Welcome!

The New DRE

A one-hour webinar presented by Patricia Infante
August 26 and 27, 2014

UUA Faith Development Office
“Housekeeping”

Before we begin, please:

- Mute your mic.
- Turn off ("stop") your camera.
“Housekeeping”

Audio problem? Log out of FUZE and call in by phone:
(201) 479-4595, meeting no. 24430343

Recorded webinar and slides will be posted online:
www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars
“Housekeeping”

Find the chat box:
Depending on your version of Fuze... it will be “Meeting Chat” or “Group Chat.”
“Housekeeping”

• Jot questions/comments in the chat box during presentation.
• Watch the chat box for links and information; cut/paste to your computer.
Lighting Our Virtual Chalice

We light the flame of knowledge;
   May understanding be with us.
We light the flame of love;
   May caring be among us.
We light the flame of holiness;
   May the unifying spirit be within us.

~ Edwin Lynn
Overview

• You are a Leader!
• Building a Network
• Resources
• The First 90 Days
You are a Leader Now!

- What are your expectations?
- Are you switching roles?
  - Volunteer to paid staff means different boundaries.
The Many Hats of a Religious Educator

- Supervisor, minister, colleague, cheerleader, arbiter, teacher, creator, partner, administrator, mentor...

- Discover your own working style.
- Discover your strengths & weaknesses.
- Personality testing such as Myers-Briggs or Kiersey-Bates (www.kiersey.com)
Responsibilities

- Administrative
- Program: Children, Youth, Adult Budget
- Fundraising
- Worship
- Special programs/Holidays
- Fellowship Events
- Volunteer Management & Training
- Committee Leadership
- Communication
- Facilities Management
- Other significant programs (OWL, COA)
You are Part of a System
"Nobody Move!"
Keys to Working with Others

- Covenantal Relationships
  - Minister and other staff
- Lines of Authority & Accountability
- Confidentiality
- Committees
  - Know when to lead, when to listen
Self Care = Balance
Self Care Goals

- Care for your own spiritual needs
- Find a healthy family/work balance
- Learn from the wisdom of colleague
Religious Educator Responsibility for Self Care

- Avoid over-functioning
- Seek clarity about roles and responsibilities
- Claim authority
- Delegate
- Engage in Spiritual Practice
- “D” is for Director not Do-er
Congregational Responsibility for Nurturing the Religious Educator

- Fair Compensation & Time Off
- Plan for Sabbatical
- Support for Professional Connection and Professional Development
- Institutional Support for Faith Development
- Spiritual Care
- RE Covenant
- Shared Leadership
Finding Balance is Key

People with great gifts are easy to find, but symmetrical and balanced ones, never.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson
Building a Network & Growing Professionally
Build Key Relationships

Religious Educator
- Parents
- Volunteers
- Colleagues
- Children & Youth
- LREDA
- Lay Leaders
- Minister
- Staff
- District Regional Staff
- Congregation Members
Alphabet Soup

- UU
- UUA
- LREDA
- REACH
- GA
- FDO
- District/Region

- Unitarian Universalist
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- Liberal Religious Educators Association
- RE List Serve
- General Assembly
- Faith Development Office
- JPD, PWD, Mid-America, CERG
Professional Connections

- Liberal Religious Educators Association – LREDA
  www.lreda.org
  - Code of Professional Practices
  - Guidelines for Professional Religious Educators
  - Good Offices Program
- REACH-L UUA Listserve (open to all)
- LREDA-L UUA Listserve (LREDA membership required)
- Niche Listserves: Youth, OWL, Coming of Age, LREDA-Large
Professional Networking

- District, Regional & UUA Staff:
  - Lifespan Faith Development Staff
  - Congregational Life Staff
  - Ministry & Professional Leadership Staff

- Local Cluster Meetings
- LREDA Chapter Meetings/Retreats
- LREDA Annual Fall Conference
  - October 17-20, 2014, Decatur (Atlanta area) GA

- General Assembly of the UUA
  - June 24-28, 2015, Portland OR
- District/Regional Assemblies
- Leadership Events/Summer Leadership Schools & Camps
The Renaissance Program

- Each 15-hour module provides standardized basic training in a specific area useful to Religious Educators. Modules may be taken in any order:
  
  - Administration as Leadership
  - Adult Faith Development and Programming
  - Curriculum Planning
  - Ministry with Youth
  - Multicultural Religious Education
  - Philosophy of Religious Education
  - Teacher Development
  - Unitarian Universalist History
  - Unitarian Universalist Identity
  - Worship for All Ages
CERG On Demand Learning Center

RE Committees 102: Shared Leadership in RE

*NEW*

Shared Leadership in Religious Education

Creating a vital religious education program is most successful when a healthy balance exists between staff and lay leaders. This on demand class will offer guidance and resources on building healthy relationships, communication, shared leadership and shared responsibility, and working in covenant.

