

DLE Board Report – December 2017

Curriculum for Children and Youth:

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

Lifespan Experience for Children and Middle School Youth is very busy December! We have officially launched into our “Literacy” unit at Hogwarts – we began this at the end of November. In this unit we start of considering the connection between poverty and access to education, and we introduced our annual “Heifer Tree” project. Our “Heifer Tree” will be up from 12/10-12/31. This year the children have set a goal of \$450 – they hope to raise money for irrigation well pumps, along with treadle water pumps for family homes. We will also be collecting new, warm winter items during the month of December to be donated to the Goodwill Inn at the end of the month. These items will then be distributed to the children in need in our area – donation bucket is located outside the kitchen near the social hall.

- Special Happenings In December
 - **Celebration of Ministry:** Children and youth were invited to participate in the celebration of Rabbi Chava’s ministry early this month by creating a special piece of artwork for her and presenting it at the Sunday Service. We likewise had childcare available during the Saturday night celebration, and pizza was provided. We could have used two childcare providers for this event, however the number of children who might have been present was not known in advance. For future events of this nature, we may want to consider an advance registration for childcare to have a better idea of what to expect.
 - **Holiday All Music Service:** The children have been practicing the songs "Peace, Salaam, Shalom" by Emma's Revolution & "All I Really Need" by Raffi, and sang these along with the Vocal Ensemble on 12/10. For this occasion, and for future occasions in which the children might sing or do something particularly special, LE purchased colorful neckties for the children to borrow and wear. The congregation will now have these on-hand for a variety of occasions. The children will likewise be singing these songs and wearing their special ties at the Community Interfaith Christmas Eve Service at the State Theater on 12/24.
 - **December 20th – Winter Solstice Celebration:** All who are interested in celebrating Yule and Winter Solstice are invited to attend this family-friendly evening of joy and merriment organized by the UUCGT CUUPs – Nature Based Spirituality Group. The celebration will be followed by a potluck, and childcare will be provided for children who are too young to participate in the service. This is historically a well-attended community event, weather providing of course.

- **Community Interfaith Service – State Theater, Traverse City:**

This year we will proudly be offering our 4th Annual Interfaith Christmas Eve at the State Theatre – 5pm carol sing, 5:30pm-6:30pm service. Stories, music and candle-lit joy is sure to make for a lovely evening. Our youngest friends from the Children’s Choir will likewise have a special role.

Suggested readings for families/parents this month:

- This time of year can be difficult for some people for a variety of reasons – income, personal loss, anxiety, and depression just to name a few. It’s also a time of year when many of us feel the desire to reclaim the ways in which we spend our time and treasure – looking for ways to live simply and meaningfully. For these reasons, and many more, I thought I’d share this little blog with you. It’s from Nurtured Mama – “Five Simple Ways to Create Your Happiest Holiday Yet”. While it does highlight the celebration of Christmas, I think there are some gems within the article that could apply to a variety of perspectives and celebrations – suggestions for making a list of what really matters to you when considering commitments, giving simply and thoughtfully, etc.

<http://www.nurturedmama.net/happiest-holiday-yet/>

Volunteer/Training/Housekeeping Matters:

- **Volunteers:** As always, we could use more assistance staffing the various programs we offer, more specifically we will be looking for additional “professors” for the Hogwarts program Jan-May 2018. Finding volunteers to cover when I am scheduled to be out is always difficult.

Families & Other Child/Youth Programming:

- Friday Night Out was on 12/8 – we had 10 children registered and were fully staffed but had two cancel at the last minute due to illness. This filled very quickly, as is typical for December’s Friday Night Out – many parents use it to get shopping done. We might want to consider offering a couple of dates next year, or expanding the program for the December date.

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: There will be no Brewing Community in December. Brewing Community will start again on its regular schedule in January.

- Wednesday Supper Schedule: The December Schedule is as follows (some of these will have already occurred by the time the board meets)
 - 12/6 Annual Holiday Potluck! Bring one of your favorite holiday food items to share!
 - 12/13 – Regular \$5/\$3 (10 & under) Night
 - 12/20 – Winter Solstice Celebration & Potluck!
 - 12/27 – NO SUPPER
- Wednesday Programs: We will begin scheduling programs again in January 2018.
- Pagan Fair: We hosted another lovely Pagan Fair in November. While more intimate than last year, feedback was still generally positive. The timing of this event is crucial given that it falls near many other Holiday Art/Bazaars. This fact will be considered when selecting a date for 2018. There was likewise some new interest in our CUUPs chapter – potential new volunteers in our community is always welcome.
- Adult Lifespan Experience Connections: Rabbi Chava and I will consider the direction of our next “Connections” class in early 2018.

Staffing Matters:

I was unable to take a Sunday off in November due to a lack of volunteers. I will be attempting to take 12/17 off, but may be unable to if we do not get enough volunteers again.

Attendance:

November 2016 Sundays (I don't have a regular report for Dec 2016 on-file because I was out on maternity. The LE Committee provided a much abbreviated report for the board while I was out.)	November 2017 - Sundays
11.06.16 - 4	11.05.17 – 3 (9am childcare for program) 10:30am – 13, N=2
11.13.16 – 8	11.12.17 – 10, N=1
11.20.16 – No Service – Weather Related	11.19.17 – TWIN LAKES
11.27.16 – 8	11.26.17 – 11, N=1
November 2016 FNO	November 2017 FNO
11.11.16 – FNO - 9	11.10.17 – FNO - 7