

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY OF EL PASO

"This Congregation welcomes all individuals and families"

CYRE Vision and Mission Statement:

What Unitarian Universalists believe is very important, but it's what we do, inspired by our beliefs that counts. What we share is not a set of common beliefs, but a common spirit for the gift of life. This spirit inspires us to take risks and go beyond ourselves as we strive for peace, justice and equality for all.

And so it is the vision of the CYRE committee that we inspire our children to act on their beliefs, become more aware of the injustices in our world, and dare to make a difference.

Welcome!

Welcome to the religious education program for children and youth at UUCEP. Our congregation continues to provide a well-rounded, religious education experience for our youngsters and teens with emphasis on the following:

- Leading a more spiritual life that includes learning to become a more compassionate, joyful, caring, and wise individual.
- Living his/her religion by spending time with adult role models and teachers who are warm and caring human beings.
- Learning by doing and experiencing cultural events that are different from those of our church and family.
- Looking forward to a shared time with friends and classmates where conversation, discussion, and ideas can be expressed freely.

Religious Educator Margaret Gooding wrote: "Growing up UU does not mean growing up in a system that places high priority on learning about religion. It means growing up in a climate that fosters becoming a religious person."

Therefore, I hope you will encourage the young people in your life to participate regularly in religious growth and learning here at UUCEP!

Childcare:

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers through age 3 on Sunday mornings and other UUCEP sponsored events. This year our children are in the competent hands of Ariana Cruz and Debra Miller, both CPR certified and ASHI approved. Both ladies have had experience working in day care facilities. Of course, we will continue to employ our teens, who will continue to work and learn under the direct supervision of our adult day care providers.

Registration:

If our religious education program suits your needs and you would like your child/children to participate, please fill out a registration form found in this packet.

On the form you can indicate what kind of volunteer support your family will be able to give. Our RE program is staffed by volunteers, and it won't succeed without a "time-and-talent donation" from every family. Sunday school teachers are especially needed.

STUDENT REGISTRATION

First name _____ Last name _____

Sex _____ Birth date _____ / _____ / _____

Grade (Sept. 09) _____ Youth E-mail _____

Special needs, conditions, or other areas of concern that we should be aware of: _____

First name _____ Last name _____

Sex _____ Birth date _____ / _____ / _____

Grade (Sept. 09) _____ Youth E-mail _____

Special needs, conditions, or other areas of concern that we should be aware of: _____

First name _____ Last name _____

Sex _____ Birth date _____ / _____ / _____

Grade (Sept. 09) _____ Youth E-mail _____

Special needs, conditions, or other areas of concern that we should be aware of: _____

Please indicate your child/children's attendance:

___ Weekly

___ Every other Sunday

___ Monthly

___ Other/Explanation _____

Parent/Guardian Registration

Parent/Guardian #1 (primary contact)

father mother guardian other

First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Please check one:

I am interested in teaching/assisting

I am interested in serving on the CYRE Committee

Parent/Guardian #2

father mother guardian other

First name _____ Last name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

Please check one:

I am interested in teaching/assisting

I am interested in serving on the CYRE Committee

Parent Consent:

UUCEP religious education personnel have my permission to treat and/or transport my child to the appropriate medical facility in the event of an emergency.

I give my permission

I don't give my permission

My child/children has/have my permission to participate in any social justice event or trip planned by CYRE, provided he/she is under responsible adult supervision and I am notified in advance if they are to leave church grounds.

I give my permission

I don't give my permission

The CYRE Program at a Glance:

This year we will offer four different curricula for the children and teens, as well as several on-going social justice events through out the year. Here is a synopsis of the chosen curriculum as well as dates for intergenerational events and activities:

Preschool RE: (3, 4, and 5 year olds)

We are Many, We are One.

This curriculum is divided into four units:

- We tell Unitarian Universalist stories; we live Unitarian Universalist ways.
- Nature gives us gifts; Nature needs our care.
- We are alike; We are different
- We learn from others; we celebrate life.

