

RE Parents' Corner

For the past few months we have featured the "funny" (unique, interesting) things our RE kids say... but this month I'd like to use this space to introduce our newly formed RE parent group. It doesn't have an official name yet, but that will come very soon as the parents will be meeting for Healthy Children, Healthy Planet in just a few days.

Building Community... There are two reasons for the formation of a group of RE parents. Both relate to building community. Just a few years ago there were just a few kids and families could visit each week and stay connected without too much trouble. There was a definite sense of extended family and keeping in touch was relatively easy to do. Now, with the growth in our program it seems to take a little more effort. Thus, this parent group is one way to assist communication among parents. The second goal of this parent group is to strengthen RE parents' connection with the greater community of UUSDBA. Up until now, our DRE could fit the bill by coming to committee meetings, meeting folks one-on-one, communicating via phone and email, etc. Now, with RE's extended involvement in more than one UU interest and/or initiative, it is near impossible for one person to keep all these folks connected and in the know! **The formation of the RE parent group is confirmation that it definitely takes a village.**

Staying connected... For now we have three parents who agreed to help with this new initiative.

Joanna Baugh is a relatively new RE mom. She will be attending the Caring Committee meetings, so that we may be in the know about who needs a friendly greeting from our UU family. The children are busy making cards and such. This way Joanna can send them out as needed.

Tonia Dunham and Bev Berger are two RE moms who have been around for a while. They have agreed to help out when we need to make calls to RE parents. Email is a wonderful tool, but sometimes the topic of conversation deserves a personal contact, and email just doesn't fit the bill! For example, with summer just a few months away, Tonia and Bev will be calling parents about our Creative UU summer camp.

Sharing joys and concerns... We all recognize that life has its ups and downs, but at this time of economic uncertainty, it is especially important to provide our UU friends with opportunities to share. This wonderful team of parents will no doubt strengthen our commitment to just plain being there for one another. Isn't that what this community is really all about? **My sincere thanks to Joanna who will act as liaison between families and other members and friends to UUSDBA, and Tonia and Bev who will assist with communication between families.**

Stay tuned for more... and to share other items of interest or concern, please email or call: Debbie Johnson, DRE at dbeckjohnson@earthlink.net or 386-956-4444.

RE Happenings

- **RE Spring Planting/Healthy Children, Healthy Planet, Sunday, April 5**

Terri Kolaska will be helping our children help plant the spring "crop". Kids will play afterwards while parents meet for the next session of Healthy Kids, Healthy Planet. The focus of our next discussion will be "Time and Creativity". We will serve a pizza lunch, so please plan to stay until about 1:00 or 1:15.

- **Family Egg Dying & Friendly Food Can Hunt, Sunday, April 12**

In recognition of Easter Sunday and the approaching season of Spring, we are planning to dye eggs in RE class. Also, in lieu of hiding eggs, **we plan to hide canned/dry foods and then donate them to Halifax Urban Ministries. Please plan to bring a small donation of two or three food items and leave them** in the RE classrooms or the sanctuary before the service. We will use them for a fun activity and then donate them to this worthy cause.

- **Earth Day Celebration, Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19**

Please plan to attend the Earth Day program at Washington Oaks on Saturday, April 18 or Sunday, April 20th. UUSDBA will have several tables at our booth. One will include children's activities, including our traditional solar s'mores. This event is both fun and educational. So, please mark your calendars and plan to join the Green Sanctuary Committee.

