

Scenes from the Blessing of the Animals service on October 16, 2016



**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

There is a whole lot of stress, anxiety, and flat-out fear swirling around right now. To meet it with courage we need to first meet ourselves, and one another, with tenderness. So draw your circles of friendship and community close. Find stories of love warriors who transformed the world through their tenacious action. Remind yourselves of the deep promises you made to the Holiness in your life, and find a way to live those promises out every day. Celebrate every success, victory, and moment of learning you have. Seek the sacred in those around you. Name it when you see it—especially when you see it in those with whom you often disagree. Hold those who are grieving. Hold those who are raging. Hold those who are fearful. Hold them as if your hands were the very hands of the Holy, because, of course, they are.

Be gentle, my friends.

And may your days and nights be blessed.

— Jodi

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When the Auburn UU board of directors meets again in November, it will be in the midst of an annually active season at the First Universalist Church. In past weeks we've blessed our animals, haunted the vestry during the Halloween sleepover, celebrated Samhain, inaugurated the Concerts for a Cause series, and, of course, worshipped together. In the coming weeks we'll enjoy a post-election potluck, perform during open mic, drum, and host the Gingerbread Fair

Such congregational vitality is the handiwork of many church leaders. Lifting up and marshaling the resources to sustain our church leaders are key concerns of the board of directors. During the October meeting, members of the board focused on our own process of collaboration, with the intent of enhancing the work of the board of directors. In November, several of us will continue exploring how to best define and develop our church leadership by participating in a New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association-hosted webinar titled "Re-Imagining Congregational Leadership." The webinar will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 10. I invite all who are interested to please consider participating. More information on how to do so is available elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

We on the board will have a few days to digest the experience before meeting again at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 14 in the church office.

– Eben Miller

Our newsletter has a new look,  
to coincide with our  
newly-redesigned website.

Check it out at [www.auburnuu.org](http://www.auburnuu.org)!

The blessing over our animal friends and companions, offered at the Blessing of the Animals service on Oct. 16, 2016

[Animal's name], you were entrusted to me as my companion and my friend. And I have been given to you, to love you, protect you, care for you and enjoy you. May you be blessed in all the days to come. May you know safety. May you know joy. May you know love. Thank you for sharing yourself with me.



During the October 30 service, Rev. Jodi assisted congregants in "letting go" of the things we carry.



Thanks to all who participated in our October 30 fire drill!

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CORNER



SJ reminds you to vote on **Tuesday, November 8!** Please support ballot initiatives endorsed by MUUSAN: Questions #2, 3, 4, and 5.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Election Day of Hope

Voters in Lewiston and Auburn are invited to bring nonperishable food items to their polling locations, where volunteers will be waiting to collect them. The goal is to collect up to 10,000 pounds of food to feed the hungry in our community at Trinity Jubilee Center, Hope Haven Gospel Mission, and the food pantries in L/A schools.

### SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

- Nov 6 ..... New Beginnings
- Dec 4 ..... Immigrant Resource Center of Maine
- Jan 1 ..... Greater Androscoggin Humane Society

## POST ELECTION PICK-ME-UP POTLUCK & SERVICE

**Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 4:30–7:30 p.m.**

This election season has been painful, and many of our spirits long for the joy, comfort, and strength of beloved community. Please join us on the day after the election, as we gather for a small group experience, followed by a potluck, and then a simple worship service of song and prayer.

We're intentionally beginning early so that families with young children can participate before bedtime! Childcare will be provided. Stay for as little or as long as you'd like.

## CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE PRESENTS THE WICKED GOOD BAND

**Friday, Nov. 4  
7:30 p.m.**

For tickets visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2683406>

Concerts for a Cause, Auburn UU's brand new concert series, is proud to present the Wicked Good Band for a no-holds-barred musical comedy extravaganza unlike anything L/A has seen.

The concert will include the band's usual brand of Maine-humor-laced songs and comedic interplay, and will also include a cash bar and light refreshments.

Each concert in this series benefits Auburn UU and a local non-profit. Proceeds from the Wicked Good Band's appearance will support the work of Veterans Inc., the largest provider of assistance to veterans in New England.

For more information on this and future concerts, visit [uuconcerts.org](http://uuconcerts.org) or call 207-783-0461.



November Is  
 A state of mind  
 a stab to the  
 hopeful heart  
 engendered by October's  
 buoyant promise  
 the dream belied  
 by every falling leaf.  
 November stands as  
 sentry outside the door  
 of the dying  
 her winds moaning the grief  
 the regrets of things not  
 accomplished.  
 Those of us who whirl in the  
 circle of seasons know  
 that beyond the oppression  
 of time's darkest of days  
 waits a renewed enlightenment  
 of mood. Thank goodness we don't  
 live in November!  
 We're just passing through.

