

Classroom News

January 2021

Upcoming Events

- Feb 7th - 28th Mystery Buddies Mail Program
- Early March - Mystery Buddies Reveal Zoom Party (Date TBD)

Reminders

- CYRE programs will remain remote/virtual for the remainder of this church year. For more information on how to get involved email Ashley at dre@beaconunitarian.org or check out the programs tab on the Beacon website

What's Ahead

By: Ashley Cole

Hello everyone! Happy New Year!

As we reflect on what has already happened this year, I wanted to share a reflection I posted this time last year as it still seems very applicable. Here it is:

With all the news stories so far this year, it can feel very disheartening if not down-right devastating to process our current political and environmental climate. In light of these challenging times I wanted to share some inspiring words from a podcast I listen to called *Secret Feminist Agenda* in which host Hannah McGregor suggests that it is good to practice self care and gentleness towards ourselves and by doing so we are better at practicing gentleness towards others. She says, "Gentleness doesn't stop us from responding to the urgency of things going on... We can be gentle and radical at the same time. We can be soft and hold firmly to the things we believe in".

My wish for all of you is that you hold yourself gently and are gentle with those around you. And I hope that you are all reminded of the good work that we do together in community and individually and that inspires us to continue to share our love with those who need it.

In gratitude,
Ashley Cole
Director, Religious Exploration

Jan Theme - 4th Principle

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

Head

With your family read the story *The Blind Men and the Elephant* <https://jainworld.com/education/jain-education-material/jain-stories/elephant-and-the-blind-men/>. This version is a Jainist telling of a wisdom tale found in many cultures. There are also many great versions on youtube if you prefer to watch the telling of this story. Once finished the story, discuss with your family how you would describe an elephant. Practice describing something you are passionate about. Did your understanding of this passion change over time? How so?

Heart

Colour in the attached 4th Principle colouring sheet (designed by Kimberlee Carson and shared with permission) and reflect on why people may hold different beliefs or passions from your own. How do you respectfully connect with people who have different beliefs or values than you? Have you ever disagreed with a friend or a schoolmate and if so what did you do?

If you practice lighting a chalice, use these words with your family:

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvellous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

- Albert Einstein

Hands

Join the CYRE for the first ever postal mail version of the *Mystery Buddies* program! Starting Feb 7th and running through Feb 28th, Beaconites of all ages who have signed up to participate in this year's Mystery Buddies program will send (snail) mail to each other once a week to exchange clues about their identity. During the final week we will host a short but fun zoom social for everyone to meet each other and play a couple activity blitz games. Email Ashley at dre@beaconunitarian.org to join.