Presenter: Patricia Infante, CERG Faith Development Consultant

RE Committees 103: Recruiting Volunteers for RE

*NEW*

Recruiting, Nurturing and Sustaining Volunteers

Recruiting, Sustaining and Nurturing Volunteers are the heart of a vital...
Working with Volunteers

- Recruitment
- Orientation
- Support
- Delegation
- Appreciation
- Recognition
- Rotation
Working with Parents

- Partner with Parents
  - Parents are the primary religious educators
- Working with parents whose children are challenged
- Confidentiality
- Integration of new families
Healthy Communication Practices

- Truth-telling
- Willingness to discuss difficult issues
- Staying connected through conflict
- Understanding boundaries
- Respecting Confidentiality
Communication Strategies

- Social media, email, phone, mailings
- Newsletters
- Announcements
- Sunday morning opportunities
  - Communication with teachers
  - Communication with parents
UU Parenting on Facebook

Safe forum for those liberal parents with young ones.

Welcome to the UU-parenting@lists.uua.org mailing list.

Three Important Things to Know about the UU Parenting list:

1. Purpose:
The UU-Parenting list serves as a platform for sharing ideas and educational opportunities related directly to UU congregations and UUs in general.

2. Participating:
Participants can share their experiences, knowledge, and resources within the UU community.

3. Guidelines:
- Respectful communication is encouraged.
- Focus on positive and constructive discussions.

Sign up for UU Parenting: UU-parenting@lists.uua.org

Welcome to the UU Parenting community!
Twitter
Pinterest
Useful Resources
Curriculum Resources

- Tapestry of Faith: uua.org
- UUA Bookstore: uua.org/bookstore
- Independent curriculum developers: uucards.org
- Curriculum Planning Renaissance Module
- Curriculum Mapping: uua.org
- District/Regional Libraries
Tapestry of Faith Online Curriculum

http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/
Activities

Step by Step hands-on activity instructions, meeting various learning styles and accessibility needs of students.

Easy Access to all activities within a session or workshop – You pick and choose!

Activity 4: Toolbox of Our Faith Group Covenant (15 minutes)

Materials for Activity

- Newsprint, markers, and tape
- Markers, glitter pens, or other media for writing and decorating the covenant
- Large sheet of poster board, for Toolbox of Our Faith poster
- A separate sheet of poster board, for group covenant
- Optional: Paper strips to add items to the covenant, and pencils or pens
- Hardware store ads for cutting out pictures of tools, toolboxes, tool belts, etc. to decorate the poster
Stories

Find the core story for every session or workshop conveniently from the “List of Stories” page.

List of Stories: Spirit in Practice Beta Test

- Workshop 1, The Wandering Teacher
- Workshop 2, Pablo Casals
- Workshop 3, She’d Had Enough
- Workshop 4, The Shape of the Spirit
- Workshop 5, The Mystic and the Scientist
- Workshop 6, Mind Meets Body
- Workshop 7, A Painter’s Creative Process
- Workshop 8, The Wise Fool
- Workshop 9, Siddhartha’s Awakening
- Workshop 10, Understanding the Elephant
Taking It Home

One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade. - Chinese proverb

IN TODAY’S SESSION...

The group talked about ancestors – both family and faith ancestors – and the legacies they leave for future generations. The children heard a story, “The Farmer’s Legacy,” in which a farmer coaxes his adult children to continue farming the land he plans to leave them, by telling them as he dies that a treasure is buried in the land. You can find the story on the Tapestry of Faith website. Select this curriculum, Creating Home (Living Faith, Kindergarten/First Grade).
Find handouts for every session or workshop conveniently from the “List of Handouts” page.

List of Handouts: Spirit in Practice Beta Test

- Workshop 1, Eight Spheres of Spiritual Growth
- Workshop 1, Spirit in Practice Series Schedule
- Workshop 2, A Unitarian Universalist Prayer Bead Practice
- Workshop 3, Tips for Making Communal Worship a Part of Your Spiritual Regimen
- Workshop 5, Identifying a Mind Practice
- Workshop 5, Stages of Spiritual Growth
- Workshop 8, Eating in Community
- Workshop 8, Sacred Rest
- Workshop 8, Spirituality and Money
- Workshop 9, Twenty-one Thoughts on Peace and Justice
- Workshop 10, Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Yearly
Leader Resources

A variety of resources: content background and special information to further support your teaching.

List of Leader Resources: Spirit in Practice Beta Test

- Workshop 1, A Partial List of Possible Spiritual Practices
- Workshop 2, Breathing Meditation
- Workshop 2, Guided Intercessory Prayer
- Workshop 7, Guided Meditation on Art
Worship Resources
Worship Web

https://www.uua.org/worship/
For Families

The Quest for Meaning is not limited to adults—if anything, children and teens are more active in the process of discovering their beliefs and the principles that will guide their lives. We offer here some ways to explore religious questions children might have, and in formation and activities for all people of all ages who want to pursue an

KidTalk

The KidTalk page provides a fun way for families to explore holidays from various religious traditions, as well as spiritual practices and social service projects that are accessible for people of all ages. Read Kidtalk.

