

Religious Education Sunday Celebration
By the RE Committee
Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church
June 5, 2016

Riley Robot's Really Ready

(As skit begins, somebody puts Riley Robot – a cardboard robot made by the kids – on the pulpit. One kid is behind pulpit with a microphone, reading Robot's part. The other kids are in front of the pulpit, passing a second microphone around.)

1st UU Kid: Hey look! Riley Robot's coming back to life!

2nd UU Kid: It looks like Riley's okay.

Riley Robot (*confused*): Huh? What? Where am I?

3rd UU Kid: You're in church, Riley Robot. On the pulpit.

Riley Robot: What happened?

4th UU Kid: You ran out of juice. We had to charge you up.

5th UU Kid: But why on the pulpit?

6th UU Kid: Because that's where the power is.

7th UU Kid: It's where Reverend Myke speaks.

Riley Robot: So she's the power in the church?

1st UU Kid: Not just her. There's a president, too. And a board.

2nd UU Kid: And all the members. The whole congregation shares the power in a UU church.

3rd UU Kid: Power to the people! That's what I say.

Riley Robot: That's not what I say. I say "Power to the Robot!" That's me.

4th UU Kid: No, Riley. People have to stay in charge of robots. That what we decided when our group did "You the Digital Creator" last fall.

5th UU Kid: And we're the ones who made you, Riley Robot, not the other way around.

Riley Robot: But you just charged me up!

6th UU Kid: So?

Riley Robot: So I'm in charge.

7th UU Kid: Don't be silly, Tim.

Riley Robot: Who's Tim?

1st UU Kid: You are, Riley Robot. Some of us like to call you Riley, and some of us like to call you Tim. And we're running the show so you have to be both.

Riley Robot: AAAARGH!

2nd UU Kid: What's the matter now?

Riley Robot: I'm having an identity crisis!

3rd UU Kid: This is a good place to have it. That's what church is for.

4th UU Kid: That reminds me of the song we sang last year.

5th UU Kid: I remember the words. "Where do we come from? Who are we? Where are we going?"

6th UU Kid: And the chorus. "Life is a riddle and a mystery."

7th UU Kid: It's in the teal book.

Riley Robot: Steal a book? I didn't steal any book.

1st UU Kid: We know that, Riley. We're talking about the teal book, not stealing books.

Riley Robot: I don't hear so well 'cause you guys only gave me one ear when you made me. Anyway, I wouldn't steal anything. I heard you guys talking about justice all winter long.

2nd UU Kid: Right. That was our winter program. *You the Creator of Justice*.

3rd UU Kid: We talked about what justice is.

Riley Robot: I agree. What is just is.

4th UU Kid: Enough with the puns, Riley.

5th UU Kid: Time to get serious, Tim. So tell us how you like it on the pulpit.

Riley Robot: I love it. I'm way up above everybody else.

6th UU Kid: I knew we shouldn't have stuck Riley up there.

7th UU Kid: Want me to pull Riley's plug?

Riley Robot: NO! DON'T! I love this church, and I want to be a member here.

1st UU Kid: A robot as a member? I don't think so!

Riley Robot: Huh, what? This church discriminates against robots? I thought this was a free and open and welcoming church!

2nd UU Kid: We are, but . . .

3rd UU Kid: But . . .

4th UU Kid: But . . .

5th UU Kid: But . . .

Riley Robot: But but but. You sound like a motor boat. But what?

6th UU Kid: Everybody's welcome here, but a robot member would be a little different.

Riley Robot: But I thought you guys loved difference and diversity. You've been talking about that all spring during your *Alien Adventure* program.

7th UU Kid: You know what, guys? Riley's right. Differences are good, and maybe a robot could be a member here.

1st UU Kid: A robot called both Riley and Tim sure is different.

2nd UU Kid: But Riley, or Tim, or whoever you are, you need to know that membership in a UU Church has responsibility.

3rd UU Kid: Right. Like they pass the collection plate every Sunday and you have to put money in.

Riley Robot: Collection plate? Money? What for? And I haven't got any anyway.

