



Thanks to Tara Humphries for photos of these lovely chalice creations from the Ferry Beach Retreat.



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

In his poem "Just Enough," Japanese poet Nanao Sakaki suggests that "soil for legs/axe for hands/flower for eyes/bird for ears/mushroom for nose/songs for lungs/sweat for skin/wind for mind" are all we really need. Worthy work, natural beauty, simple food, joy, clarity—these things are enough for a rich and nourishing life, if we are able to cease our endless grasping after more.

As we move into the beginning of Maine's season of abundance, I wish the same for all of us—that we are able to pause long enough to notice and appreciate the richness around us; that we find ourselves nourished simply and fully by the daily gifts that are ours; that our days be so joy-filled that it pours from us in song and thanksgiving.

May your days and nights be blessed,

— Jodi

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Auburn UU Board of Directors devoted much of the 2016-2107 church year to the theme of congregational leadership.

Fittingly, we end the church year with recognition of congregational leadership through the annual naming of the Rose Window Award. It is a special duty, and pleasure, of serving on the board of directors to so honor leaders within our congregation. The call for nominations this year resulted in an impressive list of nominees, each of whom has contributed singularly to the mission and vision of our church, not to mention to its members and physical space. The Rose Window Award will be announced during the annual meeting on June 4.

Looking ahead to the upcoming church year, it is also a pleasure to announce that Peter Floyd will be stepping into the role of board president, and Kerry Lathrop will serve as vice president. I hope you will join me in expressing appreciation to these congregational leaders!

Marking the conclusion of the church year, the board will hold a final meeting on Monday, June 12, at 6:30 in the church office.

– Eben Miller



Barbara Hinckley and her daughter Marsha sing for us on Mother's Day, 2017

## FROM A MOTHER'S DAY SERMON PREACHED BY JODI ON MAY 14TH, 2017

Our Father	Our Mother
Who Art in Heaven	Who are in all the earth
Hallowed be Thy name	Holy is your truth
Thy kingdom come	May your wisdom come
Thy will be done, on	Your circle be one uniting heaven
Earth as it is in heaven	and earth

– excerpt from a prayer written at a 1993 Dominican Sisters retreat

...What makes this prayer subversive is the way the sisters put the new words and the old side by side, allowing the language to nestle up against itself, the back and forth serving as an invitation to consider the language of the traditional prayer. . .

...Our language, our ability to name and describe is the power to create, or at least part of it. Our words matter. We choose our language, and then it shapes us, often in ways we don't anticipate and aren't even aware of. . .it's why we have collectively shifted from using "mankind" to "humankind," from "teaching tolerance" to "celebrating diversity," it's why we have embraced the evolution of the language, reflecting our deepening understanding, of "racism" to "structural racism" to "systems of white supremacy."

Our words matter. They shape our consciousness, and our collective consciousness shapes reality itself. . .

## FLOWER COMMUNION: JUNE 11

Bring a flower for each member of your family,  
and a few extras for guests!



This month's **Concert for a Cause**  
has been cancelled. Sorry, fans!

Stay tuned for news of our 2017-2018 season.

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUBURN, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017 AT 11:15 A.M.

To the members of the First Universalist Church of Auburn, Maine, Unitarian Universalist:

CALL TO MEETING

The Board of Directors requests your attendance at the Annual Congregational Meeting of the members of the First Universalist Church on Sunday, June 4, 2017, at 11:15 a.m. The meeting will directly follow the worship service. Refreshments will be served in the sanctuary.

AGENDA

1. Call to order (Moderator)
2. Quorum Check (20 % of Membership)
3. Opening prayer ( Rev. Jodi Hayashida)
4. Acceptance of Minutes from Spring and Fall Meetings 2016
5. Acceptance of Reports from Committee Chairs (in Annual Report booklet)
6. Vote on Leadership Slate
7. Presentation of Rose Window Award ( Rev. Jodi Hayashida)
8. Presentation of and vote on proposed Budget (Finance Committee) and any other presentations, as determined by the Board.

All are invited to attend to learn more about the functioning of our congregation, although voting is a privilege of church membership.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Starbird, Clerk

YARD CLEAN-UUP: SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 9 a.m.–NOON



There is reseeding, mulching, sweeping, and planting to be done to beautify our yard. Bring your rakes, yard brooms, and gloves to join in this labor of love.

The clean-up will be followed by a picnic lunch (hotdogs, salads, and chips)!

