

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester

Welcoming Congregation

January 2015 update in Open Hearth newsletter

On December 7, 2014 Gayle Mottola and Michael Hardiman of our Welcoming Congregation Renewal Committee led a discussion in the children's RE class about Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, which included introducing the children to the work of the committee.

They talked with the children about the difference between a person's sex and their gender identity. Through a guided exercise in imagining that they were a different gender, the children explored what their life would be like as a different gender. They talked about what might be the same and what might be different.

Michael and Gayle led a discussion with the children about gender roles, ie girls like pink, boys don't cry, certain brands of clothing are only for boys or girls.

They told a story about a Transgender young friend to help the children understand Transgender and also talked about a young friend coming out as Lesbian to help them understand Gay/Lesbian.

Michael and Gayle told the children about the rainbow striped Question Box in the fireplace room and that our Fellowship welcomes questions from them.

It was interesting to teach this lesson having from 3rd graders to 6th graders in the class, but it worked out perfectly! They are a very knowledgeable, thoughtful group of children! The committee looks forward to more opportunities to work with our fantastic RE youth.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to place them in the rainbow striped Question Box in the fireplace room. Answers to questions will be in future editions of this newsletter blast.

The Welcoming Congregation Renewal Committee has started what is envisioned to be a two-year process of conversations and workshops. They look forward to your participation and input.

The Welcoming Congregation Renewal Committee:

Ellen Calves (chair), Tyler Videla, Andy Ferricane, Peg Breen, Gayle Mottola, Vicki Bloom, Michael Hardiman, Tracy Breneman, DRE and Rev. Michael Tino