

Created by

The Rev Ralph Yeager Roberts

The original Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar has been a three year labor of love. My great hope is that Unitarian Universalists of all ages would make it a part of their holiday season for years to come.

Ralph Yeager Roberts

11 / 2015



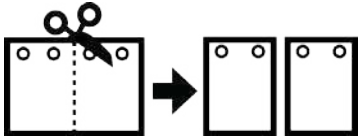
To contact the author and artist
email Ralph Yeager Roberts at
yeagerroberts@gmail.com

This free download should make it almost as simple as it was affordable for you to start counting down the days until December 25th. Below are some basic instructions for how to get everything ready to enjoy the Original Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar, after which you will find some details about the calendar's creator and links for you to use to access additional resources for personalizing how you set up and use this Advent Calendar.

- 1) **Print** on 8.5" X 11" white paper. In your **print settings** select **single sided color document with a landscape layout**.

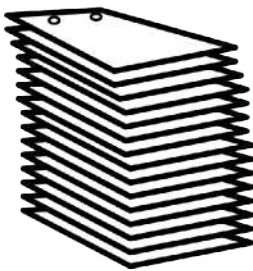


- 2) Use the dotted blue lines as a guide to **cut the pages in half** and where indicated use a paper punch to **make holes**.



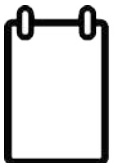
- 3) Make a single stack of the 8.5" X 5.5" pages. Check to be sure . . .

Cover page
→
About page
→
December 1st
→
December 2nd
→
.
→
December 23rd
→
December 24th
→
Blank Template
→
Blank Template
→
Blank Template
→
Blank Template
→



- ☐ the printed sides all face up,
- ☐ the holes are on the top edge and line up, and
- ☐ the pages are in order starting with the cover in the very front or top of your stack, the dates go in descending, and finally the blank templates.

- 4) Bind your advent calendar with 2 metal binding rings or using a length of ribbon threaded through the punched holes with a double knotted bow.



or



In addition to what is included in this document there are a wealth of materials designed to be used as part of The Original Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar available for you to access and use for free. You can get templates for making ornaments that go with the calendar, images you can print to labels and use to decorate Hershey's kisses or use as a seal for a gift bag or envelope, and all the digital assets you need to share the calendar digitally say posted to your congregation's web page. For the latest about updates on revisions or additions to the Calendar, additional resources you can use, examples of how people have used and personalized their calendar, and to find links to where all of those good things can be found you should go to and like the UU-

The Original Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar is being featured on the UUA Worship web where you will also be able to view each day's image or download this single document ready to print calendar.



"Over the River and Through the Woods"

The song "Over the River and Through the Woods" is based on a poem by Unitarian author and human rights champion Lydia Maria Child. Inspiration for the poem came from her own childhood memories of Thanksgiving at her grandparent's house.

As Unitarians and others started to revive and re-imagine Christmas the distinctively Yankee tradition of Thanksgiving became the template they followed in establishing how Christmas would be celebrated.

World AIDS Day 

1844

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts



Kwanzaa First Celebrated

Kwanzaa's founder Dr, Maulana Karenga was funded in part through money that the UUA had designated for efforts in support of black empowerment.

Drawing from traditional West African harvest celebrations, Karenga introduced practices he believed could strengthen the community, nurture a positive African American identity, and inspire wider pan-African solidarity.

1966

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts



THE ROAD IN WINTER

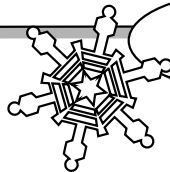
Currier and Ives

Founded by Unitarian Nathaniel Currier, The "Currier and Ives" Printing Firm published an annual set of winter images. Scenes of snowball fights, horse and sleigh races, and children ice skating, wooed Americans into a love affair with the idea of a snow covered New England Holiday.

The 1950 choral arrangement of "Sleigh Ride" attests to the spot these illustrations hold in our modern Christmas canon.

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

1834



The Earmuff is Invented

When he was only 15, lifelong Unitarian Chester Greenwood patented the earmuff from which he made his fortune. He opened a bike shop where he found it easy to invent ways to solve many more problems than just cold ears which earned him respect in the field of mechanical engineering.

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

1873



"Jingle Bells"

It was first performed for Thanksgiving by the Sunday school children of the Unitarian Church in Savannah, GA and under the leadership of the church music director and the song's composer, James Pierpont.

"Jingle Bells" was published in 1857 but only gained widespread popularity After it was performed by Bing Crosby in 1934.

1857

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

Dec. 6th
is the feast
of St. Nicholas.
In many parts
of Europe
this is the
day
when
Santa
arrives
bringing
presents
and candy.