If you can donate an item from our list below, please contact Peter Floyd by email at [floyd6of7@yahoo.com](mailto:floyd6of7@yahoo.com) or by phone at 207-333-1476.

Thank you for your help!

**DONATIONS NEEDED:**

- |  |              |                                      |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 20 lb bag of grass seed ( <i>already donated</i> ) | Hotdogs      | Garden salad                         |
| 3 bales of straw ( <i>already donated</i> )        | Hotdog buns  | Potato chips or other crunchy treats |
| 12 bags of black mulch                             | Condiments   | Cookies                              |
| Plants   | Potato salad | Bottled water                        |
| Seed spreader                                      | Pasta salad  | Juice or Tea                         |

## SCENES FROM STEWARDSHIP 2017: ENJOYING THE FELLOWSHIP OF OUR COMMUNITY

This year's stewardship offerings included a Bouncing Family Outing at Aero Air Park with Karen Lane and Sawyer Templeton; dinner at Jane Penthy's house; a vegetarian meal with Sara Karam; wine tasting and snacks with Kay Hawkins; and a Tasting Trip around the World with Mary Lou Hofmann. Thank you to all who hosted and participated!



Clockwise from above: Esther, Diane and Bill at Jane's; Ron, Sylvia, and Ginny at Kay's; Bernardo, Rain, and Carlos at Aero Air Park; and Pixie, Anne, Bill and Peggy at Sara's



## #BringNastyHome YARD SALE UPDATE

Peter and Casey's May 27 yard sale raised \$629 to Bring Nasty Home! Thank you for all the positive energy and thank you to those who donated their time and items to this cause.

**YARD SALE, PART 2** will be on **Saturday, June 3 from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** Drop off donations (on the stage in the vestry) this Wednesday and Friday between 10:00 and 1:00 or by prior arrangement.

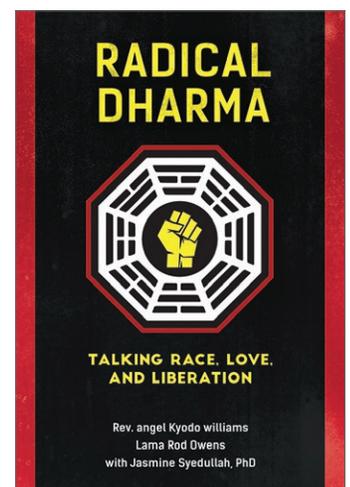
## COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Join us at Auburn UU to engage in thought-provoking dialogue, build loving community, and fuel a commitment to justice. All are welcome!

We will meet each Sunday in June to discuss *Radical Dharma: Talking Race, Love, and Liberation* by Rev. angel Kyodo williams.

- 6/4: 12:30pm-1:30pm \* note different time
- 6/11: 11:30am-12:30pm
- 6/18: 11:30am-12:30pm
- 6/25: 11:30am-12:30pm

Contact Tara at [thumphries3@gmail.com](mailto:thumphries3@gmail.com).



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## RE CORNER

Another year of RE classes and events is coming to a close. Since most of our classes this year focused

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Please  
invite your  
immigrant  
friends to  
come hear  
our message  
of welcome.

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on Racial and Social Justice, the theme for our **RE Service on June 4** will be "Welcoming Diversity." We would like to invite as many New Mainers to join us for the service as possible. Please invite your immigrant friends to come and hear our message of welcome. We will be using the book *I'm*

*New Here* by Maine author Anne Sibley O'Brien and the accompanying materials the author created to send our message of welcome even further.

Summer RE will begin on Sunday, June 18. During the summer, we invite members of our congregation to bring a topic or craft project to share with our children and youth. If you have an idea for a special activity, please contact Cynthia.

We will also be holding an RE retreat soon to brainstorm and share ideas for our RE programs. We need input from everyone: children, parents, volunteers, and the entire congregation to make our RE programs the best that they can be. Please keep an eye on the calendar and watch for more updates as we set a date for this event.

Finally, I am sad to report that our longtime volunteer and lead teacher for our preschool and Kindergarten group, Bonnie Soper, has moved to Clover Manor in Auburn, and is no longer able to assist in the RE program. In addition to leading the Explorers class every week, Bonnie was an active member of the RE committee and volunteered in countless other ways in our church and our community. We are so grateful for the many years of service and friendship she has shared with us.

– Cynthia Grimm, DRE

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## SERVICE AUCTION UPDATE



*Service Auction*

Thanks to everyone for another successful Service Auction. The final tally is \$4,129. We are a very generous group! I'd like to thank, Peggy, Paula, Mary Lou, Esther, and Ron, and runners Kaia and Simon.

