

## **Annual Report of the Children's Winter Garden with White Wing School 2017-2018**

Provided by Gillian Hinkle, May 2018  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

### **Members:**

Katie Osborn (Co-Chair), Gillian Hinkle (Co-Chair), Ellen Fisher (Treasurer), Barbara Halevi (Secretary), Marcie Shoneman, Mike Brown, Victoria Agnew, Chris Clanin (Director), Allison Palm (UUCN, Executive Director/Minister)

**Overview:** 2017-2018 brought with it stability and growth to a group that worked hard throughout the previous year. The goal of this year was to establish and codify the manner in which the newly defined preschool staff and board function.

The current board functions more in an advisory capacity than as a working board. Past experience for both preschools, had taught us that the allowing day-to-day tasks to fall to a volunteer board can lead to inconsistency. In 2016-2017 the board spent a great deal of time defining which tasks and decisions should fall to the preschool staff and which needed more board input. This year has been about establishing the routines that would keep all parties (board and staff) well informed and running smoothly.

Board discussion now emphasize the scope of work and allow the staff to develop plans that meet the scope requested. The result has been that Chris and the preschool staff take great pride in giving thoughtful and informative feedback to the board.

The board has adopted the use of Google docs as a repository for our documents. New board members are given access to Minutes, Agenda, Board Handbook (in development), and Board Contacts. This allows us to have easy access to historical information. The board handbook and our bylaws are currently both being re-assessed. The board is very lucky that one of our members, Barbara Halevi, is a lawyer who has graciously assisted us with the bylaws pro bono.

The board and staff continued to be positive and enthusiastic. The staff enjoys that UUCN takes great pride in housing a preschool. It makes them happy to feel so appreciated.

At this time we have 68 students enrolled for next year and may need to start a waiting list for some of our classes. This is much improved from years past when enrollment was so low we struggled to develop a budget and issue contracts.

Board members stepping down this year include Gillian Hinkle and Katie Osborn. Gillian has agreed to stay on for the 2018 - 2019 school year in an advisory capacity as a new chair will be chosen and need guidance. New board members being added this year are Caitlin Allen (CWG-WWS parent) and Tiffany Holmes ( UUCN church member).