November 2020

DRE Board Report

Dear Board members,

Again, it feels like time is flying by and I’m surprised to find that it’s time to write this update again. I continue to love this job and feel so blessed to be working with such wonderful staff and families. I look forward to the time when I get to connect with the wider UUCSC community.

I spent several hours this month figuring out how to create pre-filled registration forms. I then sent each family their personal pre-filled form to update. I had 18 families return their forms with updated information. Seven additional families have contacted me saying they want to be in touch and intend to register. That’s a total of 48 kids. So that feels like a success!

We matched up 9 pairs of penpals in our Love Note exchange. We were able to match adults with kids and then DL and I hand delivered these notes in the gift bags that we delivered to everyone in the congregation. Some kids wanted to continue being part of a penpal exchange, so I will be setting that up among kids in RE. And it was so much fun to deliver those gift bags this month. I got to chat with several families and hear how they’re doing. Several of those not participating on zoom re-iterated that as soon as we do something outside together, they’ll be so excited to join in.

It was really fun to be part of the Thanksgiving multi-gen service. It was so rewarding to be part of a team creating a service together and to be able to mix in some kids’ voices. I can’t wait to do another multi-gen!

We would like to plan a multi-gen experience maybe every other month. So for November, we are planning to create a gratitude tree out in front of the UUCSC building. I will be putting out a bin with strips of fabric and permanent markers by the tree in the front garden and everyone will be invited to stop by and write what they’re grateful for on a piece of fabric and tie it to the tree.

I attended the LREDA fall conference at the end of October and it was a wonderful, eye-opening experience. I got to hear about the Commission on Institutional Change and join in discussion groups about how to keep anti-racism discussions and inclusion in the forefront of our work as Religious Educators. I am now looking into more professional development opportunities to deepen my understanding of Unitarian Universalism and gather more teaching resources for RE. I also have been spending time looking at the facebook pages that are dedicated to UU religious education. These are filled with ideas for stories, activities, virtual connections and ideas from religious educators all over the continent. I’m planning to look deeper into the UUA and LREDA websites for more resources in the coming months.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this congregation!

Lee Cowan, DRE