

THE PIONEER

Unitarian Society of Northampton & Florence September 2013 Volume 44 No. 1



SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES



September 8

Service for All Ages at 10 AM

In-Gathering: Songs of Home

The Reverend Janet C. Bush and Cindy Beal, DRE

Our in-gathering service is for people of all ages and will include our traditional opening water ceremony. You are welcome to bring a small vial of water from a place that is meaningful to you. Religious education classes and our two service schedule will resume on September 15.

September 15

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

In recognition of Yom Kippur, we'll consider forgiveness and reconciliation in our own lives and from stories of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

September 22

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Hidden in Plain Sight

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

What do we see when we look at another person? What do we hear when she or he speaks? What happens when our inner lives are revealed to others in ways that help us learn and grow?

September 29

Services at 9:15 and 11 AM

Lost in the MFA

The Reverend Janet C. Bush

The big questions of life are the province of art and religion. We'll explore what some of those questions are, as revealed by a ramble through Boston's Museum of Fine Arts.



In this issue:

Notes from the Minister **Pg 2**

Religious Education **Pg 3**

2013-2014 Coordinating Council Members **Pg 4**

Reports & Articles **Pg 5**

Generosity of Spirit Award **Pg 9**

Bulletin Board **Pg 11**

Upcoming Events

- USNF Fall Work Party, September 7
- Holly Near Concert, September 28
- Partner Church Apple Fest & Tag Sale, October 19
- USNF Auction, November 9

[Like us on facebook!](#)

facebook



NOTES FROM THE MINISTER

We come together ...

What are the activities, concerns and pre-occupations at the center of your life? And how does being part of a religious community, of our religious community, support you? My colleague and friend Kathleen McTigue wrote the following inspirational words, which you can find in the back of our hymnal:

We come together this morning to remind one another

To rest for a moment on the forming edge of our lives

To resist the headlong tumble into the next moment.

Until we claim for ourselves

Awareness and gratitude.....



September marks the beginning of the new year for the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, administratively, fiscally, and psychologically. Over the summer, of course, we have services led by members and friends of the congregation. Office staff continue to field requests to use our building, pay the bills, and tackle projects too time-consuming for the rest of the year. Our House and Property committee continues to deal with building needs. Cindy and I read and go to workshops, play with new ideas, and make plans. And our Board meets on its regular third Monday, usually minus a few vacationing members. There is continuity, along with preparation for something new.

This summer the Board began to focus on the years ahead, as part of the planning project you'll hear more about in the months to come. At our July meeting Board members asked themselves the first question at the beginning of this note: What are the activities, concerns and pre-occupations at the center of your life? And then they asked what activities, concerns and pre-occupations are at the center of our congregation.

We come together ... to remind one another

To rest for a moment on the forming edge of our lives

To resist the headlong tumble into the next moment.

Until we claim for ourselves awareness and gratitude.....

We come together for sanctuary and celebration. We come to care for one another, to act on our values in the world beyond our doors, and to encourage one another to do likewise. We come to learn and grow, and to guide and educate our children and each other in the development of our spiritual lives, our values, and our faith.

We welcome people of all ages and backgrounds, people of diverse beliefs, young, old and in between, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and straight. It is my privilege and honor to serve as your minister. You remind me, often, to claim for myself awareness and gratitude. I am grateful, and I look forward to the year ahead.

HOW TO CONTACT THE MINISTER

Email: revjanetbush@gmail.com

Phone: 584-1390 x202 (office); 727-8497 (home – before 9 pm for non-emergencies)

Office hours: Please email or call for an appointment: Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: COVENANT, COMMUNITY, AND CURRICULA

We think of the way we do Religious Education not as simply *teaching* or *doing*, but as *how we are together*, as *being*. Parents and others often ask about our Sunday morning lessons, and we are mindful that what our children learn doesn't simply come out of a book. We talk about **Covenant, Community, and Curricula**. We believe that the whole congregation, in right relationship, in worship, in social action, and in education, *is*, in a deeply meaningful way, the way that all of us experience what is meaningful, sacred, and values based.

