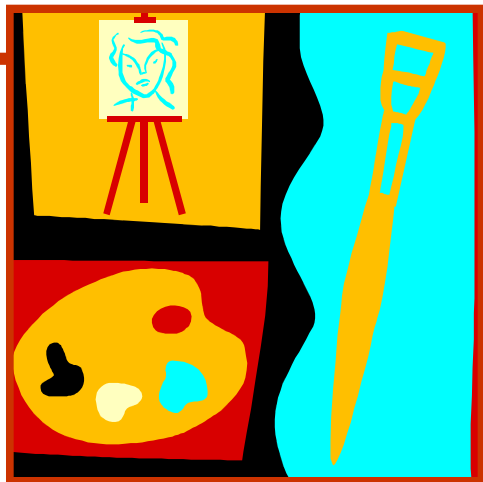


# Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

April 2010

Volume 6 Issue 8



## West Shore UU Children And Youth Art Show

The Aesthetics Committee celebrates May with a special exhibit to honor the artistic expression of our children and youth. The committee will exhibit the work West Shore children and youth have done in a variety of art media. The artwork will hang on display in the Fireside Room throughout May with a reception on May 2, after each service.

**Call for Entries:** All students enrolled in the Religious Education program may submit the best two-dimensional art they have done at school, home or in Sunday School during this academic year 2009-2010.

**Entry Requirements:** Work may be submitted in pencil, colored pencils, crayons, pen and ink, India ink, scratchboard, tempera, acrylic, oil or watercolors. Any two dimensional media is acceptable. The art is not to exceed 24 inches in any direction. The work is to be unmatted and unframed. An entry blank will be provided to be completed with the student's name, title of artwork and the media in which the work was created.

### Exhibit Dates

April 11-25: Artwork submitted to Kathy Strawser or Cathy Ross

Sunday, May 2: Show opens and reception in the Fireside Room

Sunday, June 6: Show ends, Artwork may be picked up at the RE office from Kathy Strawser or Cathy Ross June 6-30.

## Notes for Singers:



### JUNIOR CHOIR SCHEDULE

**Easter Sunday, April 4:** No rehearsal

**April 11:** Regular rehearsal at 10:40

**April 18 :** Meet at 10:15 to sing *Alabanza* at the end of the first service; during our 10:40 rehearsal time, honor our four-year choir assistant, Carmen Rush; sing *Alabanza* at the beginning of the 11:15 service

**Special Notes:** Our Junior Choir year will end on April 18. Plans for the fall include a trip to sing at the Akron UU Church.

### YOUTH CHOIR SCHEDULE

**April 24:** Rehearsal at 10:40

**May 2:** Rehearsal at 10:40

**May 9:** Rehearse at 9:45 (time tentative); sing for the 10:30 service (anthem to be determined)

**May 15:** Rehearsal at 9:45 (time tentative)

**May 22:** Rehearsal at 9:45 (time tentative); sing for the 10:30 Youth Sunday service (anthem to be determined)

## Teacher Appreciation

Please join us in thanking our 42 religious education volunteers, **Sunday, May 9**, during the inter-generational service at 10:30. We'll celebrate with cake, punch and gifts for our teachers after the service.



## Child Dedication Service

In celebration of Mother's Day, the service on Sunday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m. will include a Ceremony of Child Dedication. Contact Rev. Wayne Arnason at [bergthor@aol.com](mailto:bergthor@aol.com) to discuss your child or family's participation.



## Intergenerational Worship Survey Results

The ministers and I created an on-line and paper survey for members to help us assess our intergenerational worship services. The survey was available March 1 - 16 and was promoted in *Shorelines*, *West Shore Weekly*, church website, Sunday School teacher's weekly note, Facebook and *Unitattler*, the RE families newsletter. The number of responses from adult members (34) and children (9 included in their parents' responses) was disappointing, and so while we have some data, these responses cannot be given too much weight in terms of evaluation or ideas for improvement of our intergenerational services. Ten surveys included written comments, which gave a bit of helpful information. Highlights from the survey include the following:

A fair spread of ages responded to the survey, though nearly 50% were in their 30's 40's, and 30% were in their 60's. 94% of respondents said they attend half or more of these services and see the intergenerational service as a viable worship experience. More than half marked, "It's (Intergen. services) essential—I wouldn't be here if it was primarily a church of older adults." There was less certainty in responses regarding whether or not these services contribute to the growth and learning of adults and children. While close to half responded "yes" to this question, the other half said either "no," or "not sure." Responders gave chalice lighting, the Junior Choir, stories for all ages, skits and plays and prayer high marks as effective elements in our intergenerational services, and lower marks to sermons. Over half of responses stated that the frequency (once a month) of intergenerational worship as we do it now is about right, while 35% said four or five times a year would be about right.

The written comments were "across the board," with remarks like, "I don't feel like (these) services are ever only geared for children; all ages (are) truly included," to "Perhaps the sermon can come at the end and the younger children can disappear." A fair number of responses encouraged us to add elements to the service that, frankly, already exist, or encouraged us to consider making the services more child-friendly, which by their examples seemed to suggest a children's worship service, not an intergenerational one.

The ministers and I thank those who completed the survey. It is our intention to make continuous improvements to the worship life of this church. In terms of intergenerational worship, we remain committed to offering a monthly worship experience that is engaging and meaningful to the wide spectrum of ages who attend and to fostering a strong sense of community at West Shore, in one way made possible through worship that welcomes each member, young, old and in between.

***Kathy Strawser***



### R.E. CALENDAR

#### Sunday, April 4

9:30 & 11:15 Easter Activities for Grades K-6  
Childcare for Infants to Pre-K

#### Sunday, April 11

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School  
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

#### Tuesday, April 13

6:30 R.E. Committee

#### Sunday, April 18

9:30 & 11:15 Intergenerational Service  
Childcare for Infants to Pre-K  
10:00 Jr. Choir sings at end of first service  
10:40 Jr. Choir Rehearsal  
11:15 Jr. Choir sings at start of second service  
5:00 OWL for Grades 7-8

#### Sunday, April 25

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

#### Sunday, May 2

9:30 & 11:15 Last regular Sunday School  
Chapel for Grades K-6. *Please send a few coins with your child for the offering*  
Children/Youth Art Show Opens

#### Sunday, May 9

10:30 Intergenerational Service: Youth Choir and Teacher Recognition  
Childcare for Infants to Pre-K  
5:00 OWL for Grades 7-8

## Director's Time Away

**April 2 - 11:** Service trip to New Orleans

**April 23 - 25:** Gestalt Institute, Cleveland

### Staff contacts for events/opportunities in *Unitattler*

Kathy Strawser, Director of Lifespan Faith Development  
[kstrawser@wsuuc.org](mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org); 440.333.2255, Ext. 103

Phil Florian, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
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Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant  
[cross@wsuuc.org](mailto:cross@wsuuc.org); 440.333.2255, Ext. 104