



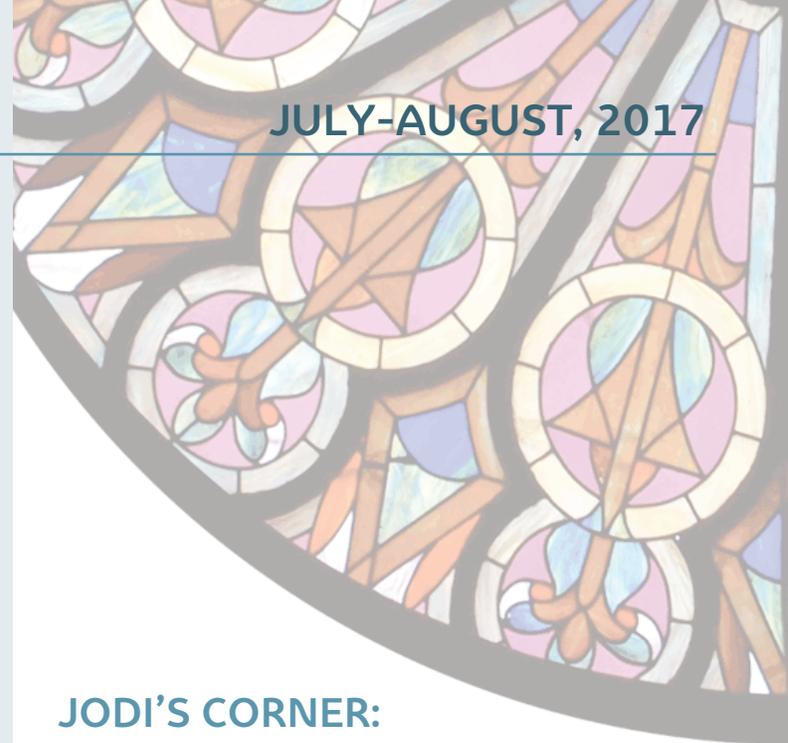
Auburn UU at Pride L-A 2017



**FIRST UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH of AUBURN**
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

An official Welcoming Congregation
All are worthy, all are welcome

169 Pleasant Street, Auburn, ME 04210
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www.auburnuu.org



JODI'S CORNER: WORDS FROM OUR MINISTER

As I write this column, thousands of UUs are gathered in New Orleans for General Assembly—the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Immersed in worship and workshops, participants are grappling on a denominational level with the same challenges we have stepped into here—exploring what it means to be a “church” in the modern era, what it means to build and live in Beloved Community, how to dismantle white supremacist structures that prioritize white experience and lives...and it is a blessing to be reminded that this work is not our work alone. UUs around the world are faithfully asking the same questions, stumbling forward and backwards together, sharing learning and best practices, and supporting one another.

May we find strength in this larger community of support and challenge, 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 June, the Auburn UU Board of Directors held its final meeting of the 2016-2017 church year with a focus on leadership. This continued the board's yearlong attention to an issue so pressing to our congregation—and, as we've learned, so critical to most congregations around the country. Members of the board began the year by consulting with a friend of Auburn UU, Kurk Lalemand, participated in a webinar devoted to the topic during the fall, and have agreed to maintain this focus through the upcoming church year.

Happily, congregational leaders continue to devote themselves to our church community as well as to our shared mission and vision. During the annual spring meeting, for instance, we recognized two church members who have exemplified devotion to fierce hope and radical love. The Rose Window ceremony, with awards given to Bonnie Soper and Pearl Sawyer, was especially moving this year. I hope we'll all take the opportunity to express appreciation to those among us who are doing so much in service to our congregation.

In that spirit, I offer thanks to my fellow board members as they plan for the 2017-2018 church year. While Ginny Starbird and I have completed our terms on the board, incoming president, Peter Floyd, and vice president, Kerry Lathrop, will be joined next year by continuing members Bill Phillips, Paula Spruill, and Tom Wylie, as well as new board members Katy Gallagher and Bets Mallette. Thank you all.