Unsold items are available on the online auction until June 17. To access the auction: [www.32auctions.com/firstuniversalist2017](http://www.32auctions.com/firstuniversalist2017). You can view the items without registering with 32auctions. If you want to bid, you have to sign up and create a password .

– Bill Frayer, Service Auctioneer

## GOT LA PRIDE?

Join LA's inaugural **Pride March and Festival** on Saturday, June 10.

11 a.m.–noon: March  
Noon–4 p.m.: Festival



Social Justice is looking for a representative to staff a table for Auburn UU. Contact Jane or Toby if interested. More information:

<http://pride-l-a.weebly.com/2017-march-and-festival.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/PrideLAMaine/>

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

One of the responsibilities of the Membership Committee is recruiting Ushers. This month **Sara Karam** came to our meeting and discussed the duties the Usher performs each week. I'm sure most of us have no idea of the number of tasks they do to keep things running smoothly. If you are interested in becoming an Usher please speak with someone from Membership or directly with the Usher on Sunday morning.

I have enjoyed being the Membership Chair for several years, but believing in the importance of having fresh ideas and involvement, I have asked **Paula Spruill** to assume that role. I know she will do a great job, and I thank everyone for their interest and help with Membership.

– Peggy Cox, Membership Chair

### DID YOU KNOW?

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



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

## AUBURN UU MADE THE 2016 UUA "HONOR ROLL"



Our Auburn UU congregation achieved the status of *Honor Congregation* in our denomination for the previous fiscal year.

This means last year we contributed our full requested financial contribution – or "Fair Share" – by the end of June 30, 2016.

In addition we were cited as a *Merit Congregation* for giving at least 20% more than we did in the prior fiscal year. We were one of 9 Maine Honor Congregations and one of 3 Merit congregations in our state.

As a member congregation of both our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and our Northern New England District (NNED), **Auburn UU's fair share contribution is \$79 per member.** In Maine, five of our sister UU churches have been Honor congregations for between 10 and 25 consecutive years!

"Fair Share" is something to strive for right NOW as we each make our pledge this year. If you have not let the church know you wish to have \$79 of your own pledge allocated towards your denominational share, you can still do so. A designated check for \$79 is the simplest way to do that with a note on the memo line indicating it is your "fair share" donation.

**We will not achieve Fair Share status** this current fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, since all our pledging members did not designate \$79 of their pledge to the larger denomination.

– Anne Kinney,  
Denominational Affairs Representative

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER

### SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

June 4..... Greater Androscoggin Humane Society

July 2 ..... New Beginnings

August 6..... Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

### FH&RL Testimonials

On June 11, Mary Lou Hofmann will speak on her vision of fierce hope and radical love. Look for another testimonial in July.

\* \* \* \* \*

### A message from Dana

Hello fellow UU animal advocates,

The time has come for me to hand over the reins of our animal ministry. I'm hoping one or many of you will be able to take what is still a fledgling endeavor and continue to build on its heartfelt successes. There is much good work to do on behalf of our wider community of beings.

One person should work with Jodi to plan and coordinate animal blessing service. Others can coordinate and share all the opportunities out there for animal ministry- e.g., via email like fhrl actions. People should pursue independent actions and share those with animal ministry core, to compile and track action.

Contact Dana at drickman54@gmail.com

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### Sunday produce returns

By popular demand, Habiba Noor will be selling her fresh produce here on Sundays, beginning in July. She comes to us through Fresh Start Farms, a Cultivating Community program that supports refugee and immigrant farmers. For more information: <https://www.cultivatingcommunity.org/buy-our-produce/>

\* \* \* \* \*

### RESIST Central Maine

SJ has adopted RESIST Central Maine, a grass roots group organizing local actions which we feel express the fierce hope and radical love we espouse. Several of our members are active with the group. You may recognize familiar faces in this *Boston Globe* article: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2017/05/15/maine-health-care-advocates-demand-know-where-bruce/HcMvL4AWmKfDooEydV1GtM/story.html>

Next RESIST meetings: Sunday, June 11 and Sunday, June 25 in our vestry at 4:30.

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### Documentary at APL

See "Now is the Time, Healthcare for Everybody," a documentary about the idea of a single-payer health system: Monday, June 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30), at the Auburn Public Library. *Co-sponsored by Resist Central Maine*

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### SAPARS panel

SJ hosts a panel discussion at Auburn UU by SAPARS on sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: June 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

– 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](mailto:news@auburnuu.org).



