



# The Spark

The Newsletter of the  
Chalice Lighter  
Growth Committee

## Faith, Friendship & Fun in the Sun Grant for Scholarships Expands Summer Camp

Just in time for summer, the Sophia Fahs UU Religious Education Camp will use its new Chalice Lighters grant to bring more children and youth to its summer camp. This unique multicultural program works to foster lasting connections, encourage personal exploration and nurture creative community building--all in a fun, relaxed environment.

Founded in 1981, the camp serves young people from grades 2-12 for one week each August, with adults from UU congregations helping as volunteer staff. This summer, the program will relocate from its long-time base on Shelter Island (on Long Island) to Camp Echo in Burlingham NY, near Poughkeepsie. With this new, more central location in the Central East Region (CER), camp leaders are ready to expand participation from a wider range of regional UU congregations.

To support this expansion, the Chalice Lighters grant will provide scholarships for about 25 more campers from other UU congregations, bringing the total served to about 125 campers and 50 adult staff, including a minister.



**Above:** At the Sophia Fahs Camp, most campers return for future summers—and go back to their congregations to spread the word about their transformative UU experience. This summer, with the camp relocating to a more central location in CER, camp leaders aim to increase the diversity of campers from varied cultural, socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds.

### Ignite Growth: Become a Chalice Lighter Ambassador

The CER Chalice Lighters Grant Program encourages new and existing congregations to grow, both in terms of numbers and their efforts to increase justice, compassion and spirituality. **Chalice Lighters Ambassadors make it happen!**

Each congregations needs an Ambassador to spread the word about the program and encourage congregants to sign up to become Chalice Lighters by making a thrice-yearly pledge to fund future grants to start or expand CER congregations. **Becoming an Ambassador is easy!** For ideas and inspiration, see the downloadable Chalice Lighters brochure on the CER website and check YouTube for videos such as “UUCDC Chalice Lighter Sunday.”

For more information, visit [www.uua.org/centraleast/programs/chalicelighter](http://www.uua.org/centraleast/programs/chalicelighter) or contact Cristina Sanchez, Regional Chalice Lighter Liaison ([csanchis@uua.org](mailto:csanchis@uua.org)) or 302-543-2283.