up the mantle, participating in statewide demonstrations and outreach efforts in the name of radical love.

Among the congregation, with the loss of church matriarchs and patriarchs in recent weeks, months, and years are reminders of their collective legacy of loving stewardship of our physical space, faith, and fellow congregants. They were among our Auburn UU "sages."

One example of how members of the congregation are honoring and continuing their legacy is now shining brightly from the ceiling in the vestry, Outright room, and parlor: in January volunteers disposed of older fluorescent units and installed new energy-efficient lighting, donated as a wedding gift for Casey Knight and Peter Floyd.

Members of the Auburn UU board of directors will consider each of these challenges, both national and within our congregation, over the next several months. The next opportunity will come during the next board meeting, scheduled for Monday, February 13, at 6:30 in the church office.

— Eben Miller

Reminder: Sunday, February 5

All Music Service 10–11 a.m.

All Church Birthday 11 a.m.–12 noon

Cakes for all, piñata for the children

REMEMBERING BOB THORPE

On Saturday, January 28 we gathered to celebrate the life of Bob Thorpe. Bob was born into this church, grew up in the church, and raised his family in the church. We know Bob as, among other things, one of the greatest advocates for, and supporters of, our beautiful church building – something he learned from his own father. But Bob's care also went well beyond the physical plant of the church: to the members he mentored, the vision celebrated, and the support he quietly offered so many of us in so many different ways. We send our love to Bob's wife Cathy, his sister Esther, his children Lon, Karen, and Crystal, and the rest of his beloved family. Bob's memory is sure to be a blessing on us all.



ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

Are you caring for an elderly relative? Would you like to talk with others who know what you are going through?

Ginny and Claire will share their professional experience with us.

Our **Eldercare Support Group** has begun meeting again on the **first Monday of the month**. Please join us for our next meeting:

**Monday, Feb. 6 at 6:00 p.m.
at church.**

FMI contact news@auburnuu.org

From “Compassionate Action,” preached by Karen Lane on January 22, 2017

I’m going to show you something. Note your first emotional reaction—and hold it. Note the first thought that comes to mind and don’t go any further. Hold those, just the very first emotion and thought, until I can ask you a few questions.

Kevin Nguyen

@knguyen

POC: We must dismantle systemic oppression from the inside.

Whites: With love!

POC: No with specific policy—

Whites: LoooOOOoooOOOove 😊

9:43 AM · 13 Dec 16

7,517 RETWEETS 14.7K LIKES

Did you feel insulted? Did you feel attacked? Did you feel misunderstood and belittled?

Most of us don’t like to think of ourselves as members of a big group called “white people.” We

are individuals, so we don’t see any meaning to being white. And yet most of us, unless we have worked very, very hard to do otherwise, have no problem grouping people of color by race—as if that were more meaningful than a grouping of white people. So if you felt insulted or attacked, that might be the problem. It’s a condition that has been referred to as white fragility, it’s treatable, and I’d be happy to talk to you more about it another time if you’d like. Because you’re not the only ones—I caught myself having that same reaction to something else just the other day! But for the moment, I’m going to ask you to trust me, and set those reactions aside.

Now let me ask—was anybody’s first reaction that this was a request for help on an important social justice issue? Because it was—the people of color here are asking for two things. They are asking for help dismantling systemic oppression AND they are asking for support for their ideas about how to do that. We are being called into the game by the undisputed authorities in the fight against racism, and we need to hear that call!

JUD CASWELL HEADLINES FEBRUARY CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE



CFAC is proud to host Jud Caswell, who may be fairly called a one-man folk festival. You’ve got your banjo picking, your Irish drinking songs, a rack of acoustic instruments, and a deep catalog of award-winning originals. He’s often compared to James Taylor and David Wilcox, but his songs draw on a long musical history and wide-ranging influences from jazz and Piedmont blues to contemporary folk and rock.

