

**Annual Report to the Congregation
UUC Religious Education Committees
May 2009**

The RE Committee for children and youth in the 2008-09 church year was a small but lively group comprised of Janet Clark (chair), Christine Chirolas-Brewer, Jinene Harvey, and Peggy Tanney. Christine Pensa served *ex officio*. At least 50 members and friends of UUC contributed to the RE program through teaching, assisting in classes and other donations of time, money, and energy this year for the wellbeing of our **82 children and youth**.

The RE Committee monitored the program monthly, including assessing curricula, attendance, and volunteer needs, making adjustments as necessary. The Committee's major commitment this year was to support the comprehensive human sexuality program *Our Whole Lives*, which was offered January-March. The program was funded by donations through RE-sponsored congregational luncheons, which Charlotte Olson coordinated, and a great many others contributed. A total of \$1,574 was raised to pay for curriculum, training, and incidental expenses. Facilitators were Ken Bliznick, Heather Calderone, John Carpenter, Lore Eargle, and Ray Williamson.

The Committee is focused on assuring a smooth transition into the next church year, preparing to work with a minister who will be new to UUC after Millie leaves to take up ministry in Winnipeg. Most classes will be based on the new life span curricula, developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, *Tapestry of Faith*; youth in middle school will use *Messages in Music*, one of whose contributors was the Reverend Mark Morrison-Reed. The program for high school youth will be varied, including opportunities to serve UUC through teaching and/or assisting, participating in the Sunday worship services, and other group activities. Recruiting for the next church year is underway, and more are always needed.

This year's summer program is the successful curricula based on Dr. Seuss stories. Adults often choose to stay in the RE area to help with activities after reading the story they select. Both this and the curricula for next year are available for perusal.

The Adult Education Committee core group consisted of Carolyn Fischer, Ann Scott, Peggy Tanney. Val Harrington, Henry Head and Dale Niemann also participated, and Dotti Doyle made valuable contributions as well. The Committee met monthly to determine and assess programming, recruit course leaders, and plan for the future.

Courses included: *Pathways to Membership* (4 series, led by Abhi and Millie); *Introduction to Buddhism* (led by Frank Tedesco); *Building Your Own Theology* (Abhi and Millie); *Let Your Dough Rise – Financial Advice for Women* (Maureen Cain); *Digital Photography* (2 sessions led by Eliseo Santana); *Wills and Estate Planning* (Mark Brandt); *Understanding India* (Abhi); *The Global Food Crisis and Ethical Eating* (Dotti Doyle); *Articulating Your UU Faith* (Millie); *Coping with Loss* (Joanne Osburn and Millie); and *Career Mapping* (2 series led by Pegotty Cooper).

Again, I sincerely thank all who served UUC to further the intellectual and spiritual growth of members and friends.

Respectively submitted,
Rev. Millie Rochester