Between Sundays

What is God? What happens when you die? Between Sundays provides a way for families to actively engage with some of the most important questions that children are likely to have about religious faith and practice. We won’t give you absolute answers, but this searchable resource is just right for families to use in those “teachable moments.” Learn more.

Songs to Sing Together

Here are simple recordings of a variety of songs that are easy to sing without accompaniment, perfect for family or small-group worship. Click here for samples.

RE Express

Everything you need for an RE program except the art supplies-available to CLF members or by subscription. See our flyer or contact Beth Murray at bmurray@clfuu.org - 617-948-6150.

uu&me Publishing

Continuing the tradition of bringing Unitarian Universalist values and practices to the everyday lives of children and families. Introducing...
Why Bat Has No Friends

When the mammals on the ground went to war against the birds in the sky, Bat was nervous. He did not want to be stuck on the losing side. Bat thought the birds would win. There were far more birds. They could swoop down, peck at the mammals, then fly out of harm’s way.

Bat flew up to the bats, flapped his wings and said, “Look! I have wings just like you. I wish to fight on your side.” The birds huddled and squawked to each other. Finally, they agreed that Bat could fight with them.

That evening, Bat sneaked away from the mammals’ camp and flew to join the birds. They complained that they had seen him on the mammals’ side during the battle, but Bat flew his way.
UUA Staff Blog

Unitarian Universalism: Now Serving 31 Kinds of Families

Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

- Rumi

By Karen Bellavance-Grace

Thirty-one. Not Baskin Robbins flavors. Not Heinz varieties. Not even the number of Sources of Unitarian Universalism. That number represents our families.

Last year a group of UU religious educators described different family configurations showing up in their congregations. They counted 31.


http://callandresponse.blogs.uua.org/
UU Parenting Blog

Welcome to UU World’s parenting blog! By Christopher L. Waton, on February 22nd, 2010

Welcome to UU World’s “UU Parenting Blog”—a first in several ways for the magazine.

From now through April, uuworld.org will be hosting a weekly conversation led by Michelle Richards about raising Unitarian Universalist children.
[Update, June 2010: Due to popular demand, Michelle has agreed to continue blogging here twice a month.] Michelle, a religious educator and mother of two, is the author of a brand new book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of Raising Unitarian Universalist Children,* from the UUA’s Skinner House Books. Each week, she’ll initiate a conversation about some of the unique challenges and joys of raising UU children. We hope you’ll join in, and bring your friends.

Which brings us to what’s new about our parenting blog. For the first time, a UU World feature is comments-enabled. We welcome and encourage your comments on this blog. To leave a comment, you’ll need to sign in. It’s easy: You can sign in using your Facebook account, Twitter account, OpenID, or

http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/
UU Illuminations App

Illuminations, the Unitarian Universalist Association’s (UUA’s) first app is now available for free in the iTunes App Store and Google Play.

Illuminations has over 350 Inspirational Words, a Chalice Lighter with several chalice options, and a Seven Principles Guide in English and Spanish, along with examples of the Principles in action.

The Chalice Lighter comes with five chalice designs. Tap the screen to light it and tap it again to extinguish the flame. Alternatively you can blow, near the microphone, to extinguish the flame. The 'blow' feature can be disabled if you are using the chalice lighter in noisy environments and are having trouble keeping it lit.

All of the Inspirational Words and the Seven Principles can be shared via Facebook, Twitter, and email allowing you to inspire your friends.

uua.org/beliefs/illuminations
Facebook Groups

liberal educators

Write something...

Natalie Spriggs-Trobridge
23 hrs · Indianapolis, IN

Is anyone doing Jams in their congregation. I shared this with the RE committee at the congregation I currently serve that they are so excited and I am so looking forward to hearing back from them.
Media Collaborative on Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/UUMedia
90 Day Plan
The First 90 days

- Listen and learn.
- Build relationships.
- Establish boundaries.
- Reach out and connect collegially.
- Schedule a DRE Start Up Workshop.
- Short term goals, long term strategy.
- Clarify expectations: yours and theirs.
- Align activity with expectation.
- Nurture partnerships.
- Find ways to make your work spiritual.
Conclusion

Start as you mean to continue. May you be richly blessed in this work.
Upcoming FDO Webinars

September
Our Whole Lives (OWL)
for Grades 7-9: New Edition

October
Body/Spirit Family Spiritual Practices
with religious educators Sarah Ahrens,
Joy Berry and Leah Purcell

Email: faithdevwebinar@uua.org
Website: www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars
This webinar has been recorded and will be posted online at

www.uua.org/re/teachers/webinars