

PRE-K-1st grade children

FAMILY TAKE-IT-HOME for FEBRUARY 25, 2018

(family sheet by Mary Collins, Children's Coordinator, Unitarian Church in Westport, CT)

Soul Matter's Monthly Theme: PERSEVERANCE

Session Topic: "UU Chalice symbol of Perseverance of Love and Light"

Unitarian Universalist Principle #1 All People Are Important, #2 Be Kind

Activities on Sunday morning: Movement to Odetta singing This Little Light of Mine, Make Felt chalices, and STORY: The Origins of the UU Chalice Symbol (adapted by Mary Collins, based on UU Kids Book info by Brotman-Marshfield)



About 73 years ago there lived a musician and artist named Hans Deutsch. He lived in a country called Austria but had to leave his home because there was a war happening and the fighting made it too dangerous to live there. Hans had to leave his home so suddenly that he left everything behind to be safe - not once, but twice! (*He fled to France, and then to Portugal*). He became a refugee (a person living away from his/her homeland because of a bad situation in their home country).



Hans wasn't alone, there were *many* refugees running away from the fighting. Fortunately, Hans and the other people were given food, medicine and clothing by a group called the Unitarian Service Committee. It was started by Unitarian's who said "**Our religion teaches us to CARE when other people are suffering. And we can't just talk about it. We must do something! To give to anyone who needs help no matter where they were born, what faith they have or what they look like.**"



Hans was so thankful to the Unitarian Service Committee that he stayed to help them. They would drive delivery trucks with supplies to where people needed them. They wanted to put a picture or symbol on the trucks so the refugees, who spoke many different languages, would know they would be welcomed and helped by the group.

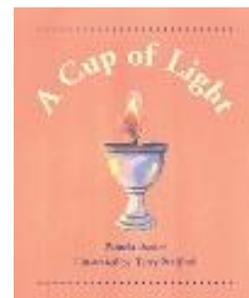


Hans thought first - what would be welcoming and meaningful? Then he started to draw. He drew a Chalice – which is both a cup people drink from to feel refreshed. It's also a special cup used by many religions in worship. Hans then added to his design a flame – to stand for the warmth of love, the light of truth inside everyone and the fire of change.



They liked the symbol and over time, other Unitarian Universalists began using the symbol, too. People make many different chalice designs (there is not one right way)! And still think about the perseverance of light and love.

- Then read **BOOK: A CUP OF LIGHT by Pamela Baxter – how we think about the symbol today**



FAMILY TAKE-IT-HOME -Faith Formation Activity:

- Consider using a felt chalice banner at a meal time, Every one puts a flame on it. Sing: "Light, Light, Light the Flame, Peaceful as a dove. Joyfully, Joyfully, Joyfully, Joyfully, Fill the world with love"
- Sing with Odetta "This Little Light of Mine" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2kDsqGeoLU>