



**NEIGHBORHOOD UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

Sara LaWall
Director of Religious Education

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Dear 6th & 7th Graders and Parents/Guardians:

During the coming church year, Neighborhood's Youth Religious Education program will offer our sixth and seventh graders an exciting class using two Unitarian Universalist curricula, *Windows and Mirrors* and *Amazing Grace*. Both curricula focus on our yearlong theme of UU Identity by exploring our UU Principles, Sources and history.

Windows and Mirrors holds as a foundational premise that Unitarian Universalism views our members' multiple perspectives as a blessing. This program nurtures children's ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. The sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives—for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism and prayer. The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone's viewpoint matters. Check out this incredible curricula series at www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith

Amazing Grace intends to help sixth graders understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding. Its purpose is to equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle and high school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. Through their involvement in *Amazing Grace*, youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise.

The 6th/7th grade class will be offered at 11:30 only.

The YRE committee and staff will be hosting a **Wine and Cheese Mixer and Parent Orientation on Thursday, September 15, from 6:30 – 8:30pm** to provide an opportunity for parents to hear more about the curriculum, program philosophy and logistics. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by September 1st to Sara LaWall at slawall@uuneighborhood.org or 626-449-3470 ext. 19. Please include the ages of your children should you need childcare.

Our Pacific Southwest District is offering a **winter camp for Middle School Youth** that is designed to dovetail with congregational Coming of Age programs and expand upon the same themes addressed in our curriculum. **Camp will take place the weekend of December 2nd – 4th, 2011 (Friday evening-Sunday morning) at our UU Camp de Benneville Pines.** I strongly encourage your youth to attend. Registration forms will be mailed as soon as they are available. Scholarships are available from Neighborhood and the district.

New Fee Structure. Families with children or youth in our program are asked to either make a financial contribution (pledge) to the church, or pay a program fee. The fee stands at \$100 per child/youth with a family maximum of \$300 for the year. Should this fee be a financial hardship for any family, a one-year waiver may be requested from either of our Ministers or the Director of Religious Education. If you are new, we encourage you to take your time to get to know us. As such, fees will not apply until the second year of participation in the program.

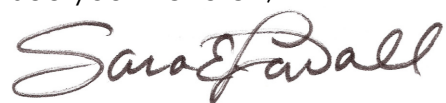
The following are a few important administrative items about the structure of our program and the year. For further information, please consult the YRE Handbook available on this website or the LLL table on Sundays:

- ❖ **The first day of class will be Sunday, September 18.** This program will be offered during the 11:30 service only.
- ❖ **All families participating in YRE must complete a registration form.** These forms are crucial because they include emergency contact information, space to share any special needs your youth may have and a blanket permission slip for all off-site activities like a walk to the Gamble House. Forms available on this website. **Please return your completed form no later than August 15th.**
- ❖ **Parent participation required.** Your help is vital to the success of our RE program. Assisting in the classroom, with special projects and at the Lifelong Learning table is expected of all parents. **Please fill out the volunteer requirement section on the back side of your child's registration form.**
- ❖ **Story for all ages: on the second Sunday of almost every month,** children are invited into the Sanctuary for the beginning of the service to hear a story, then meet their teachers on the patio and go to their classes.
- ❖ **Intergenerational services:** throughout the year, we will have Intergenerational services in which the children and youth (K – 12th) are in the sanctuary for the entire service. These services provide an important opportunity for children to experience first-hand the way their parents worship in the sanctuary when they would usually be in their classrooms.

Please return the registration form as quickly as possible. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you for your involvement; thank you for recognizing the need for religious education in your children and youth's lives...thank you for adding your presence to this community. We are thrilled to have your family among us and look forward to an exciting year!

See you in church,



Sara LaWall
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