



*Religious Education
for Children and Youth*

Fall Program Guide 2013



Unitarian Universalist
Association

www.uua.org

Pacific Northwest
District

www.pnwd.org

Unitarian Universalist Principles

Adapted for Children

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BELIEVES:

- Each person is important
- All people should be treated fairly
- Our church is a place where all people are accepted and where people keep on learning together
- Each person must be free to search for what is true and right
- People should have a vote about things that concern them
- In working for a peaceful, fair, and free world
- In caring for our planet earth

SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

- The sense of awe and wonder we all share
- Women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be kind and fair
- Ethical and spiritual wisdom of the world's great religions
- Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love all others as we love ourselves
- The use of reason and discoveries of science
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-Centered traditions encouraging harmony with nature and the sacred circle of life.



Lifelong Learning at BUF

Encouraging the spirit of individuals, in community through learning, service and celebration.

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Learning

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Religious Education

Committee:

Chair: Barbara Lehman

Michelle Magee

Dee Dee Marshall

Robin Brown

Roz Reynolds

Leah Wefer

Gretchen Clay

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PROGRAM VISION

Lifelong Learning Programs help BUF become a community where individuals of all ages:

- experience an inclusive and affirming place to explore the mystery and sacredness of all existence and search for personal truth and meaning
- feel love, acceptance and belonging through work, play, celebration and ritual
- understand our faith tradition, can articulate our Unitarian Universalist principles, and feel encouraged to craft their own UU identity
- are aware and engaged members of a global community with a passion for putting UU principles into practice

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Program registration is vital to curriculum and event planning and ensures that you get information you need in order to be an active participant at BUF. Registration is required for children and youth participating regularly (more than 3 times per year) in childcare, religious education or youth group. It is also required for youth participating as childcare providers as their job is part of our mutual ministry with each other and for youth participating in Our Whole Lives classes. Registration is considered current from September through June. It can be initiated at any time during the church year and should be re-established in the fall of each year.



Welcome New and Returning Families!

Dear Parents,

It is exciting to be starting a new year of religious exploration together! It is a great responsibility as well as an honor to participate in the spiritual development of your family and your children! Each year, the committee and I think about ways to focus our programming to assist you and your children in living kindly with vibrant intentions and a grounding sense of purpose.

This year we will honor many established traditions as well as explore some new ones. Our fall theme is UU Super Heroes. As the curriculum song says, we will be learning about people who were (are) powerful with their brains and even stronger in their hearts! We will discuss how these people lived out their UU principles and ways that we can do the same. Middle and high school youth will enjoy putting the final touches in the newly remodeled loft!

Last year we began some parent chalice circles which will continue this year. The pot-luck/program structure worked so well that we decided to augment that program this year with monthly Family Forums that are suitable for drop-in when the topic inspires!

We will be celebrating Martinmas for the second year in a row and will add a celebration of Dia de Los Muertos along with our usual Halloween and Posada events.

Looking forward to a meaningful and eventful year!

Crystal

Childcare at BUF

CHILDSPACE

SUNDAYS 10:30-11:45 A.M.

Children ages 1-4 are invited to participate in our Childspace classroom on Sunday mornings. Our childcare providers are a mix of adult volunteers working with BUF's paid youth. Childcare providers are trained in the fall of each year in order to provide the best possible care for your children. Our Childspace room is equipped with interactive toys, art supplies, and music. Our providers offer flexible care, using stories and structure when needed and supporting free play as well. At least two childcare providers are scheduled for each shift.

Parents are always welcome to stay in the Childspace room to help their children feel comfortable. Childcare providers are asked to begin their shift at 10:15 so there is time to get children settled before the service begins.

CHOIR REHEARSAL CARE

WEDNESDAYS (6:30) 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Regular childcare is scheduled on Wednesday nights to accommodate choir rehearsal and other programs, events or meetings taking place at BUF. If you need childcare during Sunday rehearsals before performances, please arrange with music director, Andy Marshall.

