

WELCOME

We welcome you and your family to the religious education program described in this prospectus. We hope that you will want to participate in the many activities offered here. Our program is open to all persons, whatever their religious background or present beliefs, non-beliefs and questionings.

We strive to create here an atmosphere that respects and cares about individual differences and personhood. We learn from one another and are nourished and enriched by the variety of religious and cultural experiences we bring to one another. Congregation membership is not a requisite, however, parents are expected to participate actively in our program. (See the section, “A Special Message to Parents”) There is a nominal registration fee for each child age 3 and older.

A registration form is included with this booklet, or may be obtained from the office or at the RE Reception Desk on Sunday mornings. All children, youth and their families participating in our program must register each year. New families are greeted each Sunday at the reception desk in the RE Lobby and will be helped with the process of registration and introduced to the appropriate class or youth group.

The religious education program offers an engaging variety of structured learning experiences for each grade level, appropriate to the children’s developmental needs and abilities. It is grounded in the values represented by the Statement of Principles adopted by the congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It reads as follows (in a form adapted for children):

A Unitarian Universalist believes:

- that each and every person is important;
- that all people should be treated fairly;
- that our congregations are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together;
- that each person must be free to search for what is good and right in life;
- that everyone should have a vote about things that concern them;
- in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world;
- in caring for our planet earth.



*Rev. Barry Andrews,
Minister of Religious
Education*



A INVITATION TO CHILDREN & YOUTH

We hope you will find our congregation a place to have fun, as well as to share your deepest feelings and ideas about the things that are important to you. Your feelings and ideas are important. We encourage you to talk with your teachers, advisors, Bonnie Mykel, Director of Religious Education, or Barry Andrews, the Minister of Religious Education, about ideas you have for making this an even better place for all of us. Most of all, we want you to know that you are important! Everybody can do something that nobody else can. If you have special interests, hobbies, talents, and so on, we hope you will share those gifts with us.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PARENTS

We sincerely hope that you and your children will want to join with us in this exciting and rewarding religious quest for meaning. We encourage you to involve yourself in some of the ways indicated below. We need everyone's cooperation if our program is to be truly rewarding. With the exception of the nursery, our program is carried out almost entirely by volunteers, under the direction of the Minister of Religious Education. In this sense, ours is a cooperative program. We welcome your involvement and assistance. Here are some of the ways you can be supportive of our efforts:

✦ **Bring your children regularly and on time.** If they are to develop a real feeling of belonging here, continuity is vital. Children feel left behind when they are often absent. Equally important, his or her special contribution is missed by the group. The program begins each Sunday at 11 AM and concludes at 12:30 PM. We ask that you be prompt in calling for your younger children. We also ask that you be responsible for your children's safety before and after the scheduled program, especially if they are playing out of doors.

✦ **Take an interest in your children's religious education.** Become familiar with your children's teachers and the learning going on in their classes. Attend the Parent Sundays. Deepen your own understanding of Unitarian Universalism by taking

adult education classes. Remember that most of religious education takes place in the home and that you are your children's resident theologians! If you are the parent of an elementary school age child, we ask that you remain in the building on Sunday mornings. Not only will your children feel supported, but we will also know where to find you in case of emergencies.

✦ **Consider ways you can help.** Volunteer some service in the operation of the school. We have many tasks to be done, including greeting visitors at the RE Reception Desk, supervising the playgrounds, helping out in the Teachers' Resource Center, assisting with RE recess and summer activities, helping out in your children's classrooms, and so on. Also think about the possibility of teaching in the program. There is always some turnover in our RE staff and each year there are a few vacancies to fill.

✦ **Put down roots in your religious community.** Participate with your children in intergenerational activities. Get to know other families. Share with us your interests and concerns, as well as your talents. Let us know special things that are going on in your family, celebrative occasions, illnesses and birthdays, so that we may be more effective in our ministry to your whole family. Become involved in the whole life of the congregation. Find a special place for yourself. Become a member. Make a pledge of time and finances to the congregation.

This religious education program has meant a great deal to families over the years. Indeed, the Shelter Rock congregation was initially founded as a religious education program for children. It can come to mean as much to you. We welcome your caring and support. We also offer ours.