The Modern Look and Lore of Santa Claus

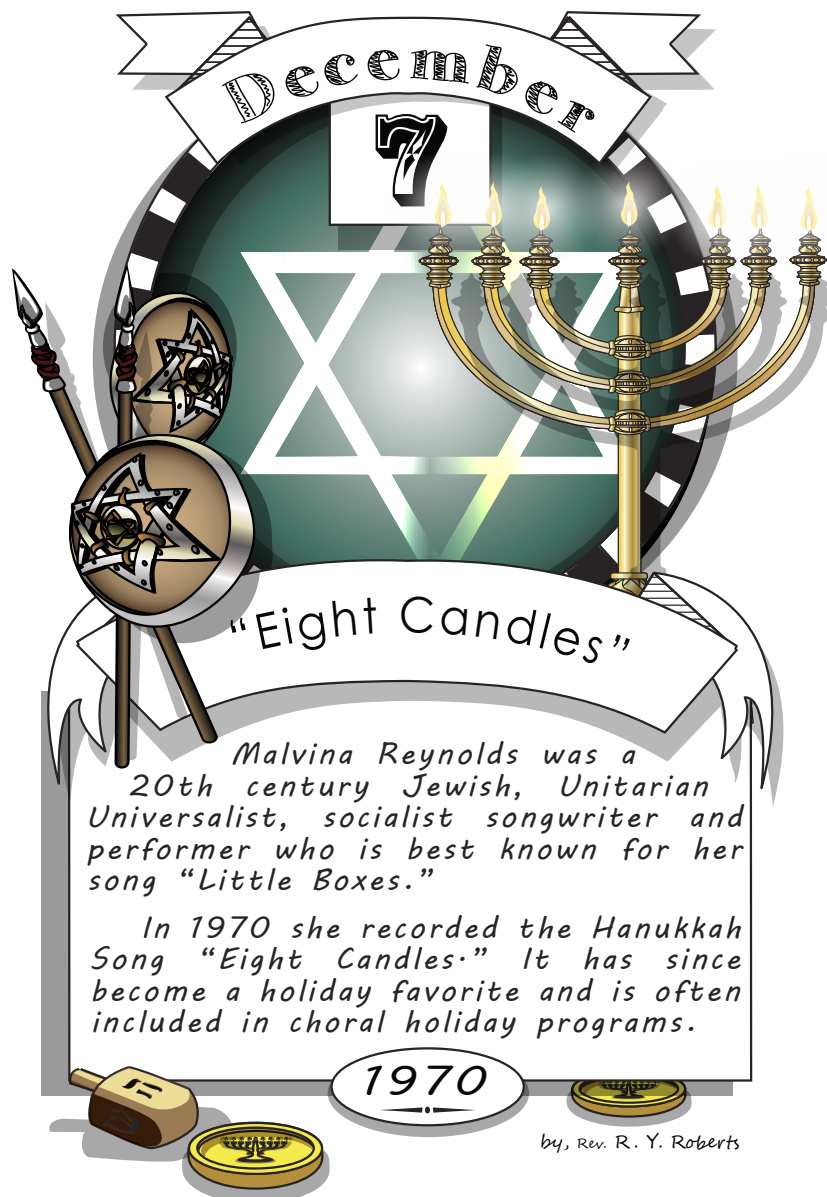
*Universalist
Thomas Nast produced
over 70 illustrations of Santa.
It is from Nast that the world first
learned of Santa's red suit, that he
gives coal if you're naughty, and
even that Santa, as a world citizen,
belonging to no single country,
lives at the
North Pole.*

1863

2 other traditions introduced
by Thomas Nast.