Proceeds will be shared with Camp Sunshine. Tickets are \$16 at the door or \$13.50 in advance at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2722912>. *Church members may use the code CFAC0217 for a \$2 discount . This code is good until Thursday at midnight.

For a more extensive piece on Jud Caswell, see <http://m.sunjournal.com/news/encore/2017/01/18/jud-caswell-next-concerts-cause-performer/2062259>

Friday, Feb. 3 @ 7:30 p.m.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

LIVING WITH FIERCE HOPE & RADICAL LOVE

Our suggested “Actions of Fierce Hope & Radical Love” are now listed in the Order of Service, sent via email, posted on Facebook, and listed on our website, too! (<http://www.auburnuu.org/get-involved/social-justice/afhrl/>) We have been heartened by the grateful, encouraging responses to these messages:

“Toby - I love these weekly emails, thanks for sending them out. I will absolutely call her office for this - thanks for the heads up!”

-Michael Hayashida

Here are some of the many ways in which our congregation has acted with fierce hope and radical love during the month of January:

► At our January 15 service, **Derrick Webb** told us about the ways in which he lives with fierce hope and radical love. Your testimonial was inspiring, Derek; thank you! Our next speaker will be Janet Miles, on February 12.



► More than 30 members of Auburn UU joined MUUSAN at the **Women's March** in Augusta on January 21, while several others marched in Portland.



► Members of Auburn UU attended a **silent candlelight vigil** outside the Lisbon Street mosque on January 27 to show support for our Muslim community members.



► On Sunday, January 29, church members wrote **letters of support** for our Muslim neighbors.

* * * * *

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

Feb 5 Souper Sunday for Trinity Soup Kitchen

Next Second Collection Cycle

Voting for 2017 Second Collection recipients will take place on February 5 both before and after the service.

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

OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic is on **Friday, February 10**, 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! Get ready for our 11th anniversary in March...



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS

RE will hold its **2nd annual suet sale** to raise funds for the annual contra dance and other programs. Order suet online at <https://goo.gl/forms/V13eGYvwBrowV6D63>.

Order forms are also available in the vestry. Some of the children will circulate during the All-Church Birthday Party on February 5th to encourage you to order. This suet is made by our RE children with generously-donated, high-quality ingredients that your local birds will love. Please support RE!

RE also needs support of other types. We have had to combine classes a number of times this winter due to a lack of teachers and assistants. **If you can help regularly, semi-regularly, or occasionally, please contact Cynthia** at DRE@AuburnUU.org or see Cynthia after services. We need YOU to continue providing the wonderful programming for our children. Blessings,

— Cynthia Grimm, DRE



COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

Facebook clarification

The UU Auburn Facebook group is no longer supported by our church, and it will be shut down soon. Please be sure that you "like" our official public Facebook page: <http://www.auburnuu.org/facebook> Here, you can view pictures and messages from our church and the UUA, and even read inspiring excerpts from Jodi's sermons.

* * * * *

Chamber Connection

Our beloved Bob Thorpe believed in the importance of the church's presence in the Chamber of Commerce. Will you represent us at one of the following events?

- Feb 9 Breakfast; Feb 16 After Hours
- March 9 Breakfast; March 16 After Hours
- April 13 Breakfast; April 20 After Hours



Can't go but want to support the effort? Donate \$20 toward our breakfast registration fee. Contact Toby at news@auburnuu.org.

Did you know? Our projector is available for your sermon, church event or presentation.



Contact Toby at baywest@roadrunner.com

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

Safe Voices is commemorating 40 years of service by seeking community members to design a creative and professional logo that promotes the agency's mission: "To support and empower those affected by Domestic Violence and engage the community in creating social change."

For more information visit <http://www.safevoices.org/news.php>

UU THEATER NEWS



Thank you, Beet Poets...

...for giving us a delightful way to spend an afternoon. Also thanks to Sara Karam and Nicole Rush. The Beets hope to return in future, with tributes to local poets.

