



**Religious
Education for
Children, Youth, &
Families**

First Unitarian Universalist
Society of San Francisco

2009/2010

Everything you need
to know about our
2009/2010 Program



The Great End in Religious Instruction

William Ellery Channing (1780 - 1842)

The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own;

Not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own;

Not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of truth;

Not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs;

Not to bind them by ineradicable prejudices to our particular sect or peculiar notions,

But to prepare them for impartial, conscientious judging of whatever subjects may be offered to their decision;

Not to burden the memory, but to quicken and strengthen the power of thought;

Not to impose religion upon them in the form of arbitrary rules, but to awaken the conscience, the moral discernment.

In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish the spiritual life.

Message from Betty Skwarek,

Acting Director of Religious Education

Welcome to our 2009-2010 program year! We have designed a well-rounded program to give children, youth, and their families a rich religious experience that will enhance their daily lives and guide them as they make future decisions.

We have a thriving, growing program that offers a wide variety of experiences to everyone who participates. Our program is *COOPERATIVE*, meaning my staff of teachers, artists, and musicians and I work with *YOU* to make this program succeed. Parent volunteer time makes the difference!

What do we UUs believe? We don't have a creed or a Bible. We don't follow the teachings of gurus or prophets.

What do we use to guide us? Our 7 principles!

The 2009/2010 UUSF Religious Education Program is based on the seven principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Our Mission Statement

We seek to build a religious community of discovery and purpose in which children and youth can use (their) tools and resources to determine who they are and what they believe.

Choices

Your children and you have a variety of programs and activities to choose from: age appropriate classes, youth choir, visual arts, social justice activities, Child Dedication, Coming Of Age, Rite of Passage, Our Whole Lives (OWL), and much more.

We provide a safe and caring environment for your children and age appropriate programming for the children and youth who attend.

Registration

All participants must be registered. This is for your child's safety. the forms you fill out tell us about allergies or other medical issues; about your child's age and interests so we will know to invite him/her to join special programs like Coming of Age; your contact information so we can tell you about activities like field trips; and a way for you to tell us how you want to volunteer.

Ministry to Children and Youth

Volunteering is much more than "doing your time." We ask each family to volunteer for 12 hours during the church year as your contribution to our ministry to children and youth. Please fill out a Volunteer Form to let us know how you would like to shape your ministry in this program.

Examples:

Teaching—we will train you

Help with Chapel or Social Justice Sunday

Drive and chaperone field trips

Shop, pick-up, and/or prepare food for events

Organize an activity such as the Nativity Tableau

Distribute and organize materials and books

No Time to Volunteer?

Make a financial donation instead of time.

Our RE Staff

Betty Skwarek, Acting Director of Religious Education
415-776-4580 ext 162, email: bskwarek@uusf.org. If
it's an emergency call her on her cell phone, 415-407-
0622.

Betty is responsible for program administration and
development. She finds, organizes and writes
curriculum, provides training for teachers and
advisors, and works with the Children's RE Committee,
teachers and other leaders.

Because all of the following people have other
employment during the week, please contact Betty
Skwarek with your questions.

Nancy Buffum, Children's RE Assistant
Kristen Tool, Early Childhood Lead Teacher
Theda Burke, Lead Art Instructor
Carolyn Jayne, Youth Choir Director

Children's Religious Education Committee:

Anna Sylvester, Jeff Cookston, Stillman Stewart,
Shirley Gibson, and Gino Fortunato

The committee oversees the program, and provides input and direction to the Director of Religious Education.

YAC Youth Adult Council:

The council is being initiated this year. It will have both youth and adult members and will be responsible for many of the decisions for our youth programs.

Classes and Activities

Early Childhood — 0 to 5: every Sunday 9:45 to 12:30.

Instruction for Preschoolers from 11:15 to 11:45 most Sundays September through June

School Age — 5 to 18:

Instruction and Activities on Sunday mornings
September through June from 10:00 to 12:15. The
monthly schedule is as follows:

First Sunday:

10:00 to 10:45 — Sunday Sing-Along

11:00 to 12:15 — Chapel

Second Sunday:

10:00 to 10:45 — Youth Choir Practice

11:00 to 11:15 — Worship in the sanctuary

11:15 to 12:15 — Curriculum classes

Third Sunday:

10:00 to 10:45 — Art for Everyone, Youth Choir
Practice

11:00 to 11:15 — Worship in the sanctuary

11:15 to 12:15 — Curriculum classes

Fourth Sunday:

10:00 to 12:15 — Social Justice

Fifth Sunday:

10:00 to 12:15 -- Art Marathon

Curriculum

This is year one of our three-year curriculum rotation.

Curriculum focus — Unitarian Universalist values and ethics as expressed in our Principles. Curriculums are:

Preschool: We Are Many, We Are One

Kindergarten to Second Grade: Wonderful Welcome

Third to Fifth Grade: Spirit of Adventure

Junior Youth: Popcorn Theology and Articulating Your Faith

Senior Youth: Popcorn Theology and Articulating Your Faith

Sunday Sing-Along:

10:00 to 10:45 for all ages on the first Sunday of most months — Singing Unitarian Universalist songs including many that don't require hymnals. Talent is not a prerequisite.