—Pearl Tibbetts Sawyer



## THE GINGERBREAD FAIR NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Gingerbread Fair is **Saturday November 19** and we are looking for your wonderful contributions and help. We need bakers and pie makers, folks to contribute gift baskets and contents, craft items, silent auction items, jewelry, and books. (Please save your white elephant items for our Spring Yard Sale). We also need help setting up on Friday afternoon, and help in the kitchen on Saturday. Please watch the Order of Service and emails for more information.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact Mary Lou Hofmann @ 777-1833 or even. sleeves@gmail.com or contact the church office.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our Fall New Member class sessions have taken place and we are so pleased to welcome three new members. Part of the membership process is defining what calls to you to enrich our sacred community. Our new members all identified ways that they could make special contributions of time and talent. Have you thought about this lately? A vital part of Membership is finding your passion for good and following it. I'd like to hear your ideas about membership and what is important to you. Blessings,

—Peggy Cox, Membership Chair

When WE go to the polls, we can change this myth, re-write the story, create a new set of principles that respects the sacredness of all people by addressing systemic oppression and providing for basic human needs.

This power rests not only in the **right to vote**, but in **exercising** that right, each and every time we are given the opportunity.

There are lives at stake here. Beautiful, sacred, lives.

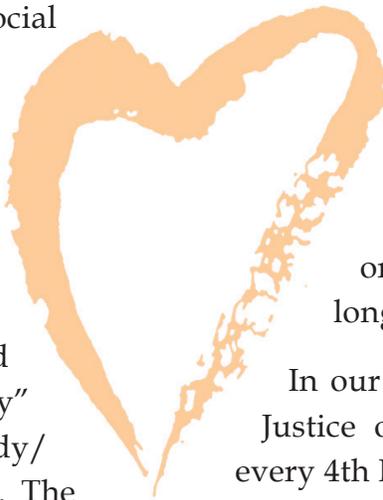
—Rev. Lydia Ferrante Roseberry,  
 Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

## GA SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES TRANSLATE INTO PRIORITIES FOR LOCAL UUs

As Unitarian Universalists we set social justice priorities every year at our national General Assemblies (GA). This year our church sponsored delegates Jane Pentheny and Anne Kinney for the Columbus, OH event.

They and other delegates selected "The Corruption of Our Democracy" as the 2016-2020 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for four years. The current topic still under consideration through 2018 is "Escalating Inequality." Both of these topics are questions, or invitations, for congregations to study, rather than statements of belief.

GA delegates demonstrated support for the Black Lives Matter movement by responding generously to a financial appeal and collecting nearly \$90,000. Contributions sent in before GA helped to sponsor 71 black UUs who otherwise might not have been able to attend. Some of the collection will fund the *Black Lives of UU*



Convening in New Orleans, March 9-12, 2017.

Recently our UUA Board further supported Black Lives of UU by allocating \$300K for short term organizing needs, and authorizing long-term financial support of \$5 million.

In our area, SURJ, Showing Up for Racial Justice of Central Maine, sponsors a vigil every 4th Monday of the month at the Longley Bridge by Gritty's in Auburn, and organizes, mobilizes, and educates about racial justice here.

MUUSAN, our Maine UU State Advocacy Network, has been working on the democracy questions for several years already, and has an issues group called Democracy in Action that explores and addresses the corruption of democracy. It is led by two UU former state legislators, Cush Anthony and Karen Kusiak. MUUSAN meets again on November 12th at the UU Community Church of Augusta.

—Denominational Affairs Committee

### DRUMMING CIRCLE: 3RD THURSDAY

+ BRING OR BORROW +



*This month:*

**NOVEMBER 17 - 6:30-8:00**

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

**Got an old iPod?** Donate it to Clover for their Music & Memory program. See Toby or contact [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org)



### Walking Meditation

**THURSDAYS @ 4:15**

Start at Bates Chapel, 275 College St., Lewiston

For more information, contact Tara Humphries: [thumphries3@gmail.com](mailto:thumphries3@gmail.com)

### Network for the church...

...at an LA Metro Chamber breakfast on **November 10** or **December 8** at 6:45 a.m. (Thanks to Jesse Sargent for representing us in October!)



Contact Toby at [news@auburnuu.org](mailto:news@auburnuu.org) to learn more.

## UU THEATER NEWS

We've had to postpone our ART Readers Theater performance. Stay tuned for the rescheduled date!

\* \* \* \* \*

Mark your calendar for this year's **Ho Ho Holidays drag show** on **December 17**. The always-entertaining event, hosted by Christopher Dufour, will be held at the Elks Lodge at 1675 Lisbon Road in Lewiston. Please support this show, which benefits Auburn UU!

\* \* \* \* \*

Call for **V-Day alumnae** for a special 10th anniversary show in February! If you **EVER HAVE BEEN** in our "Vagina Monologues" show, or **WANT TO BE** in this year's special presentation, please contact Toby news@auburnuu.org.

