

West Shore
Unitarian Universalist
Church

Unitattler

A Newsletter for West Shore Families

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2011

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Friday, Feb. 4**
Homeless on Hilliard with West Shore and other Rocky River church youth in grades 7-12.
- **Sunday, Feb. 6,**
Sunday School with Children's Chapel for Grades 1-6 led by Intern Minister Ellen Carvill-Ziemer. Please send a few coins with your child for the offering.
- **Sunday, Feb. 27,**
9:30 & 11:15. Inter-generational Worship Service featuring our Jr. Choir and a potential youth band.
- **Sunday, Feb. 27,**
12:30-2:00 pm 3rd Annual RE Sunday Circus in Baker Hall with the St. Ignatius Circus Jugglers Club

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From the Minister

OWL for 5th/6th Grades has begun! No, it's not a bird-watching class! *Our Whole Lives*, or *O.W.L.*, is the Unitarian Universalist Association's life-span human sexuality program, composed of five courses for five different, age-appropriate groups. West Shore has a rotation cycle for Grades K-1, 5-6, 7-9, 10-12, and Adult OWL classes.

The curriculum is based on four primary goals; to provide accurate, developmentally appropriate information; to increase self-esteem and understand relationships with and responsibilities toward others; to develop interpersonal skills including communication, decision making, and problem solving; and to teach responsibility for personal health and safety.

I was pleased to see parents from eight families at the parents' orientation session I visited in late January. I was there just to offer a welcome and give some unsolicited praise for the top-notch team of volunteer teachers we have for this class. Kelly Pinkas, Meghan Ross-Bogges, and Steve Gorbach-Foster have all taught the curriculum before and bring valuable experience and different gifts.

Despite the great teachers we have, it's important to remember that the OWL program is guided by two principles: parents have primary responsibility for sexuality education with their children; and sexuality education begins at home and continues through open and honest communication between parents and children.

This past year was the 40th anniversary of human sexuality education as a routine feature of religious education programs in our congregations. OWL is a "second generation" curriculum, succeeding one that I took and that I taught as a youth and young adult growing up in UU'ism. OWL was developed in partnership with our friends at the United Church of Christ, and the curriculum is widely and proudly used in their churches as well.

Additional information about the OWL program can be found at the UUA website <http://uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/index.shtml>

See you in church,

Wayne

3rd Annual RE Sunday Circus



Ladies, and gentlemen, and children big and small... West Shore proudly presents the third annual "Underwear" Circus featuring the one...the only...St. Ignatius Circus Club

Jugglers who will amaze and astonish you with their daring feats of balance, agility and strength.

The circus is taking place at West Shore on **Sunday, February 27, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** All West Shore families are invited for carnival games, circus food, face painting and funny photos. Cost: \$3/child,

\$5/adult, \$10 maximum for any family.

BONUS: Donate brand new children's socks, underwear or diapers and receive a ticket for a FREE circus photo featuring you as a clown, a strong man or another dazzling circus performer.

Youth News

Homeless on Hilliard

West Shore youth, Grades 7-12, are invited to join other Rocky River church youth on **Friday, February 4**, to experience an overnight of homelessness on our front lawn! This is the third annual event raising money in support of Interact Cleveland's Homeless Stand Down. The youth and adult sponsors will make signs and encourage those coming and going from the church and traveling on Hilliard Boulevard to make a donation to fight homelessness. We hope you will make plans that Friday night to cruise through the circular driveway and make a gift.

Keeping warm, fed, and learning about homelessness and what can be done to respond to it will have top priority that night. Youth will need warm clothes, a sleeping bag, and parental permission to par-

ticipate. Information regarding time, activities and permission forms is available in Sunday School or by contacting Youth Ministry Coordinator Phil Florian, pflorian@wsuuc.org.

Want to help? Donate snacks and wood. But most important drive by Friday night the 4th, make a donation and warm our youth with your support.

Sunday Jr. Church. This year's theme for the Sunday morning Jr. Church (which meets at 9:30 a.m.) has centered around youth exploring poetry as a way of learning wisdom through the ages from others as well as expressing themselves and wrestling with the challenges they face every day. In addition to the Sunday morning class, the Jr. Church will be presenting the Children's Chapel in March to our West Shore children in Grades 1 to 6. They will

also work towards their always popular end of year Youth Service for the entire church in May.

Youth Band Needed for Sunday, Feb. 27. Intern Minister Ellen Carvill-Ziemer and Rev. Kathleen Rolenz are looking for members of the youth group to form a band to play for this Intergenerational Service. The theme for the month is "Brokenness" and the sermon title is "Everybody Makes Mistakes." They need guitar, bass, drums and a vocalist to play Miley Cyrus' song "Nobody's Perfect." Band members need to play at both services, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. If interested, contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz (krolenz@wsuuc.org) or text at 440-653-3476 or Ellen Carvill-Ziemer at ecarvillziemer@wsuuc.org.



West Shore youth will spend the night of February 4 on our front lawn to raise awareness of homelessness

R.E. Calendar

Tues., Feb. 1

7:00 pm R.E. Committee

Fri/Sat., Feb 4/5

4:00 pm Homeless on Hilliard, Grades 7-12

Sun., Feb 6

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School Chapel for Grades 1-6, led by Intern Minister Ellen Carvill-Ziemer. *Please send a few coins with your child for the offering.*

10:40 am Jr. Choir

Time TBD OWL 5/6 Grade

Sun., Feb. 13

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

10:40 am Jr. Choir

Time TBD OWL 5/6 Grade

Sun., Feb. 20

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

10:40 am Jr. Choir

Time TBD OWL 5/6 Grade

Sun., Feb 27

9:30 & 11:15 Intergenerational

Service: Child-care for infants to PreK

Jr. Choir sings A Medley of Three African American Spirituals

Potential Youth Band to play "Nobody's Perfect"

12:30 pm Sunday Circus in Baker Hall

Time TBD OWL 5/6 Grade



Congratulations are in order to McCall Gorbach-Foster, Ara Starr and Eva Wynn whose entries in the 2010-11 Lakewood Council PTA Reflections Program were selected for special recognition. McCall's and Ara's entries will be judged at the State Level. If your child achieves an award, please let us know so we can recognize him or her.