

**BOISE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION/EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**2007-2008**

**Elizabeth Greene, Minister  
Karen Raese and Cathy Carmen,  
Co-Directors of Religious Exploration/Education**

Dear BUUF Religious Exploration/Education Parents,

As we so often hear, the only constant we can really count on is that things will change, a truth that is so apparent in our children's religious education this year. One change is the new and wonderful people heading up our programs. Cathy Carmen and Karen Raese, Acting Co-Directors of Religious Education, are hard at work with their merry band of teachers and helpers, creating terrific environments for our kids to learn and have fun.

Another major change is the move to offering Sunday School at both the 9:00 o'clock and the 11:00 o'clock services. This is big, benefiting everyone by making more choices available. (It is also big because it requires more teachers and volunteers, hint hint.)

One thing that does not change is our commitment to top quality religious education. Our goals for children are the same as our goals for adults: as Unitarian Universalists of all ages, we strive to be open in spirit and mind; respectful of and compassionate toward others, whether we agree with them or not; confident and competent, without undue self-focus; committed to making justice in our world.

Big goals! But can we strive for less, in this so-troubled world of ours? I close with a preacherly exhortation: **bring your children regularly to Sunday School, so that they may reap the full benefit of the religious education program.** You will be glad you did, and you will have contributed to the world's store of open-minded, glad-hearted, well-loved kids.

In faith,

Elizabeth Greene, minister

Dear Families and Friends of BUUF,

Welcome to our Religious Exploration (RE) Program! As your Co-Directors, we're excited about having new opportunities to join our community. This year we have grown into offering Sunday morning classes at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services! This is a big move for us (more classes, more volunteers, and more children/youth!) and we ask your patience as we navigate these unknown waters together.

If you're new or a returning family, please know that RE is a cooperative effort here at BUUF. We couldn't do this without your wonderful children and your assistance in many valuable ways. We always welcome: donations of healthy snacks, adult helpers taking a turn assisting our Guides/teachers in the classroom, and volunteers to help out with one of our many RE sponsored events throughout the year. In other words – take part in making our BUUF community a bit more vibrant and inclusive place for you and your children to be in the world.

We look forward to working with you in this special place.

In faith,

Karen Raese and Cathy Carmen

**BUUF  
Program Staff**

**Minister**

Rev. Elizabeth Greene

**Co-Directors of Religious Exploration**

Karen Raese – Nursery, Preschool and Elementary  
Programming

Cathy Carmen – Junior and Senior High Youth  
Programming

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Office Manager**

Gerry Morris

**Director of Music**

Carrie Bastian

**BUUF Office Hours**

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Telephone: 658-1710

**Religious Exploration Committee**

The Religious Exploration (RE) Committee represents the fellowships' concerns about religious exploration of our children and youth, and supports our professional staff. The committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, support of our classroom Guides and youth as they learn and grow together, planning and sponsorship of community-building special events, creation of a vibrant summer religious exploration experience, and serving as a sounding board for staff's decision-making. Since we cannot do these tasks alone, comments, questions and concerns are always welcome! Please contact a member of the RE staff or committee for further information. The RE committee meets monthly at the Fellowship, on the second Wednesday of a month. Visitors are always welcome. Come join us!

**RE Committee Members**

Angie Tate –Chair

336-0738

[tateappraisal@msn.com](mailto:tateappraisal@msn.com)

Gena Delucchi

327-0408

[genad@cableone.net](mailto:genad@cableone.net)

Laurie Deines

322-6516

Barbara Morledge

562-1828

[bmorledge@cableone.net](mailto:bmorledge@cableone.net)

Amber Stigile

921-0457

[stigile5@cableone.net](mailto:stigile5@cableone.net)

## **BUUF's Religious Exploration/Education Philosophy**

Our Religious Exploration/Education Program for children and youth is a welcoming, safe community that fosters life-long religious and spiritual growth and social consciousness.

