Our Whole Lives at UUCSC

2022-23

OWL Training Weekend

The RE Program is overjoyed to be able to host a training for Our Whole Lives (OWL) teachers the weekend of Oct. 7-9th, 2022. The training will cover the curriculum for 7th-9th grade OWL and 10th-12th grade OWL classes. A giant thank you goes to the Carolyn Steere Hurdis fund for supporting this training. Because of their funding for the training, we will be able to launch an OWL program for grades 8th-12th this year. Another big thank you to Bethany Sorrentino who wrote the grant for this funding and also reached out to many OWL trainers to find two who were willing to come. We have four volunteers from our congregation willing to be trained and teach OWL. Westminster UU, Providence UU and the UU Fellowship of East Falmouth (Joe Cherry's congregation) will be sending volunteers to be trained as well. We will have a total of 15 participants and 2 trainers.

How you can support this training:

- help clean the RE space before the training
- Pick up and deliver lunch or dinner to UUCSC during the training
- Make snacks or a meal

Running OWL Classes

Our partnership with other UU congregations in Rhode Island, making it possible to have enough teachers and kids to offer OWL classes starting this year. Westminster UU in East Greenwich will be hosting an 8th-9th grade class starting at the end of October. Then we will be hosting the 10th-12th grade class at UUCSC starting at the end of January. We will send our kids to Westminster and they will send theirs to us. Providence UU might also send kids down. So in this way, we will be supporting new connections between our youth and our congregations!
We have also reached out to Peacedale Congregational and Kingston Congregational and will be advertising these classes to the wider community. This will be a wonderful way to connect families to our congregation and to provide a very important experience to the youth in our community.

What is OWL and Why is it important ?

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a lifespan comprehensive sexuality education series published by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church Board for

Homeland Ministries. The series includes curriculum for all ages, beginning in kindergarten and ending with a series for elders. You can read more about it here on the UUA website.

Comprehensive sex education is a lifelong and life-changing process that all children and adults should be able to experience. It encompasses sexual development, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy, body image, and gender roles. Sexuality education can also help young people develop decision-making skills by building critical thinking skills, offering accurate information, and helping students examine their own values as well as the values of their families and the society at large. Unfortunately, the reality is that our schools, communities, and families are rarely equipped, educated, or able to provide research-based comprehensive lifespan sexuality education. We are excited that our congregation is taking steps to change this, at least for our small corner of the world.