

Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2009

Volume 6 Issue 2



Chalice Lighters: Calling All Third and Fourth 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 participation is built in to encourage an intergenerational exploration of religious identity enhancing the experience for young people.

Chalice Lighters has two basic requirements: Children and parents attend two dinner sessions, **Thursdays, October 8 & 22, 5:30 - 7:00**, with the ministers; and children, with some help from parents, complete the *Chalice Lighter* workbook. Invitations will be mailed and also distributed at church. To register, please stop by the RE table on Sundays or call the church office during the week.

Annual Church Fire Drill

Our annual fire drill will occur **Sunday, October 4, at 10:30 and 12:15**, 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 ministers, ushers, staff and Sunday School teachers have received training to help you with a quick, safe exit to designated, outside areas. 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.

Canned Food Drive: Sunday, October 18

Please help to stock local food pantries! Bring a can of food, per person, to the sanctuary, and we'll make sure it gets to those who need it. The canned items most in need are soup, tuna, peanut butter, beef stew, and vegetables. Boxes of cereal are also needed. Remember: one person = one can; a family of four = 4 cans.

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 retell favorite stories, especially those that feature Death as a fun-loving, yet wise, gentleman.

Please join us for our second, annual Day of the Dead celebration, **Friday, October 30, 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 28.**





WSUUC Children Initiate Bake Sale

Seventh grader **Maya Wanner** and sixth grader **Samantha Horwitz** hope to sponsor a Great American Bake Sale, a fundraising event offered through Food Network to help raise money to end childhood hunger. The sale will be held after both services on **Sunday, October 25**. Maya and Sam are asking for volunteers to provide homemade baked goods that morning. All items will be sold without price tags for whatever donation the buyer is willing to give.

New Church Year Up and Growing!

Thanks to all who have registered for Sunday School. Your willingness to be proactive and register last spring made many decisions regarding class size, use of space and curriculum so much easier! We hope you are pleased with our new program and the class time is working well for your family.

There are 135 children and youth registered for this church year's Sunday School, 62 at 9:15 and 72 at 11:15. We are seeing about a 10% increase over last year's same Sunday attendance, with 109 on Sept. 13 and 96 on Sept. 20. There are a couple classes that are near to outgrowing their space. We will continue to monitor this and make adjustments.

Service Trip to New Orleans A Scholarship Opportunity for Youth/Young Adults

Youth and young adults are welcome to join WSUUC adults, April 2 - 11, 2010, for a week of learning, community and service as part of the New Orleans Rebirth Volunteer Program. A volunteer must be at least 14 and have a parent/adult sponsor; youth who are 16 and over are not required to have a sponsor. To help make it possible for youth/young adults to participate, several church members have offered scholarship aid to help defray costs. Flyers and registration forms are available at the church office. An initial, \$40 deposit is due NOW! Please see Kathy Strawser or the ministers if your family or high school youth would like to participate.

West Shore Youth Interns

Four high school youth are serving as interns during the second service. **Ben Granger** (pre-kindergarten teacher), **Maddi New** (aide to Grades 5/6), **Samael Reed** (programs assistant) and **Jacob Streitel** (office volunteer) have mentors and service responsibilities. Youth Ministry Coordinator Linda New hopes to interest more second service youth in intern opportunities. Please see Linda on Sunday or contact her at newlinn@gmail.com, if your high school son or daughter would like to know more about internship possibilities.

World Religion Class: Blogging and Traveling

World Religions Teacher **Jeanne Grossetti** has created a fabulous teachers blog. Now teachers can access curriculum, lesson plans and art projects on-line, as well as add resources and coordinate the two sessions of their Sunday School class.

Our fifth/sixth grade World Religions children and their teachers/chaperones will travel to Shiva Vishnu Temple, **Saturday, October 26**. The field trip will augment the classroom learning about Hinduism and includes a tour, observation of a temple service and lunch featuring traditional foods. Parents will receive more specific information and field trip forms soon.

Junior Choir

Our Junior Choir now has 33 members! They will sing at both October intergenerational services. **Tom Horwitz** will provide piano accompaniment. Junior Choir Director **Joe Schafer** has arranged for **Becky (Kimpton)** and **Tommy Krecic**, young adults and former Junior Choir members to sing a duet at the Nov. 1 sanctuary and Children's Chapel Services.

R.E. CALENDAR

Sunday, October 4

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

Children's Chapel

Please send a few coins with your K-6 child for the offering

10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

Fire drill follows both worship services!

Tuesday, October 6

7:30 R.E. Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 8

5:30-7:00 Chalice Lighters Supper & Class

Sunday, October 11

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

Sunday, October 18

9:30 & 11:15 Intergenerational Service

Childcare for infants to age 4

10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

Food Drive in Sanctuary during the service

Thursday, October 22

5:30-7:00 Chalice Lighters Supper & Class

Saturday, October 24

9:00-2:15 World Religions Field Trip

Sunday, October 25

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

10:40-11:15 Junior Choir

Friday, October 30

5:00-7:00 Day of the Dead Supper/
Celebration — All Ages