— Eben Miller

SAVE THE DATE

Water Communion & Opportunity Fair
Sunday, September 10, 2017

An excerpt from the sermon preached by Rev. Cherly M. Walker at the annual UUA General Assembly's Service of the Living Tradition on 6/22/17

"Do I want to make a change or do I want to have an impact? Because I can change an institution and still not have an impact on the lives of the people in that institution. I can change the bylaws, I can pass a resolution, I can restructure the institution, I can change the leadership of the institution... I can do all of these changes and still not have an impact on the lives of the people the institution is purportedly serving .

Change, contrary to popular belief, is easy. Having an impact—that's hard.

Our Unitarian Universalist movement has had an impact on many issues: same sex marriage, women rights...on many, many issues we are 30 years ahead of other faith communities. But on other issues, like race and class, we are 30 years behind.

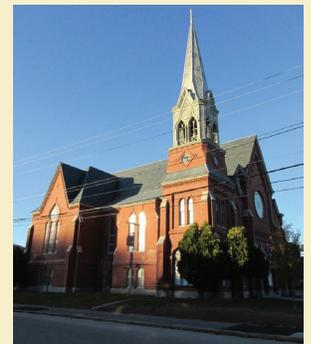
We keep making changes but we have had little or no impact. We change the name of programs, we change the language we are going we use, we change the leadership, and our impact has still been limited. We keep thinking of ways to change, but spend little time thinking of ways to have a lasting impact. Because to have a lasting impact is to first understand that transformation takes time...."

Cherly Walker is minister of the UU Fellowship of Wilmington, North Carolina and President of the UU Minister's Association

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Starting the week of July 4 (and ending August 27), the office will be closed on Wednesdays.

The office remains open **Mondays and Fridays from 9:30–1:30.**



"Welcoming Diversity" – RE Service on June 4, 2017



Thanking our RE volunteers



UU THEATER

Hooray for UU Theater, for taking on creating, producing, and directing an outdoor simulation of the refugee experience for L/A World Refugee Day, with a community-wide cast! We are proud that we were asked to do it.

Thanks to Toby Haber and Karen Lane for making this unique event happen. And thanks to church folk Kay Hawkins, Bill Eldridge, Charles Nero, Becca and Lauren Lynch, Jane Pentheny, and Luke Lunt for being part of it. Our appreciation to the Vachons and Mary Lou Hofmann for the use of their tents and to Favid Fuller for these photos of our crew and cast in action.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

July 2 New Beginnings

August 6 Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

FH&RL Testimonials

Thank you to **Mary Lou Hofmann** for offering her words about radical love in June. If you would like to offer a testimonial, contact Jane at janepentheny@verizon.net.

Animal Ministry

Live with a passion for animal rights! Help Rev. Jodi plan the Animal Blessing service, and organize animal rights actions. Contact Dana drickman54@gmail.com or Toby news@auburnuu.org.

Buy Local

Habiba Noor will be selling her fresh produce here on Sundays, beginning in July. She comes to us through a program at Fresh Start Farms via Cultivating Community that supports refugee and immigrant farmers. For more info, visit www.cultivatingcommunity.org/buy-our-produce/

RESIST Central Maine

RESIST Central Maine will meet Sundays, 7/9 and 7/23 at 4:30 in the vestry.

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

ARE YOU PLUGGED INTO LOCAL SOCIAL ACTIONS?

We need someone to compile our list of weekly "Actions of Fierce Hope and Radical Love" to share with the congregation.

Contact Toby at news@auburnuu.org.



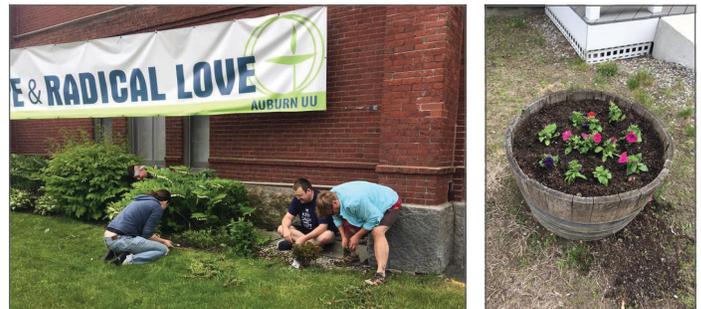
2017 ROSE WINDOW RECIPIENTS



During the RE service on June 4, **Bonnie Soper** and **Pearl Sawyer** received the 2017 Rose Window award for their many years of devoted service to Auburn UU.

GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, June 3, a fabulous team worked diligently to clean up the flower beds around our church building. Thank you to Peter, Sharon, Gerry, Bets, Stephanie, Becky, and Luke!



MEMBERSHIP SIGNING? COVENANTING? RADICAL QUESTIONS FOR UUs



Imagine that if instead of signing a membership book, we asked people to enter into covenant with us. And imagine that periodically we each renewed that covenant.

Imagine if congregations entered into and were welcomed into covenant with the larger association, and then that covenant were renewed regularly.

That covenant must be more than agreement between us to treat each other with respect. It must be an agreement between ourselves and something larger than ourselves.

That “something larger” would be a compact between us and the work we share in the world: our Mission. Not our mission statement, but our mission.

Such a radical departure from “the way we do things” reflects the thinking of members of the new UUA Renewing the Covenant Task Force. They recommend we limit General Assembly business meetings to every other year. But then in the alternate year there be General Conferences to have deep conversations and discernment to explore what the UUA is called to be and to do in today’s world. That work would engage us in a few big questions that would frame our covenants.

Imagine if this kind of reassessing of our institutional structures could help dismantle our

LEADERSHIP SLATE 2017-18

Elected at the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2017

Board of Directors

President: Peter Floyd

Vice President: Kerry Lathrop

Clerk: Katy Gallagher

At-large: Bets Mallette

At-large: Bill Phillips

At-large: Paula Spruill

At large: Tom Wylie

Treasurer: *open*

Other Officers

Co-collector: Mary Kay Weisenberger

Co-Collector: Esther Tucker

Financial Secretary: John Davison

Historian: Bill Eldridge

Moderator: Karen Lane

Delegates to UUA General Assembly 2017

Anne Kinney

Jane Pentheny

Alternate: *open*

Delegates to NNED Spring Meeting 2018

Anne Kinney

Jane Pentheny

Alternate: Bill Eldridge

business-based faith models that reinforce racist, sexist, and class biases.

Imagine the full realization of covenantal relationships. These conversations are underway and were just introduced at June’s UUA General Assembly.

– Anne Kinney for the Membership Committee

DISMANTLING RACISM: FOR AUBURN UUERS

You and I are called today to create a new culture of racial justice and to engage in the work of dismantling systemic racism in our UU faith.



We UUs face realities of bias and discrimination in our systems, and it requires all of us at Auburn UU to help effect change—here. We can start within our own church walls to explore and disassemble our prejudices.

A November invitation for all UU congregations: Let us hold **worship** and **conversations** about fulfilling the promise of anti-oppression work and moving deeply into the practice of anti-racism.

Let us dig into our pockets and take a **collection** to support Black Lives UU (BLUU), the collective working to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs in our faith.

At our association's June General Assembly (GA) our three interim UUA co-presidents identified themselves by the "firsts" they embodied as co-

presidents. Together they became our first presidents who identified as female, out-queer, a layperson, or ability challenged! Together, in a brief three months of service, they

have already transformed our faith.

"Building a New Way" is a hymn we sing, with the words *"We are building a new way, feeling stronger every day...peace and freedom is our cry, without these this world will die..."*

Today we have a new UUA president after G.A. balloting. As she assumes office the UU leadership mantle is also ours to assume along with her.

Anti-racism work calls every one of us. Please answer this call with a faithful and generous YES in this current moment of opportunity to question cultural norms and habits that hamper us in creating Beloved Community.

— Denominational Affairs Committee

NEW UUA PRESIDENT

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, a life-long UU, has just been chosen as our new UUA President, and is our first elected woman chief executive. She was selected in a ranked-choice ballot process at our UUA General Assembly (GA) in June by congregational delegates from across the country.

Susan defeated two other women candidates, the Rev. Alison Miller and Rev. Jeanne Pupke. Susan has been lead minister at the UU Congregation of Phoenix, AZ where she was called the "face, voice, and power" behind our 2012 "Justice GA" in Phoenix where UUs faced down the notorious Sheriff Joe Arpaio at his Tent City Jail. Susan also led our UU Arizona Immigration Ministry.



Susan's presidency began June 24, the day she was elected. She will serve for one 6-year term, which directly follows the 11-week (appointed) co-interim presidency of Rev. Bill Sinkford, Rev. Sofia Betancourt and Dr. Leon Spencer.

