



# THE PIONEER

Vol. 39, No. 1

UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE

September 2008

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9:15 AND 11 AM

### August 31: Annual Labor Day Poetry Service

*Joanna Brown*

*In this informal service participants will read poems of both published and unpublished authors, members, and friends. The service will feature poetry with "Nature/Animals" theme.*

### September 7: Ingathering and Water Ritual

*The Rev. Stephen Cook*

One Service at 10:00 AM

*We will celebrate our new church season with a sharing of waters that many have gathered over the summer—from summer travels or their own backyards.*

### September 14: The Stars Come Close

*The Rev. Stephen Cook*

*The shootings at our sister church in Knoxville served to remind us that our lives are as fragile as they are precious.*

### September 21: Saving the World—One Small Group at a Time

*The Rev. Stephen Cook*

*Our small group ministry program offers the chance to share our spiritual journeys with a close and intimate group of fellow seekers*

### September 28: A Sweet New Year

*The Rev. Stephen Cook*

*Our Jewish friends celebrate the New Year with apples dipped in honey to symbolize the hope of a sweet new year.*

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# ALONG THE WAY

Some of you may know that in the decade of the '70s, I was a fencing master and varsity fencing coach for Cornell University, working also with the US national and Olympic teams for the 1980 games. Fencing is a European sport and was still dominated by European athletes in those years, as it had been for decades. Now, with increasing training and support, US fencers have begun to compete at the top international level. It was a joy to see coverage of their creditable performances in team and individual sabre, winning medals against the best in the world at the Beijing games.

For years, the American fencing world (a very tiny one) pleaded with TV networks for coverage of their sport at the games. The answer was always the same—sorry, but 1) no Americans are in contention for medals, 2) the action is far too fast and subtle, you can't tell when a point is scored, and 3) in their whites and masks, all fencers look alike—you can't tell how they're responding or even who is who.

If you saw any fencing coverage last month, you'll know those objections have been overcome. Firstly, American teams and individuals won medals, secondly, the fencers' masks now light up when a hit is scored, so the uneducated spectator can at least tell something significant has occurred and, thirdly (and most importantly) the clear visored masks now allow the fencers' facial expressions and emotions clearly to be seen.

It's hard to overstate the effect of this. It is in the human face that we read the overwhelming amount of information about state of mind, emotion, and purpose. Sports televisions have known this for years, using increasingly sophisticated equipment to bring the viewer virtually face to face with athletes in the very act of competition. This produces powerful and compelling images of concentration, anger, pain, victory, joy and every other combination of emotion and decision we might name.

That we find this so affecting is, I think, more than mere voyeurism. Athletic competition is one of the few places in human life where we are invited to find ourselves right out on the thin, crumbling edge of our abilities—physical, mental, emotional, even moral. By that word I mean qualities of honesty, dedication, devotion to—even suffering for—a cause, in short, courage. This is the best of what it is to be human. Witnessing one of our kind, who chooses to put in the years of almost monkish training now required to compete in modern sport, be at last rewarded is rare and wonderful. We are compelled by it, awed by it, inspired by it, and thankful for the bond we share with them, whatever race or nationality.

We recognize that in our own humble lives, in all kinds of ways, at any age, and in ways far different from athletics, we may all be invited into places that call forth our best and feel assured that we, too, might be courageous.

Blessings,  
Steve

*The Pioneer* is a periodical publication of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, 220 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. It is issued monthly, except for a combined July/August issue. This is volume 39, number 1. For more information, contact Rich West, editor, at [rwest@periodyssey.com](mailto:rwest@periodyssey.com).

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# REPORTS AND ARTICLES

*USNF Board of Trustees Report*

## Hot News from the Board (actually, News from a Hot Board)

*Julie Kurose, President*

The Board of Trustees met on the third Monday of August in a rather hot and humid Parlor. Our summer work has been mainly to keep on task with on-going projects and to begin planning for the fall.