* * * * *

V-Day aUbUrn 2016 Announces Cast

Director Alicia Fiori has announced the cast for V-Day aUbUrn 2017 presents "The Vagina Monologues."

This special 10th Anniversary edition will be staged on **Saturday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 p.m.** at Auburn UU.

The cast includes Alia Abdulahi, Mandi Alley, Crystal Aube, Sara Camolli-Braband, Roxie Devoe, Mana Foxglove, Kara Haupt, Tara Humphries, Elise Johansen, Sara Karam, Karen Lane, Rebecca Lynch, Marty McIntyre, Ali Rabideau, Melissa Stevens-DeBoe, Klara Tammany, Ashley Thibodeau Hamboyan 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, Immigrant Resource Center, and Auburn UU.

Tickets are available at the door for a \$7-10 donation. For more information call 783-0461 or email office@auburnuu.org.

* * * * *

Playbill Ads...

...have raised over \$1,800 for our church. If you would like to send a booster to the V-Day cast by purchasing an ad, contact Toby at news@auburnuu.org.

Many thanks to our current advertisers: Auburn-Lewiston YMCA, Jim's Auto; Jamey Pittman; Mechanics Savings Bank; Maine Family Credit Union; Cubicles in L/A; Goin' Postal; Roy's All-steak Hamburgers; 84 Court; Advanced Dentistry; Brian's Barber Shop; Community Credit Union; Country Auto (Pete Vachon); Dr. Haltof; Fireside Stove; Judy Webber; Marc's Auto; Nicole Rush training; Norman, Hanson & Detroyn; Ouellette & Associates; PJ Massage; Perfect Image Salon; Rooper's; and Bill Eldridge.

* * * * *

Light Donation

UU Theater has donated \$350 to Peter Floyd's effort to install energy-efficient LED lighting throughout our building: an important project that enlivens our church space.

— Toby Haber-Giasson and Karen Lane for UUT

Interfaith Spirituality Talk: February 8

Please join the Bates Multifaith Chaplaincy for a talk and Q+A with
Rev. Dr. Jacob Watson



7:00–8:00 p.m.: Benjamin Mays Center, Bates College

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1245567782192904/>

AND THERE IS LIGHT...

A few months ago Casey and I made the decision to legally and publicly exchange vows on January 15. Knowing that we didn't really need for much as a family (this all happened before we made the decision to pursue adopting Nastya from the Ukraine) we decided that we would accept gifts toward a lighting project for the church. I made my way to Gilman's Electric to research our options and determine a reasonable cost estimate. I discovered that Efficiency Maine was offering a rebate program for replacing fluorescent fixtures with LED fixtures. The average cost per fixture after the rebate would be \$25. I immediately started counting fixtures, calculating room areas, and asking questions about the availability of funds to make our purchase up front. In about one week's time I had purchased enough lighting fixtures to light the vestry, Discoverers' room, Explorers' room, Seekers' room, Outright room, the parlor, kitchen, pantry, and hallway. We needed gifts totaling \$740 to make up the difference between the cost and rebate on the lights. That was a goal we knew we could attain!

On January 15 family, extended family, church family, friends, and friends of friends came together to celebrate our marriage with us. There was love and light seeping from every nook and



cranny of our sacred space. Where there is light there is hope and on that day enough gifts were collected to fund the lighting project with a little to spare. Excess donations were contributed to the "Live with fierce hope and radical love" banner that Social Justice is diligently working on.

Upon hearing of Bob Thorpe's declining health, I had been inspired to put out a call to building and grounds volunteers for installation help. (It was part of Bob's vision for our church to upgrade to LED lighting for greater efficiency.) With the assistance of Mike Needham, Gerry Fox, Robin Smutny, Michael Pape, Aaron Pape, Alex Pape, Andrew Pape, and Eben Miller we made quick work of the installation and clean up process, beginning on Monday, January 16 and finishing by noon on January 18. How quickly all of this came together is testament to what we are collectively capable of.