## OPEN MIC

The next Open Mic is on **Friday, November 11**, 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**

## MANY THANKS

to these local businesses for supporting our playbill and the work of Auburn UU

### FULL PAGE

Jim's Auto, Jamey Pittman, Mechanics Savings Bank, Maine Family Credit Union, Cubicles in L/A, Goin'Postal

### HALF PAGE

Roy's All-steak Hamburgers

### BIZ CARD SIZE

84 Court, Advance 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 & Detroy, Ouellette & Associates, PJ Massage, Perfect Image Salon, Rooper's, Bill Eldridge

## WANT IN ON THE ACTION?

### Ad rates for 2016-17

Biz card .....\$25/show ....\$75/season  
Half page .....\$45/show ....\$120/season  
Full page .....\$55/show ....\$150/season

Contact Toby news@auburnuu.org

## RECOVERY OPEN MIC

First Thursday  
of the month:

**Nov. 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Free**

This rental event is opening its doors to church members. It is not limited to those in recovery, so please come on by!



## NEWCOMERS INVITED TO “CAKES GROUP”

The “Cakes Group,” our monthly women’s spirituality group, remains open to newcomers to explore through the end of 2016. After December the group closes until next fall to maintain its integrity and level of sharing.



The next gathering is November 15th from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the church vestry. Anyone interested should email Anne Kinney – [akinneyuu@gmail.com](mailto:akinneyuu@gmail.com)—in advance for information about the topic and suggestions about what to bring for the collaborative altar we all create together. We focus on topics of spiritual relevance to women, particularly earth-based rituals and goddess-based traditions.

The name “Cakes” is taken from the full phrase, “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” in the Hebrew Bible. It comes from the book of Jeremiah where God speaks to Jeremiah, saying:

*“Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough to make **cakes for the Queen of Heaven** and to pour out libations to other gods, in order to anger me!” – Jeremiah, 7:17-18*

In using this phrase, our group *reclaims* a statement that was intended to be a demeaning, disparaging reference to the old goddess religion(s), and we elevate it to a new reference of **power** for us as women.

Goddess religions predated Christianity throughout the world but have not generally been included in history or in religious education studies. Learning more about these lost goddess traditions connects us to our past as women and helps us move into spiritual wholeness.

## FOCUSING ON LIFE PURPOSE AT TREE OF LIFE WORKSHOP

The deceptively simple metaphor of “Tree of Life,” guided a dozen women step-by-step through a process to discern our life’s purpose for exactly who and where we each are right now.

Adeptly led by interfaith minister Rev. D’Vorah Kelley (photo below) of Keene, NH, we listened, shared, wrote, and drew together during the five-hour retreat until the point where we each had discerned a visual and written depiction of “purpose” for ourselves.

Sponsored by our “Cakes” women’s spirituality group, this is the second year D’Vorah has traveled to Auburn to facilitate one of her highly regarded workshops.



Don't forget to turn your clocks back  
on November 6!

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

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

<b>Thurs, Nov 3</b>	7:00	Recovery Open Mic
<b>Fri, Nov 4</b>	7:30 p.m.	Concerts for A Cause: The Wicked Good Band
<b>Sun, Nov 6</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes <i>Second Collection: New Beginnings</i>
<b>Mon, Nov 7</b>	6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting (open to all)
<b>Tues, Nov 8</b>		ELECTION DAY
<b>Wed, Nov 9</b>	4:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.	Post-Election Potluck and Service
<b>Thurs, Nov 10</b>	6:45 a.m.	LA Metro Chamber Breakfast
<b>Fri, Nov 11</b>	7:30 p.m.	Open Mic / Poetry Slam
<b>Sun, Nov 13</b>	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service / RE classes
<b>Tues, Nov 15</b>	6:30 p.m.	Cakes group meeting (vestry)
<b>Thurs, Nov 17</b>	5:30 p.m.  6:30 p.m.	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) meeting Drumming Circle
<b>Sat, Nov 19</b>	9:00 a.m.	Gingerbread Fair
<b>Sun, Nov 20</b>	10:00 a.m.	Multi-Gen Worship Service: Harvest Communion
<b>Sat, Nov 26</b>		Deadline for December newsletter submissions
<b>Sun, Nov 27</b>	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship Service / RE classes Song Circle (Discoverers' Rm)
<b>Mon, Nov 28</b>	4:30 p.m.	SURJ Vigil for Racial Justice on Longley Bridge (near Gritty's)

## FERRY BEACH CHURCH RETREAT

SAVE the DATE! Our annual All-Church Ferry Beach Retreat will take place on **Friday, May 5th through Sunday, May 7th, 2017**. Everyone in our church community is welcome to attend this joyful and rejuvenating multi-generational event. Registration will take place in March. Questions? Interested in leading a workshop? Contact Anne Kinney, Ron Spofford, or Clara Bolduc.



*Making music at the 2016 Retreat*



*Boardwalk to the beach*

**The deadline for the December Open Door newsletter is  
SAT, NOV 26, 2016**

Please send submissions to Tracey Miller at [newsletter@auburnuu.org](mailto: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.