This understanding of the whole of the community-in-relation as the curricula is not haphazard. There are many particular events, activities, opportunities and classes structured throughout the Religious Education program to support our experiential learning goals. Yes, one of these is the curricula we select for classes. But there are many others.

Another way in which we are intentional about *being together* is how we worship together. This year all RE classes will take turns helping out in worship services. Twice. Janet and I are excited to integrate the classroom experience with the multigenerational worship experience.

This will start with the Kindergarten and First graders helping out on In-Gathering Sunday, September 8 at 10 am! There will be a rehearsal for all K/1st graders who are interested in participating on Saturday, September 7, at 12:30 PM.

RE Classes begin on Sunday, September 15. Our 9:15 AM service has childcare /classes for babies through first graders. The 11:00 AM service has childcare / classes for babies through eighth graders.

RE OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, September 7
9 AM – 12:30 PM

Pick up curricula, or come prepare for class if you are teaching. Bring your child for a tour of the space if you are a new family, stop by to chat, eat a snack, and talk about your hopes for the year with Cindy or a member of the RE Council. You can also fill out a [registration form](#) or sign up to teach a class.

12:30 rehearsal for all kindergarten and 1st graders who wish to help out in the worship service on Sunday, September 8!

Attention High School and College Students:
Child Care Provider Training Part I
Sunday, September 8
12– 2 PM, Sam Hill Room

All interested UU High School and College Students are invited. This training is required to begin work either on Sunday mornings or as a provider for special events. We will explore safety, comfort, caring, play and basic child development. Pizza will be served; please let Anja know if you have any dietary restrictions. anjawb@gmail.com.

Provider Training Part 2 will be later in the year.

HOW TO CONTACT CINDY BEAL, DRE

Email: cbeal@uunorthampton.org

Phone: 584-1390 x203

www.Facebook.com/USNF.dre

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEMBERS

2013-2014

The mission of the Coordinating Council is to support and strengthen the work and ministries of the Society's committees. The Council coordinates the committees' and Society's programs to promote the Society's mission and to sustain the operations of the Society. The Council works to facilitate communication among the committees, develop and support leadership engagement within the Society and facilitate communication between committees and the Board of Trustees.

Co-Moderators

Patti Benson
Jeffrey Dahlberg

Clerk Katie Hicks

Adult RE

Chair: Rich West

House and Property Committee

Chair: John Poirier
Rep: Bill Whitehill

Partner Church

Co-Chairs: Cathie Brown (Rep)
Joan O'Brien (Rep)

Personnel Committee

Chair: Cynthia Barker (Rep)

Small Group Ministries

Chair: Katie Olmstead
Rep: Margaret Humbert-Droz

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Rich West (Rep)

Web Committee

Co-Chairs: Julie Kurose
Melinda Shaw
Rep: Ty Power

Big Ol'Gay Committee

Co-Chairs: Barbara Allen (Rep)
Ty Power (Rep)

Finance Committee

Chair: David Klimczak (Rep)

Newcomer Connections Team

Chair: Jan Nettler (Rep)

Pastoral Friends

Co-Chairs: Anne Lombard
Lee Hawkins
Rep: Rich West

RE Council Clerk: Jon Sass

Social Justice Forum

Co-Chairs: Nan Wieggersma
Brit Albritton

Worship Committee

Chair: Lynne Marie Wanamaker
Rep: Janet Bush

Living Wage Group

Rep: Kitty Callaghan

Web Weavers

Co-Chairs: Jane Deihl (Rep)
Kate Collins (Rep)

Coffee Hour Team

Chair: James Hatzis (Rep)

Nominating Committee

Chair: David Mix Barrington
Rep: Rich West

Communications Committee

Chair: Julie Kurose
Rep: Ty Power

Safe Congregations Task Force

Co-Chairs: Corky Klimczak (Rep)
Jane Simonds (Rep)

REPORTS & ARTICLES

Calling All Young Singers Kindergarten and Up – Children's Choir Begins September 22

We are pleased to let you know that Anja Waechter-Bourbeau will be directing our children's choir beginning this fall. Many of you know Anja as our childcare coordinator, and you may remember that we dedicated her daughter Antonia last June. Anja grew up in the Society, and directed the children's choir for a few years here when she was in high school. The children's choir will rehearse Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 10:50 downstairs, beginning on September 22, and will sing for the first time at our service for all ages at 10 AM on October 13.

