

Onesies: One-Session Educational Opportunities

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Last spring I dreamt up a time-sensitive series, one-session educational opportunities to help us segue into the slower summer pace. “Community Onesies” offered an eclectic assortment of sessions to capture one’s interest and imagination. Onesies were offered on different nights of the week, affording participants to participate on any given “free” night. Some Onesies were facilitated by me, others by members of the community offering their special gifts. Here’s what we did at Community:

DIALOGUE IN DIVERSITY In this session I offered an opportunity for us to listen to each other share deep, personal reflections on diversity. This experiential journey offered diverse perspectives to help move forward in advancing remarkable work that we had started and to which we were committed in completing that courageous new curriculum in the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith series, “Building the World We Dream About” by Dr. Mark Hicks. Good news! Our “A Dialogue in Diversity” will lead to a new small group ministry, our Community Circle!

READINGS FROM OUR FAVORITE UU MEDITATION MANUALS We have a wealth of wonderful Unitarian Universalist meditation manuals from which to draw sustenance. I found a way to share them! Meditation manuals were fanned out on a beautifully decorated table. Participants sat in a semi-circle facing the table laden with the books. Following our chalice lighting and opening words, we perused the manuals at a leisurely pace. When one of us was moved to do so, a meditation or poem was read to the group. The rest of us listened. The evening was spent perusing manuals, sharing manuals, and speaking into the silence.... Thus was our worshipful, faith-filled evening read into completion. Children were invited to bring their children’s UU readings, too.

BEAD A TREASURE Ruth Miller offered a delightful intergenerational opportunity to come and make a necklace or two, plus earrings, and bracelets. A large variety of fine beads, freshwater pearls, and sterling silver findings were provided. Ruth celebrated our nascent efforts and gently finished our work for us. All ages were warmly welcomed. We knew that we would leave with lovely jewelry. We had no idea that we would leave having learned about each other in comfortably life-affirming, treasured ways.

EXAMINING HANDBOUND BOOKS AND DESIGNING YOURS TO TAKE HOME
We gathered to see how books are designed and assembled. Ruth Miller then invited each of us to make a book of your own to take home. By the end of the evening, we had learned about the different elements of a hand-bound book: cover board, book cloth covering, end tapes, decorative end papers and the paper pack. All ages were welcome! I am so excited about my new journal, one made by me.

I-LIFE: ENHANCING YOUR LIFE WITH MAC Marjorie Vai asserts that “*Mac* is now the rage.” Why...? She offered an introductory session to the *Macintosh* computer and its applications. We explored the possibilities of creating a series of small workshops on *Mac* applications for the upcoming church year. *Mac* users will present them. We plan to offer similar sessions for the PC.

URBAN DISCIPLESHIP: INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGIES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our affiliate minister Rev. Tony Johnson reminded us that Unitarian Universalists are busy doing social justice in the city. During this session, Tony offered an exploration of faith, belief, and social justice ministries. In addition, Rev. referred to a compelling set of essays, which he edited: “Urban Discipleship”, 2nd ed.

Think about your respective congregation. Think about a breath of fresh air in the midst of the programming and curriculum mapping. Breathe that fresh air in.... Create your own Onesies and do share your offerings with the rest of us!

Masakhane, Janice

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"Masakhane" is a rich and resonant word from the Nguni language, one of the many languages of South Africa. Loosely translated into English it means, "Let us build together."