## FERRY BEACH RETREAT JOY



As evidence that the sun did emerge during our annual Ferry Beach Retreat, we offer this photo as proof to those at home during our all-church oceanfront weekend in May.

Despite clouds and plentiful rain, we raised such high energy that nothing dampened our spirits.

We matched retreat attendance from last year: 76 of us registered from Auburn UU, and with our UU friends from the Allen Avenue and Norway churches there were 170 of us on campus for the weekend.

Highlights varied for each of us, but retreat evaluations gave kudos to all workshops and activities, the community we create, the music, the food, and the Variety Show, which together create the inevitable Ferry Beach “magic” that casts its spell over us.

Some participants said that the rain brought us closer together for indoor chats, lots of laughter, games, puzzles, and singing. And outdoor activities still took place as planned, including fairy houses, the UU-themed scavenger hunt, nature walk, kite-flying, beach time...and...brrrrr...dips in the waves.



Many thanks to the devoted year-round Planning Committee from Auburn UU of Ron Spofford, John Spruill, and Jan Vachon, who join me in this venture. Endless appreciation goes to workshop and activity leaders from all three churches. You are the heart of our retreat weekend – we rely on your talents and skills for our programming each year.

**Mark your calendars for 2018: FERRY BEACH RETREAT, MAY 4, 5, and 6.** If you haven't yet attended, know that Ferry Beach is beckoning you here, too: to reflect, to renew, and to rejuvenate your spirit.

*– Anne Kinney, Retreat Coordinator*



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## FACING WHITE SUPREMACY, TRUTH, AND RECONCILIATION



Dismantling racism and anti-black oppression within Unitarian Universalism are central to our faith's internal work today on the heels of controversy about racism and bias in hiring practices within the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Recent charges of discrimination led to several high-level staff resignations including that of UUA president Peter Morales three months before the end of his term.

The UUA's interim co-presidents shown here – the Revs. Sofía Betancourt, William Sinkford, and Dr. Leon Spencer – are convening a Commission for Institutional Change to discern urgent needs and do long-term visioning for our association. Their recent meetings with UU leaders of color identified a profound scope of work ahead that must focus on questions of power, liberation, and leadership. They will report priorities at this June's General Assembly in New Orleans.

Our Northern New England District (NNED), comprised of UU congregations in Maine, NH, and Vt., just voted at our annual meeting to donate up to \$200,000 from district finances to Black Lives UU, and to urge our NNED congregations to fundraise an additional \$100,000 over the next two years.

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## CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH AS GODDESS GAIA

In May the Cakes Group, our women's spirituality circle, celebrated Goddess Gaia, the great ancestral earth mother from pre- Judeo-Christian traditions. Gaia's story says that it was she who birthed the gods, the universe, and humankind. We used meditation, song, a ritual, and mythology to honor the earth, mothers, and feminine energies.



Fifteen women gather each month to focus on stories and lore from ancient times when the divine feminine was part of daily culture. Concepts of equality and reverence for the female in a religious setting were lost when patriarchal religions became dominant; and the Cakes Group explores ancient goddesses and earth-based celebrations from a woman-affirming perspective.

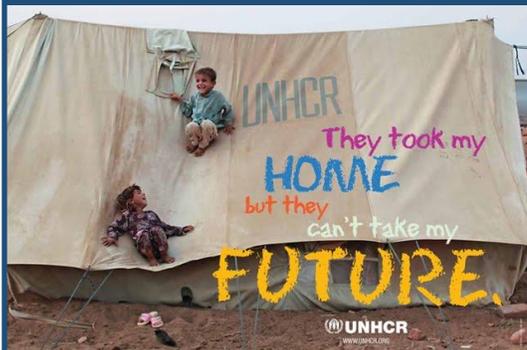
The goddess circle centerpiece was part of May's refreshment table and altar areas, along with our own plants, stones, geodes, herbs, roots, turtle figurines and other representations of Gaia's – earth's – bounty, magic, and healing powers. Members also brought soil from home to blend together and bless, then divide up to return to our own gardens to infuse Gaia with our combined strength and support.

In June the group will focus on Greek Goddess Hera, known to the Romans as Juno. Hera (Juno) was revered as the *Queen of Heaven*, and was the one goddess who accompanied women on their entire life journeys. The month of June is named for this goddess.

The Cakes Group will hold a potluck celebration and ritual in August, then plan introductory fall gatherings open to any interested women. In December those who wish to continue will covenant to meet each month for another year, and the group will "close" to newcomers until the following fall.