INTER- GENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

Each year, in addition to our holiday family services, we plan a number of events and activities for intergenerational groups. These allow our entire congregation to come together – children, youth and adults – so that we might learn from and enjoy one another’s company. For our young people, we hope these enhance their feelings of belonging to this particular religious community. For everyone, we seek a supportive spiritual environment which spans the generations, extending

our families to include others who might not live with us, and building an enriched faith community as we demonstrate our concerns for one another and the world we live in.

Such events and activities include the Opening Sunday Picnic, the All-Congregation Retreat, Intergenerational Dances, the Halloween Party, Holiday Family Services, the Annual Seder, the Holiday Decorations Party, the Bridging Sunday Picnic, cultural activities, and social action events.



THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE

The religious education program is offered from 11 AM to 12:30 PM on Sundays, simultaneous with the adult worship service. It is open to children and youth, ages three through high school. Supervised child care is available for infants and toddlers.

Our Sunday school provides a wide variety of learning experiences and activities in and beyond the classroom, which provide for maximum interaction among students and teachers in an informal atmosphere. It also includes regular opportunities for worship for different age groups and intergenerational audiences.

Because our families come from a

wide geographical area, representing many neighboring communities, our children often see each other only on Sundays. Therefore, we recognize the importance of planning social activities in order that a sense of community develop among the class members.

Our teaching teams include three or four adults. Classes usually meet separately, but occasionally cluster activities and children’s worship services bring several classes together. Although the teachers are responsible for designing learning activities for their classes, children and youth are also actively encouraged to participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worshipping together is an important part of our religious education program and we offer a variety of opportunities to do so. Once each month there is a portion of the service in the Worship

Room devoted to intergenerational worship. Additionally, there are three holiday services during the year when the entire congregation worships together. There is also the annual High School Youth Service, the Coming of Age Service, and the end of year Bridging Celebration and picnic.

We also provide regular opportunities for children’s worship in the Chapel. These chapel services are designed for younger and older age groupings, and involve rituals, songs, stories, and reflections on religious themes.

Music is an important part of our program. Danielle McRoy directs the children and youth in singing for chapel services and intergenerational worship. Frank Doyle and Bobby Perina direct the jazz ensemble, an intergenerational instrumental group.



*Bonnie Mykel,
Director of Religious
Education*

THE PLAYROOM



Infants

Room: 1

Staff: Gemrose Lewin, Charmine Prince, Olivia Leinwohl

This is a most important place, since it's often here that your child's first experience with us takes place. The Playroom is staffed and equipped to be a warm, welcoming, happy, and secure place away from home – where children are lovingly cared for while their parents attend the worship service and other functions.

We invite our infants and toddlers into a safe, loving environment where they will quickly feel comfortable.



THE PLAYGROUP

Toddlers

Room: 2

Staff: Leslie Arluck, Child Care Supervisor, Amber Donat, Nicki Breitingner

For the young child, religious education is the immediate world. It is discovering oneself and others, exploring the environment, learning new skills, using one's senses, expressing emotions and thoughts, and sharing joys and sorrows.

We invite our children to make new friends as we encourage their first early steps of religious growth.

BRIDGES

Three Year Olds

Room: 3

Teachers: Elizabeth and Charles Weinstein, Mary Lou Kluger

Bridges is one of a set of programs called *Growing Times* developed for preschool children. Bridges includes supervised play and a variety of planned activities for this age level using art, music, poetry, stories, conversation, movement, drama, and experiences from the natural world.

We invite our children to discover their own uniqueness; explore nature and the world from their own perspective, and enjoy music, art and companionship.

BUTTERFLIES

Four Year Olds

Room: 4

Teachers: Jessica and Ralph Vega, Charlotte Herdman



Butterflies for four year olds continues and builds upon the program begun the previous year, recognizing the children's growing maturity and social skills. Crafts, music and companionship are a vital part of the program.

Unitarian Universalist Principles are introduced on an age-appropriate level, such as valuing the inherent worth and dignity of each person through participation in our sharing circle. Special activities include bulb planting, which teaches the concept of valuing the earth, and learning about famous Unitarian Universalists, which teaches the children about their heritage.

DISCOVERING YEAR

Kindergarten

Room: 5

Teachers: Rosemary Lopez, Melissa Pappas, Lauren Furst, Peter Koos

This Shelter Rock curriculum seeks to nurture children's spiritual and religious growth through connections to their ever-widening environment. The children celebrate this world as they explore themselves and friendships, their families and congregation, the wonders of nature, and religious and cultural days. The curriculum encourages the children to appreciate the worth of each person, to work and play cooperatively, to express their feelings, to celebrate human diversity, and to feel a part of their Unitarian Universalist community and the natural world.