As reported in the last *Pioneer*, two working subcommittees, one that will examine our current policies, and one that will look at possible by-law revisions, have started their work. The board will eventually vote on any policy changes proposed; many of these would consist of updating so that the policies reflect current practice. The by-law committee is looking at a variety of possible revisions, which they will be bringing to everyone's attention as the year progresses. Any change to the by-laws can be done only by a vote of the congregation at an annual meeting.

The board is also working on planning the congregational retreat that is set for Sunday, November 9, from 11:30 am to 4 pm, following one 10 am service. We'll meet at an off-site location (as yet to be determined, but relatively close to downtown) with a facilitator who will help us celebrate and identify the commonalities that bind us together as a community. As we move through our last interim year and search for a new settled minister, taking this opportunity to reflect together on our mission as a gathered community and our vision for the future is very important. We urge all to attend. There will be a children's program scheduled for the afternoon as well, hopefully in

the same location as the adult gathering.

Sad news is that Anna Paskausky, our Youth Director, has resigned due to her very heavy school schedule. The members of the Youth Group will miss her very much, but we have advertised for a new YD, and expect to begin interviewing for the position soon. Throughout the last year, Cindy Beal, with the Youth Advisors and Anna, worked on plans for revising the YD job in light of the budget cuts that put the position at only 10 hours per week. With a new person coming into the YD position, these changes have been put in place. Anyone with questions about specifics should feel free to talk to Cindy or to one of the Youth Advisors.

Finally, the board is working with the Web Committee to update our USNF website. Although a core group of dedicated web volunteers has been keeping the site going, it really needs the expertise of someone who could do some redesign work and help us find efficient ways to maintain the site. So, if you're out there...we need you! If you have web design expertise and could volunteer a few hours to get a new and better USNF website up and running, please call me at 586-9875.

The board welcomes your questions about our work as the trustees of the Society, and your thoughts about the issues that we face as a community. We invite you to be involved, in any way you can, small or large, in keeping the Society strong and vibrant.

### Partner Church Tag Sale

On September 20, the Partner Church Committee will hold its annual tag sale on the lawn. Please save and gather books, toys, small appliances, household goods, etc. (no clothing, please). Items may be brought to the parlor on Sunday, September 14, or left on the Majumder porch during the following week at 190 Crescent Street, Northampton. Your participation is greatly appreciated. FMI, call 584-8095.

# Portrait of the Congregation in Search

*Janet Spongberg*

What do we need from our next settled minister? What are we prepared to offer? These two questions provide clarity as we digest our recent congregational survey and take the next steps toward a concrete description of something fluid, dynamic, and ineffable: our congregation. We will soon profile ourselves to prospective candidates through an on-line document known as the congregational record, and, when there is mutual interest, follow up with a hefty packet of introduction that includes photos, a host of information about us and our community, and an extensive written portrait that conveys a sense of our history, our self-understanding, and our aspirations.

Two upcoming events offer opportunities for exchange among us as the Ministerial Search Committee fleshes out this portrait. The October event focuses in particular on the results of the congregational survey.

On Sunday, September 7, in the coffee hour following the 10 am service, please bring goodies and join members of the search committee downstairs in the Social Room for an opportunity to speak with us informally. We will also place poster boards strategically for those who would like to offer brief written comments.

On Friday evening, October 3, at 6 pm, the search committee will host the very first First Friday supper of the year and present the results of the congregational survey we conducted last spring. This is a gathering for all ages, with an art activity for children and grown-ups alike. Dinner will be provided and donations requested: this is not a potluck. It will be informative, but it will also be fun.

The search committee still needs help with food, photos, and hospitality through the year. If you have, or can produce, high-quality photos that capture our congregation, or can occasionally provide help with food or arrangements, please contact our committee chair, Cathy Lilly at [catherinelilly@comcast.net](mailto:catherinelilly@comcast.net) or 413/568-8027.

