



RE-Frigerator Page

We Celebrate...

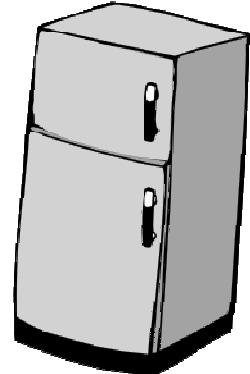
September has some important holidays, like Labor Day, which honors working people, and the way that all of the work that people put in on their jobs builds a community that can meet lots of different needs.

September also brings us Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, which begins

the ten Days of Awe. The Days of Awe are a time of asking for forgiveness for any of the ways that you might have harmed or offended people. So the New Year leads time of cleaning up all of your relationships, so that you can ask God for forgiveness on Yom Kippur (which happens in October

this year) with a clear conscience.

But, of course, for lots of kids (and teachers) September is the time when the school year really gets rolling, and everyone gets on board for a new season of learning. So this month we especially celebrate the many ways that we learn.



Family Quest of the Church of the Larger Fellowship

Sept. 2014



We Honor...

Not only was **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper** born in the month of September (Sept. 24th), she also is a role model for this back-to-school month as someone who loved learning.

Frances was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1825—a place and time where many African-Americans were still slaves. Frances, however, was born to free parents, and knew that she wanted to be a writer when she grew up.

When she was fourteen, Frances went to work as a paid servant in a Quaker household which had a won-

derful library of books, and the family encouraged Frances in her love of writing. Her poems appeared in newspapers, and in 1845 a collection of her poems was published.

In 1850 conditions got worse for free Blacks in Maryland, so Frances moved to Ohio, and then Pennsylvania, where she helped slaves escape to Canada through the Underground Railroad. She continued to have her poems and stories published, and

she became a popular speaker on the subject of the abolition of slavery. Frances became familiar with Unitarians through

their work on abolition and the Underground Railroad, and in 1870 she joined the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. However, she also liked

working with Black churches in her neighborhood, helping the poor and encouraging African-American kids to stay in school and build better lives.



Talk About It!

- ☺ What have you been really excited to learn?
- ☺ Who has been really great at teaching you things, whether or not they were your school teacher?
- ☺ What have you taught to someone else?
- ☺ What qualities make someone a great teacher?
- ☺ What kinds of workers are you especially grateful to?
- ☺ What kinds of work do you do that are helpful to the world? (Work isn't necessarily something that you get paid for.)

Act...

One of the fun things about the new school year can be getting new school supplies—fresh boxes of colored pencils or crayons, newly-sharpened pencils, clean erasers, and more.

But, of course, not everyone can afford to buy school supplies, and many entire schools are struggling to provide the books and other materials that chil-



dren need to learn.

If your family is in the fortunate space that you can afford to help others out, maybe you can buy some extras, to donate to your classroom.

Or consider holding a school supply drive for a school in your area that could use some help

with school supplies. The *Create the Good* program offers lots of guidelines and tips on how to hold a successful drive.

Develop Africa is an organization that accepts new and gently used school supplies for children in Africa.

Family members and friends may also be interested in *Donor's Choose*, an organization that lets teachers ask for funding online for particular classroom projects.

Nurturing the Spirit

The practice of asking for forgiveness during the Jewish High Holy Days from Rosh Hashana through Yom Kippur ten days later is an important reminder that our spirits need to both offer and receive forgiveness.

Is there something that you've done that you feel bad about? Have you treated someone unfairly or flat-out been unkind or selfish? What would it take to go to the person that you have hurt and ask for forgiveness?

Are you holding a grudge? Did some-

one do or say something to you that still makes you feel sad or angry? Do you think that you might be able to tell that person how you are feeling?

If it doesn't feel safe to go to the person who has hurt you, you might be able to practice forgiveness anyway. Imagine the incident that hurt you, and picture the hurt feelings as a bunch of sticky, oozy mud. Then let a river of forgiveness wash through your mind and watch the mud get swept away until your heart feels clean.

Draw a picture of your "muddy" feelings of hurt and anger

Practicing the Principles

Our fourth UU Principle, "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning," is especially well suited for our back-to-school theme. It's easy to think about school as a place where you kind of stand there with your brain open so that teachers can pour in knowledge. But UUs understand that learning is more like a journey, a long search for not only the information, but also for the truths that give meaning to our lives.

Perhaps you want to create an extra calendar for this school year - one that looks rather different from your traditional calendar. Get a big piece of paper, and draw a winding path on it. You might want to mark the date of the start of the school year at the beginning of the path, and the date of the end of the school year where the path finishes. Then, mark special times that you look forward to in their places along the path. But leave

room so that you can also mark in the surprise events of life as they happen - times when you learn something exciting about yourself and/or the world, times when you make a positive difference in the world, times when you feel like you've grown a bit inside.

Your journey calendar can help you record some part of your search for truth and meaning: where you've been and where you might hope to go.

Create the Good school supply drive— <http://createthegood.org/toolkit/how-hold-school-supply-drive>

Develop Africa— https://www.developafrica.org/collect_school_supplies

Donors Choose: <http://www.donorschoose.org/>