

Scenes from the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, courtesy of Sean Galipeau-Eldridge



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

“Live with fierce hope and radical love.”

Soon enough, those words will be draped across the exterior of our building, a public affirmation of our vision of beloved community. And, as we move into the new year, I wonder—where will our radical love take us? How will it demand that we stretch and grow? Who will it insist that we welcome? And what of our fierce hope? What moments will demand that we dig deep and find hope we didn't know we possessed? How will we share it?

There are so many unknowns as we head into the future. What I do know is that I trust in your deep love to strengthen my own when it falters, and I will share mine with you when you are in need of strength. We are stronger together. And for our togetherness, I offer thanks.

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

In January members of the Auburn UU board of directors will take up the work of the New Year. With the height of the holiday season behind us, there is much to anticipate in the coming weeks and months of 2017, from the music service to the service auction, from the chili cook-off to the Ferry Beach retreat. These annual highlights of the church year occur thanks to the efforts of our congregation—an excellent example of how, as it is put in our congregational mission statement, we are strengthened by our diversity.

As we close out a tumultuous 2016, it is equally helpful to acknowledge that we are also bolstered by a commitment to “fierce hope,” in the words of our vision statement. This has been a central theme in the worship services over the past several weeks. The parable of Elijah, for instance, that Jodi shared in December emphasized the utility of “continuing to do the work” despite the uncertainty of the outcome. Our Social Justice committee has recently offered opportunities to “do the work,” supporting national causes like the demonstrations at Standing Rock, as well as local organizations such as Safe Voices.

Those of us on the board of directors will likewise draw from our vision statement while committing to doing the work of 2017. We'll begin with the first board meeting of the year at 6:30 on Monday, January 9, in the church office.

– Eben Miller

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: FEBRUARY 5

All Music Service 10–11 a.m.

All Church Birthday 11 a.m.–12 noon

Cakes for all, piñata for the children



Sermon Excerpt

Preached by Jodi on Dec. 24, 2016

“...How could they have known that he brought with him the most radical power of all – a power neither wielded by the few nor kept from the many; a power neither paid for with the tears of the powerless nor stolen from them; a power that did not weaken when others grew strong but rather strengthened when others came into their own; a power that would not stretch their pocketbooks or smite their foes but would deepen their spirits so profoundly they would be able to meet whatever came their way with their heads held high? How could they have known that he brought with him a reminder of the power of God with them, the power of God within them – the power of love incarnate?”

How could they have known that he arrived not to defeat one empire and replace it with another, but to teach them to tap into the holy love they all carried within to create a different kind of society all together-heaven on earth, a beloved community that rejoices in them all? How could they have known that he too would demand more than many of them believed they could afford to lose – not just their belongings but their pride, their self-righteousness, their certainties and divisions. Or that they would discover that in the losing they would receive more than many of them believed they deserved...”

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

Thank you to **Aaron Pape**, who volunteered in the church office as part of Baxter Academy's Anytime/Anywhere Learning Day and to **Jeanne Hamel, Becca Lynch and Peggy Cox**, frequent and *greatly appreciated* office volunteers.

BOLD RILEY HEADLINES JANUARY CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

Friday, Jan. 6
7:30 p.m.

For tickets visit
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2722877>

Concerts for a Cause is proud to host Bold Riley, a local folk group known across southern Maine for its soaring vocal harmonies and diverse instrumentation on Friday, January 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. The concert benefits the church, as well as Greater Androscoggin Humane Society.

Bold Riley started as a simple music project among friends, but quickly gained momentum thanks to the group's contagious enthusiasm and commitment to bringing joyful acoustic folk music

to the greater community. Comprising members from all over southern Maine, the group is known for its soaring vocal harmonies and diverse instrumentation. Fiddle, guitar, banjo, accordion, bass and an ever expanding list of percussion allow Bold Riley to provide a wide range of music to its listeners. Members Dennis Boyd, Jr., Julie Edwards, John Gunn, our own **Michael Hayashida**, and Erin Sampson take turns singing lead on songs which range from classic



folk favorites to unlikely covers and rousing originals. With the release of their self-titled EP in 2015 and performances at Stone Mountain Arts Center, Common Ground Fair, and other local venues, Bold Riley is making an exuberant contribution to Maine's folk music scene.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. To purchase, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2722877>. For more information, visit uuconcerts.org or call the church at 207-783-0461.