There are projects facing this church building that require tens of thousands of dollars to complete. But this project reminds me that there are improvements that can be addressed at minimal cost and completed by volunteers, bringing us even more love and connection to our space. Be the light...

In Love,
Peter, Casey, and the boys

SPRING IS COMING: OUR ALL-CHURCH FERRY BEACH RETREAT BECKONS!

Spring is on its way...and that means our Ferry Beach Retreat is, too!

Slowly, but surely, the green leaves and warm breezes will return to us. Celebrate by registering next month for our annual Ferry Beach Church Retreat. Come rain or shine, our Ferry Beach weekend will be filled with the warmth of good company, good food, and spiritually revitalizing activities.

Our theme, "All the Colors," will help us focus on all the beauty of our human diversity and in the natural world. If you have a workshop idea that might reflect this theme, please speak to Anne Kinney.

New retreat-goers are especially welcome. You can expect comfortable dorm room accommodations, lots of (optional!) creative, reflective, and enlightening activities, delicious meals, and plenty of opportunities to connect with nature, and to



interact with friends, new and old! The weekend always wraps up with an uplifting, music-filled, lay-led Sunday morning worship.

The UU Ferry Beach campus is situated on 900 feet of oceanfront in Saco. Stay the whole weekend, or come for a day. Retreat costs are structured to offer a variety of options for commuting, camping, or rooming in the dorms.

This year's Ferry Beach All-Church Retreat takes place **Friday to Sunday, May 5-7, 2017**. Registration opens March 26 during Coffee Hour, and closes April 16. This is a popular retreat, so be sure to register early.

For further information, including scholarships funded by our Chili Cook Off, contact Anne Kinney, coordinator, at akinneyuu@gmail.com. Soon we'll launch our brand new retreat website, too, at: <http://www.ferrybeachallaubnor.com>.

FERRY BEACH SUMMER 2017 CONFERENCES

Registration is open now for all Ferry Beach summer conferences. Most are for a week, some are for a weekend. There are a variety of offerings for kids, teens, and adults. Visit www.ferrybeach.org or call 207-282-4489.

JUNE

- Boston Pride Parade group
- Annual Meeting
- Work & Play Week
- Young Adult Work Week
- Profound Treasury: Buddhist Conference
- 3 Youth Camps

JULY

- 3 Youth Camps
- Religious Education Week
- Choral Fest
- GAYLA
- Getaway Weekend
- EcoSpirit (includes Intro to Permaculture)
- Kids for the Earth Lite
- Yoga Retreat
- Kayaking/Paddle Boarding
- Slow Fashion (Sew Your Own Clothes)
- Family and Friends

AUGUST

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship & Fun (UUAF)
- Motivational Interviewing
- Concert: Reggie Harris Returns & Catie Curtis
- In the Company of Women
- Circle of Music
- Women's Healing Retreat
- Power of Words
- Soul Path
- Transformational Leadership
- When You Want Only Love
- Quilting by the Bay
- 12-Step Intensive

SEPTEMBER

- Labor Day Weekend Gathering

REGISTRATION OPEN...

Registration is open for our **Unitarian Universalist Regional Assembly, April 21-22 in Woburn, Massachusetts**. To make this gathering affordable for everyone, both our region and our district are offering scholarships to assist with registration and housing costs.

This unique spring event, "**Awaken Your Spirit**," offers New England UUs a celebration of our faith and values, and a forum to connect as we set the stage for the work ahead. Together we'll worship, sing, eat, and explore topics of justice, ministry, and our UU relevance. Our Northern New England District (NNED) will also hold its annual meeting with election of officers, and district updates.