We invite the children to join in the weekly rituals - a chalice lighting, special words and songs, sharing time, quiet time, and a closing circle; and to participate in a variety of experiences, including arts and crafts, singing and music, games and movement, and stories and talks.

HAUNTING HOUSE

First Grade

Room: 7

Teachers: Nancy Baldwin, Debbie Kahn, Paul Winkler

Haunting House is designed to help children be at home in the world through experiences of building and living in different kinds of houses and by addressing a variety of life situations, including birth, death, fears, and relationships. The experience is one of affirmation and delight for young children. It is an opportunity for them to become aware of their need for places which protect solitude and dreaming, offer intimacy with others, and which provide a home for their memories.

We invite the children to experience and learn about themselves, their bodies, homes, religious community, and the world of nature; to raise questions about birth, life, and death; to participate in activities that engage the heart, mind and hand—building, eating, celebrating, storytelling, birth, field trips, and sharing activities with parents.

FREE TO BELIEVE

Second Grade

Room: 8

Teachers: Katie Kurjakovic, Toni Logue, Jean Luccarelli

Free to Believe, a new version of the second grade curriculum, is designed to nurture the emotional, social, and spiritual life of children. It explores our Unitarian Universalist Principles, values, and beliefs through hands-on activities, stories, games, songs, and discussions. Emphasis is on creating an accepting classroom community while addressing the conflicts the children often face.

After focusing on our UU Principles during the first half of the year, the class examines some of life's big questions through the perspective of our Unitarian Universalist Sources. These questions deal with ideas about God, death, and the creation of Earth. Each child creates a ceramic tile based on our Unitarian Universalist Principles as part of the preparation for Bridging Sunday.

FEASTS & FESTIVALS

Third Grade

Room: 11

Teachers: Lisa Brody, Bob Gayle, Laura Grassie

Through a diverse array of costumes, customs, festivals, and foods, youngsters celebrate the myriad of the world's major cultures and religious traditions. As they recreate and celebrate many different religious festivals, they begin to discover that celebrations arise to satisfy basic spiritual needs of people and that, although the content is different, the deeper needs are shared by all humanity.

Experiencing the mosaic culture of the world through cooking, costume making, song and dance; they discover their common bonds with all the world's children.

STEPPING STONES

Fourth Grade

Room: 12

Teachers: Beth Fedirko, Sheri McKee, Michele Streeter

BIBLEODEON

Fifth Grade

Room: 16

Teachers: Ilene Friedman, Jerry Jalazo

Bibleodeon is an exciting Shelter Rock introduction to Hebrew and Christian scriptures.

Bibleodeon tells stories for children – like the Nickelodeon television channel that helped suggest its name. But Bibleodeon stories all come from the Bible and all invite action, thought, response, and involvement foreign to most television viewing.

With frequent reference to the four key Shelter Rock religious education themes of mystery, self, congregation, and world, Bibleodeon presents the greatest Hebrew and Christian stories in a Unitarian Universalist setting.

Stepping Stones provides elementary age children with further structured steps in forming, understanding, and expressing their own religious identities and concepts within the context of the Unitarian Universalist tradition. Hands-on methods include a rich variety of learning activities, experiences with the arts, field trips,

social gatherings and research projects.

We invite our children to be stimulated by their own thinking and decision-making via myths and stories of various religions and cultures, the natural sciences, and biographies and ideals of famous Unitarian Universalists of the past and present.



Participants explore connections between biblical events and UU principles and values, between biblical ideas and their own lives. They experience the Bible as one of many wonderful and important UU sources.

Just as important to fifth graders, Bibleodeon is fun. Participants listen to some stories, and act some out. They investigate others, the way television reporters would. They immerse themselves in music and art and creative activity, achieving in the process new understanding of and appreciation for some of civilization's most important books.



THE QUESTING YEAR

Sixth Grade

Rooms: 9 & 14

Teachers 6-9:

*Dana Gumb,
Mary Ralph,
Dan Kluger*

Teachers 6-14:

*Gray Hirshfield,
Dan Kluger*

This Shelter Rock curriculum engages our sixth graders in four quests designed to help them seek and discover their own answers to deep life questions about human faith and the web of all existence. Connected through the central themes of social action and spiritual search, the Mystery Quest, the UU Quest, the Action Quest and the Inner Quest are all both challenging and fun. Together they present participants with an appealing mix of elements like a secret class service project for helping others, personal aliens and mirror boards for

exploring self, music and meditation for experiencing religious mystery, and creative worship for celebrating the lives and works of outstanding Unitarian Universalists.