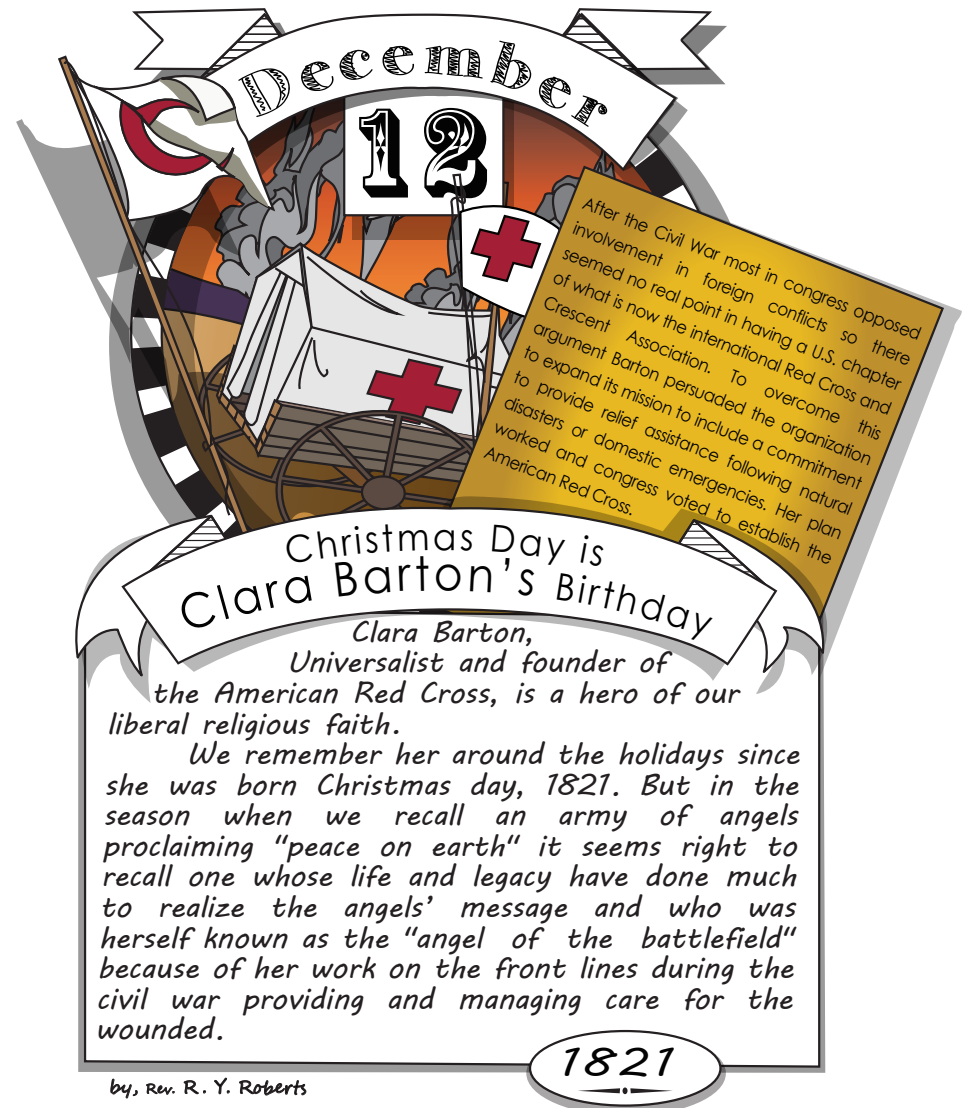
by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts





by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts





December

14

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Unitarian Poet

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote "Christmas Bells"* just months before the end of the Civil War. The poem captures the despair felt by the nation after years of war. Drawing on his own experience of having hope restored after tragedy, the final verses celebrates the resilience of people who endure all manner of grief and misery yet find ways to confidently hope toward a day of "peace on Earth."

* The poem "Christmas Bells" was later set to music and was renamed "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

1865

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

December

13

James Edgar's hometown of Brockton, MA holds an annual Santa's hat day in Edgar's honor.

First Department Store Santa

Department store owner James Edgar delighted customers' children by walking about the store on weekends dressed as Santa Clause.

Edgar aspired to broad-mindedness in his religion, and though not a member he attended the Unitarian church where he paid the anual pledge to reserve a pew. *

* In fact he paid for a Pew with the local Unitarian, Congregational, and Episcopal churches but never actually joined any.

1890

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

December

15

Retrospect
Travel
I was present at the introduction into the new country of the spectacle of the German Christmas-tree.
... The children poured in; but in a moment, every voice was hushed. Their faces were upturned to the

Harriet Martineau
blaze, all eyes wide open, all lips parted, all steps arrested.
... I have little doubt the Christmas-tree will become one of the most flourishing exotics of New England.

First American Christmas Tree

Unitarian Minister Charles Follen delighted his son and party guests with a Christmas tree as he had growing up in Germany.

Follen postponed the festivities until New Year's so that British author and Unitarian Harriet Martineau could attend.

Her published account of the party (perhaps presumptuously) declared the event to be America's introduction to the Christmas tree and (accurately) predicted the future popularity of this custom.