### **Our Unitarian Universalist Principles**

(Children's version)

We Believe:

That each and every person is important

That all people should be treated fairly

That we should accept one another and keep on learning together.

That each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

That all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them

In working for a peaceful, fair and free world

In caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things.

(As used in *We Believe*, an RE curriculum for youth)

### **RE Program Registration:**

It is a policy of BUUF that all children and youth attending at least three times during the program year (Sept – June) or any BUUF-related programs (e.g., Our Whole Lives human sexuality course or Coming of Age) register with the RE Program. Registration forms are located on the Information Center in the north vestibule or from a DRE.

## **Safe Congregations Policy (SPC)**

No one ever wants to think that child abuse, be it sexual, emotional or physical could ever occur in our community. However, in this day and age, it is important to take preventative steps to insure the well being of our children long before we have any inkling of a problem. That is why we have a "Safe Congregations" policy at BUUF.

In May 2004, the governing board of BUUF unanimously adopted a safe congregation policy. Among other things, the policy give the Co-Directors of Religious Exploration/Education (DRE's) and the RE committee a back bone of screening and training volunteers (both older youth and adult) who serve as RE Guides, nursery and childcare providers. It also requires that we assemble a group of members and friends to serve on a panel (a group who assist us with procedures in the event that something unfortunate does occur) and requires that families register their children in the RE Program in a timely manner.

The Safe Congregations policy also prompts us to require two adults in every classroom and that's where adult helpers (and your assistance) are needed. In coming to BUUF and being apart of our RE community, we ask that parents take a turn in assisting our classroom Guides periodically. If every family pitches in to help, it translates to assisting in the classroom approximately 3-4 times over the course of the program year. So, join in, take part and ask one of the Co-DRE's, Karen or Cathy, how and when to assist.

## Religious Exploration/Education Sunday School Schedule

At the 9 a.m. service we offer:	At the 11 a.m. service:
Nursery care	Nursery care
Preschool/Kindergarten class	Preschool/Kindergarten
1-2 grade class	1-2-3 grade class
3-4 grade class	4-5-6 grade class
5-6 grade class	Jr. High class (7 grade-9)
Jr. High OWL (reg. closed)	Sr. High class (10 -12)

**On the first Sunday of a month, there is a single, 10 o'clock service.** At that time we offer:

Nursery	Jr. High –participates in the service
Preschool/Kindergarten class	Sr. High – attends the service
1-6 grade multi-aged class with a focus on our 7 UU Principles	

\*This is the schedule we will offer beginning September 2007. Please check with our Co-DREs , Karen and Cathy, for possible changes as the program year progresses.

## Snack

Periodically throughout the year, the RE Program will ask BUUF members and friends to donate healthy snacks for our elementary children. A snack basket for donations is located just inside the north hallway, across from the Preschool/Kindergarten room. We discourage foods that contain nuts of any kind, especially peanuts and peanut butter due to the rising number of children with this food allergy. For children that have specific food sensitivities other than nuts, it

is advised that parents provide their children with an acceptable snack. Your assistance with snack donation is much appreciated.

## Special Times - Chalice Lighting and Child Dedication

### First-Time Chalice Lighters

At the age of five, children may assist with lighting the chalice for the first time in the adult service. This is an important and popular rite of passage in our congregation. Families should indicate an interest with one of the DREs or indicate their child is a first-time chalice lighter on the Sunday Service sign up sheet located in Information Center in the north vestibule. One of the DREs will contact you and make arrangements to honor the child at the appropriate service and give them a special chalice pin to commemorate the special event. Many times, children light the chalice as part of their birthday celebration.

### Child Dedication

Each year at BUUF, the minister and the DRE's welcome new children into the congregation at a special event known as a child dedication. Due to Elizabeth's sabbatical this year, we will hold one child dedication ceremony on December 9. Families bring their child or children before the congregation to express mutual commitment to bringing up the child in the highest spirit of UU values. Please contact Karen, Cathy and/or Elizabeth if you wish to take part in this special ceremony.

