



The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Children's Religious Education Program 2011-2012



“The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own. ... In a word, the great end is to awaken the soul, to excite and cherish spiritual life.”

~ William Ellery Channing

*Building Community as we Seek
Spiritual Depth and Social Justice*

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the Religious Education program at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. Here at USSB you will find a vibrant and active community of people who love and support our children and youth. Our goal is to provide a well-organized, challenging, and welcoming environment that, through lifespan education grounded in the UU principles, encourages spiritual and intellectual growth and empowers our children and youth to live our common ideals and develop their individual faith. We hope you will join us on this journey.

Peace,
LeeAnn Williams
Director

How to Get Involved

Throughout the church year, we have a number of fun-filled and meaningful ways in which to get involved and become acquainted with our religious community. There are myriad RE and congregational functions such as UU Inquiry sessions, Path to Membership classes, Parent's Night Out, Wellspring Wednesday Adult RE classes, social justice work and much more. Our aim is to help foster connections between families, children, youth and the congregation as a whole. Parents are always welcome to attend Sunday RE classes and Children's Worship Services.

Registration

Please register your children, toddlers to teens, for Religious Education classes and childcare for the 2011 – 2012 church year. Complete the registration form, Parent Participation volunteer form, and medical release form. We request a registration fee to encourage consistent participation in our RE Program. Fees are gladly waived in cases of financial hardship.

Safety Policy

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles and our RE Behavioral Covenant provide the foundations for relationships we foster in our Religious Education Program. All staff and volunteers are screened to ensure utmost safety of our children and youth.

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:15 AM Service Children and youth begin each Sunday at 9:15 in the Sanctuary with their families and are sung out to their religious education classes following a story for all ages.



11:00 AM Service. Childcare is available in Starr King.

Childcare Loving and attentive childcare is available for babies, toddlers and preschoolers in our Nursery at Starr King Preschool from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

Children's Religious Education Program Sunday 9:15 AM

Preschool—*Story Time* Story Time is a literature-based curriculum for preschool aged children. Using well-loved stories as the lesson focus, Story Time guides children in learning about our UU principles and heritage, feelings, relationships, and nature. Activities are interactive and allow for multiple intelligence-based exploration.

K-1st Grade—*Love Surrounds Us* At the core of our Unitarian Universalist community are our seven Principles. The Principles encompass all the ingredients of a good and faith-filled life based on equality, freedom, peace, acceptance, truth, care, and love. This program explores all the Principles in the context of the Beloved Community of family/home, school and neighborhood. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in the community.

2nd-3rd Grade—*Love Will Guide Us* In this program, participants learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together participants will ask questions such as, "Where did we come from?" "What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?"

"How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?" "What happens when you die?" Sessions apply wisdom from our Sources to help participants answer these questions. Participants will learn that asking questions is valued in Unitarian Universalism, even as they begin to shape their own answers.

4th-5th Grade—*Spirit of Adventure* This innovative curriculum goes beyond traditional arts and crafts to include learning from physical movement, challenge, and adventure. Activities include dissecting a computer to learn about UU Tim Breners-Lee ("The Father of the World Wide Web"), and interviewing a sports coach to learn about justice, equity and compassion through good sportsmanship.

Religious Education Programs for Youth

6th-7th Grade—*Seven QUUest*, *Sundays 9:15 AM* Seven QUUest is a creative and innovative program that uses music and film to explore our Seven Unitarian Universalist principles and heritage.



8th Grade—*Coming of Age (COA)*, *Sundays, 9:15 AM* In this innovative yearlong class, 8th graders reflect on their lives, their relationships and their evolving spirituality. Teens participate in campouts, deBenneville winter camp, a vision quest, and weekly Sunday

gatherings. They wrestle with beliefs about God, death and dying, and living an ethical life as they move from childhood to adulthood. The program culminates in a COMING OF AGE worship service in May.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU)*, *Sundays, 4:00-5:30 PM High school students meet to explore and share their questions and answers about life, relationships, spirit, and social justice. Activities include campouts, retreats, social



outings, guest speakers, worship and working on church and community service projects. This year's mission trip will be to the Hopi and Navaho reservations where youth will assist in home repair projects benefiting the native elders.

Class Locator

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| Childcare | Starr King | PreSchool | Classroom A |
| K/1st | Classroom D | 2nd/3rd | Classroom C |
| 4th/5th | Classroom B | 6th/7th | La Paz Lounge |
| COA | Blake Lounge | YRUU | Blake Lounge |

We Worship Together

Monthly Children's Worship Services

Each month, our K-5th graders will gather for a worship service in Jefferson Hall. This year, we will be focusing on our monthly worship themes during this special time.