All of your feedback, verbal and written, will be incorporated into our thinking as we conduct this search, and will be used as we prepare our all-important search packet. We encourage you to contact us now and at any point through the year with your comments or questions. You may write to us at our committee email address: [searchcommittee0809@googlegroups.com](mailto:searchcommittee0809@googlegroups.com) or contact individual members of the committee: Craig Dreeszen, Mark Dunn, Cathy Lilly (chair), Laurie Loisel, Sarah Metcalf, Christine Sass, and Janet Spongberg.

We deeply appreciate your engagement with us as we search for a settled minister with whom we hope to develop a rich and responsive relationship.

## Two “Help” Funds And How They Differ

*John Gaustad, Treasurer*

The Board recently re-established a Minister’s Discretionary Fund, which can be used by our Minister to assist our own Members and Friends in need. Contributions to this fund may be made at any time by putting a check in the offering plate or by sending a check to the Society office. Please mark checks clearly as intended for the Minister’s Discretionary Fund (MDF).

The Society, along with First Churches and Congregation B’nai Israel, also participates in what is now known as the Hampshire County Interfaith Help Fund, an emergency fund intended to provide temporary assistance to residents of Hampshire County in need. On specified Sundays and at Thanksgiving and Christmas part of the our plate collection is designated as a contribution to this fund. Donations may also be sent to the Society Office. Please mark your checks clearly as intended for the Interfaith Help Fund (IHF).

Please assist us in understanding your intentions by avoiding use of the ambiguous designation “Help Fund” on your checks. Many thanks.

## Member or Friend: Is There a Difference

*Jan Alicia Nettler, Vice-President*

One of our tasks during this interim period is to make an accurate assessment of our size and of our membership. To become a Member, one simply signs the membership book. Ending membership is done in a less formal way. Sometimes people take the time to notify us. Others just stop coming. The Trustees have tried to track down those who don't seem to be around. We think we now know who are Members.

While becoming a member is simple, the implications of being a member are not simple. We have no formal requirements of membership, but I believe that the act of becoming a member is a powerful statement. It is a covenant that you promise to be with us; that you promise to steward and care for our Society. Those who came before us made this the place that it is for us now. We must do what we can to make this a special place for those who come after us.

There is another category of people who come here. They are called Friends, but we have never formally defined what it means to be a Friend. And, we have never recorded the names of our Friends. The trustees approved a policy which defines who is a Friend. We will be implementing this policy soon.

*A Friend is defined as a person who:*

- 1. is new to USNF for one year or less, may pledge and/or contribute through active participation, yet is not ready to become a Member or;*
- 2. is no longer new to USNF (one year or more), may pledge and/or contribute through active participation, yet for personal reasons does not want to be a Member and prefers to be a Friend or;*
- 3. no longer participates, but wishes to maintain a connection to the Society.*

*Any Friend who does not pledge or give notification of wishing to remain a Friend every year will be removed from the rolls. Friends are encouraged to pledge each year.*

We look forward to the time when our Friends decide to become Members.

## NLWC Reports Summer Progress

*Kate Collins*

The Northampton Living Wage Coalition is pleased to report that work during the summer months has moved the group closer to the goal of establishing relationships with new members, partners and supporters. Jobs With Justice is now a coalition member, bringing to the group a wealth of knowledge and experience in workers' rights. The Commonwealth Center For Change has added its name to the growing list of groups supporting the coalition's mission. As the summer ends, members of the group are still working on pending initiatives that should soon result in additional positive connections.

The NLWC is also moving forward toward a second printing of its brochure, in time to print a list Partners and Supporters as well as a Living Wage Honor Roll of Businesses. Fall plans also include reaching the goal of 500 petition signatures to present to the City Council, asking for it to revisit its 1998 resolution recognizing the need for living wages and to pass an updated resolution. Kitty Callaghan, one of the group's first members, will be making presentations on living wages and related topics to members of GED classes in cooperation with The Literacy Project, another of the group's supporters. And, finally, Bill Diamond will be spearheading a children's poster contest.

