# Prairie UU

## Family Resource Newsletter



#### February Family Guide to Theme Based Discussion & Practices

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#### A BRAVE AND STARTLING TRUTH (excerpt)

By Maya Angelou

We, this people, on a small and lonely planet
Traveling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent suns
To a destination where all signs tell us
It is possible and imperative that we learn
A brave and startling truth

And when we come to it

To the day of peacemaking

When we release our fingers

From fists of hostility

And allow the pure air to cool our palms

When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward,
floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this earth
A climate where every man and every
woman
Can live freely without sanctimonious
piety
Without crippling fear

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder
of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it.

# Diversity...

By Holly Tellander, DRE

February is the month of love ~ and what better time to celebrate our differences as well as our similarities....both great and small?

Unity and Diversity are not mutually exclusive concepts, as we all know. Each of us has our own unique views, philosophies, practices, religions and beliefs. And though kids today hear the word diversity a lot – maybe much more than previous generations – our societal problems point us to the knowledge that there is more to do to unite in our shared humanity.

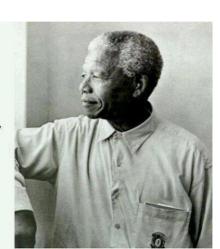
Prairie kids (and their families) are lucky to live in a diverse city like Madison, but perhaps there is more work to be done.

How do we as Unitarian Universalists approach the ideas of unity and diversity within our own congregation here at Prairie? How are our differences celebrated? How do we share our common vision?

The biggest challenge in honoring unity & diversity is not to make a constant comparison between one and another – it is rather to strive to find our common ground and keep a watchful eye so that we may reach out our hands to those who have something new to teach us.

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela Long Walk to Freedom

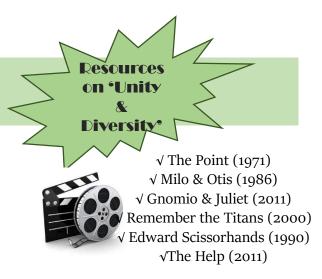




TELL ABOUT your best friend – how do your differences and your similarities make your friendship better?

TALK ABOUT THE strengths of each member of your family. How does each person's personality contribute to the group?

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE to someone who feels very different from people in their family?



- √ The More We Get Together Raffi
- √ Everyday people Sly & The Family Stone
- √ Get Together The Youngbloods
- √ I Am Not My Hair India Arie
- √ Road to Acceptance Green Day
- √ Roll Away Your Stone Mumford & Son





√ A Bad Case of the Stripes –
David Shannon
√ The Sign of the Beaver –
Elizabeth George Spear
√ Mango, Abuela & Me – Meg
Medina
√ The Most Amazing
Creatures in the Sea – Brenda
Z. Guiberson

#### **Principles in ACTION**

Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote 7 core principles

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- 1. Everyone is important.
- 2. Be kind in all you do.
- 3. We are free to learn together.
- 4. We can all search for our own truth.
- 5. Everyone has a voice.
- 6. We work together to build a fair and peaceful world.
- 7. We care for our planet.

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How can your family engage with the theme of 'unity & diversity' in the context of living out one or more of our principles? Share your ideas & experiences on our Theme Board downstairs!

### Some ideas

- Work on a puzzle together notice how everyone has a different strategy to get the same job done
- ♦Talk about what music you like and dislike – can you find diversity & unity in your choices?
- Use the media options on this page to have a conversation about what is happening in the story or song