BUF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

BUF is committed to including families in all congregational activities. If you wish to participate in BUF programs, meetings, or events and need childcare in order to do so we will make every effort to accommodate you! Please contact the event coordinator or program leader at least 3 days in advance to make arrangements.

If you are planning on using childcare this year please review the "Professional Guidelines and Expectations for Childcare Providers and Childcare Recipients"

Religious Education for Children Grades K-5

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SUPER HEROES!

Each fall our children's Sunday morning RE classes focus on a common theme. This year we will be exploring our UU history as well as our second source (women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be kind and fair) as we get to know some of the important Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists that helped shape our religious movement.

SPIRIT PLAY: GRADES K-1

Teachers: Francie Gass, Ann Lackland, Jenny Bowefield

Spirit Play is a UU curriculum that employs a Montessori approach to spiritual development. The Spirit Play Greeter (one of the teachers) helps the children get ready to enter the classroom. The Storyteller leads the circle in the story of the day, followed by the wondering (a series of open ended questions that are asked to get kids to think about the story they heard). Children engage the themes through art and retelling the story.

This fall your children will be introduced to Francis David, Henry David Thoreau, John Murray, and others....

PRIMARY: GRADES 2-3 AND INTERMEDIATE: GRADES 4-5

Teachers: Genevieve Karkabe, Lorri McMillan-Rauch and Michelle Magee, Laura Fraser, Leah Wefer

Classes will meet together and separately throughout the fall as they identify the qualities of super heroes and learn to identify situations in their own lives where they live their UU values in heroic ways.

Among the Super Heroes your child will be introduced to are King John Sigismund, Henry David Thoreau, Joseph Priestly, Beatrix Potter, Theodore Parker, Lydia Maria Child, Christopher Reeve, and Sophia Lyon Fahs.

Most weeks your child will come home with a picture from that morning's experience. Please use this as a starting point from which you explore with your child the values and ideas that have been introduced that day. As parent or guardian, you are the primary religious educator of your child. UU Super Heroes and the religious education program in general are here to provide support for you in this challenging endeavor.

Classes for Youth & Other Sunday Programs

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Advisors: Noreen Fujita-Sacco, Chris Loar

Popcorn Theology Too: The Sequel

Popcorn Theology has always been a popular curriculum with our youth as they get to watch specific segments of current movies and then engage in discussions and activities. It is an inviting way to make use of our youth's interest in learning through visual media-and channels it into specific learning opportunities which examine issues of theological and ethical importance to our world. Essentially this curriculum is designed to explore Unitarian Universalist themes by helping participants:

- Examine how the choices we make affect our lives and the lives of others
- Explore how concepts such as truth and meaning are related to perspective and point of view.
- Understand ways in which the right of conscience calls us to do what is right despite possible consequences.
- Consider ways in which our faith can help us understand our questions, seek answers, and deal with the trials of life.

YRUU YOUTH GROUP

Youth Advisors: Alicia Alford, Vaughn Schnelle

The youth and advisers employ a variety of techniques to encourage responsible identity formation, community building and spiritual reflection including rituals, discussions, social action projects, and more. The group works together to plan the schedule of activities. Generally the youth group meets twice a month during the formal church year.

Contact Crystal or one of the youth advisers to receive this year's schedule. Please make sure your high school youth is registered for our program!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Children will have a special worship service on the second Sunday of each month beginning in October. On Children's Worship Sundays children in grades K-5 meet in the flex room without spending time in the sanctuary first.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Various holidays, workshops and social action opportunities will occasionally disrupt regular curriculum. This fall some Sundays will be devoted to Dia de Los Muertos, and Martinmas....

Extracurricular Classes for Children and Youth

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

OWL is a comprehensive sexuality curriculum that has several complete courses that make it appropriate for people of all ages! The Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship offers several of these classes on a rotating basis by age, including adult classes. OWL for grades 4-5 will be offered next in 2014.

