

**PARENTS TAKE-IT-HOME: Information detail & for faith formation follow up at home for Sunday, MARCH 26, 2017**

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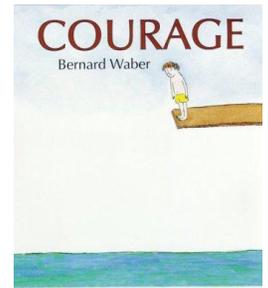


**PRE-K PARENTS TAKE-IT-HOME March 26, 2017**

**Topic: Risking Courage**

The book this week gives many specific examples of courageous actions.

Unitarian Universalists believe that it is important to always be searching and learning what is true and right. **(Principle # 4)** We also believe that your actions should be guided by what you believe. Sometimes that means risking failure and change.



**STORY: Book: Courage by Bernard Weber**

**ACTIVITY:** Going on a Bear Hunt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SlgKYgrvsdM>

**PARENTS - use these ideas (try at meal time, drive time, or bed time)**

- **Talk about a time when you have become more courageous in your life** (a childhood fear overcome? A choice to do the right thing even though no one was watching? Trying something you were not “good” at...)
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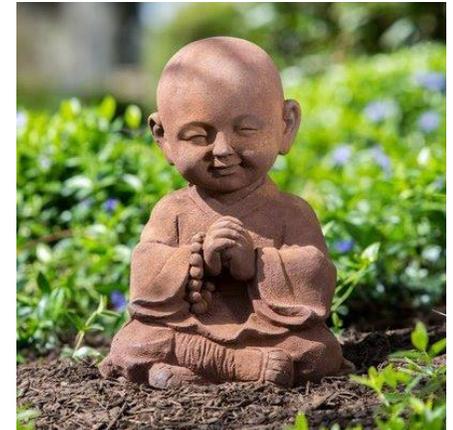


**K-3: Graders UU Explorers PARENTS TAKE-IT-HOME March 26, 2017**

**TOPIC: Buddha’s Birth - UU Source: World Religions (Buddhism)**

**Main Message:**

- We respect the stories of many religions because we can learn from many kind and compassionate teachers. We share wonder with our neighbors at the miracles of babies and the blooming earth!
- Many UU’s agree with Sophia Fahs that **“Every night a child is born is a holy night”** We appreciate and celebrate children, and all people.
- We believe EACH PERSON IS IMPORTANT (principle #1) and EACH OF US CAN BE KIND (principle # 2) - It is a choice to use kind actions to ourselves and others



**Activities:** Today we compare what is similar & different in the Birth stories of Jesus & Buddha, and draw both stories on large paper, or craft a lotus flower ( a symbol often mentioned in Buddhist tradition).

**At home....**



- [Read about the significance of the Lotus flower here](#)
- **Make a Lotus flower** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCl4BFdYsMY>
- **Option for both boys & girls** - Bathe a baby (or baby doll in bath tub or basin, water, washcloth, towel) All babies are special, share how can you bathe & wrap & hold gently? Both boys & girls, men & women can be gentle, and kind when caring for a child.



UU Source: Prophetic Women & Men who call us to justice, Principle # 4 -We are free to search for truth and meaning, Principle #6 - Build a Fair & Peaceful World

+ on Sunday FAITH IN ACTION - the group creates designs for Mother's Day cards which will be sold to raise money for KIVA.org (micro financing loans - <https://www.kiva.org/about> ) Faith in Action

TAKE IT HOME for bedtime or meal time CLICK ON NAME OR LINK TO SEE THE FULL

STORY & the choices that the following people made to live out their faith.



**Dorothea Dix** started in Massachusetts but then traveled to other states, investigating conditions in prisons, filing reports, and testifying before state legislatures. Some of the hospitals she started still stand. So does the view of the mentally ill that she put forth: Even when someone's words or behaviors cannot be understood by others, they are still a person who deserve dignity, respect and love.

