

# Classroom News

September 2021

## Upcoming Events

- Sept 12th: All-ages Water Communion Ingathering Service
- Sept 26th: Multi-faith Service
- Oct 7th - 28th: Join Beacon's team for this year's Eco Challenge

## Reminders

- Beacon has cancelled all in person service for the time being & CYRE programming will remain remote for now

## Fall Start Up

By: Ashley Cole

Hello everyone and welcome back to another year of religious exploration programming. I know this newsletter is a little late in reaching you, thank you for your patience as we worked to establish this years plans for Religious Exploration (RE).

This fall we have decided to continue with the mailed out kits that allows all ages to participate in Unitarian Universalist programming. Like last year, we plan to offer a series of activities to engage all ages on the monthly theme, and using the framework of head, heart and hands.

This newsletter is available both on the website and will be mailed out to registered families. The mail-out will occasionally include some additional gifts/resources so if your family is not already on our list and would like to register, or if you know of another family who could benefit from receiving a physical copy please reach out to me at [dre@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:dre@beaconunitarian.org).

## September Theme - 1st Source

Our Unitarian Universalist beliefs come from the sense of wonder we all share

### Head

With your family read the story, *We Got Here Together* found here:

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session2/168205.shtml>

and discuss what the story made you think of. Did you feel a sense of wonder while reading the story? What has made you feel a sense of wonder before? How did you respond to that feeling?

### Heart

Having read the story above, try out this fun activity:

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session2/168197.shtml>.

While blowing bubbles, reflect on the wonder of forming and dissolving bubbles, where else do you feel this sense of wonder in your life? Where do you think that feeling comes from?

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

*May we gather inspiration and wisdom from the living tradition of our Unitarian Universalist sources.\**

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

### Hands

If you were unable to attend the water ceremony service, plan a mini one with your family. You can do so in three simple steps. 1. **Consider:** Think about what water has meant to you this past summer. What memories come to mind? 2. **Tell:** Take turns telling each other what memories or thoughts came to mind. 3. **Share:** pour out some water on the plants in your home in celebration and gratitude for the life-giving nature of water.

Plan one activity that connects you with your community. To connect with the Beacon community, email Ashley Cole who can support families to share a chalice lighting or reading during a Sunday morning services. Ashley's email is [dre@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:dre@beaconunitarian.org).

# We Got Here Together

Part of Love Will Guide Us (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide>)

*"We Got Here Together," by Kim Stafford, is reprinted by permission of the author from We Got Here Together, by Kim Stafford, illustrated by Debra Frasier, published by Harcourt Brace in 1994. Copyright 1994 by Kim Stafford.*

Invite children to act out the story when you read "Now you get settled into bed." Encourage them to imagine the bubble coming from the fish and turning into the sky and the rain turning into the ocean.

Now you get settled in bed, I'll tell you a story.

You get cozy, and I'll start.

Once, in the deepest ocean, there was a little fish.

That fish opened its mouth and let a bubble go.

At the same moment a cloud high over the ocean let a raindrop go.

Way down in the deep that bubble started its journey to the surface, and high in the sky that raindrop started down.

Would you be afraid? I might be afraid. But nothing can hurt a raindrop, nothing can hurt a bubble. They belong where they're going.

For a long time that bubble drifted up through the water without a thought, bumping a seal belly, bouncing off a seaweed leaf, rolling through the blue, floating toward that big ceiling of light.

And the raindrop was spinning dizzy down, sliding along the shoulder of the wind, tumbling toward that silver field of water.

They took so long, falling down and soaring up, they grew. The bubble swelled and filled with light. The raindrop gathered ready and round.

Somehow they were aimed for the exact same moment in time, and they got there together.

Then they were—what were they?

The bubble opened and was the whole sky.

The raindrop opened and was the whole ocean.

There they were—sky and ocean turning right where they belonged.

And you and I?

We got here together, too, didn't we? We got here safe, in the silver light, where we belong.

*(Sound the rain stick to indicate the story is over.)*



## Alternate Activity 3: Bubble Sculpture

Part of Love Will Guide Us (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide>)

Activity time: 15 minutes

### Materials for Activity

- **Bubble solution:** a large bowl and a spoon; and 4 1/2 cups of water, 1/2 cup of dishwashing soap (preferably Dawn), and (optional) 1/2 cup of corn syrup or glycerin
- Drinking straws, preferably paper, for all participants, plus a few extra
- Shallow trays, one for every two participants
- Newspapers and/or rags to cover floors

### Preparation for Activity

- Make bubble solution: Combine water and dishwashing soap in a large bowl. Stir well, but do not shake. For stronger bubbles, add corn syrup or glycerin. You can make this solution two or three days ahead of time.
- Set trays and straws at work tables.
- Cover floor around work tables with newspapers and/or rags.
- Fill each tray with about 1/4 inch of bubble solution.

### Description of Activity

If you have time, use this activity to lead into or out of Activity 2, Story - We All Got Here Together.

Invite participants to join you at a work table. Explain that bubbles are magical; that the story they will (or did) hear today has to do with bubbles and where we came from. Say, in your own words:

The story does not answer questions. The story just lets us wonder-like the bubbles make us wonder-about how we come to be.

Dip one end of a straw in the solution. Hold the straw slightly above the surface and gently blow a bubble.

Demonstrate how to blow bubbles within bubbles: Remove the straw from the bubble. Make sure the straw is wet and then gently insert it in the top of the bubble, so it enters at a 45-degree angle. Blow gently to form another bubble. Repeat to form more bubbles in bubbles. Awesome!

Ask, in your own words:

Do you wonder why a bubble can burst so easily, and yet you can insert the straw back in and still not break it? It is fragile and strong at the same time. I sit here and look at this bubble and I think, "This is awesome!"

Invite the children to experience the awesomeness of bubbles with one or two partners to make a "bubble sculpture" that has bubbles within bubbles.

Share these tips:

- If you get a lot of small bubbles instead of one big one, you are probably blowing too hard.
- Finish your bubble with a quick twist of your blowing straw, so you don't burst the bubble when you take out the straw.

This activity can get messy and slippery. Leave time for volunteers to help clean up.

## Including All Participants

Children with low tolerance may get frustrated if they cannot form a bubble sculpture after a few tries. Consider having a bottle of bubble solution with a blowing wand available.

It may helpful to establish rules of behavior prior to doing this activity, such as "We blow into straws only when they are in the solution."

PREVIOUS: Alternate Activity 2: UU Source Constellation  
(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session2/168196.shtml>)

UP: Session 2: Awesome Love  
(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session2>)

NEXT: Taking It Home  
(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session2/168201.shtml>)

Download all of Love Will Guide Us (Word) ([https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/loveguideus\\_column.doc](https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/loveguideus_column.doc))  
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