Please join the Floyd/Knight family as they tie the knot

on **January 15th** in the sanctuary at **12:30 p.m.** with a potluck to follow.

Bring your family, invite your friends for food and joy as we celebrate
the season of coming light and a lifetime of love.

No gifts please, as we have been blessed to have already grown our home. All those moved to do so may donate to the gift of light as we hope to replace the church's vestry lighting with LED lighting.

Thank you,
Peter, Casey, and the boys

SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

Jan 1 Greater Androscoggin Humane Society

Feb 5 Souper Sunday for Trinity Soup Kitchen

Next Second Collection Cycle

Blue slips for Second Collection nominations will be accepted until January 15. Voting will happen February 5.

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Living with fierce hope & radical love

Keep watching and listening for weekly actions, brought to you by Rev. Jodi and Social Justice. So far, we have joined in interfaith support of Standing Rock, supported Bates College campus sanctuary, and the vigil against local homelessness.

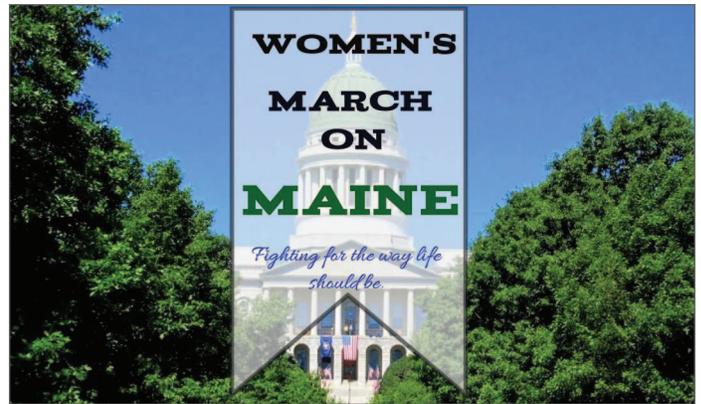
On the second Sunday of each month, we will hear testimonials from our friends about their own ministries. On January 15 we will hear from Derrick Webb.

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Safe Voices Reading & Discussion Group

Safe Voices is looking for a range of professionals who all work with domestic violence survivors. They are hosting a 4-session reading and discussion group, meeting once a month February to May. The group seeks to gain new perspectives on this work. Co-sponsored by the Maine Humanities Council.

Interested? Contact Kelley Glidden at 795-6744 or kglidden@safevoices.org.



Join Social Justice at the Womens March on Maine: January 21

We're joining this Maine human rights march in Augusta, in solidarity with the White House march. Walk with us to our State House, behind our Social Justice banner! Meet up at Auburn UU at 8:30 a.m.

This rally supports women's rights, civil liberties and protection of the planet. This is an inclusive march, and everyone who supports women's rights is welcome, including:

- Women, Girls, Femmes, GNC (gender non-conforming)
- Men & boys
- Families
- People of Color
- Immigrants
- LGBTQ community
- People with disabilities
- Climate change advocates
- ALL religious communities
- Anyone else who wants to come out in support.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1264984530218859/>

Original Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1790176321230462/>

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS

On **January 8**, our Religious Exploration program will at last present **“Opening Doors, Opening Hearts,”** a holiday pageant written by our DRE Cynthia Grimm.

Follow the journeys of refugees throughout history. Will they find welcome or walls?

The pageant includes famous refugees such as Joseph and Mary, the Wise Men, The Dalai Lama, Anne Frank, the Von Trapp family, and poet Warsan Shire. The storyline reflects some aspects of the current political atmosphere in our country. Appropriate for all ages.

OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic is on **Friday, January 13**, 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!

**PLEASANT NOTE
COFFEE HOUSE**

**OPEN MIC + JAM
+ POETRY SLAM**

First Universalist Church of Auburn
159 Pleasant St. Auburn (across from Dairy Joy)
www.uuauburn.org 783-0461

**SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
7:00 SIGN UP 7:30 START**

PAGANISM 101 STARTS JAN. 15

Gather with like-hearted folk on Sunday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. starting on **January 15** 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.

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: Here, you can view pictures and messages from our church and the UUA, and even read inspiring excerpts from Jodi’s sermons.

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Chamber Connection

Thank you to **Bob Thorpe** for his gift of a chamber membership so we can continue to raise our profile in the L-A community.



