

West Shore  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church

# Unitattler

A Newsletter for West Shore Families

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2011

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sun., Oct. 2, 10:30 am & 12:15 pm  
Annual Fire Drill We will conduct a fire drill at the conclusion of both services. Parents, please see important information on this page.
- Youth Group Potlucks  
Our youth will meet on Sunday, Oct. 9 & Oct. 23 at 6:00 for a potluck supper, planning and fun.
- Thursday, Oct. 13 & 27, 5:30-7:00 pm  
*Chalice Lighters* dinner meetings for 3rd & 4th graders and their parents. See this page for complete information.
- Saturday, October 26, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Dia de los Muertos, West Shore's annual Day of the Dead celebration. All are welcome.
- Sunday, October 30, 9:30 & 11:15 am  
Intergenerational Service *The Ties that Bind*. How do we acknowledge the gifts of those who've gone before us? We invite you to bring a memento for our memory table.

## STAFF CONTACTS

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## Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead



**D**ia de los Muertos or "Day of the Dead" is a holiday celebrated in many parts of the world, typically on November 1 or 2. In Mexico, where the holiday originated and has both ancient Aztec and Mesoamerican roots, *Dia de los Muertos* is a national holiday.

Though the subject matter may be considered morbid from the perspective of some other cultures, celebrants typically approach the Day of the Dead joyfully, and though it occurs at the same time as Halloween, All Saints' Day and All Souls Day, the tradi-

tional mood is much brighter with emphasis on celebrating and honoring the lives of the deceased, and celebrating the continuation of life; the belief is not that death is the end, but rather the beginning of a new stage in life.

Families create altars where they place flowers, candles and sugar skulls, as well as pictures, mementoes and favorite foods of family members and friends who have died, but whose spirits are welcomed that night. People retell favorite stories, especially those that feature Death as a fun loving, yet wise, gentleman.

Please join us for our fifth, annual Day of the Dead celebration, **Saturday, October 29, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**, in Baker Hall, for a supper and activities for all ages. We ask that for our supper you bring a favorite food of the person

whose memory you hold so close, and a memento of that person for our worship table. Beverages and table service will be provided. We will decorate traditional sugar skulls and make tissue paper flowers for our short worship service. Let's reminisce and welcome the one night the dead are granted celestial permission to visit friends and family on earth! Sign up to attend at the Religious Education table in the Rotunda, or call the church office by **Wednesday, October 26.**

**JOIN CLEVELAND'S DIA de los MUERTOS**, before or after West Shore's celebration on **Saturday, October 29, 11:00 am-10:00 pm** with a parade at 3:30 pm. Altars, exhibition, face painting, masks, folk art, pan de muerto, music and dance. *Cleveland Public Theatre East Campus*, 6205 Detroit Ave.,

## Annual Church Fire Drill

Our annual fire drill will occur **Sunday, October 2**, at 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m., at the close of the worship services. In the event of inclement weather, the drill will take place Sunday, October 11. Please listen and follow

instructions. The minister, ushers, staff and Sunday School teachers have received training to help you with a quick, safe exit to designated, outside areas. *It will be cold, so be sure to wear a coat.* **Parents**, after you exit

and the school bell has rung to indicate the drill has ended, please collect your children and youth who will be waiting for you behind the building. We appreciate your participation and support of this safety measure.

## Chalice Lighters: Calling All 3rd & 4th Graders

*Chalice Lighters* provides an opportunity for young people in our congregation to become familiar with the ideas of our unique religious tradition. They will learn to take an active role in the worship service by lighting the chalice at our Sunday morning services. Throughout the preparation process, family partici-

pation is built in to encourage an intergenerational exploration of religious identity enhancing the experience for our young people.

*Chalice Lighters* has two basic requirements. Children and parents attend two dinner sessions, **Thursdays, October 13 & 27, 5:30-7:00 pm**, with the intern minister

and director, and children, with some help from parents, complete the *Chalice Lighter* workbook. Invitations have been mailed and also distributed at church. To register, please stop by the RE table on Sundays or call the church office during the week.