4th UU Kid: The money is to support the church. Like pay for the heat. And the power to charge robots up when they get run down.

5th UU Kid: People get run down, too, you know. And the church helps charge them back up. That's one thing churches are for. To help people out.

6th UU Kid: And to do social justice.

7th UU Kid: But anyway, Riley, if you're really stone broke there are other ways to contribute to the church.

Riley Robot: Like what?

1st UU Kid: Like joining a committee.

2nd UU Kid: That's good for robots because they never get bored.

Riley Robot: What? You want me on the board?

3rd UU Kid: Not if you're not a member. But if you join the church you can do anything in it you want.

4th UU Kid: At least in principle.

Riley Robot: That's it! UU Principles and Sources! That's how I can help!

5th UU Kid: Yeah? How?

Riley Robot: Remember what you talked about in You the Digital Creator? You asked if the Internet should be a seventh UU source. I think it should. And I'm a digital robot so I can help you be connected to the Internet! That can be my contribution.

6th UU Kid: Riley's right that connection is important.

7th UU Kid: That's one of the C words we talked about, remember?

1st UU Kid: Community was another.

2nd UU Kid: And conversation.

3rd UU Kid: And covenant.

4th UU Kid: And more.

Riley Robot: Wait a minute! More isn't a C word!

5th UU Kid: No, but "convert" is. Are you a convert to the UU church, Riley?

Riley Robot: I sure am! Sign me up!

6th UU Kid: You should start by talking to the membership coordinator.

Riley Robot: And then I'll do great things!

7th UU Kid: Like what, Riley Robot?

Riley Robot: Robots don't get tired so I'm going to join every committee in the church!

1st UU Kid: Wow!

Riley Robot: And then I'm going to run for the board!

2nd UU Kid: Wow wow wow.

Riley Robot: And then I want to be president!

3rd UU Kid: Are you ready for that, Riley?

4th UU Kid: Really ready, Riley Robot?

Riley Robot: Yeah! I want to be president! Me! Me! Me! Me for president!

5th UU Kid: There's a lot of that going around.

Riley Robot (*begins to fade out*): **ME!** ME! Me! me me (*sighs and falls over*)

6th UU Kid: Look. Riley's plug came out when we weren't looking.

7th UU Kid: He's lost his charge.

1st UU Kid: Good.

2nd UU Kid: Yeah. Let it be.

3rd UU Kid: This skit has lasted long enough.

4th UU Kid: May it be so.

5th UU Kid: Blessed be.

6th UU Kid: Amen. Or is it a-robots?

7th UU Kid: We're out of here. I'll bring Riley.

(7th UU Kid grabs Riley and all return to seats.)

Director of Religious Education Gift Presentation

Taryn has led our children and youth in exploring answers to life's big questions for the past two year.

But neither she nor the kids have approached one of the very biggest questions: How many kinds of ice cream are there in the world?

Google doesn't know the answer. Wikipedia doesn't know the answer. Siri doesn't know the answer. Nobody else knows the answer. So we challenge Taryn to find out: How many kinds of ice cream are there in the world?

I know she's up to the job because some of us were with her at General Assembly in Portland, Oregon, last June. She found the best ice cream in town about 10 minutes after she landed. Besides, she's a traveler and can conduct her research in person.

Still, the challenge is big, so the RE committee has decided to present her with a going-away gift book to help her get started, a book called Ice Cream Travel Guide. It won't arrive until tomorrow, but here's a copy of the cover.

We present the book to you with pleasure, Taryn, and with just one request. Once you know how many kinds of ice cream there are in the world, please return to us and give us the scoop.

Go, Taryn, Go

Go, Taryn, go

Go to and fro

While the spirit of us stays with you

Everywhere, everywhere

You may go

Smile, Taryn, smile
Through every mile
While the spirit of us smiles with you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.

Go, Taryn, go
And always know
That the spirit of us is with you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.

Roam, Taryn, roam
Then do come home
Where the spirit of us will greet you
Every time, every time
You come home

Go now in peace
Go now in peace
May the spirit of us surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go

[By Rick Kimball, to the tune of "Go Now In Peace"]