LOVE RESISTS!

Resist and rejoice! This theme at our June UUA "General Assembly" (GA) meetings and celebration poses a big call to action.



The words below moved me – adapted from the morning worship in New Orleans on 6-22:

Resist any system that puts one culture at the top. **Rejoice** in the beauty and challenges of all cultures and subcultures. **Resist** economic systems that punish the underpaid. **Rejoice** when we earn a fair living wage.

Resist the American systems that were built to favor whites at the expense of black and brown folks. **Rejoice** when our faith tries to shed light on these injustices. **Resist** attempts to discredit black people simply asking for the recognition that their lives matter. **Rejoice** in the oncoming parade of justice by acknowledging that black lives matter.

Resist religious ideologies that teach you are depraved and should hide your true self. **Rejoice** that we all are made in

God's image. **Resist** transphobia. **Rejoice** in the expression of one's identity by opposing homophobia. **Rejoice** in a world where it is safe to love whomever you love.

Resist misogyny. **Rejoice** in the work that creates a world where women may fully manifest who they are meant to be. **Resist** anti-immigration policies. **Rejoice** in rich cultural diversity.

Resist the nation's chemical industry built on former plantation land that continues the legacy of placing profits and production over safety and health. **Rejoice** in the ways that people breathing in the nation's smog have found ways to resist the injustice.

Resist and rejoice! Learn to manifest your faith in the heart of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist. This is our religion.

For full GA coverage, see *UU World* magazine or <http://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2017> for GA reports.

– Anne Kinney, *Denominational Affairs Rep.*

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.



ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

first Monday of the month

Next meetings: Monday, July 3 and Monday, August 7 at 6:00 in the parlor

FMI contact news@auburnuu.org

A graphic showing two stylized drums with drumsticks, set against a red background.

DRUMMING CIRCLE

ALWAYS ON THE 3RD THURSDAY
OPEN TO ALL BRING OR BORROW
JULY 20 & AUGUST 17 - 6:30-8:00
For more info, contact Peter Floyd: floyd6of7@yahoo.com

DID YOU KNOW?

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

Contact Toby at baywest@roadrunner.com



JULY & AUGUST EVENTS

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

Sun, July 2	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE <i>Second Collection: New Beginnings</i>
Mon, July 3	6:00 p.m.	Eldercare support group
Wed, July 5	5:30 p.m.	SURJ logistics meeting
Sun, July 9	10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)
Fri, July 14	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, July 16	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE
Tues, July 18	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
Thurs, July 20	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
Sun, July 23	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm) RESIST Central Maine mtg (vestry)
Mon, July 24	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
Sun, July 30	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE Pagan Ritual
Wed, Aug 2	5:30 p.m.	SURJ logistics meeting
Sun, Aug 6	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE <i>Second Collection: Immigrant Resource Center of ME</i>
Mon, Aug 7	6:00 p.m.	Eldercare support group
Fri, Aug 11	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
Sun, Aug 13	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE
Tues, Aug 15	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
Thurs, Aug 17	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
Sun, Aug 20	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE
Sun, Aug 27	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship Service/Summer RE Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm)



OPEN MIC

Join us 2nd Friday of every month at 7:30pm to sing/play/recite or just LISTEN.

Upcoming open mics: JULY 14 & AUGUST 11

COMMUNITY RELATIONS NEWS

Chamber Connection

We're looking for active members and friends to be the "face" of the church to the LA Metro Chamber of Commerce. Will you represent Auburn UU at these upcoming events? Contact news@auburnuu.org.



- **Chamber Breakfast:** Thursday, July 13, 6:45-9:00 a.m. at the Agora Grand Event Center in Lewiston (\$20). Speaker: C. Shawn Yardley, Chief Executive Officer, Community Concepts
- **Chamber Breakfast:** Thursday, August 10, 6:45-9:00 a.m.: more info TBA.

WILL YOU JOIN A COFFEE HOUR TEAM?

More volunteers are needed!
Call 783-0461 or
[email office@auburnuu.org](mailto:office@auburnuu.org).



September Open Door newsletter deadline: FRIDAY, 8-25-2017

Please send submissions to newsletter@auburnuu.org.

Submissions should be simple and reader-friendly (no longer than 275 words) 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. (If you DO NOT receive a response via email, please get in touch!)