Youth Group Orientation Sunday, September 15 at 3pm followed by Youth Group 4-6 pm

Welcome to Youth Group! Any new high school youth ages 14-18 interested in joining the USNF Youth Group this fall should plan to attend an orientation and welcome session on Sunday September 15 at 3 pm. Youth group members Lizzie, Catherine and Sam will welcome you to youth group. They will give you the inside scoop about how YG works, there will be food and you'll be able to ask any questions you may have. Regular youth group follows from 4-6 pm. New members are welcome at the beginning of each year. Come check it out!



REPORTS & ARTICLES

Partner Church Tag Sale and Apple Fest

Saturday, October 19
9 AM – 1 PM

The Partner Church Committee and Youth Group are planning a youth trip to Homoródkarácsonyfalva in the summer of 2014. Youth will visit our partner church, engage in social action activities, visit famous Unitarian historical spots and do some sightseeing. The entire congregation will be involved in helping us fund and send off the youth who are chosen to travel next summer. There will be many opportunities for members and friends to participate in education and events that will prepare the youth for their visits.

The first of our fundraisers is our annual **Tag Sale and Apple Fest**. Please save your tag sale items for this event. We will be able to accept donations on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. There is no storage at the Society for your donations. We welcome small lamps or furniture, household items, toys, books, jewelry and games. All donations must be in good condition. Please, no broken or unsellable items. It cost us money and time to dispose of these items. Please let us know if you need help transporting items to USNF ahead of time so we can arrange transportation closer to the event.

If you can bake or work a shift at this event please contact Cathie Brown at 584-5521 or Joan O'Brien 584-7577. Your help is greatly appreciated.

This is an exciting project for our youth and congregation and we need your help and energy to help make it a reality.

Introducing Our New Custodian

Peter Corbett joined the USNF staff in June, replacing long-time custodian Jeff Johnson. Peter and his wife live in Northampton. Please be sure to welcome Peter to USNF when you see him in the building.



REPORTS & ARTICLES

Small Group Ministry: Want to join us this year?

from Katie Olmstead

Are you new to the Unitarian Society? Have you been coming for decades, or something in between? Would you enjoy one special time each month where you can come together with the intention of getting to know a few of your fellow congregants, and know yourself, perhaps, in a deeper way? We are offering Small Group Ministry (SGM) for the 12th year. All groups start in October, with members committing to attend once a month, for two hours, through June of 2014. Two hours a month... would you like to give yourself this gift? *"It is impossible to over-emphasize the immense need humans have to be really listened to, to be taken seriously, to be understood."* –Paul Tournier. This quote has been in our brochure for years. It says it all. Some of our members have come for many years and some of you will be joining for the first time. Small Group Ministry offers intimate facilitated groups, meeting mostly at members' homes, where we can talk about issues that really matter. In planning out this year, we have chosen topics that are designed to go deeply into "what really matters." Our topics will revolve around compassion, connection and courage, in many guises.

To learn more, see our peach colored brochures located in the pews or click here: [USNF website](#). The SGM Team will be hosting coffee hour on September 8 and 15 if you have any questions. Also feel free to contact Katie Olmstead with questions (KDOLmstead@aol.com, 413 585-0564). We hope you take this opportunity, go ahead, and sign up for something new (or do it again) so that we can all begin together in October. *"Energy follows thought. We move towards, not beyond, what we imagine. By expanding our deepest beliefs of what is possible we change our core experience of life."* — Jane Roberts

We look forward to welcoming you.

Pastoral Friends Are Here to Serve 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 contact **Anne Lombard**, 586-7509, aslombard@comcast.net or **Lee Hawkins**, 584-6678, rehawk@crocker.com. Also, contact one of us if you would like to be on our Pastoral Friends list to help.