Will you represent us at the next Chamber breakfast on **January 12**? Contact Toby Haber-Giasson at news@auburnuu.org for info.

DRUMMING CIRCLE: 3RD THURSDAY

+ BRING OR BORROW +
JANUARY 19 - 6:30-8:00

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

UU THEATER NEWS



Christopher Dufour and Toby Haber at the Ho Ho Holiday Drag Show

Ho Ho Holiday show a success

The 5th Annual Ho Ho Holiday Drag show raised \$250 for the church! Big thanks to Christopher Dufour, director and host, and Nicole Rush, our playbill goddess. Stay tuned for our next drag benefit: the Wings of Spring show in March.

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Beet Poets Variety show

On **January 28 and 29**, UUTheater will feature The Beet Poets of Wayne, Maine, a variety show featuring spoken word and music. The group is excited to share their folksy vibes in our welcoming space. Beet Poets fervently believe in poetry that won't put people off! Poets include our old friend **David Moreau**, plus Jay Franzel, Claire Hersom and Steve Cowperthwaite and musician Stan Davis. Stay tuned for more info!

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Auditions for V-Day aUbuRn 2017: "The Vagina Monologues"

Join in our 10th anniversary show! Auditions will be held **Sunday, January 8, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** in the vestry and **Monday, January 9, 7-8 p.m.** in the Outright room. To request an alternate day/time, contact 783-0461 or office@auburnuu.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fifty percent of the fiscal year has elapsed and overall our income is right on target at 50% while our expenses are 2% less than budgeted at 48%. Pledge underpayment is at 7% – 3% more than the 4% budgeted – but non-pledge gifts have made up the difference so far. While our operating account has \$13,000 available as we begin the new year, higher costs in the winter means that we need to collect at least \$14,900 per month from all sources.

Creative thinking about fundraising continues to serve us well.

Creative thinking about fundraising continues to serve us well. The UU Theater generated significant income at a moment of need for us. Casey Knight and Peter Floyd added \$1,000 of income to our Church fair revenue with a LuLuRoe women's clothing fundraiser. Concerts for a Cause will hopefully grow into a significant income generator for the Church in time. Thanks for all these extra efforts!

– Al Sargent, Treasurer

Audition material will be provided. Monologues will be read, and need not be memorized. Due to adult content, participants must be 16+. Only women – or those who identify as female – may perform (but anyone can help with the production). Performances will be Feb 25-26.



"V-Day" celebrates the right of women and girls to live free from fear of violence. Proceeds will benefit local partners working against domestic violence. This year's show is dedicated to **Janet Gibson**.

JANUARY EVENTS

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

Sun, Jan 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes <i>Second Collection: Greater Androscoggin Humane Society</i>
Mon, Jan 2	6:00 p.m.	Eldercare support group
Fri, Jan 6	7:30 p.m.	Concerts for A Cause: Bold Riley
Sun, Jan 8	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Worship Service / RE PAGEANT Vagina Monologues auditions (vestry)
Mon, Jan 9	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting (open to all) Vagina Monologues auditions (Outright Room)
Thurs, Jan 12	6:45 a.m.	LA Metro Chamber Breakfast
Fri, Jan 13	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, Jan 15	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Worship Service / RE classes Intro to Paganism (vestry)
Tues, Jan 17	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
Thurs, Jan 19	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
Sat, Jan 21	8:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Meet at church to travel with SJ to Augusta for Women's March on Maine Women's Self Defense (LGBTQ friendly)
Sun, Jan 22	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship Service / RE classes Intro to Paganism (vestry) Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm)
Mon, Jan 23	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
Wed, Jan 25		Deadline for February newsletter submissions
Sun, Jan 29	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Worship Service / RE classes Intro to Paganism (vestry)

Living with Fierce Hope & Radical Love



Thanks to **Kitsie Claxton** for sharing all the ways she lives out her fierce hope and radical love:

"I gain inspiration and hope from each of you, and I am reminded to commit to the fundamental principles of compassion and justice. I can see that my small efforts do matter because together, with yours, and yours, they are much stronger than any could be alone."

