

RE Happenings

Each fall we begin a *new* Sunday school year much like the children do in their public, private or home school settings. Here are the plans for each of our various age groups:

- **For children, under age 3/Nursery**

We regret to say that Crystal Reed and her son Hayden have moved to SW Florida. We miss them and wish them good luck in their new journey. (Thank goodness grandma & grandpa/Sam & Tracy Morrow live here in Ormond... We're certain that we will see Crystal & Hayden when they visit their family!)

Ashara Watkins will take Crystal Reed's place in the Nursery, providing care for those children who are under three years old. The children will continue to enjoy free play, and as in the past they will also join the Chalice Children for their lessons when appropriate.

- **For children who are preschoolers & kindergarteners**

This group of children will continue with lessons which include stories, songs, activities, and games from curricula recommended by the UUA, including curricula like Chalice Children & My UU ABC's.

- **For school-age children & youth**

This year our program continues with sessions from the UUA's *Tapestry of Faith: Living the Faith*. Lessons from this series are designed to "nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love". Our children and youth will continue to engage their "minds, hearts, and hands... learn faith by doing faith" through related activities. **Also, this fall we will offer these two unique paths of exploration:**

- **For children, ages 6-9/ The UUA's "The Haunting House"**

This is an active curriculum designed to help children feel at home in their world through learning about the places that all creatures call home. It involves exploration of animal homes, building homes for themselves, creating connections to their church home, & developing an awareness of their place in the largest home of all, the earth.

- **For children, ages 10-13/ The UUA's "Toolbox of Faith"**

This is a curriculum where children use actual tools to create their own "toolbox of faith". It involves exploration the life's challenges, & discovery of the aspects of UU faith that are helpful both personally to each participant and collectively to their peers.

We look forward to the return of many of our established RE families and encourage new families to join us as we continue on our journey to more fully understand UU identity, world religions and our Jewish Christian heritage. At UUSDBA our Religious Education program emphasizes the importance of peace and social justice, and offers opportunities for service. Together we find ways to work for a "peaceful, fair, and free world... and care for our planet".

Thanks to Crystal Reed and Tonia & Kerry Dunham for their work with the Nursery (& Chalice Children,) and to Ashara Watkins & Deb Hanson for their work with the Star & Cosmos Kids throughout 2008-9! Thanks also to other volunteers who regularly assisted along the way, including Bruce Johnson, Terri Kolaska, Bev Berger, Tina Clark, and Lenore Frazier. And

***finally thanks to those who covered RE for just a time or two when
needed... Each & every one of you is truly appreciated.
Debbie Johnson, DRE***

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