REPORTS & ARTICLES

Singer-Songwriter Holly Near Returns to USNF

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Since Holly Near visited two years ago, she has released a new CD, *Peace Becomes You*. She will be performing again at the USNF on Saturday, September 28, accompanied by John Bucchino on piano (also known as a full orchestra) and backed by the amazing vocals of Emma's revolution, Holly will feature the music of this wonderful CD.

In addition, Holly will be showcasing segments of a unique program recently created for the "Naked Soul Series" at New York City's Rubin Museum, where artists were invited to choose a work from the collection on which to build an evening of acoustic music. Holly's choice was a 19th century pigment-on-cloth piece from Central Tibet, and in this portion of her performance she will focus on the power of the naked voice.

[Tickets](#) are available through the USNF website. Part of the service charge for each ticket will go to the Society. We plan to have a big bake sale during the concert as well!

The show is produced by member **Barbara Allen**.

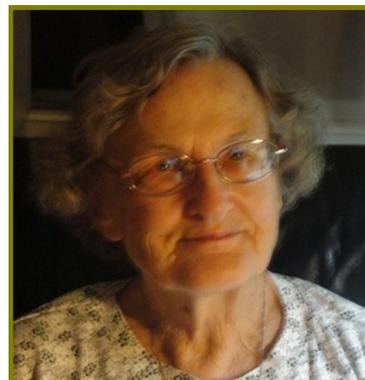
Save the Date – USNF Annual Auction

Saturday, November 9, 2013

This year's auction will be held on Saturday, November 9 at the Society. The success of last year's auction was mainly due to the vast array of incredible auction items that we received. Please start thinking of what you might be able to donate to this year's auction. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. If you would like to be involved with this year's auction please contact Kate Collins, katecollins88@gmail.com, or Lisa in the office, office@uunorthampton.org, 584-1390.

GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT AWARD

At the May 19th Annual Meeting, Flora Majumder was presented with this year's Generosity of Spirit Award. This award is presented to individuals within the congregation who have consistently demonstrated their commitment to our Society and the values we hold dear. Flora has been quietly doing that here for 45 years. Following is a brief sketch of what I mean.



Flora and Sally Lawton started the Religious Education program in the late 1960's because they had some of the few children attending the USNF. At one point, there were so few children that the kids were sent over to the First Churches to attend a religious education class! Flora stayed very involved with RE until the program started to grow and an actual RE Director was hired. As a parent, she stayed involved but not in such a critical way. She even reminisced about how the RE classes even put on plays, written by a former member, Peter Jones.

She and her husband, Sanat, have always been very involved in Amnesty International (AI). A vital group of AI members used to meet regularly in our building until about five years ago. Flora still works on the letter-writing campaigns and keeps well informed on the activities and issues happening around the world.

Flora has served on the USNF Board of Trustees twice, been a member of Religious Services (now called the Worship Committee), and has been involved in a women's group and adult education classes. She helped select an office administrator 15 years ago, was in the second Welcoming Congregation class, and in Small Group Ministry.

A piano and music teacher for many years, Flora has always loved music. What you may not realize is that she started the first Adult Choir, started a music library and is extremely proud that SHE can take credit for hiring Greg Hayes all those years ago!

She joined Jeanne Kocsis on the Partner Church committee, holding incredible tag sales, traveling to our partner church, and creating a life-long bond with some of those she met there.

So, when you look around and see this friendly, smiling women who sings beautifully and attends almost every Sunday, know that she has been instrumental in many things we now hold dear and has at all times, held the seven principles close to her heart as she bettered our world.

SEPTEMBER FEATURED CLIMATE ACTIONS

This is the fifth our series of “Climate Actions of the Month”, brought to you by the USNF Climate Action Group (CAG). It is a way to provide focus and build a spirit of collective action as we each do what we can to tackle climate change. Each monthly bundle of actions touches on four levels: personal, community, state/national/global, and educational. Our website, coming soon, will offer resources to support these actions. To learn more contact Molly Hale at hellomolly@comcast.net or 585-0791.

