

# Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2008

Volume 5 Issue 2



## Making Room Conversations

You are warmly invited and strongly encouraged to attend one of the congregational conversations regarding West Shore's interest in future growth and use of church space. Families with children and youth in our religious education program have much at stake, much to learn, and much to discuss about these topics. **Childcare, with snacks, is provided for the October Sunday gatherings, noon - 1:00, at church.** Weekday evening meetings are also available, with registration at church on Sunday or by phone during the week, 440.333.2255.

## October 19: A Service You Don't Want to Miss

This month's intergenerational service welcomes Josh Searle White, UU storyteller and author, to our pulpit. Josh and guest musicians will lead us on a *Joy of Life Tour*, through music and stories. His story, *Slowpoke*, was recently featured in our Children's Chapel and his newest book, *Magic Wanda's Travel Emporium: Tales of Love, Hate and Things in Between*, will be available for purchase that day. Come prepared to laugh a lot!



## Annual Church Fire Drill

All children, youth and adults exited the building with speed and safety, Sunday, Oct. 5, in **three minutes, eighteen seconds**. Thanks so much for your cooperation and understanding of this proactive

## Dia de los Muertos

Dia 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 traditional 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 home 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 re-tell favorite stories, especially those that feature Death as a fun-loving, yet wise, gentleman.



**Please join us for our third, annual Day of the Dead celebration, Saturday, November 1, 5:00-7:00, 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. Children will decorate traditional sugar skulls. We'll reminisce and welcome the one night the dead are granted celestial permission to visit friends and relatives on earth! **Please sign up to attend at the Religious Education table in the Rotunda, or call the church office by Wednesday, October 29.**

As an added attraction, please plan to continue a fun evening by attending the silent film, "*Phantom of the Opera*," accompanied by our music director and organist, David Blazer, beginning at 7:30.



## We welcome the following, new, registered families to West Shore

Howard and Doris Broughton (Lilia, Sammy, Izzy)  
 Kelly Cameron and Kim Annable (Kerri, Anna)  
 Mitchell and Tracey Carlisle (Madeline, Abigail)  
 David Carney and Laura Bonstani (Jamie, Samantha)  
 Sean and Jen Carroll (Ava)  
 Jeannee and Michelle Dentler (Rebecca)  
 Brent and Buffy DeWitt (Cameron)  
 Ralph and Kathy LeRoy (Bryce)  
 Matt and A.J. McCabe (Jeremy)  
 Michael Rowe and Evelyn Walzer (Sami, Ryan)  
 Marc and Sarah Smith (Aubrey, Sadie)

## Junior and Senior High Con(ference) News

### Junior High Con

**Who** Youth, Grades 7 - 9  
**What/When** *Espionage*, November 7 - 9  
**Where** First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh  
**Cost** \$20.00  
**How** Complete and mail registration form, available at [www.ohiomeadville.org/yac](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/yac) by **October 27**, to: Sophie Strickler, YAC Registrar  
 2647 Barrington Drive  
 Toledo, OH 43605

Youth will need a sponsor, and **Heather Macalla** has graciously volunteered to be a sponsor (6 youth) and driver (3 youth) for West Shore for this con. Please see **Kathy Strawser** for the required director's and sponsor's signature on the registration form. Want to know what to expect? Ask veteran con attendees **Trevor Irvin, Kaleigh Macalla, Samael Reed, Katrina Walker** and **Sarah White!**

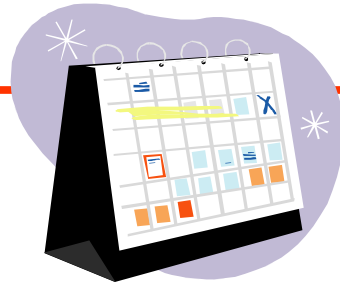
### Senior High Con

**Who** Youth, Grades 9 - 12  
**When** January 9 - 11  
**Where** First UU Church of Columbus

### Religious Education Attendance

Sunday	Children/Youth	Teachers
Sept. 14	100	25
Sept. 21	85	23
Sept. 28	82	25
Oct. 5	89	22
Junior Choir	20	2

Consistent attendance at school, soccer practice, dance lessons and **church** increases learning, continuity and community building. Thanks for your efforts to get your family to church every Sunday!



## October Calendar for RE Families

### Sunday, October 12

9:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal  
 10:30 Sunday School  
 12:00 Making Room Conversation

### Thursday, October 16

6:00 Chalice Lighters

### Sunday, October 19

9:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal  
 10:30 Intergenerational Service, Childcare infants—age 4  
 12:00 Making Room Conversation

### Sunday, October 26

9:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal  
 10:30 Sunday School/Chalice Lighter Induction  
 12:00 Making Room Conversation

### Saturday, November 1

5:00-7:00 Day of the Dead

### Sunday, November 2

9:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal  
 10:30 Sunday School  
 Children's Chapel, Grade K-6

**Note:** Thanks much for your help by sending coins with your child to Children's Chapel for the offering. We collected \$32.00 for our spring social action project at the Sunday, October 5 Chapel service.

### 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

Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant  
[cross@wsuuc.org](mailto:cross@wsuuc.org) : 440.333.225, Ext. 104