



Clara Barton

WE HELP MAKE THE WORLD BETTER FOR
EVERYONE.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ALPHABET

Please read the Overview before using this Plan.

B b Letter B introduces Clara Barton and ways to help others in need, including discussion of the Red Cross and the Clara Barton Camp. There will be a focus on birthdays, with a party for everyone, and on sacred books, including the Bible and the Hymnal.

MATERIALS: Construction paper Letter B with hole punched in top, yarn for necklace
Listing of the birthdays of children/adults working with the group
Samples of sacred books, such as a Bible, Koran, Book of Mormon, and the Unitarian Universalist Hymnal (*Singing the Living Tradition*)
Snack—Birthday cake, ice cream for a birthday party. Or bread.

GETTING STARTED:

Welcome. After each person says his or her name, the group responds with “Welcome, (name).” For a child who is attending for the first time this year, add name to the letters that have been posted and to the attendance sheet, and make a nametag during or after the session. Leave a seat for someone who is not present or for someone who has not joined the group yet.

Letter for the Day:

- Talk about the Letter.
- Give the Letter Necklace to a person with that initial.
- Talk about the things that the children have brought for the Letter B, and/or Letter Bag.
- Put the things related to the letter in the Special Place.

SPECIAL PERSON: Clara Barton (December 25, 1821-April 12, 1912)

Clara Barton’s parents started the Universalist Church in Oxford, Massachusetts.

Clara Barton had 2 older sisters and 2 older brothers who taught her the lessons as they learned them. She went to some schools but got most of her schooling at home. When she

was eleven, her brother David was hurt in a fall from a barn roof, and she took care of him for two years.

There was a war in the United States almost 150 years ago, called the Civil War, or “War Between the States.” Clara Barton heard that soldiers who had been hurt sometimes went for days without care or food. She wanted to help, but was told that this was not something that a woman should do. She did not agree. After all, she had taken care of her brother! She asked Universalist churches and other groups to help her gather supplies, food, bandages and blankets.

After the Civil War was over, Clara Barton went to Geneva, Switzerland, for a rest. Leaders from the International Red Cross visited her. The Red Cross organizes contributions so that supplies are ready when they are needed. Clara Barton stayed in Europe to help the Red Cross during a war.

When the war in Europe was over, she returned home to start the American Red Cross. She found that the Reverend Henry Bellows, a Unitarian minister, had tried to start the American Red Cross several years earlier. Clara Barton worked until the American Red Cross became part of the International Red Cross. This means that the Red Cross helps in countries around the world. Besides in war, the Red Cross helps people whose homes are destroyed by floods, fires, earthquakes, and other disasters. Clara Barton directed the American Red Cross for 23 years.

In 1921, the National Women's Organization of the Universalist Church restored the home in North Oxford where Clara Barton was born, and the camp for girls with a condition called diabetes was started by the Universalist Missionary Association.. At this camp, they learn about diabetes and their treatment. We remember Clara Barton through supporting the Clara Barton Camp. The Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation gives an

award in honor of Clara Barton to women who help others.

AFFIRMATION: *We help make the world better for everyone.*

Talk about things that people need when there are disasters, such as *bandages (band aides), blankets, blood (blood banks), food, shelter, clothing, care.*

THE LETTER **B** IN THE CHURCH

Books: Where do we use books in the church? Is there a church library?

Have a collection of "sacred texts," such as the *Bible, the Koran, Book of Mormon*. Show them the Unitarian Universalist hymnal (*Singing the Living Tradition*), with the section on the hymns, and the readings. Our readings, hymns and music come from many different sources, including the Bible, world religions, and earth-based spirituality.

Birthday. See Calendar. Include the birthday of the church, or at least the year it started.

Birthdays and Books The children, or the entire congregation, can have a Birthday Book Club or library.

A-B-C

Animals: baboon, bat, bear, beaver, bee, bird, butterfly, buffalo

Body (add to Body Picture): bones. possibly have a picture of a skeleton. Discuss how bones give structure to the body.

breathing. Sit straight in chairs, feet on the floor. Take in air with a big breath, hold for just a moment, and let it out again, with a sigh. This can be as noisy as possible for emphasis. Repeat three or four times. We all need to breathe, but becoming aware of taking in air and letting it out can become a tool when the group needs a focus. Talk about being aware of their breathing when

they get upset. With practice, they will be able to focus on their breathing easily.

Calendar:

- Note the date of the session and any special events for the day, including birthdays.
- Note items beginning with that letter, such as birthdays. Talk about *birthdays* and put each child's birthday on the calendar. Discuss birthdays as a time to celebrate a person's life. Discuss the recognition that your church gives to birthdays, such as noting birthdays in the Newsletter.
- Birthday of the church (see note under Letter B in the Church).
- Note events between today and the next session, including birthdays.

CLOSING: Gather around the Special Place where the things related to the letter have been placed. " We give thanks for the Letter B. We have shared and learned about special people and animals and ourselves and our church. May we leave in love and peace. Next week we will meet again. Our letter will be ____ and our leader(s) will be _____. " Make sure that people take home things that need to go.

VARIATIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

SPECIAL PERSON

Additional information about the Red Cross and the Clara Barton Camp, and possibly have speaker. (PO Box 356, 30 Ennis Road, North Oxford, MA 01537, 508-987-2056)

Have speaker from Red Cross or Clara Barton Camp

Do a fundraiser for either cause or another charity, such as a food bank or blanket drive. If church regularly has a food bank, remind children of how the food is collected and used.

BOOKS: Focus on the Bible. Collect many editions of the Bible, such as King James

Version, Revised Standard Version, Children's Bible (with pictures),

BIRTHDAYS

If the birthday or birth year of the church presents a significant time for celebration, such as the 10th or 100th year, involve children in developing a celebration.

Organize an all-church birthday party during Fellowship Time. Recruit people to make a cake for each month (and some months may actually need 2 cakes). Invite people to go to the tables with the cake for their month and meet others.

(Other variations of this theme:

--Have basic cakes at each table and have each month decorate its own cake. Allow people to see all of the cakes before cutting them.

--Each group develops a cheer for its month.)

Recognize people of all ages. At the end of a service, during Fellowship Time, have people line up by age groupings, like

--children up to grade 5 or 6,

--youth grades 6-12 or ages 11 or 12 to 18

--young adults ages 19-30

--40-50

--50-60

--60-70

--70-80

--over 80

Recognize the youngest and the oldest.