1. Personal: Attend a civil disobedience training workshop Sunday, September 22 in Northampton. The workshop covers the philosophy and history of non-violence, role-playing of how to carry it out in a peaceful, dignified manner, the legal consequences of dealing with the police, arraignment in court, and what to expect in terms of fines/jail/community service, etc. It will be led by Jeff Napolitano of the American Friends Service Committee and Luke Ryan, attorney and member of the National Lawyers Guild. This workshop is for those considering civil disobedience at future actions and also for those who wish to help in a legal, support role for those choosing to risk arrest. Time: 2-8 pm, with a short BYO dinner break at 6 PM. Place: Frances Crowe Community Room at the Media Education Foundation, 32 Masonic St. Cost: Free! RSVP to John Berkowitz, 413 325-4533 or johnpberk@gmail.com.

2. Community: Northampton residents — attend the City Council meeting on September 5 at 7 PM to support the second reading of the [Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment](#). At the first reading on August 15, the resolution passed with five yes votes and two abstentions. Residents of other towns — join others to present a similar resolution to your own town government.

3. State/National/Global: 1. Sign the state pension divestment [petition](#) on www.gofossilfree.org 2. Attend the rally at the Statehouse in Boston when the petition will be delivered. The proposed pension divestment bill, S 1225, would require the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) to freeze any new investments in fossil fuel companies and to divest from direct holdings in fossil fuel companies within five years. The rally is at 9:30 AM. The bill will be heard at 11 AM. College groups, faith based groups, unions, retirees and environmental organizations will all be represented.

4. Inform yourself: To remind yourself of the urgency of our climate situation and consider a global course of action, read *Earth* by Bill McKibben. He explains how climate change is changing our planet so radically that it no longer operates like the old familiar Earth, and discusses how we need to shift our way of living on it just as radically if we are to survive. He lays out a vision of how we might survive by scaling our societies and economies back to essentials and building close-knit communities through which we can support one another.

BULLETIN BOARD

ADULT CHOIR

The adult choir rehearses every Thursday at 6:15 PM. For more information, contact our music directory, Gregory Hayes at ghayes@uunorthampton.org.

NEW FISCAL YEAR

September first is the start of our new fiscal year. If you haven't had time, please make sure to pay the remainder of your 2012-2013 pledge asap and as always, please note in the memo line to which year we should apply your payment.

Thank you!

USNF FALL WORK PARTY

Saturday, September 7,
9 AM-12 PM

Please join us to spruce up the building and grounds. For more information or to sign up, contact us at office@uunorthampton.org or 413-584-1390, or just come by and help out for a few minutes.

SUNDAY GREETERS NEEDED

Greeters are needed for the following services: One person is needed for each of the 9:15 services on the first, second and fourth Sundays; one person is needed for the 11 am service on the fourth Sunday. Please let Evelyn Billings (Evelyn@lupinehouse.com) know if you're willing to fill one of these available spaces, or if you'd like more information about what's involved.

PIONEER ONLINE

Please don't miss an issue of the online Pioneer. Make sure we have your correct email address and don't forget to let us know if it changes. Send an email to office@uunorthampton.org.

YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT HERE!

Make sure everyone knows about your committee event or USNF news! Send announcements for the bulletin board to office@uunorthampton.org with *PIONEER* in the subject line.

Unitarian Society of
Northampton & Florence

220 Main St.
Northampton, MA 02060
Tel: 413 584-1390
Fax: 555 555 5555
E-mail: office@uunorthampton.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THE PIONEER
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE

MINISTER

The Rev. Janet Bush

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Cindy Beal

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa Britland

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gregory Hayes

OFFICE AND RE ADMINISTRATOR

Betzi Sylvan

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Yana Tallon-Hicks

CUSTODIAN

Peter Corbett

THE PIONEER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR

Patricia Wright

WEB MANAGER

Julie Kurose

COORDINATOR

Lisa Britland

PIONEER DATES

DEADLINE

PUBLICATION

September 19

September 26

Articles should be 350 words or less. Send submissions to
Office@uunorthampton.org. Include the word
"PIONEER" in the subject line.

Office hours: Tuesday through Thursday 9:30-3:30
Contact the Society at 584-1390. Visit us online at www.uunorthampton.org.