## **Nursery**

For children ages 0-three years old.

We offer nursery care at all Sunday services. Children who turn three after September remain in the nursery until the following September. The nursery is located at the back of the sanctuary by the Garrett Street entrance. Members of the congregation who enjoy being with and caring for babies, staff the nursery on a rotating basis. Parents are asked to sign their children in on the clip board and provide the nursery staff with a diaper bag, clearly marked with the child's name. Any special instructions about diet or care should be communicated to the nursery staff. Children with allergies may bring their own snack, if desired. Otherwise, please refrain from sending your child with food.

Parents, if you see that the nursery has more than three babies or 5 children, please offer your assistance to help manage the nursery. A remote speaker is located in the nursery so parents can listen to the service. Please remember to pick up your children promptly at the end of the service and stay to help clean up, if needed. Our volunteers who staff the nursery also enjoy being able to join the congregation for coffee and conversation.

## **Preschool/Kindergarten Class at 9:00 and 11:00, as well as the first Sunday of a month, 10 a.m. single service.**

Children should be three by September.

We have chosen *Chalice Children* for this year's preschool/kindergarten curriculum. *Chalice Children* is part of a three-year Unitarian Universalist preschool curricula series that also includes *Celebrating Me and My World* and *We Are Many, We Are One*. *Chalice Children* is a year-long religious education curriculum that offers children exposure to our religious community and tradition as well as offering them the freedom to discover and express their own uniqueness. "The curriculum is based on the belief that preschool children gain a sense of belonging to their religious community and the Unitarian Universalist faith when they have concrete experiences with its people and places." Lessons will be selected from the following units: Church Is a Special Place, Church is People, We Celebrate Holidays, We Wonder and We Make Friends.

Dedicated volunteers from the congregation team-teach, or guide, the preschool/kindergarten class in their year long exploration. All parents/adult family members are required to assist the teachers approximately 3-4 times during the program year.

In addition to the regular curriculum, this class will choose at least one service project during the year. They also will participate in the Deck the Halls celebration in December and an Earth Day fair in the spring.

Parents, please remember to pick up your children from class promptly at the end of the service and stay to help clean up, if needed. Our volunteer guides also enjoy being able to join the congregation for coffee and conversation.

### **First and Second Grade Class at 9:00**

### **First, Second and Third Grade Class at 11:00**

Children should be 6 by September.

This year, *In Our Hands* will be used as the curriculum. This curriculum involves children in exploring the issues of peace and justice. For this age group, justice is defined as fairness. Children will explore their feelings and understanding of conflict and fairness both in their personal relationships and with nature. They will also learn about Unitarian Universalists, including local UU's, who have made contributions to peace and fairness in the world. The Boise Peace Quilt Project is part of this curriculum.

Dedicated volunteers from the congregation team-teach, or guide, these classes in their year long exploration. All parents/adult family members are required to assist the teachers approximately 3-4 times during the program year.

In conjunction with the curriculum, these classes will choose, organize and implement at least one service project during the year. They also will participate in the Deck the Halls celebration in December and an Earth Day fair in the spring.

Parents, please remember to pick up your children from class promptly at the end of the service and stay to help clean up, if needed. Our volunteer guides also enjoy being able to join the congregation for coffee and conversation.

### **Third and Fourth Grade Class at 9:00**

The Third and Fourth grade class will use the curriculum, *In Our Hands*, this year. Children will explore their own knowledge and feelings about the issues of peace and justice. The curriculum helps children learn various concepts of peace and justice and explore how to promote peace and justice within themselves. They will explore conflict, creative conflict resolution and also what it means to treat the earth peacefully and fairly.

Dedicated volunteers from the congregation team-teach, or guide, the third and fourth grade class in their year long exploration. All parents/adult family members are required to assist the teachers approximately 3-4 times during the program year.

In addition to the regular curriculum, this class will choose, organize and implement at least one service project during the year. They also will participate in the Deck the Halls celebration in December and an Earth Day fair in the spring.