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/windows/session16/143973.shtml>



**Lydia Maria Child** Voice for the oppressed

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/bridges/workshop2/186395.shtml>

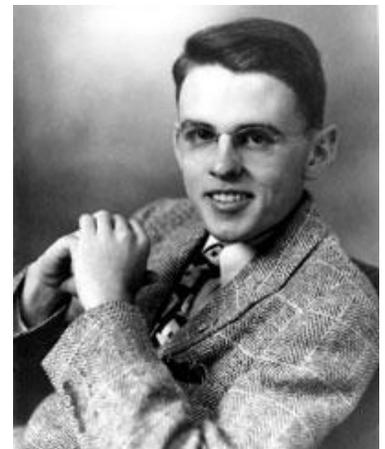
Lydia Maria Child is not as famous now as she was when she lived— famous as a radical and reformer, a brilliant thinker and author, and a tireless advocate for oppressed members of society, specifically Native Americans, children, Africans and African Americans held in slavery, and women. She was born in 1802 in Hartford, Connecticut, and called herself Maria after she chose to become a Unitarian. She wrote & published :

- the first Historical novel in the U.S. about an interracial couple in 1824,
- the most influential anti-slavery non-fiction book that galvanized abolitionists all over the country,
- a scholarly, three-volume collection, with her commentary, of religious wisdom from many of the world's faiths. "The book of the Age" called Unitarian Theodore Parker.
- An Appeal for the Indians, again sparking controversy, in which she called on government officials and religious leaders to bring justice to American Indians.
- Parenting & Homemaking books & articles & the Song: *Over the River & Through the Woods*



"An unexamined faith is not worth having, for it can be true only by accident."  
-James Luther Adams

**James Luther Adams** believed that people of faith must expose the evils of society and speak out for change. He believed we have a moral obligation to confront injustice, no matter what the cost. He used the pulpit to speak out against injustice. In Nazi Germany, he worked with the Underground Church Movement. As a result, the Nazis held and questioned him more than once, but they did release him.



<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/grace/session6/two-men>

**James Reeb** > made many choices to promote understanding & justice working as a minister, inner city fair housing and Civil Rights with MLK, Jr in Selma.



## 6-7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Building Bridges – March 26, 2017

Topic is: **Atheists (and Agnostics or other non-believers) still attend church or other organized spiritual communities.**

On Sunday, the contribution and history of non-believers to U.S. court cases around the separation of church and state will be noted (i.e. history of the Lord's Prayer in schools, the words 'under God' which were added by Congress in 1954 to the pledge of allegiance)

Note the similarities to Unitarian Universalism (UU Source: Use of Reason)

The Group will use the data below (in a Top 5 countdown or quiz format)

Home Follow up - At the dinner table, in the car

- Here's interesting data about why people go to church or a spiritual community even if they are Non-believers <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/bridges/workshop19/handout1-why-go-to-church>
- Talk about why YOU attend –Many UU's in our congregation say their #1 reason and interest is in SOCIAL JUSTICE
- [ATHEISM & AGNOSTIC FACT SHEET](#)



**March 26, 2017** *(Note Schedule now uploaded to the [uuwestport.org](http://www.uuwestport.org))*

**9-12 gr. YOUTH GROUP meets 6:00-8:00pm**

**Meeting House Youth Room**

- Greetings & gathering Advisor: Arnela Ten Meer,
- **Check in & Whale facts & game led by Gabi Dick** - some fun and connection time
- **Review with larger group the initial draft of the Youth Service** (Note in your calendars: May 6 Rehearsal & May 7 YG will be leading services)
  - **Initial Theme : Embodiment - How to we realize in the world our deepest values?**
  - **BRING to group your idea** for how you might show what you value in a quote or reading, a story or sermon, a movement prayer or interactive element, for the Youth Group service.
- **End with a Candle lighting Youth Worship closing with reading - in Month's Theme: RISK**

"Here's how to break through the perfectionism [and become a person of life-giving risk]: make a LOT of mistakes. Fall on your butt more often. Waste more paper, printing out your shitty first drafts, and maybe send a check to the Sierra Club. Celebrate messes — these are where the goods are. Put something on the calendar that you know you'll be terrible at, like dance lessons, or a meditation retreat, or boot camp. Find a writing partner, who will help you with your work, by reading it for you, and telling you the truth about it, with respect, to help you make it better and better; for whom you will do the same thing. Find someone who wants to steal his or her life back, too. Now; today. One wild and crazy thing: wears shorts out in public if it is hot, even if your legs are milky white or heavy. Go to a poetry slam. Go to open mic and read the story you wrote about the hilariously god-awful family reunion, with a trusted friend, even though it could be better, and would hurt Uncle Ed's feelings if he read it, which he isn't going to. Change his name and hair color — he won't even recognize himself. At work, you begin to fulfill your artistic destiny. Wow! A reviewer may hate your style, or newspapers may neglect you, or 500 people may tell you that you are bitter, delusional and boring. Let me ask you this: in the big juicy Zorba scheme of things, who cares?"

~Annie Lamott

**Do you agree or disagree with Annie Lamott's quote? Will you commit to take a life-giving risk?**