Chapel:

11:00 to 12:15 for all ages on the first Sunday of most months — Worship for the entire family on this year's theme.

Art for Everyone:

10:00 to 10:45 for all ages on the third Sunday of most months. Each session features a particular type of activity such as print making, water color, or clay.

Social Justice Sundays:

10:00 to 12:15 for all ages — for those who want to become more effective agents for change. This year's emphasis is on water. Each session will focus on one or more ways to enhance each participant's abilityies as change agents.

YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

Social group for Junior and Senior High School youth. Participants have activities at both the local and district levels where they develop values, leadership and life skills, and friendships.

Activities

Activities have staff support but are run by volunteers. The activities listed below are ones that we have had in the past and will continue to offer if there is sufficient interest. If you have an idea for a new activity and are willing to organize it, please talk to the Religious Education Committee.

September — All -Church Picnic

December — Christmas Eve Nativity Tableau and
Sunday morning special programming focus on
celebrations from other traditions

January — Toiletry bags for the homeless shelter

March — Family overnight

April — Easter Egg hunt

Other Events

These events are planned and run by staff and/or the Religious Education Committee with the help of volunteers.

August — Teacher Training

September — Youth Leader Training

October — Trick or Treat for UNICEF

November — Guest at Your Table

May — Planning retreat; "Transitions Service" that
includes Third Grade Rite of Passage and
Bridging for High School Seniors

June — Volunteer Appreciation Brunch
All fifth Sundays and part of June — Art Marathons

August, September and June — SFUU Can-Do Clean-up Crew tackles the Religious Education spaces

We are also offering two other classes this year that are only open to participants who enroll before the class begins:

Third Grade Rite of Passage beginning in October in which children learn about our church and Unitarian Universalism. Participants are featured in the Transitions service in May.

Our Whole Lives for Grades eight through ten beginning in September — This program looks at the many different aspects of young teens' sexuality. It goes beyond anatomy to address topics such as identity, sexual orientation, and venereal diseases.

Calendar

August 2009

Registration forms and volunteer forms available

Aug 29 Teacher training: 9 to 3

Aug 30 FSUU Can Do Clean-up Crew (adults and children) tackle the Religious Education space to get it ready for the coming religious education year

September 2009

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Sep 7 FSUU Can Do Clean-up Crew (adults and children) tackle the Religious Education space to get it ready for the coming religious education year, take two.

Sep 13

- 9:00 Religious Education Registration Breakfast
- 10:00 Music program
- 11:00 Children and youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Sep 20

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Sep 27

- 10:00 Social Justice Sunday
- 1:00 Youth Leader Training

October 2009

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Oct 4

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Chapel

Oct 11

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Oct 18

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Oct 25

- 10:00 Social Justice
- 12:15 Trick or Treat for UNICEF

November 2009

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Nov 1

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Chapel

Nov 8

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Nov 15

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Nov 22

- 10:00 Social Justice

Nov 29

- 10:00 to 12:15 Art Marathon

December 2009

(no dates yet) YRUU

- Dec 6 All ages program on Hanukah
- Dec 13 All ages program on Solstice
- Dec 20 All ages program on Christmas
- Dec 24 Nativity Tableau at Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 27 All ages program on Kwanzaa

January 2010

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Jan 3

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Chapel

Jan 10

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Jan 17

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Jan 24

- 10:00 Social Justice

Jan 31

- 10:00 to 12:15 Art for Everyone

February 2010

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Feb 7

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Chapel

Feb 14

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Feb 21

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Feb 28

- 10:00 Social Justice

March 2010

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Mar 7

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Chapel

Mar 14

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Mar 21

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Mar 28

- 10:00 Social Justice

April 2010

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Apr 4

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Chapel

Apr 11

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Apr 18

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

Apr 25

- 10:00 Social Justice

May 2010

- (no dates yet) YRUU

May 2

- 10:00 Sunday Sing-Along
- 11:00 Transitions Service - Multigenerational in the Sanctuary - third grade Rite of Passage and Graduating Seniors bridging ceremony

May 9

- 10:00 Youth Choir
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

May 16

- 10:00 Youth Choir, Art for Everyone
- 11:00 Children and Youth go to the service then leave for their classes

May 23

- 10:00 Social Justice
- May 30 - All Church Retreat, no programming for children or youth at the church

June 2010

- (no dates yet) YRUU

Jun 6

- RE volunteer appreciation brunch followed by Art for the children who choose not to go to the service

June 13

- FSUU Can-do Clean-up Crew's Spring Spruce-up - getting things organized and put away in the Religious Education Space

June 20 and June 27

- Art Marathon - Everyone is invited to spend the time on these two Sundays creating beautiful work with our art teachers

July 2010 - July 4th begin Summer Arts