In a city that seems to run on the school semester calendar, Labor Day represents the start of a new year. That gives the holiday a double meaning to members of the NLWC. We are starting the year this September excited about the summer's accomplishments and looking forward to picking up speed as the new year begins.

Look for our table during coffee hours this fall.

### **The Power of One!**

*Support the Interfaith Help Fund Penny Drive!  
Every Penny Helps!*

## Small Group Ministries: Let's Talk

*Katie Olmstead*

Let's talk. Let's listen. Let's talk about things that really matter, things that touch us in a meaningful place. Let's take the time out of our busy lives, just once a month, with a few UU's, and a facilitator or two, and be together. Let's pay attention to what these few other people have to say, and know that they will also listen, well, to us.

This is called Small Group Ministries. It is the seventh year of our program. All are welcome to make the commitment to one year of once a month meetings (October through June, actually). Please read through the bright pink brochure that you will find in the pews on Sunday, on line at our website, and right here with your *Pioneer*. If this is for you, fill out the form and return to the Society by September 28 to ensure space in this year's groups.

## What I Didn't Know I Was Looking For

*Rich West*

It's a truism that people don't always know what they're looking for. When I joined the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence in the mid-1990s, I would have told you that I was looking for a place to challenge me spiritually, that would prompt me to think about the big questions each week, that would draw me out of the petty concerns of daily life. For this, the USNF was the perfect place and I quickly felt at home. But what I didn't know was that I was also looking for community.

We are a big family here. It seems like every Sunday I look around the Great Hall and see a new face or a not so new face I can't recall. Coffee hour is a nice time for visiting with one another, but it can sometimes be a challenge to take full advantage of the opportunities it presents when kids need to be gathered up from classes below, or kids are tugging on your arm for your attention, or kids need to be hustled off to soccer games (exactly what year was it that American society deemed it ok to schedule sporting events on Sunday morning?). I've had the pleasure of getting to know many folks here through committee work, but in those instances we did have work to accomplish and little time to get to know one another in meaningful ways.

That's where Small Group Ministry comes in. You know how it works, right? Each month, from October to June, you meet with a small group of up to nine UUs usually in someone's home and for two hours you discuss things that matter -- what

it means to you to lead a productive life, how you deal with the Winter holidays, what are your thoughts about death, how old do you feel. These matters, some big and some that appear deceptively small, blossom in a room full of thoughtful people into topics that can enrich your thinking forever. And that's not even the best part. The best part is that you have the opportunity to listen to and get to know people -- good, decent, thoughtful people -- in a way that life rarely provides us. It's enriching beyond measure. And these acts of listening and sharing bind us together as a community like no other. If you yearn to get to know people on a more meaningful level here at the USNF, please consider joining the Small Group Ministries. New groups are forming this September.

### **House and Property Work Party**

*Saturday, September 6, 9 am till 12 noon*

Please come help prepare our beautiful building and grounds for our new season! All kinds of fun work to be done like raking, sweeping, mulching, scrubbing, and dusting - all are welcome! A couple hours of your time make a big difference (think of it as a "donated work out!") We will meet in the social room. Refreshments provided.

## **SAVE THESE DATES!**

**Fall All Congregation Retreat**  
***Sunday, November 9, 11:30 AM- 4 PM***  
***following one intergenerational service at 10 AM***

Adults and children will gather at an off-site location to experience separate programs, special activities, and lunch. Adults will meet with a facilitator to celebrate the common threads that weave the diverse membership of our community together. What brings us here as individuals is different for each of us. We pledge to support each other in our search for meaning and truth in our spiritual lives. How does this hold us together and what is it that makes us one religious community? How do we see ourselves interacting with the community beyond our walls? What is our purpose?