This year we are offering a formal session of Our Whole Lives for our 7th and 8th graders. OWL programs emphasize the three Rs— Respect, Relationship, and Responsibility. Program values include:

- People are entitled to dignity and self worth in determining their own beliefs and attitudes about sexuality.
- Knowing about sexuality is helpful not harmful—we all have a right to accurate information
- Healthy sexual relationships are: consensual, non-exploitative, mutually pleasurable, safe, developmentally appropriate, respectful, based on mutual expectations and caring.

Youth are encouraged to postpone sexual intercourse in order to have the most healthy experiences possible.

New sessions have recently been developed to help our youth navigate the murky waters of social media, cyber bullying, sexting and more.

COMING OF AGE GRADES 7-8

Coming of Age is a Unitarian Universalist program created to support the natural developmental process that adolescents go through in the long and fascinating transition from childhood to adulthood. It is a program that recognizes and celebrates the beginning of the journey. It is also a program that offers support, guidance and tools that will become a part of the journey as well.

The main goal of this program is to help youth understand and appreciate Unitarian Universalism, their own developing beliefs and values and how these intersect. Participating in this program will provide youth with the opportunity for religious exploration and emerging ownership of a religious identity.

Youth are accompanied on this journey by a mentor from the congregation who is available to support, inspire and advise youth on their journey.

This program is offered every other year and will be offered next in the 2014-2015 church year.

Lifelong Learning 2013-2014

Activities and Celebrations

COMMUNITY NIGHT DINNERS

All BUF members and friends are invited to dinner on Wednesday nights! Dinner costs \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children and \$12.00 for families with young children. This is a great way to have a great diner and build community!

FAMILY FORUMS

Second Friday of *most* months.
Potluck dinner starts at 5:30, programming starts at 6:15. Some forums will be multi-generational and some will be adult focused with separate activities for children.

Fall Topics:

September 13: RE at Church and at Home
October 11: Dia De Los Muertos
November 8: Unplugging the Christmas Machine
December 6* (first Friday!): Topic TBD

OWL PARENT ORIENTATION

Tuesday, October 1, 7:00p.m.
This is a mandatory orientation for parents of participating 7th and 8th graders!

ALL CHURCH RETREAT

A weekend getaway to Camp Kirby on Samish Island. The focus this year is Plotting the course of our congregation! We play, sing, eat, dance, perform, contemplate... (10/4-10/6).

HALLOWEEN WORSHIP

Multigenerational worship service on 10/27

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

A great BUF tradition! This year it will happen upstairs after the Wednesday night dinner on 10/30.

MARTINMAS

We will celebrate Martinmas again this year during religious education classes on , 11/10 and before the Community Night Dinner on 11/13-- come make a lantern and celebrate generosity!

HOLIDAY CRAFT NIGHT

BUF families join the Bellingham Cooperative school to make holiday crafts. This event happens before community night dinner on 12/11.

POSADA

BUF borrows a Mexican tradition. We join for dinner and then go caroling with a young Mary on a mule (pony), in search of an Inn. The celebration ends back at BUF with hot chocolate and Piñatas (12/14).

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Multigenerational worship service on 12/22. Children's Choir will perform.



Super Hero Song

*Chorus: I'm a super hero, there's none like me you see
I always seem to be around when folks are needing me
I'm as peaceful a person as anyone can be
My job is helping people, helping people to be free*

*I'm tough in situations where others fall apart
I'm powerful with brains and even stronger in my heart
With other super heroes we form the super league
Together we can conquer all the forces of intrigue:*

*Like meanness and nastiness and pushing kids around
And yelling and screaming and keeping people down
And pushing and shoving and punching holes in walls
We put an end to cruelty whenever justice calls.*

*We all have super powers, each best in our own way
And as a team there's no one who can better save the day
Cooperation is the key to doing what we do,
And here's a list of powers that we'd like to sing for you:*

*(we can sing and make people happy)
(we can smile and make people feel good about themselves)
(I can play with the new boy at school)...*