# Jr. Church & Youth Group News

**Youth Group update.** Our Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, Oct. 9 and Oct. 23, 6:00-9:00 pm.** These Sunday evening get-togethers begin with a potluck dinner and can include everything from activity planning to games...all in the spirit of fun and exploration. All youth including non-UU's are invited to attend.

**What's the BIG Idea?** The youth/adult meeting that was held on Sunday, Supt. 25 generated lots of BIG ideas for West Shore youth. Stay tuned for updates as we dis-

cuss, envision and plan West Shore Youth's next BIG thing.

**Wonderful news! Ben Granger,** son of members Marten and Lisa Granger, is a National Merit semi-finalist, meaning he is one of the top scoring students from Ohio, and one whose score was achieved by less than 1% of the nation's test takers on the PSAT test. Finalists will be named this coming February. Ben began teaching Sunday School three years ago, as part of his school's one-year com-

munity project and has been with our PreK-Kindergarten children ever since. Please give him your congratulations.

**Youth Scholarship to New Orleans available.** West Shore will make its third service trip to New Orleans this spring. Several of our youth have participated in the past and came back with enthusiastic reports about the experience. Complete information, including dates and how to apply for the scholarship, will be available soon.



West Shore's youth and adults have BIG visions for the coming year!

## West Shore Youth Receives Grant

Katrina, Walker, a West Shore youth, was named a recipient of a Katie Tyson Grant for Young and Young Adult Ministries this past spring. Katrina received the grant to attend Girls Leadership Institute this summer and to underwrite the start-up costs of *Real Girls: A UU Based Class On How To Deal with Real Girls Issues*, a program she is developing scheduled to begin in late January or early February of 2012.

The program is designed to bring together fifth to eighth

grade girls at West Shore for six weeks of weekend afternoons of activities. During the program the girls will learn how to develop their self-confidence and healthy relationships intertwined with UU principles and values. Each session will include advance readings and discussion questions as well as experiential learning opportunities and fun. Katrina hopes this program will allow the girls to be silly again and learn to be true to themselves, something many girls

lose during their middle school years. Attending the three week Girls Leadership Institute was instrumental for Katrina developing an understanding of the methods she is employing in the programs. She said, "I've been using this in my life at school over the past couple of weeks and it is working out great." Katrina will be announcing the dates for her program later this fall. Interested? Contact Katrina at [kwalker@montessorihighschool.org](mailto:kwalker@montessorihighschool.org)

## Your Weekly Shopping Can Help West Shore

West Shore is hoping to increase our income from the sale of gift cards, which can amount to up to 18% of the face value of the card. We've done everything possible to make it easy for you to help out. We have the most popular cards including Heinen's,

Giant Eagle, Home Depot, gas companies and more, available every Sunday. Other gift cards can be ordered either on a one-time or a monthly repeat basis. We even track your purchases to include the percentage that the IRS allows as a charitable

deduction with your annual West Shore statement.

**It's easy:** 1) Make a list of your monthly purchases. 2) Decide which you can make with gift cards. 3) Stop by the Gift Card table in the rotunda on Sunday mornings.

## R.E. Calendar

<b>Sunday, Oct. 2</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
	Chapel for Grades 1-6 <i>Please send a few coins with your child for the collection</i>
10:30, 12:15	Fire Drill
10:40	Jr. Choir
<b>Sunday, Oct. 9</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
10:40	Junior Choir
6:00	Youth Group

<b>Tuesday, Oct. 11</b>	
7:00 pm	R.E. Committee
<b>Thursday, Oct. 13</b>	
5:30-7:00	Chalice Lighters, Grades 3-4
<b>Sunday, Oct. 16</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
10:40	Jr. Choir
<b>Sunday, Oct. 23</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Sunday School
10:40	Jr. Choir

6:00	Youth Group
<b>Thursday, Oct. 27</b>	
5:30-7:00	Chalice Lighters, Grades 3-4
<b>Saturday, Oct. 29</b>	
5:30-7:30	Day of the Dead
<b>Sunday, Oct. 30</b>	
9:30 & 11:15	Intergenerational Service. Childcare for Infant/PreK
10:40	Jr. Choir