Parents, please remember to pick up your children from class promptly at the end of the service and stay to help clean up, if needed. Our volunteer guides also enjoy being able to join the congregation for coffee and conversation.

**Fifth and Sixth Grade Class at 9:00**  
**Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grade class at 11:00**

The classes for our older elementary age children are using the curriculum titled *It Starts with Me!* This is a course that focuses on community service, social activism and the spirit of giving. The classes are creating community, identifying their role in a community, and exploring ways to provide service in their community. They will explore how this work can be a form of creative expression of one's values, passions, talents and abilities.

Dedicated volunteers from the congregation team-teach, or guide, these classes in their year long exploration. All parents/adult family members are required to assist the teachers approximately 3-4 times during the program year.

In addition to the regular curriculum, these classes will choose, organize and implement at least one service project during the year. They also will participate in the Deck the Halls celebration in December and an Earth Day fair in the spring.

Parents, please remember to pick up your children from class promptly at the end of the service and stay to help clean up, if needed. Our volunteer guides also enjoy being able to join the congregation for coffee and conversation.

**Children's Worship – First Sunday of the month at 10:00**  
For children grades 1-6

During the first Sunday, children grades 1-6 are together for Children's Worship. This year the theme is the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. With their guide, the children will explore a different principle each month using song, dance, story telling, art projects and various other activities. First Sunday is a special time for our children to share, celebrate and have fun together. Preschool/kindergarten children are in their usual classrooms.

## Junior High

Youth in 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade meet every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. and participate on the first Sundays in the 10 a.m. service as our Jr. High class. Sandy Jack, Jan Nissl and Lance Pittman serve as Youth Advisors to this group.

The goal of the youth group is to create community and respect for one another through weekly discussions and lessons taken from the Neighboring Faiths, a UU curriculum. Periodic community/social justice service projects will be held throughout the program year, as well as visits to places of worship from other faith traditions. Regular attendance on Sunday mornings is strongly encouraged.

On the first Sunday of each month there is a single, 10 a.m. service. The sermon topics chosen for this particular day are generally “youth friendly” and help the youth understand the role of the Unitarian Universalist faith in our lives. This Sunday is called “Youth Sunday” and the Jr. High youth will provide all the Sunday volunteer duties that support the Sunday service (e.g., collecting offertory, reading, greeting and setting up the coffee hour). Jr. High youth will also attend the service during this Sunday. This will be the seventh year that we have held a youth Sunday, and it has increased the exposure of the youth in our congregation as well as giving them a sense of what a Unitarian Universalist service is all about.

Coming of Age is an important rite of passage for young Unitarian Universalists. This program invites our youth to be more active as a participant in the general congregation. Youth interested in participating in the Coming of Age program will be matched with adult mentors. Mentors and youth are encouraged to spend time together getting to know one another throughout the year. Elizabeth Greene and a DRE will also meet with the youth and their mentors once a month to discuss spiritual topics and answer questions regarding the writing of a faith statement or personal credo that will be presented to the congregation in May. This program will be offered on

alternate year of the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL), in 2008-09 program year.

*Our Whole Lives – a Sexuality Curriculum* (OWL) written by Pam Wilson, a nationally known sexuality educator and speaker, will be offered in the 2007-08 program year. Trained facilitators, Kendra Bridges and Bill Reid, will teach this 26 week class. Youth may not drop into this class. They must be registered and have parental consent to take part.

The Jr. High group also fundraises and makes a pilgrimage to Boston every other year, led by a DRE and with the able assistance of several adult chaperones from our congregation. June 2009 is the tentative date for the next trip. Boston is the center of Unitarian Universalist history. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is located there. The trip offers youth the opportunity to get a sense of the larger movement of which we are a part and appreciate how UU history is intertwined with American history.

