

## DLE Board Report – January 2018

### Curriculum for Children and Youth:

- 10:30am: Programming & Education for Children and Youth Sundays in January

We welcome 2018 with a new unit in our "UU & YOU at Hogwarts" curriculum, and have begun our "poverty" horcrux. In this unit we will explore what poverty is, and what we can do about it in our own communities. As part of this effort, we will be collecting items for The Goodwill Housing Support Services "wish list" - <http://bit.ly/2CBbu9x>. We are asking that people leave items in the collection tub located near the social hall (where we had previously been trying to collect winter clothing items). We will collect items from the "wish list" through the end of January. Additionally, the children will be making fleece scarves for the guests at Safe Harbor.

### Suggested readings for families/parents this month:

- Our book this month is once again connected to our focus in our "Hogwarts" program – this month we have a book dealing with poverty & hunger. **"Maddi's Fridge" by Lois Brandt** comes highly recommended, and is the Winner of:  
*2014 Christopher Award, Books for Young People*  
*2014 ILA Primary Fiction Award*  
*2015 MLA Mitten Award Honor*  
*Human Rights in Children's Literature Honor*

*"...Filled with colorful artwork, this storybook addresses issues of poverty with honesty and sensitivity while instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy, trust, and helping others. A call to action section, with six effective ways for children to help fight hunger and information on anti-hunger groups, is also included".*

### Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer. We are especially in need of additional "professors" for the Hogwarts program Feb-May 2018. Finding volunteers to cover when I am scheduled to be out is always difficult.
- **Heifer Tree Project:** I am pleased to report that our efforts this year exceed our goal of \$450. We surpassed this by over \$50 – some individuals wrote checks directly to Heifer rather than UUCGT, thus could not be included in our pool of donations. It should be noted that this has become enough of a regular annual practice that I receive emails/calls asking about it as December approaches each year, and we therefore intend to roll this project back out in December of 2018.

### Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out is on 01.12.18 – we have 8 children registered and are fully staffed.

**Adult Programming:** *As mentioned in previous reports, adult programming is an important part of the Lifespan Experience Program of this congregation. In fact, our committee has had, and continues to have an Adult Programming Representative to help us connect with and serve this portion of our congregation. We are fortunate that John Hoffmann is in this role for the second year.*

**Updates for this Month:**

- Brewing Community: Brewing Community is back from its holiday break, and will gather from 5-7pm at The Workshop Brewing Company on 1/11 & 1/25.
- Wednesday Supper Schedule: Like Brewing Community, Wednesday Supper moves back to its regular schedule in January – 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays are potluck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays are \$5 (adult)/\$3 (children 10 & under), and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays are pizza night with the cost of the meal (including salad, snacks, and dessert) to be shared by the participants.
- Adult Lifespan Experience Connections: Rabbi Chava and I have begun discussing options for Sunday morning adult “Connections” classes. My hope is to start adults programs again in February before services.

**Staffing Matters:**

I am currently unsure if there will be the volunteers necessary for me to take a Sunday off in January, however if there are, I intend to take 01.21.18 as my Sunday off.

I have completed the “Death of Sunday School” course through the UU Institute and have begun to compile my review of the materials into a report for the board. I will have this available as an additional report to my regular report in February. Some of the ideas that I am considering around this topic include: the changing needs/dynamics of families (increasingly more single parent households, parents who have to work multiple jobs, families impacted by custody agreement schedules, increasingly busy extra-curricular schedules for children, etc.), systems of power and privilege, long-term models for engagement, and the implicit and explicit messages our programs and approach to congregational life send, etc. Incredibly interesting things to consider that will no doubt lead to thoughtful conversations.

**Attendance:**

<b>December 2016 Sundays (I don't have a regular report for January 2016 on-file because I was out on maternity. The LE Committee was charged with updating the board while I was out.)</b>	<b>December 2017 - Sundays</b>
12.04.16 - 13	12.03.17 – 12, N=1
12.11.16 – Holiday All Music Service	12.10.17 – Holiday All Music Service, N=3
12.18.16 – No Service – Weather Related	12.17.17 – 8, N = 2
12.25.16 - 1	12.24.17 – No Morning Service at UUCGT
<b>December 2016 FNO</b>	<b>December 2017 FNO</b>
12.09.16 - 8	12.08.17 - 8