Multigenerational Services

Several times a year, children, youth and adult members and friends participate in multigenerational worship services in our beautiful sanctuary. This year we will celebrate together during our Ingathering Water Communion service, El Dia de los Muertos, Thanksgiving, RE Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve, Easter, and the

Coming of Age service in May. At these gatherings we create traditions of transforming power and loving memory through ritual, story and song.

RE Special Events and Programs

Arts Program

Every year in the Spring we break from regular Religious Education for an interactive, creative arts program. This year we

will explore our UU Principles through science. We will celebrate on Earth Day by hosting a Seven Principles in Science Fair for the entire congregation to enjoy!



Social Justice

Throughout the church year, our kids will be putting their faith into action by partnering with our YRUU youth in supporting the Native American elders on the Hopi and Navaho reservations. Children and families are also

encouraged to participate in congregation wide social justice projects and events during the year.

Multigenerational Special Events

Throughout the year we gather for multigenerational special events. People of all ages come together for congregational potlucks, Dia de los Muertos Fiesta, Guest at Your Table, Holiday Craft Party, Secret Pals, Easter egg hunt, social justice projects, Summer Sundays, and more!

Parent's Night Out

In support of our families here at the Unitarian Society, three times during the church year we offer a parent's night (or day) out. For a small fee, parents can drop off their kids with USSB's childcare team and take some special time for themselves. For kids 3-12.



Dates are on September 30, 6:30-9:30pm; December 10, 10-2pm; & February 11, 6:00-9:30pm.

Child Dedications

We welcome babies and young children into our religious community in this moving ceremony, during a worship service or in a private family ceremony. We celebrate the promise of a child's life and bestow a blessing on the child's name. Contact the

Parish Minister or Director of Lifespan Religious Education for more information.



Parent Expectations

Come regularly. One of the most important ways to encourage religious and spiritual development in children and youth is to participate consistently in the life of the congregation. By coming regularly, your actions reflect your values.

Continuity ensures that children get a deeper understanding of the curriculum and build trusting relationships with our dedicated teachers. Consistent attendance also helps to build lasting friendships with other children and families, making the RE experience richer for all.

Our Religious Education program is a cooperative venture. As an RE parent, you will choose a task force to serve on to contribute to our program and deepen your own experience in our wonderful community.

Children's Version of the Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

* Every person is important. * Every person should be treated fairly and with thoughtful kindness. * Our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we learn together. * Every person must be free to discover what is true in life. * Every person should be free to act on what they believe and have a vote about the things that concern them. * We will work for a peaceful, free and fair world. * We care for our planet, and we know that we are connected to everything in the universe.

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara

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2011-2012 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

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| SEPTEMBER | 4 | COA Parent Meeting |
| | 10 | RE Kickoff Carnival, Pancake Breakfast & Registration |
| | 18 | Ingathering Multigenerational Worship |
| | 25 | RE Classes Begin |
| | 25 | YRUU Kickoff Party |
| | 30 | Parent's Night Out |
| OCTOBER | 2 | YRUU Parent Gathering |
| | 29 | YRUU Performance Night |
| | 30 | El Dia de los Muertos Multigenerational Worship & Fiesta |
| NOVEMBER | 5 | Church Auction |
| | 20 | Multigenerational Thanksgiving Worship Service |
| DECEMBER | 4 | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal |
| | 10 | Parent's Day Out |
| | 11 | Multigenerational Holiday Craft Party |
| | 18 | Christmas Pageant Multigenerational Worship Service |
| | 24 | Christmas Eve Services |
| JANUARY | 8 | YRUU Parent Gathering |
| | 15 | Martin Luther King Multigenerational Worship Service |
| FEBRUARY | 5 | Secret Pals Begin |
| | 11 | Parent's Night Out |
| | 26 | Secret Pals Brunch |
| MARCH | 24-31 | YRUU Mission Trip |
| APRIL | 8 | Easter Multigenerational Worship Service |
| | 22 | Seven Principles in Science Earth Day Fair |
| MAY | 6 | Children's Worship Teacher Appreciation |
| | 6 | YRUU Parent Gathering |
| | 20 | COA Multigenerational Service |
| | 20 | YRUU End of Year Party |
| JUNE | 3 | Summer Sundays begin |