Come and share. This work is critical as we search for a settled minister. We need everyone to participate. The experience will be worth your time, you will be served lunch, enjoy good company and have a rare chance to reflect on deeper questions with fellow members of our beloved society. This work will inform and begin building our mission and vision statements as a congregation. These will be voted on at the annual meeting in May. This November meeting replaces the semiannual meeting normally held at this time of year.

### **Two UU Events Worth Attending this Fall**

**Saturday, September 20**  
***Leading in Congregations – 9 AM- 5 PM***

Clara Barton district fall leadership conference. Our society will send representatives from our council of committees, board members, and others (anyone can attend) to an all-day conference with great workshops in Dudley, Ma. More info can be found on the Clara Barton district website at [www.cbd.uua.org](http://www.cbd.uua.org) or by contacting Jan Nettler 413/667-0278, [7deer@comcast.net](mailto:7deer@comcast.net).

**Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18**  
***Fall UUA Gathering in Worcester***

Meet the presidential candidates running for UUA president's election next June and gather with UUs from all over New England to examine the broader topic of What is UUism? There will be workshops, fellowship, and fun. Join us. More info can be found on the [uua.org](http://uua.org) website under events.

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# RE NEWS

*Cindy Beal, DRE*

## REGISTRATION

Approximately 85% of the families with children age 2 through grade 8 have registered, as well as a couple of new families. Approximately half of the eligible and expected high school youth have been registered by their parents. If you haven't yet registered your youth, please do so as soon as possible to assist us in our planning.

Registration forms and cooperative labor sign up forms are available on the website. In addition to these forms, co-op labor waiver forms are also available for people with extraordinary circumstances that make cooperative labor in the RE program prohibitive. A waiver is something you take – no details will be requested and there is no review board. You determine if it is appropriate for your circumstance, fill one out, turn it in, and you're done.

We have significant needs for teachers for the 9:15 service, youth advisors, and Coming-of-Age leaders. In addition, adults who have a special knowledge or interest in any of the world's major religions are invited to talk with me about volunteering with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class at the 11 am service.

**NOT CURRENTLY PARENTING A CHILD/ YOUTH IN RE?** Wonder what happens in a RE Class? What do RE teachers do? Come join us on Saturday, September 13, for RE KICKOFF! After a brief opening worship at 9 am, children will sing the adults off to class, where experienced RE teachers will lead a grade-level based class, introducing new curricula, talking about the needs of children at that age, and leading the adults in a discussion about teaching children in this setting.

## YRUU NEWS

Anna Paskausky, our Youth Director, discovered in late July that her school and internship schedule would be seven days a week this year, leaving her unable to continue. A search was begun in mid-August for a new Youth Director, and we hope to have one by mid- to late-September. The Youth

Group will start as anticipated on September 14, at 4 pm.

Many adults may not be aware that the parents generally encourage/require their children to participate in formal RE classes through COA/8<sup>th</sup> grade, but then let them make their own decisions about whether they will participate in YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists.) We anticipate nearly 40 youth in the group this year.

As members of USNF have learned over the past few years on a macro-level in the congregation, the size of any particular group leads to different group characteristics and needs, and requires different sorts of administrative and leadership structures. This is equally true for the youth group. The newly formed YAC (Youth Adult Committee), as well as the Advisor Team and myself are working on creating structures that will be empowering and sustainable as the youth group continues to grow.

One of their primary needs is for more adults to volunteer to join them as advisors. Most of our advisors are parents of babies and young children, another is on the Board of Trustees, so we are hoping that a couple more adults will join them. FMI, please see the Youth Advisor job description on the website, and if interested, contact me.

**ALL YRUU YOUTH** – Please send an email from your current email account to youth@uunorthampton.org with the subject line: [your name's] 2008 email.

