

REview: OWL Information

Our Whole Lives [OWL] is a series of sexuality education curricula that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* [OWL] not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

OWL uses approaches that work. The curricula are based on the [Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education](#) produced by the National Guidelines Task Force, a group of leading health, education, and sexuality professionals assembled by the [Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States](#) (SIECUS). OWL covers topics and skills that both parents and students want to have available but schools are less likely to cover. The Kaiser Family Foundation has an interesting report on this subject called "[Sex Education in America: A View from Inside the Nation's Classrooms](#)." New national surveys are challenging the convention that Americans are reluctant to have sexual health issues taught in school, the surveys show that most parents, along with educators and students themselves, would expand sex education courses and curriculum.

The OWL values are:

- Self Worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

Each level of OWL offers:

- Up-to-date information and honest, age-appropriate answers to all participants' questions
- Activities to help participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills
- Effective group-building to create a safe and supportive peer group
- Education about sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment
- Opportunities to critique media messages about gender and sexuality
- Acceptance of diversity
- Encouragement to act for justice
- A well designed, teacher-friendly leaders' guide
- Parent orientation programs that affirm parents as the primary sexuality educators of their children
- *Sexuality and Our Faith*, an optional religious component for Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ settings.

OWL is appropriate for use in a variety of congregational, school, and community settings, including classrooms, after-school programs, and youth groups. Although developed by two religious organizations, OWL contains no religious references or doctrine. Religious references are provided in a Unitarian Universalist and United Church of Christ companion publication, *Sexuality and Our Faith*.

OWL information obtained from: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/>

The schedule for the UUFCM OWL meetings for grades -12 are as follows:

Parent meeting from 2-4 PM on Sunday, January 9, 2011

Sessions led by Guy Newland and Laura McBride or Justin and Niki Henry from 1-6 pm on the following Sundays:

January 16, 23, 30; February 13, 20, 27; and March 13, 20