Got an old iPod? Donate it to Clover for their Music & Memory program. See Toby or contact news@auburnuu.org



The deadline for the February Open Door newsletter is

WED, JANUARY 25, 2016

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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As we begin a new year, I'd like to especially thank two people who have been so very helpful to Membership. **Tracey Miller** creates the wonderful member boards downstairs which recognize our beloved Sages and our newest Members. **Peter Floyd** has worked with us to create and install clear and attractive new signage that will enable visitors as well as members to identify specific spaces in our building. They are two of the special people who help to make us a warm and welcoming congregation and we appreciate their efforts. Blessings,

– Peggy Cox, Membership Chair

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** will begin
meeting again on the **first Monday of the
month**. Please join us for our next meeting:

**Monday, Jan. 2 at 6:00 p.m.
at church.**

FMI contact news@auburnuu.org

SPIRITUALITY GROUP OBSERVES SOLSTICE AND YULE

The Cakes Group, our women's spirituality circle, recently celebrated Winter Solstice and Yule, and incorporated this special Yule-log cake on our refreshment table. December's chocolate treat was designed and baked by Holly Cooney, and enhanced the festive programming prepared by Pixie Frayer and Jane Pentheny.

The Cakes Group focuses on exploring goddess traditions from earth-based faiths that pre-dated Christianity. For December we highlighted a folk myth that represents the annual battle of the dark and the light: the story of the Holly and Oak kings, which we translated into goddesses for those who wished.

Pixie created a candle Yule log for the collaborative altar, which the group rounded out with sun symbols, evergreens, nuts, holly, special candles and other seasonal items. During the program we shared ways we nurture ourselves at this time of year.

After holding open exploratory meetings this past fall on such topics as Mabon (a harvest festival), Witches, and Super Moon Energy, the Cakes Group is "closed" now to newcomers until next fall to retain the confidentiality and integrity of sharing, leadership, and relationship-building among participants. The 16 attendees in December all opted to continue for the coming year.

January's program will welcome the New Year with a look at Jana, a little known Roman goddess of "gateways," who faces both forward toward the New Year and what may unfold, and backwards at the prior year to glean lessons from the past. Program facilitators will be Jan Vachon and Esther Tucker. For fun we'll do some "divining" with pendulums.



AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT AT OUR NEW ENGLAND UU ASSEMBLY



“Awaken Your UU Spirit!” is the call for New England Unitarian Universalists to gather this spring in Woburn, MA to celebrate our UU faith, and share hope, plans, and inspiration.

Our first-ever Regional UU Assembly on April 21-22 includes uplifting worship, engaged learning, community singing, UUA Presidential Candidates Forum, workshops, fellowship, and fun. Come to this assembly to uplift your soul and revive your spirit.

Early Bird Price is \$115 when you register by February 28. (Regular price: \$125 on or after March 1). If cost is prohibitive to your attending, even with church assistance, please contact the New England Region—newengland@uaa.org or (617)

948-6415—for a reduced rate and to register. Youth are welcome to participate, and childcare is offered for children under age 11.

Think of this as a sort of “mini-G.A.” (General Assembly) here in New England, approximately 30 miles south of Portsmouth, NH at the Hilton Hotel. For more information please see Anne Kinney or visit <https://www.uua.org/new-england/awaken>

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Friday, April 21, 2017

- UUA Presidential Candidates Forum / Reception

Saturday, April 22, 2017

- Morning Worship
- Regional Workshops
- Community Sing
- District Annual Meetings

ALL-CHURCH FERRY BEACH RETREAT MAY 5-7

“Celebrating All the Colors”

Who doesn’t love a duct tape hat?

Our annual Ferry Beach Church Retreat is a chance to be creative and contemplative in sacred community with fellow Unitarian Universalists from the Auburn, Norway, and Allen Avenue churches. With workshops, music, fellowship, and long walks on the beach, the annual all-church retreat has something for everyone!

Our theme this year is “All the Colors,” a focus inspired by the folk song “DeColores” from our UU hymnals. The lyrics express deep joy and celebration of the diversity of all creation, a heartfelt and significant sentiment to us.

Connect with friends new and old, connect with the earth, and revitalize your spirit at the picturesque UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center campus, situated on a gorgeous 900 feet of oceanfront in Saco. Stay the whole weekend, or just come for the day!

The Ferry Beach Church Retreat takes place Friday to Sunday, May 5-7, 2017. Registration opens March 26, and closes April 16. Limited scholarship funds are available. This is a very popular retreat, so be sure to register early! For more information contact Anne Kinney, coordinator, at akinneyuu@gmail.com, or Ron Spofford.