The conference site is the Woburn Hilton Hotel—about an hour from Portsmouth, NH. Our New England Region (NER) can reduce registration costs for those who cannot afford the full fee. For a reduced registration rate, email: newengland@uua.org. **Pre-registration is required before April 10, with an early bird rate until February 28.** All registration and assembly details are on the regional website: <http://www.uua.org/new-england/awaken>.

For those who will travel from Maine and want overnight hotel rooms, our Northern New England District Board is offering housing scholarships for those who need financial assistance. Application forms are available from Anne Kinney, or our church office, or via email to the NNED office: NNEDadmin@comcast.net. Housing assistance must be requested prior to February 28.

Your region and district representatives encourage you to attend and don't want costs to be an obstacle! Arrive Friday evening for the UUA Presidential Candidates Forum moderated by Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti, pictured at right, a reception, and inspired singing.



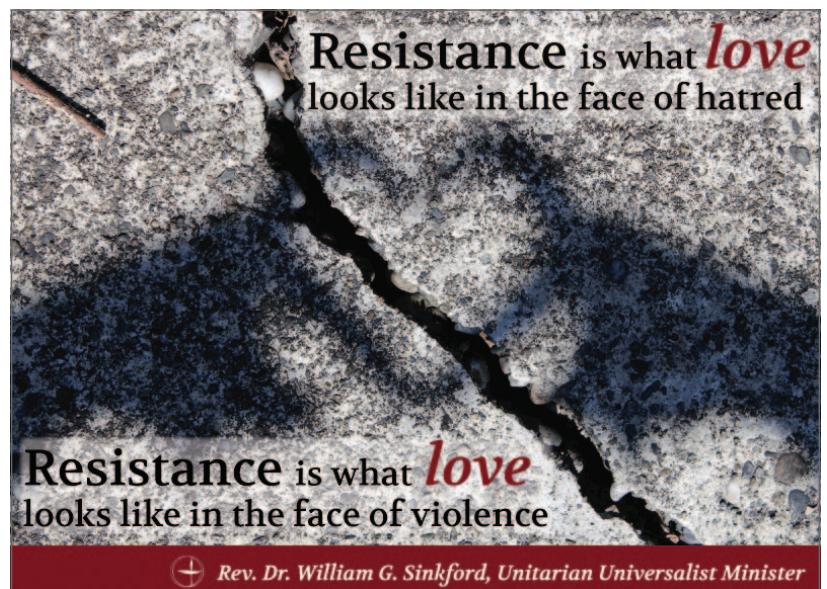
—Anne Kinney, Denominational Affairs Rep & NNED Board Member

The deadline for the March
Open Door newsletter is

WED, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Please send submissions to Tracey Miller
at newsletter@auburnuu.org.

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.



Rev. Dr. William G. Sinkford, Unitarian Universalist Minister

FEBRUARY EVENTS

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

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Fri, Feb 3 | 7:30 p.m. | Concerts for A Cause: Jud Caswell |
| Sun, Feb 5 | 10:00 a.m. | ALL MUSIC SERVICE |
| | 11:15 a.m. | All-church birthday party |
| Mon, Feb 6 | 6:00 p.m. | Eldercare support group |
| Thurs, Feb 9 | 6:45 a.m. | LA Metro Chamber Breakfast |
| Fri, Feb 10 | 7:30 p.m. | Open Mic / Poetry Slam |
| Sun, Feb 12 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service / RE classes |
| Mon, Feb 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Board Meeting (open to all) |
| Thurs, Feb 16 | 5:30 p.m. | Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Drumming Circle |
| Sun, Feb 19 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service / RE classes |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Intro to Paganism (vestry) |
| Tues, Feb 21 | 6:30 p.m. | CAKES meeting |
| Wed, Feb 22 | | Deadline for March newsletter submissions |
| Sat, Feb 25 | 7:00 p.m. | Vagina Monologues |
| Sun, Feb 26 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship Service / RE classes |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Vagina Monologues |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm) |
| Mon, Feb 27 | 4:30 p.m. | SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's) |