If you are a youth who is still deciding if you are interested, please join the youth at the September 14 YRUU meeting. This meeting will be open to all high school youth of USNF whether your parents have filled in a registration form yet or not.

## RE CALENDAR

**Sept. 2:** RE Council Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm

**Sept. 6:** RE Council Classroom set up 1-4 pm

**Sept. 7:** Intergenerational Worship 10 am

**Sept. 7:** 1-4 pm Child Care & Preschool Teacher Training (Pizza @ 12:30)

**Sept. 13:** RE KICK OFF (see page 10)

**Sept. 14:** First day of RE classes, 9:15 and 11 am, YRUU 4-6 pm

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## SAFE KIDS

Our NEW! and UPDATED! Safe Kids Policies and Safety Standards will be discussed in two conversations at the RE KICKOFF event.

At noon, a member of the Safe Kids Task Force will talk about our general policies, which we short hand as the “two sets of eyes at all times” policy, as well as Blood and Guts, led by Sarah Osgood, and Fire Safety.

After lunch, at approximately 1 pm, we will have a discussion for parents and teachers/advisors of 7-12<sup>th</sup> graders about the special circumstances such as field trips and overnight events.

***What does a Unitarian Universalist say after someone sneezes? ~Ick, germs.***

## Review of Totally Useless Skills

*Jonah Weigand-Whittier*

When Rick Davis came to the Unitarian Society to entertain the kids a few months ago during a meeting for the parents, even the older kids (such as myself and one of my best friends Addie) got excited. We learned how to balance feathers on our noses, spin plates on sticks, and even (kind of) juggle! And even though most of these “skills” sound like things a circus performer might have spent a lifetime to learn, even the smaller kids were throwing peacock feathers from hand to hand within a few minutes. Rick Davis’s “Totally Useless Skills” is a program anyone will enjoy.

## RE MUSING

*Nancy Whittier*

This summer, I took a deep breath and allowed my 8<sup>th</sup>-grader to ride his bike from Northampton to Hadley to see a movie. Rationally, I was confident that he could ride safely, knew the best route, and had honed his ability to function independently. That did not stop me from tightening the straps on his helmet and reminding him to call me when he got there.

The balance between protecting my children and allowing them the freedom to have meaningful experiences of independence (and to see “Batman”) is one of the most challenging parts of parenthood for me.

Likewise, the standards for keeping our children safe in RE, while allowing them the freedom to have meaningful experiences, are a challenging part of policy for the RE Council to clarify. I had the dubious pleasure last spring of working to revise the “Safe Kids” policy. In doing so, I realized that it is not simply a piece of bureaucratic regulation but a place where our UU principles get translated into very concrete terms, a central part of creating a respectful and

joyful community for children, young people, and the adults who work with them. We protect younger children by asking parents to pick them up after RE is over, and we allow older elementary school children the heady independence of going up to find their parents at coffee hour. We make sure that children and youth have the basic sense of security and safety that they need in order to fly. We tighten the straps on their bike helmets, and send them off into the world, crossing our fingers and reminding them to call when they get there.

As incoming co-chair of the RE Council, I am looking forward to an exciting year of conversation on the RE Council and with the larger congregation about the connections between the mundane things we do on the ground, every day, and the larger principles that guide our actions. We’ll start this at the RE Kick Off day, Saturday September 13, when we’ll explore arts and crafts, music, experience lessons from the RE curriculum, and discuss our work as parents and RE teachers.

# RE KICKOFF

*Saturday Sept 13, 9am-3pm*

**A family-based day with resources and activities for all ages and interests.  
Each person through the door gets a ticket for the hourly raffle.**

## MORNING

### Opening Worship

Children sing parents out to classes, then stay in the Great Hall for an encore of  
(SNACKS) **Totally Useless Skills** (SNACKS)

Adult experiential classes of new RE lessons taught by RE parents, with small group discussion.

## LUNCH

Child care for the littlest ones available all day.  
Older children will be leading or participating in workshops, with other supervised play available.