1832

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December

16

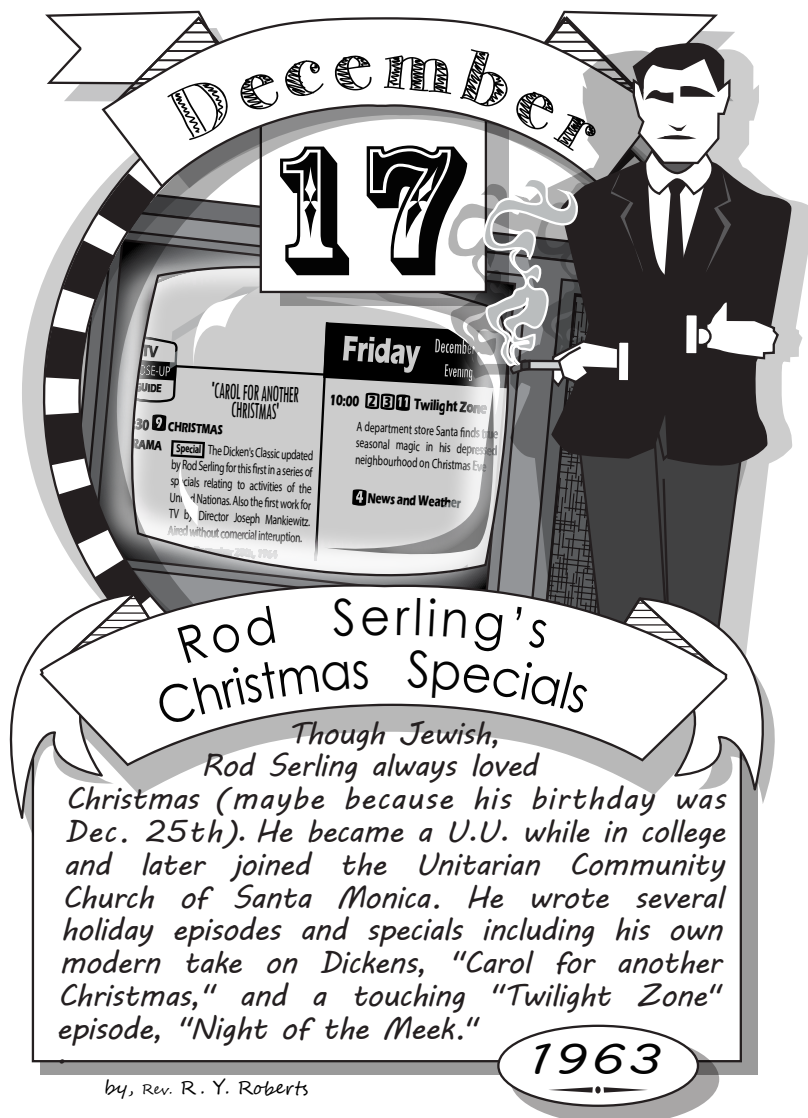


Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales

When the man he loved married a woman Danish Unitarian Hans Christian Andersen wrote one of his first and most beloved fairy tales of a mermaid's tragically unrequited love. His timeless tales include several Christmas classics such as "The Little Match Girl," "The Fir Tree," and "The Snow Queen."

1835

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts



December

19

The album included 18 secular and religious carols arranged into 4 suits

The Many Moods of Christmas

"The Many Moods of Christmas"

Robert Shaw was best known as the conductor of his namesake Chorale. "Many Moods of Christmas" was for its day the quintessential sound of the season. Even today the albums sell well around the holidays and choirs continue to perform it for their December concert. Shaw was leading his choral when he accepted a call and was ordained as its minister of music by the 1st Unitarian church of Cleveland.

1963

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December

20

"The Journey of the Magi"

1st of Eliot's Ariel Poems

"Magi" is Unitarian T. S. Eliot's first of 5 Christmas poems published after his ambivalent choice to join the Anglican church. Eliot's feelings about his conversion seem to be expressed by the Magus who narrates the poem confessing to the readers his secret disappointment when at last they reach their journey's end to find only the baby Jesus.

The tradition of reading Isaiah 6:3, and Psalms 72:11, together with Matthew 2:1-12 is why people will tell the Christmas story and sometimes refer to the magi as kings. In fact magi or wise men refers to royal advisors who were knowledgeable in astrology, divination, and magic.

1927

by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts

Another of his "Ariel" poems that remains popular is called "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees."