Elementary RE: 1st–5th grade

Holy Days and Holidays

With an emphasis on these World Religions:

- Hinduism
- Islam
- Paganism
- Buddhism

Middle School 6th-8th grade

Coming of Age Program (synopsis):

- Learn more about Unitarian Universalist history and values. Is this religion right for me?
- Spend time with an adult mentor. Find out why he/she is an active UU and what led them down this path.
- Complete a Social Justice project (individual & group)
- Prepare a written presentation/reflection to be read at the intergenerational service.
- Participate in the question and answer/discussion panel led by respected members of the congregation and minister.
- Participate in a challenge course at UTEP, emphasizing team building.

Teen RE: (9th-12th)

Our Volunteer Teachers:

One of the main goals for lifespan religious education at UUCEP is to create meaningful intergenerational connections. People who offer to teach in the Sunday school are the heart and soul of our religious education program. Their caring presence and example encourage new learning and new growth for all generations. The DRE is always available to teachers for consultation. Since training and guidance are easily available, newcomers to teaching, and newcomers to Unitarian Universalism find they too can succeed at leading classes. Even adults, who have never taught or led a program before, are surprised at how satisfying this ministry can be.

Important Events & Social Justice activities for young and old!!!

September:

- "Minors for Miners" on the UTEP Campus
- Crane House ~ open house and registration ends
- Ingathering Service

October:

- Build an altar at La Mujer Obrera, Día de los Muertos celebration
- UUCEP Community Haunted House!
- Visit the Maze in Canutillo

November:

- Preparation of Thanksgiving baskets and delivery to Desert Rainbow Center (AIDS patients and families)

December:

- Tree trimming
- Children and youth intergenerational service
- Toy Drive

January:

- Participate in the Martin Luther King Talent Night

February:

- Valentine Chocolate Auction (funds benefit CYRE)
- Pilgrimage on the Border (Boston Congregation)

March:

- Put together 50 Easter Baskets (25 baskets for children at the Advocacy Center and 25 baskets for adults at The Horizon Health Care Center)

April:

- Students and adults deliver baskets to the above- mentioned agencies.
- Children play Bunny Bingo with the adults. Winners get an Easter Basket! Children and parents tour Advocacy Center

May:

- Coming of Age Intergenerational Service
- End of the year party for youth and teens

June:

- Summer Camp? Youth Social Justice Projects?
- Gay Pride Parade

July:

- Camp Thunderbird
- **UU Lite**

Every other month, the students and parents are invited to join in, as we prepare dinner for the guests at the Annunciation House. **Please check your monthly newsletter for specific dates!**

Meet Your DRE:

As an educator for the last 33 years, I have been blessed with a bounty of children throughout my life.

They have been the most inspirational teachers I have had and are the masters who prepared me to take on this position as Director of Religious Education at UUCEP.

I began my career as a Spanish teacher in grades k-6 at Loma Terrace Elementary. I then moved on to Lee Moor Children's Home where I served as their director of education and liaison between the schools and the staff members at the home. Ready to return to the public schools I was sent to Segundo Barrio to work with low-income students at Roosevelt, which later became Aoy Elementary. In 2000, I was hired by the church to be their DRE. Ten years later I'm still enjoying my ministry as DRE, but have since retired from the public schools. My retirement has made it possible for me to be a more active member of this congregation and continue to minister to the youth of this Community. I have even made time to volunteer at La Mujer Obrera, where I teach English and Citizenship to adults.

In January, I will leave my position as DRE for one year as I take on the role of President. Coming to this decision and assuming such a daunting responsibility, has not been easy, but I have always been a risk taker and am ready to accept the challenge. I know with the support of so many experienced folks here at the Community, great things can be accomplished. Our children and youth are in good hands under the leadership of such a capable CYRE department. I look forward with enthusiasm and energy to the tasks ahead in the coming year.

In faith,
Janet Kincaid
DRE