

## SPECIAL DATES

Sun., Jan. 2, 10:30 am

Special one-hour Children's Chapel with Rev. Katie Norris. Childcare for infants to grade K

Sun., Jan. 23, 2:00 p.m.

Parent orientation meeting for OWL (Our Whole Lives), grades 5-6. Childcare available if requested by Wed., Jan. 19.

Sat., Jan. 29, 2:00 p.m.

All-Ages Game Afternoon. Bring your own favorite game or try one of ours! Light refreshments will be available for this free event.

Sun. Jan. 30, 2:00 p.m.

Parent/child orientation for OWL grades 5-6



### SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday Underwear Circus  
Sunday, Feb. 27, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

### STAFF CONTACTS

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## A Message from Rev. Wayne Arnason

I know we're all wishing Kathy Strawser all the best as she begins Part I of her sabbatical, and that we'll miss her generous, insightful, and steady leadership. One of the advantages of Kathy's sabbatical is that everyone connected to lifespan faith development gets to look at the program from a different perspective than we usually do. Taking on some of the roles that Kathy plays while she is gone is reminding me of some of the things that we do in lifespan faith development at West Shore Church that I have come to take for granted. For example, I was noticing that in January our World Religions class is taking a field trip to Trinity Cathedral as part of their study of Christianity (details are noted elsewhere in this issue of *Unitattler*.) Even though the

dominant religious tradition in this country is Christianity, I am reminded we make no assumptions that the children in our program have a full or accurate picture of the Christian faith. We will assume that there will be people going who have never been in Trinity Cathedral or any Christian church. We approach the study of the world's religions including Christianity as one among them, and not presuming it as a baseline or center point.

A field trip like this one also offers the class members and the teachers an opportunity to see West Shore from a different perspective. We can take for granted our style of worship, our approach to religious education for children, youth and adults, and our social and political values. As somebody who grew up

Unitarian Universalist and went through the full religious education curriculum that we offer, I know that I sometimes forget what a precious discovery we are for people who are encountering a UU congregation for the first time. For many West Shore families, it's a fresh water pool in a dry desert. For me, it's the water I've been swimming in my whole life.

One thing I try never to take for granted, sabbatical or not, is the volunteer leadership that makes our program so strong. I'm looking forward this winter to being more connected to the RE Committee and the teaching teams than is usually the case, and that will be a gift of this time.

See you in church!  
Rev. Wayne Arnason

## OWL (Our Whole Lives) Grades 5-6 This Month

We are pleased to offer OWL, the UUA's age-appropriate, human sexuality program to current fifth and sixth grades.

This 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. The responsibility of the educating institution is to provide resources that help parents talk

about sexuality with their children. To these ends, OWL for Grades 5-6 begins with a parent meeting to introduce the curriculum and answer parents' questions. Parents who wish to enroll their children then attend a mandatory parent/child orientation. Specific dates and times for classes will be determined at that meeting. WSUUC adult members, Kelly Pinkas, Meghan Ross and Steve Gorbach Foster, certified OWL facilitators for

this age level, teach the class.

The OWL, Grades 5-6, parents' meeting will be **Sunday, January 23, 2:00-3:00 p.m.** at church. The following **Sunday, January 30, 2:00-4:30 p.m.** will be the parent/child orientation. Childcare will be offered for the parents' meeting, if requested by **Wednesday, January 19**. To register and/or ask questions, please sign up at the R.E. table on Sunday, or contact Programs Assistant Cathy Ross.

## Saying No to Yes and Yes to No, Intergenerational Service, Sunday, January 30, 9:30 & 11:15

We say "no" to a lot of things — no to broccoli, no to bad television shows, no to being dragged to places we don't want to go. In some ways it's much easier to say "no" to

small things than "yes" to big things. What are those big things? Why would we want to say "yes" to them?

This Intergenerational Service will be offered by Revs. Kath-

leen Rolenz and Katie Norris. We encourage all R.E. families to attend and see what makes West Shore's Intergenerational Services so inspiring.



## Youth News

### Jr. Church Hosts IHN

West Shore high school youth hosted a night with our guests from the **Interfaith Hospitality Network on Wednesday, December 22**. With the help of advisors Buffy DeWitt, Phil Florian, Alex Piotrowski, and Melinda Stock, the youth cooked and served “Breakfast for Dinner” and offered crafts, cookie decorating and other activities during the early evening. Then at 9:00, everyone headed to the Sanctuary for up-all-night fun.

### Homeless on Hilliard

West Shore youth, Grades 7-12, are invited to join other Rocky River church youth **Friday, February 4** to experience on overnight of homelessness on our front lawn! The youth and adult sponsors will make signs and encourage those traveling on Hilliard Boulevard to make a donation to fight homelessness. 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 of course, parent permission to participate. Information regarding time, activities and permission forms is available in Sunday School, at the RE table and on the church’s website. Questions? See Youth Ministry Coordinator Phil Florian, pflorian@wsuuc.org. Want to help? Donate snacks and wood. Better yet, drive by that Friday night, make a donation and warm our youth with your support!

## More R.E. News!

### World Religions Class Field Trip to Trinity Cathedral

As part of their study of Christianity, our fifth and sixth graders will be going to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral on **Sunday January 16 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** Their tour will include the cathedral’s general architecture, as well as information about Trinity Church’s beliefs, rituals and its commitment to outreach in downtown Cleveland and to a “green” environment. Both World Religions classes will meet at 11:15 for a bag lunch and will then leave for the cathedral.

### Love Games? Don’t Miss Our All-Ages Game Afternoon

No matter what your favorite game — Candy Land

to Pictionary — you’ll undoubtedly find it at this exciting R.E. Committee event on **Saturday, January 29, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** Hula Hoops and plastic pin bowling for toddlers, Scrabble and UNO for older folks and everything in between. Bring your favorite game or try one of ours. Light refreshments will be served.

### HOLD THE DATE! For Our Sunday Underwear Circus at West Shore

Families are invited to attend our circus, **Sunday, February 27, 12:30 – 2:00**, featuring circus-type food/beverages, games and activities, all for a modest price. The acclaimed St. Ignatius Circus Club will entertain, 1:00-1:30. More information will be coming,

but for now, mark your calendars for a fun winter day!

### Guest at Your Table

Please return your filled-to-the-brim GAYT box by **January 9**. Boxes can be brought to the R.E. table or church office. Thanks for your generosity to address national and international emergency relief efforts through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Thanks, also, to Sharon Hogan and Alex Piotrowski for their creativity and ingenuity in creating our “Magic Mountain” fountain with slide (we estimate it brought in \$70+ extra dollars in change for UUSC).

## R.E. Calendar

<b>Sun., Jan. 2</b>	
10:30 am	Special one-hour Children’s Chapel for Grades 1-6 led by Rev. Katie Norris; Child-care for infants-Grade K; Youth-friendly worship service for Grades 7-12

<b>Tues., Jan 4</b>	
7:00 pm	R.E. Committee
<b>Sun., Jan 9</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
10:40 am	Jr. Choir
<b>Sun., Jan. 16</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
10:40 am	Jr. Choir
<b>Sun., Jan. 23</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
10:40 am	Jr. Choir

<b>Sat., Jan. 29</b>	
2:00 pm	All Ages Game Afternoon
<b>Sun., Jan. 30</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Intergenerational Worship Service; Childcare for Infants-PreK
	<i>Please send a few coins for the collection</i>
10:40 am	Jr. Choir

