

Beginning a Fresh Year of Religious Education

From Erica Shadowsong

Consulting Director of Religious Education

Things are ramping up as we approach a new church year. I am as excited as ever to begin a fresh year of religious education with UUCA families and friends!

The summertime has been far from lazy. I've enjoyed paying visits to the summer RE activities, playing handbells (for the first time!) with Ken Bissell (Thank you, Ken) and joining our elementary-aged children on the playground for a colorful scavenger hunt. When asked how old I am, I confess that I half-jokingly told the more inquisitive children I'm a 100 years old. I'm gonna see how long I can keep that going ...shhh!

RE Coordinator Nikki Jones and I have been working on several projects to get the year off to a smooth start. We've reorganized the downstairs (with help from a few fantastic volunteers), selected curricula, updated the RE section of the website, and met with members of the RE Committee. Needless to say, we are switching into high gear.

This year's volunteer teacher orientation will take place on Saturday, September 7, with a format similar to last year's, which received positive feedback. I welcome more feedback from you, potential and current volunteers, about what you feel would be helpful to you. If you have not attended an orientation in the last couple of years, I'd especially like to know what additions or improvements would encourage you to attend this year. You can stop by my office, email me at dre@uucava.org, or call me at 703-892-2565, ext. 238.

My regular summer office hours are generally from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. However, next week I will head out of town to Stony Point Center in New York, where I will attend an intensive Ministry with Youth Renaissance Module (a series of intensive classes for professional Unitarian Universalist religious educators). Afterwards, I will return to host the Our Whole Lives sexuality program (OWL) regional training with Nikki. A special heartfelt thank you to Joy Cobb, who will lend her time and talents by training OWL volunteers from UUCA and other congregations. In September, I look forward to sharing a special worshipful time with you at the Song, Spirit & Silence Retreat led by Rev. David Keyes on the 14th.

As always, my door remains open...happy rest-of-the-summer!

Erica Shadowsong

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