

# Successful OWL Training

Thanks to the Hurdis fund, we were able to host a successful training for Our Whole Lives facilitators on Oct. 7-9th for the 7th-12th grade curriculums. We had 4 participants from UUCSC and 7 from three other congregations: Westminster UU, Providence UU and the UU Fellowship of Falmouth. Because of this training, we are able to offer two OWL classes this year and have plans to extend OWL into a lifespan offering. This is huge progress and a huge gift to our community. Most of us were not raised with any substantial sex ed in our schools or families, and that is still the case today. This curriculum provides the important basics of anatomy and physiology, plus goes far beyond that foundation: it discusses gender, sexual orientation, healthy relationships and boundaries, healthy communication and positive self-identity, sexualization in our culture and how to identify and counteract it. This curriculum is literally changing lives and thus changing culture. It is an important act of social justice to bring this type of education to our youth and even to our adult community.

## OWL This Year

### **8-9th Grade Class**

This class is off to a great start at Westminster UU in East Greenwich. It will run from Oct. 30th 2022 through May 2023. Two of our trained facilitators are helping to run this class along with three congregants from Westminster. It's because of our training that we are able to offer this class, and provide this age group with this foundational class.

### **10th-12th Grade class**

We will also be able to offer the 10th-12th grade OWL class in the spring, with help from Westminster facilitators who came to our training. I'm so grateful for this fabulous partnership that is bringing this life-changing and culture-changing curriculum to our youth. Please help spread the word about this class, and have anyone in this age group get in touch with me if they are interested in attending.

## OWL Into the Future

Looking ahead we are excited to expand our OWL offerings to include younger kids and also adults. We have already found an online training for adult OWL facilitators in March. So we plan to have a few people from our congregation get trained to facilitate adult classes and begin offering that next year. Also next year, we'd like to host a training for elementary OWL facilitators. Stay tuned for more info soon!