## AFTERNOON

**Adults! Parents! Children! Participate in workshops together or separately!**

### Afternoon Multigenerational Workshops include:

More than Paper and Markers: Art Projects    Yoga and Movement  
Folk and UU Music Jam Session                Using Puppets and Drama in the Classroom  
Writing for imagination and spiritual development

### Afternoon Workshops for Adults

Intro to teaching for new teachers                Specialty workshops for COA/YRUU leaders  
(COA & YRUU leaders meet from noon – 6 pm)

### Workshop and Activity Leaders include:

Sarah Osgood    Michael Holroyde    Michael DiPasquale  
Anne Markes & Matt Kane    Rose Kendrick    Louise Kendrick    Nancy Whittier

**!!! ICE CREAM !!!**

Parents – FMI – watch your mailbox.

Other adults – FMI – see Cindy.

**Making Meaning Together  
Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence**

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## Partner Church Tag Sale, Sept. 20

On the morning of Saturday, September 20, the Partner Church Committee will hold its annual tag sale on the front lawn. There's always lots of great items at bargain prices. Come one, come all!

## Pastoral Friends Are Here For You

If you have (or someone you know has) experienced a setback that has left you hospitalized, ill, or in need of rides, meals, visits, or other services, please call or email Anne Lombard, 586-7509, [aslombard@comcast.net](mailto:aslombard@comcast.net); Carmen Ahearn, 586-3787, [cahearn@crocker.com](mailto:cahearn@crocker.com); Lee Hawkins, 584-6678, [rehawk@crocker.com](mailto:rehawk@crocker.com), or Joan Gross, 586-2661, [joan144@comcast.net](mailto:joan144@comcast.net). Also, contact one of us if you would like to be on our Pastoral Friends list to help.

**Next *Pioneer* deadlines:**

***Thursday, September 18***

***Thursday, October 23***

## Help Wanted

ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS who are interested in being child care providers, or Sunday morning preschool teachers or assistants this year must attend the Training on Sunday, September 7, from 1 to 4 pm. The training will be led by Cindy Beal and Sue Etzel, Child Care Coordinator.

If you are interested in a regular position on Sunday mornings, send an email ASAP to [cbeal@uunorthampton.org](mailto:cbeal@uunorthampton.org) indicating what positions and shifts you prefer (Toddler Teacher, Curricular teacher for P3&4, Assistant for P3&4, at the 9:15 and/or 11:00 service.)

## UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* provides a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Go to our website, [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com), to learn how to order the latest edition and more.

## Women's Spirituality, Goddess, and Witches

### *A Conversation for Women*

*September 18, October 23, and November 20, 2008, 7-9 pm*

*Meeting Location: 147 Turkey Hill Road Florence*

Laurel Foster-Moore and Karen Shelley invite all women age 18 and over who would like to talk about what it means to be a woman and how our spirituality is part of our lives to attend one to three conversations at Laurel's house for a couple of hours each time three times this fall. We would like to explore our personal stories, and examine some of the sources of spirituality which are essentially female and/or related to female lives. Witches, goddesses, nature, and what it means to be female in this culture will probably all enter our conversation. The conversations will be confidential, respectful of all, and open-ended. If you are interested please let Laurel and Karen know in advance by one of these means: email to [laurelfm@gmail.com](mailto:laurelfm@gmail.com) or [leonaruth@aol.com](mailto:leonaruth@aol.com); telephone Laurel 413-584-2020 or Karen 413-586-2248; or in person when you see one of us on a Sunday morning.

**The Pioneer**

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Northampton, MA 01060  
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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE

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PIONEER DATES

DEADLINE

September 18

October 23

PUBLICATION

September 25

October 30

*Articles should be 350 words or less. Submit to Rich West at [rwest@periodyssey.com](mailto:rwest@periodyssey.com). Include the word "PIONEER" in the subject line.*

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