We invite our sixth graders not just to class, but to fall and spring retreats as well, to fund-raising activities and possible field trips, to the processions of our holiday family services, to participation in the Bridging ceremony that marks their passage into our junior high youth program.

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Seventh Grade

Room: 18

Advisors: John Bohan, Roberta Bohan, Sarah DeCamello, Frank Doyle, Ruth O'Shea

The seventh grade program marks the initiation into "youth" status and the transition from classroom style to a cooperative youth group environment. The program provides a balanced experience for our youth, with opportunities for education, worship, leadership, service and socializing with peers. Special events include the annual youth retreat and district conferences.

The curriculum, "Passports," written specifically for this class, features activities to help promote skills in self-awareness, tolerance, character development and decision making. Sessions include opening rituals, reflective readings, discussions, role plays, meditations, journal writing, and community building exercises.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL)

A comprehensive sexuality education program for Ninth Grade Youth

Room: 19

Advisors: Lesley Broder, Stephen Foster, Diane Lomardy

Comprehensive sexuality education is grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, addressing not only the physical aspects of sexuality but the spiritual, emotional, and cultural dimensions as well. Participants are given a unique opportunity to deepen their faith, develop and articulate their religious and sexual values, and make responsible, healthy decisions based on those values.

Our leaders have been specially trained to teach the program. Parents attend a detailed and interactive orientation to the program.

OWL is a joint project of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the United Church of Christ.

SENIOR SEMINAR

Tenth through Twelfth Grades

*Room: Senior Seminar Room,
lower level*

Advisors: Bill Carmody, Melinda Nasti, Monica Schlichting

Our senior high youth group offers older youth the opportunity to introspect and socialize in a safe, open environment. It is here that they are able to share their beliefs and ideals in the making. The youth, with the assistance of their advisors, plan their own programs. These include discussions and guest speakers on topics of interest to youth. Additionally, the group plans and conducts an annual worship service, attends retreats and conferences, takes field trips, and engages in a variety of other activities.

In April, 2007, a group of these youth spent a week cleaning up areas in New Orleans that had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

We invite youth to develop leadership skills; to participate in the larger world of Unitarian Universalist youth programs; to reflect on youth concerns and their own identity as UU youth; to become involved in social action issues; and to develop and lead worship services.



COMING OF AGE PROGRAM

A program for Eighth Grade Youth

Room: 17

Advisors: Judy Granger, Debbie Perina, Frank Teltsch

This program recognizes that youth are indeed coming of age during their adolescent years. They are examining and affirming their own values and beliefs and making their own choices about their social and religious commitments. Adolescence is a time for testing and trying out, and for asserting one's independence. Adolescents are learning to fly on their own and, to a certain extent, it is an awkward time for them and their parents. For as youth are pressing for greater autonomy, their parents are struggling with issues relating to letting go and setting limits.

The program includes social action projects, three evening retreats, a special

worship service and reception celebrating the completion of the program, and a UU Heritage Tour of Boston and Concord in late Spring. In order for the youth and parents to derive maximum benefit from the program, regular attendance is required.

We invite youth and parents to celebrate this special time in personal growth; to explore developing religious values and beliefs; to offer guidance and support to parents; to introduce youth to the congregation; and to provide parents and the congregation an opportunity to publicly affirm their youth.

BRIDGING SUNDAY



Our annual Bridging service in May is a tradition unique to our congregation. On this day we celebrate the advancement of three classes of children and youth of the Sunday school who have each worked during the year on special activities, projects and programs in preparation for their transition from one stage of their lives to another.

- Second Graders, who are bridging from early childhood into the middle grades
- Sixth Graders, who are bridging into the adolescent years
- High School Seniors, who are bridging into the adult congregation

Bridging is an opportunity for children and youth to enter into a new

relationship with their religious community. It allows them an opportunity to demonstrate new skills and understandings and a deepening commitment to Unitarian Universalism and their congregation. The classes, their teachers and parents, enjoy entering into the planning for this special day.