## Senior High Youth

Sr. High youth meet weekly at 11:00 on Sunday mornings. Christine Hanzlik and Joe Wechselberger work with this group of young people, grades 10-12. This group is self-guided in their activities. They will strive to build community through Sunday morning discussions, social events and community service opportunities. During the second half of the program year (February – May), they hope to visit various places of worship from other faith traditions. On the first Sunday of a month BUUF has a single, 10 a.m. service that Sr. High youth attend.

**Sr. High Dream group** - grades 9-12, will meet the first and third Wednesday evening of a month, beginning in October. This group began in 2001 and is led by Judy Frederick and Sheryce Davis. The main purpose of the group is to discuss dreams and the meanings; friendship and fellowship follow. Group members will attend a workshop to learn how to keep a dream journal and how to interpret dreams.

**Sr. High Bridging** – Each spring youth who are 17-18 yrs. old and/or graduating have the opportunity to participate in Sr. Bridging activities and a Sunday service that honors them as they pass from youth to young adults in the congregation. If an eligible youth is interested in bridging, s/he can speak to one of the DREs. Watch for information in the BUUF newsletter and/or in the spring Order of Services.

## Religious Exploration Guides and Youth Advisors, 2007-2008 Elementary Guides

### Preschool/Kindergarten – 9 a.m. 11 a.m.

Sharla Ng  
Diana Holdridge  
Caren DeAngelis

Deanna Crowder  
Lisa Johnson  
Mary Borman

### First/Second Grade

April Noriega  
Dena Duke  
Jason Stockslager

### First/Second/Third

Nimi Sandhu  
Ben Schwartzman  
April Ward

### Third/Fourth Grade

Renee Montagne  
Linden Boice

### Fourth/Fifth/Six

Jeanette Ross  
Tamara Vanegas  
Janette Young

### Fifth/Sixth Grade

Sandy Cruise  
Cathy Sherman  
Kathy Lee

### Children's Worship –Single service at 10 a.m.

Miriam Woito  
Sandy Cruise

### Youth Advisors

#### Jr. High – 11 a.m.

Sandy Jack  
Jan Nissl  
Lance Pittman

#### Sr. High – 11 a.m.

Christine Hanzlik  
Joe Wechselberger

## BUUF RE CALENDAR 2007-2008

September 9	<b>Homecoming</b> – Single Service, 10a.m. Classes begin	February 3	Single Service, 10 a.m., Youth Sunday
September 16		February 10	President’s Day Weekend
September 30		February 17	
		February 24	
October 7	Single Service, 10 a.m. Children’s Worship, Youth Sunday, Boise Public School (BPS) & Meridian Public School (MPS) in-service weekend	March 2	Single Service, 10 a.m., Youth Sunday
October 14		March 9	
October 21		March 16	Easter – <b>Egg Hunt</b> , Spring Break BPS & MPS
October 28		March 23	
		March 30	Spring Break BPS & MPS
November 2	<b>Dia de los Muertos</b>	April 6	Single Service, 10 a.m., Youth Sunday
November 4		April 13	
November 11	Single Service, 10 a.m., Youth Sunday	April 20	Earth Day & <b>Earth Day Fair</b> in cooperation with Green Sanctuary team <b>Sr. High Bridging Ceremony</b>
November 18		April 27	
November 25	Thanksgiving Weekend		
December 1	<b>Deck the Halls celebration</b>	May 4	Single Service, 10 a.m., Youth Sunday
December 2	<b>Deck the Halls</b> , 10 a.m., single service Children’s Dedication	May 11	Mother’s Day, Pansy Ceremony
December 9			May 18
December 16			Teacher Appreciation Breakfast at 8:30
December 23	Winter Break –Multi-aged class	May 25	Memorial Day weekend
Dec. 30	Winter Break – Multi-aged class + PreK/Kindergarten		
January 6	Single Service, 10 a.m., Youth Sunday	June 1	Single Service, 10 a.m., Last day of the Program year. Children & youth attend service for flower communion & picnic. PreK/Kindergarten class offered.
January 13	Elizabeth’s send off/begins sabbatical		
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday		
January 27			