# 2017 LA World Refugee Day



## *Come & Experience the "Far From Home" Refugee Simulation*

*Based on Catholic Charities Maine "In Their Shoes"*

Join your neighbors for a community event featuring international food, music, activities and conversation!

**Thursday, June 29, 5-7:30pm**

**Simard-Payne Memorial Park, Lewiston**

City of Lewiston

The Root Cellar

Community Concepts

Auburn UU Theater

Health Affiliates Maine

Spurwink Services

City of Auburn



Immigrant Resource  
Center of Maine

L/A Arts

Bates College

Catholic Charities  
Maine

Lewiston Public  
Schools

Community Members

## UU THEATER: A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Over the past 10 years, UU Theater has established a reputation for social justice theater. That's why Fatuma Hussein, from Immigrant Resource Center, asked us to create an outdoor experience for World Refugee Day, on June 29.

UUT's "Far From Home" simulation will give participants a taste of the fear and uncertainty refugees and asylum seekers face. We hope to foster greater understanding between neighbors with this piece.



World Refugee Day 2016

How can you support us?

- **Volunteer:** <https://tinyurl.com/ktuexp9>
- **Donate a canopy tent:** [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org)
- **Follow WRD on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WorldRefugeeDayMaine/#>
- **Audition for the show** (loose script: mostly improv): **Thurs., June 1**, 5-7 p.m. at Auburn UU

*Participants must be available:*

**Thurs, June 8**

Rehearsal 5-7:00 (*small groups*) at Auburn UU

**Thurs, June 22**

Dry run rehearsal 5:00-7:00 at Auburn UU

**Mon, June 26**

Dress rehearsal on site 5:00-7:00

**Thurs, June 29**

Event warm-up 3:30-5:00, event 5:00-7:30

– Toby for UU Theater: [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org)



## OPEN MIC

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

*Upcoming open mics:*

**JUNE 9**

**JULY 14**

**AUGUST 11**

Dave Grund bought the right to pick a theme show – he chose The Beatles! Look for more theme news in the fall...

## 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 one of these upcoming events? Contact [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org).



- **Chamber Breakfast:** Thursday, June 8, 6:45-9:00 a.m. at the Poland Spring Resort in Poland (\$20). Speaker: Dana Connors, ME State Chamber of Commerce President
- **Business After Hours:** Thursday, June 15, 4:30-6:30 p.m. after the B2B Trade Show at Androscoggin Bank Colisee (free)

### 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.



## JUNE EVENTS

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

<b>Fri, June 1</b>	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Auditions for World Refugee Day simulation
<b>Sat, June 3</b>	8:00-3:00 9:00 a.m.	Yard Sale: #bringnastyahome Clean-up Day at Auburn UU
<b>Sun, June 4</b>	10:00 a.m.  11:00 a.m.	Worship Service/RE SERVICE <i>Second Collection for G.A.H.S.</i> Annual Meeting
<b>Mon, June 5</b>	6:00 p.m.	Eldercare support group
<b>Wed, June 7</b>	5:30 p.m.	SURJ logistics meeting
<b>Fri, June 9</b>	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
<b>Sat, June 10</b>	11:00 a.m.	Pride LA
<b>Sun, June 11</b>	10:00 a.m.  4:30 p.m.	Worship Service/ Flower Communion RESIST Central Maine meeting (vestry)
<b>Mon, June 12</b>	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting (open to all)
<b>Thurs, Jun 15</b>	5:30 p.m.  6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
<b>Sun, June 18</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
<b>Tues, June 20</b>	6:30 p.m.	CAKES meeting
<b>Wed, June 21</b>	6:30 p.m.	SAPARS film and panel
<b>Sun, June 25</b>	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	Worship Service Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm) RESIST Central Maine mtg (vestry)
<b>Mon, June 26</b>	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)
<b>Thurs, Jun 29</b>	5:00 p.m.	World Refugee Day, Simard-Payne Park, Lewiston



## DRUMMING CIRCLE

ALWAYS ON THE 3RD THURSDAY

OPEN TO ALL BRING OR BORROW

**JUNE 15 - 6:30-8:00**

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

**July-August *Open Door* newsletter deadline:  
6-24-2017**

**Please send submissions to [newsletter@auburnuu.org](mailto: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!)

## ELDERCARE SUPPORT GROUP

*first Monday of the month*

**Next meeting: Monday, June 5 at 6:00 in the parlor**

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