

Classroom News

October 2021

Upcoming Events

- Oct 6th - 27th: Join Beacon's team for this year's Eco Challenge!
- Halloween PowerPoint! All ages send me pictures of your costumes to share with Beacon during Oct 31st service.

Reminders

- For more details on CYRE programming I will also be following up through the email newsletter. Please keep an eye out for more information and upcoming events.

What's Ahead

By: Ashley Cole

Hello everyone, happy October. As mentioned in Sept's newsletter, this year we plan to base the religious exploration activities around the monthly themes. Last year we explored the Principles and this year we will explore the Sources.

What are the sources? Think of a river or a stream, we often see them in motion, a small portion of a much bigger whole. Where does it come from? The start of something - or the reason for something - is its source and for Unitarian Universalist, we recognize many starting sources for our beliefs.

This year, along with some other resources, I will be adapting curriculum from both Tapestry of Faith's *Love Will Guide Us* and Elizabeth Cogliati's *UU LEGO Sources Curriculum* to guide all ages in further learning around the UU Sources.

Also woven into the monthly theme will be the core elements of water, fire, earth and air. The overarching source for the year is the 6th Source and honouring the sacred circle of life invites us to reflect further on the elements that shape our lives and our UU services. For September and October we are focusing on water.

October Theme - 6th Source

Our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from the harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life

Head

Read the Story *The Green Man* with your family. You can find the story attached or online here: <https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session10/green-man>. Talk with your family about what you think this story teaches us about our connection to each other and the importance of caring for our planet. If you were the green man, what are some items from nature you would use? How would you live so as not to disrupt nature?

Heart

Colour in the attached drawing https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/k/k1art_ww10_green_man.pdf and reflect on what it means to live in harmony with nature. Why do you think Unitarian Universalist decided it was important to name 'the harmony of nature' as one of the sources for this faith? When feeling connected to the earth, what is one thing you would like to do to make it healthier?

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

Earth, my body (tap chest)

Water, my blood (make waves with hand)

Air, my breath and (kiss a breath of air)

*Fire, my spirit (strike a match with a clap of hands)**

*Adapted from Elizabeth Cogliati's "UU LEGO Sources Curriculum"

Hands

Join Beacon's team in the People's Ecochallenge Wednesday Oct 6 - 27! The Ecochallenge is an annual event that invites team members to take actions that inform and impact around environmental and social injustices and in the process, team members earn points for the team by completing actions. Although the challenge has already started there is still time to sign up and participate. Please contact Teresa Morton at teresa.a.morton@gmail.com to join the Metro Vancouver Unitarians Team. Alternatively, feel free to participate independently of the challenge by choosing one action to do together as a family this month to help care for the Earth and communities. Send me a photo or a short email to let me know how it went and we can share that within the wider Beacon community.

The Green Man

Part of Wonderful Welcome (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome>)

By Sophia Lyon Fahs (<https://www.uua.org/offices/people/sophia-lyon-fahs>)

From Stories in Faith: Exploring Our UU Principles and Sources Through Wisdom Tales (Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2007).

Once upon a time, there lived a rich and vain young squire. Servants prepared his favorite foods each day. His every wish was granted.

One of the young man's favorite things to do was to ride through the woods that were part of his kingdom, hunting small animals for sport. He thought that the woods and all its creatures belonged to him and he could do as he pleased with them.

The people in the village had a different idea about the woods. The woods provided a home to all the creatures that lived there: chipmunks, birds, squirrels, rabbits, deer, and wild pigs. They told their children a story about a Green Man who lived in the woods and cared for all of the small creatures. They said he even watched out for children in the woods. The villagers faithfully left out food on winter nights for the Green Man to eat.

One autumn day, the squire decided to go on a hunt. He called to all of his servants to saddle up the horses and get on their riding clothes: they were going into his woods.

They rode into the woods, trampling nests and dens as they went, sending dogs out ahead to chase small animals out of their homes so they could be easily hunted. After a time, the squire became separated from the rest of the hunting party. He was looking for them when he came to a pond — a beautiful, clear, cool pond.

"How clever of me to have a pond in my woods to refresh myself!" he said.

The young man began to remove all of his fine clothing — his shoes, his hat, his jacket, his shirt, his pants, and his socks. He laid his clothes neatly folded by the edge of the pond and jumped into the cool water. He swam back and forth, enjoying himself immensely.

While he was swimming and splashing away, a hand reached out from behind a tree and took his clothing and led his horse away. When the squire got out of the water, he discovered that he had nothing left to wear save a piece of rope. He took the rope and fastened some leaves to it to make a cover up. When his hunting party came looking for him, he was embarrassed to be seen dressed in nothing but leaves. So he hid.

At night, the squire went looking for some shelter and he stumbled into a cave. He didn't sleep much that night. It was dark, and he was frightened, and he kept hearing animal noises all night.

In the morning, when the daylight came, he saw that he was not alone in the cave. There was a goat there, and a chicken, and a gourd for holding water. Someone had been living in that cave! He found some grass for the goat and feed for the chicken. He discovered some grain that he could eat as well.

Over time, the squire settled in to life in the cave. He fashioned a whole garment out of leaves. He ate eggs from the hen and drank milk from the goat. He covered his hand with mud to prevent stings and reached into a beehive for honey to eat. He became acquainted with all the small woodland creatures, and he cared for them, helping them over swollen streams when heavy rains fell, making sure they had food and water, and sheltering them in the cave on the chilly nights.

One day he came upon two small children trapped by a wild pig threatening to bite. When he had chased the pig off, they looked at him. There he was, covered head to toe with leaves and mud, with a wild-looking beard and hair. "Are you the Green Man?" they asked.

"I guess I am," said the man, who no longer looked anything like a squire.

When winter came, the Green Man was happy to go into the village at night and to take the food that the villagers left out for him, sharing it with all his animal friends. A year passed peacefully, until one warm day when a hunting party came into the woods. The Green Man hid behind a tree to watch. A rich young man, a squire perhaps, became separated from his hunting group and decided to take a swim in the clear, cool pond. He took off his clothes, folded them, and left them under a tree. The Green Man reached out a hand and took the clothes and the horse, leaving behind his garment of leaves and a coil of rope. He used a sharp stick to trim his hair and beard, and rode into town, back to his parents' castle.

PREVIOUS: Taking It Home

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session10/119678.shtml>)

UP: Session 10: The Gift Of Protection

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session10>)

NEXT: Leader Resource 1: The Earth

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session10/119686.shtml>)

Download all of Wonderful Welcome (Word) (https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/welcome_column.doc) (PDF (https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/welcome_column.pdf)) to edit or print.

About the Author

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COLORING SHEET

"The Green Man" (PDF

(https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/k/k1art_ww10_green_man.pdf))

Illustration: Amy Paschall



The Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady (NY) enacted the story (<http://uureschenectady.blogspot.com/2014/03/the-green-man.html>) , "The Green Man," as part of multigenerational worship in March, 2014.



"The Green Man," Wonderful Welcome; illustration, Amy Paschall