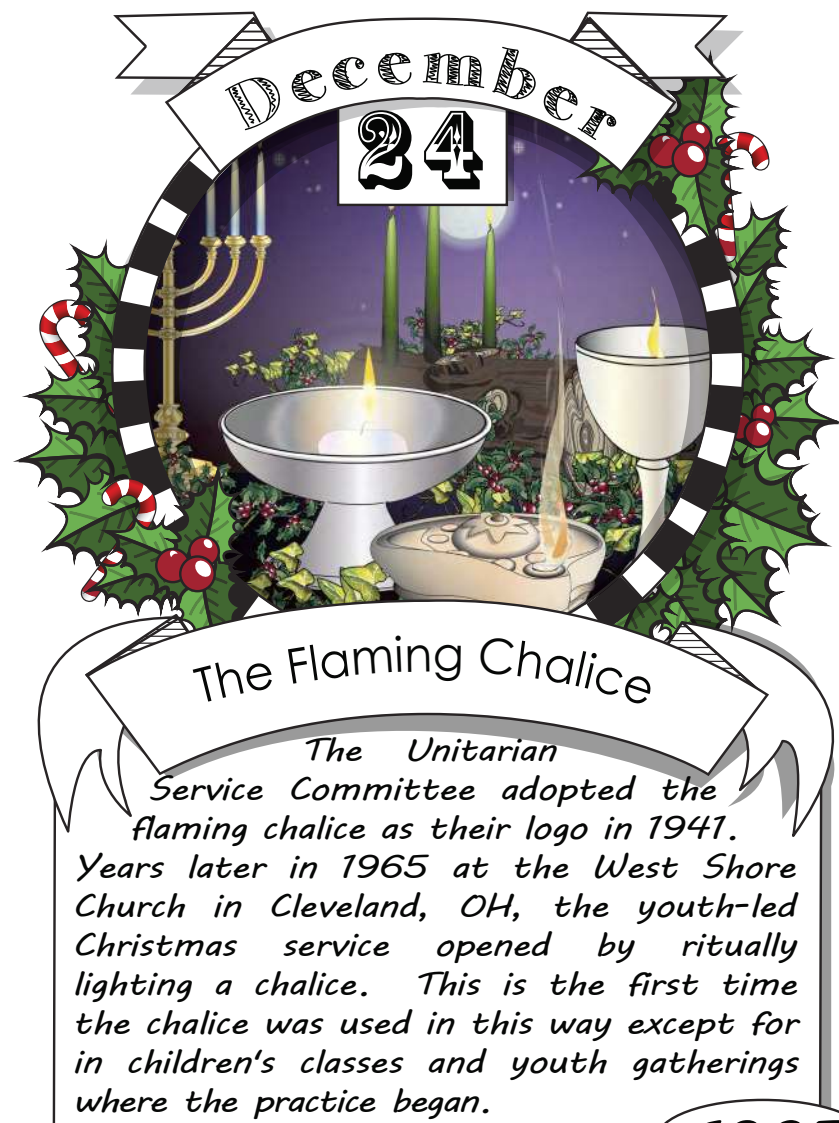
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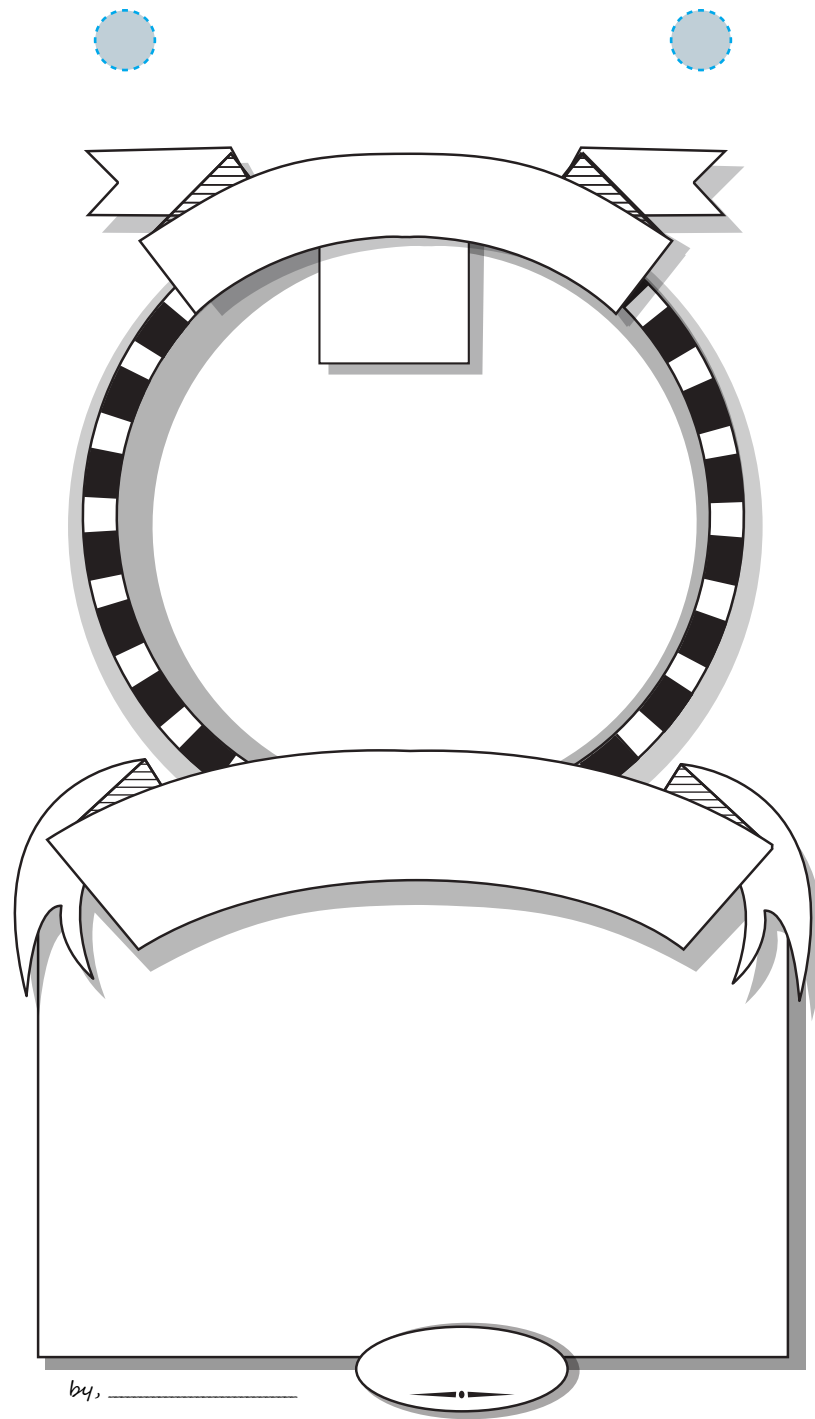
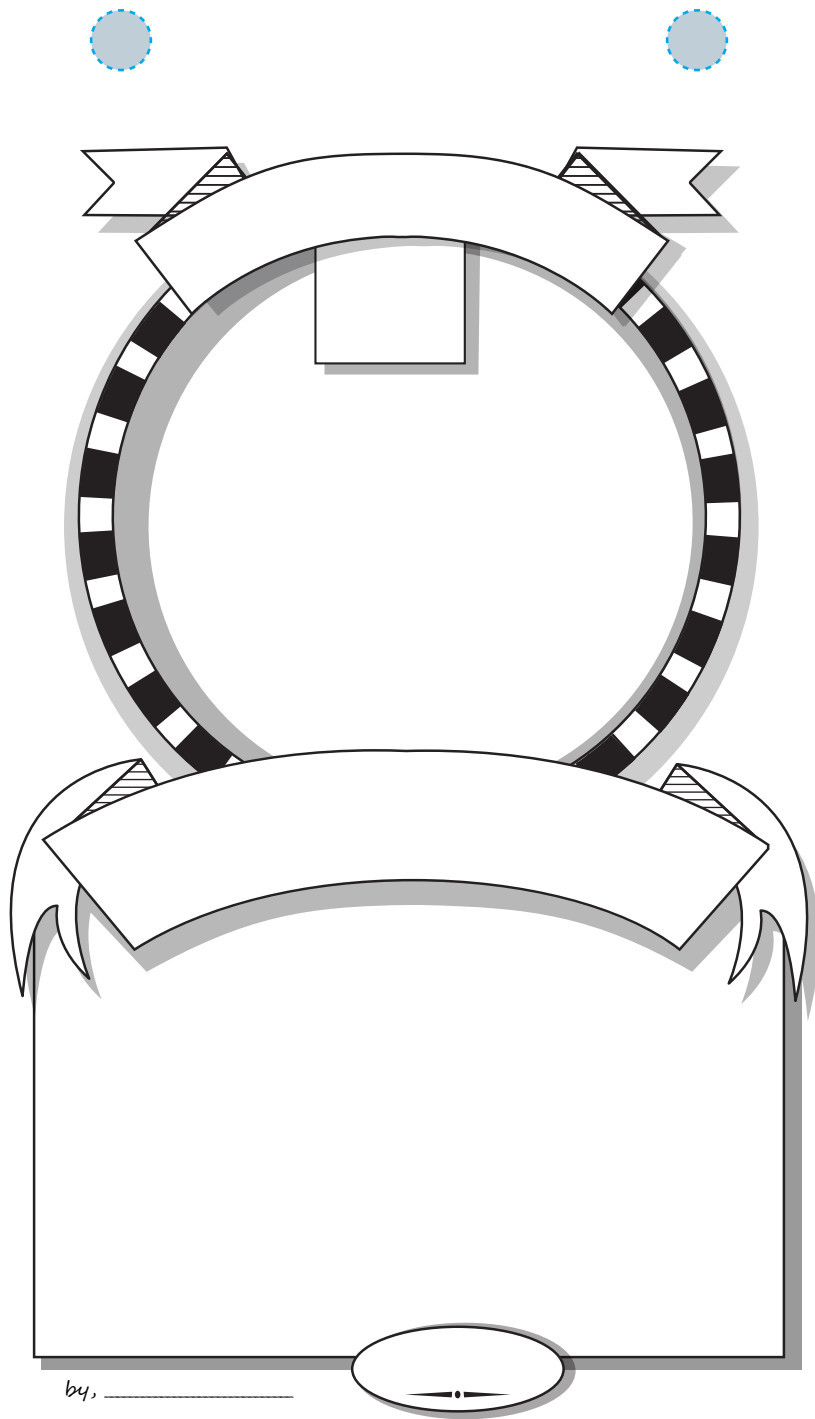
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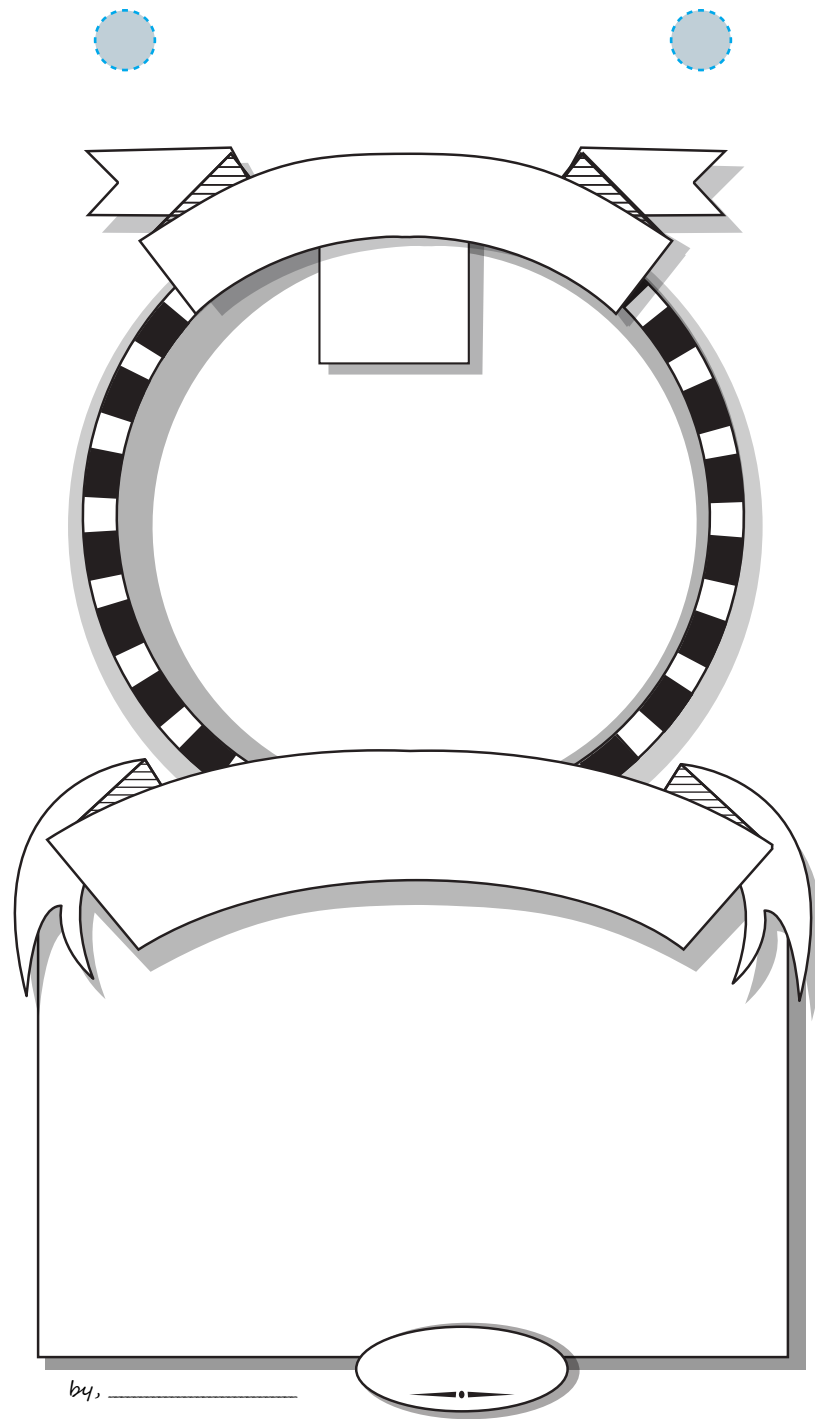
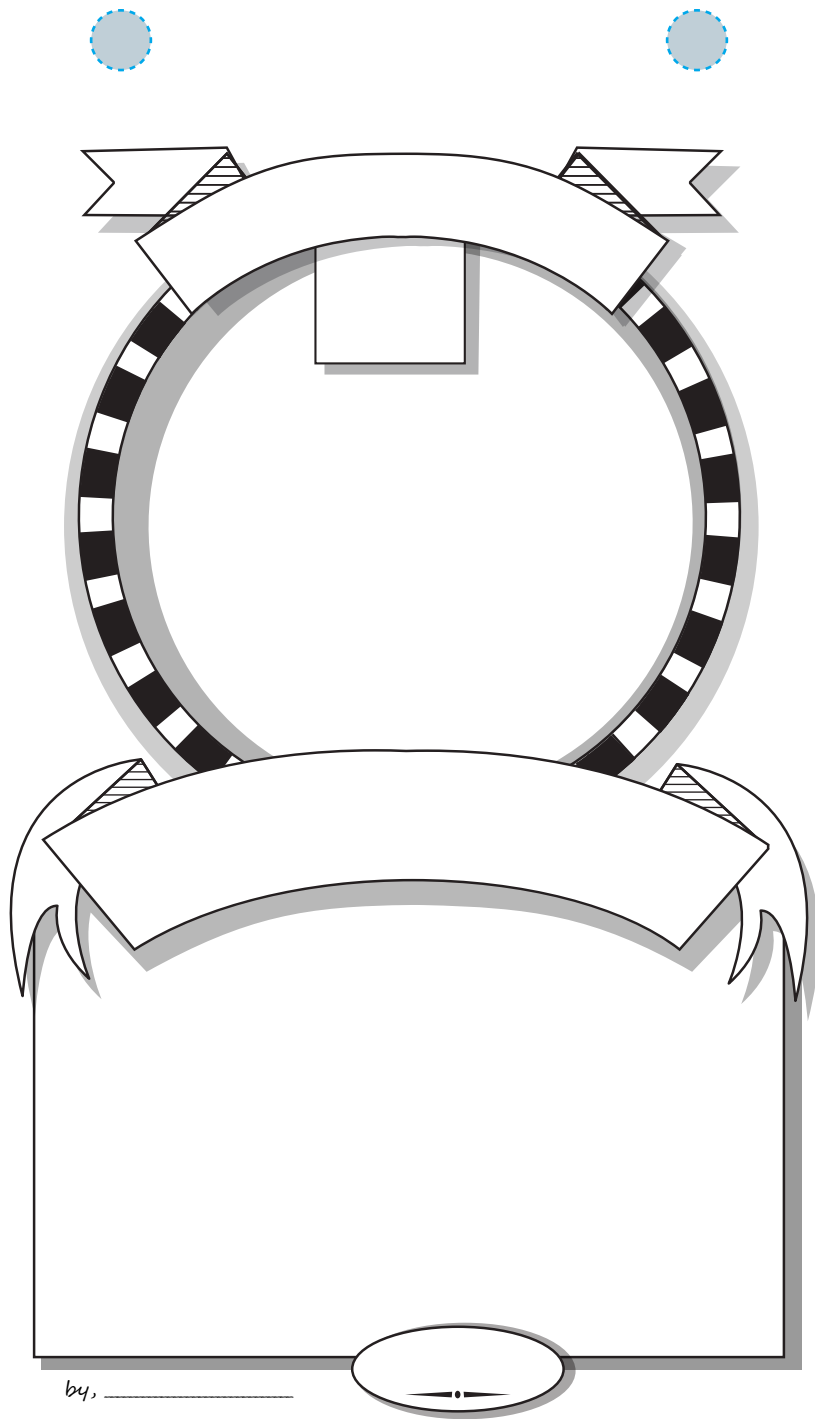


by, Rev. R. Y. Roberts



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The Original UU Advent Calendar

Available Nov. 8 to Nov. 20

This is full of 24 days and 24 ornaments to go through with each day

																										
Use the River and throw in the wood	Support yourself and development of your own	Christmas is how	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from
Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from	Praying from



In addition to The Original Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar The Rev. Ralph Yeager Roberts is one of the creators of the Montessori inspired curriculum used in hundreds of congregations across the U.S. and Canada. In addition to serving congregations as an Ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister of religious education Ralph has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at several schools and for two years wrote a column on spiritual wellness for a nationally carried Lifestyle and travel magazine. For the past six years he has been half of a two man team helping local performers and area theater troupes fabricating specialty props, set pieces, and costuming elements earning 5 State theater nominations. While making giant squids and pluming the occasional headpiece is a blast it rarely pays for much more than the supplies but how many people make an animatronic demon eyed mouse head trophy do it for the money. Currently not in active ministry Ralph is available for leading a variety of trainings, workshops, or special programs, as well as design work. To learn more details about scheduling a visit with your group or organization you can find more information using links that will be posted to the UU-Advent Facebook page or you can e-mail him at yeagerroberts@gmail.com for a copy of a promotional flyer.