We believe it is a deeply meaningful experience for persons of all ages in our congregation. The service includes a processional of all children and youth, the giving and receiving of gifts to the Bridging classes, and the recognition of our religious education leaders. The ceremony and the picnic following mark the closing of the religious education program year.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee has the primary responsibility, along with the Minister of Religious Education – for planning, coordinating, and evaluating the religious education program described in this prospectus. The committee is composed of twelve members who are appointed by the Board of Trustees to represent the congregation. They meet regularly throughout the year to articulate the goals and objectives of the program, establish policies and procedures, develop new programs and arrange for a variety of events and activities for children, youth and RE staff.

Monica Schlichting, Chair

Bob Adams, Anita Feldman, Ellen Foster, Bob Gayle, Kate Goss, Gray Hirshfield, Lotus Hsu, Diane Lombardy, Cornelia Maxted, Cynthia Winkler

MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Barry Andrews, D.Min., is a graduate of Meadville Theological School in Chicago. Fellowshiped as both a Parish Minister and as a Minister of Religious Education, he has served congregations in Spokane, New York City, and San Diego. Dr. Andrews assists the Religious Education Committee in planning and coordinating the Shelter Rock congregation's programs for lifespan religious growth and learning. His responsibilities include administering the Sunday school, youth activities and adult education programs; consultation with individuals and groups; leader recruitment and training; parent education; conducting worship and celebrating rites of passage; leading adult education classes and workshops, and planning intergenerational events and activities.



PROGRAM CONSULTANTS

Our program is enhanced by the services of volunteers in several specialized capacities. These include the following:

Jazz Ensemble Directors:
Frank Doyle, Bobby Perina

Arts and Crafts Consultant:
Liz Irwin

Teacher Consultant:
Linda Andrews

Volunteer Coordinator:
Barbara Dilsner

Child Worship Leaders:
Bill Keller, Susan Nykolak

Photographer:
Jessica Vega

Librarian:
Dorothy Andrews

Youth Program Consultant:
Melinda Nasti

PROGRAM STAFF

Bonnie Mykel
Director of Religious Education
Barbara Singer
RE Administrative Assistant
Danielle McRoy
RE Music Specialist

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

11-13	RE Staff Training		Fri-Sun
20	Homecoming Sunday	11:00 am	Sun
	Homecoming Picnic	12:15 pm	

OCTOBER

4	Intergenerational Service	11:00 am	Sun
8-11	Youth Retreat	Away	Fri-Sun
9	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
24	Halloween Party	6:30 pm	Sat

NOVEMBER

1	Intergenerational Service	11:00 am	Sun
8	RE Open House	Noon	Sun
13	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
22	Thanksgiving Family Service	11:00 am	Sun
29	RE Recess: Childcare only	11:00 am	Sun

DECEMBER

5	RE Staff Holiday Party	7:00 pm	Sat
11	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
13	Holiday Decorations Party	12:30 pm	Sun
20	Holiday Family Service	11:00 am	Sun
24	Christmas Eve Family Service	5:00 pm	Thurs
27	RE Recess: Childcare only	11:00 am	Sun

JANUARY

3	RE Recess: Childcare only	11:00 am	Sun
8	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
10	Intergenerational Service	11:00 am	Sun

FEBRUARY

7	Intergenerational Service	11:00 am	Sun
12	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
14	RE Recess: Childcare only	11:00 am	Sun
21	RE Recess: Childcare Only	11:00 am	Sun

MARCH

7	Intergenerational Service	11:00 am	Sun
12	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
21	Sr. High Youth Service	11:00 am	Sun
28	RE Recess: Childcare only	11:00 am	Sun
30	Intergenerational Seder	5:00 pm	Tue

APRIL

4	Easter Family Service	11:00 am	Sun
	Easter Egg Hunt	12:00 pm	
9	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri

MAY

2	Intergenerational Service	11:00 am	Sun
6-9	COA Heritage Tour	Away	Fri-Sun
9	Transition Sunday	11:00 am	Sun
14	Soulful Sundown	6:30 pm	Fri
16	Bridging Sunday Service	11:00 am	Sun
	Bridging Sunday Picnic	12:30 pm	
23	Flower Communion Service	11:00 am	Sun
28-31	Congregational Retreat	Away	Fri-Mon
30	RE Recess: Childcare only	11:00 am	Sun

JUNE

5	RE Staff Recognition Dinner	7:00 pm	Sat
6	COA Service	11:00 am	Sun

