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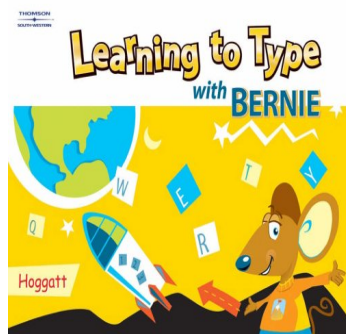
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The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, 5th Edition

The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide is one of the most complete introductions to Unitarian Universalism available, covering ministry, worship, religious education, social justice, and history. The 2012 edition is the most complete revision in over a decade. Contributors include Kay Montgomery, John Crestwell, Gail Geisenhainer, Rosemary Bray McNatt, Jane Ranney Rzepka, Mark Belletini, Judith Frediani, Rebecca Parker, and Dan McKanan.

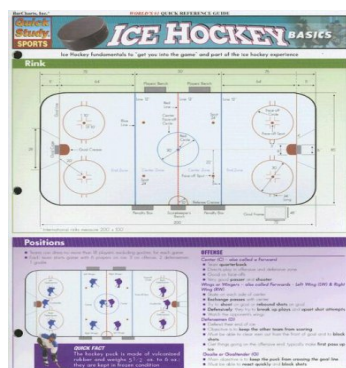
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Learning to Type with Bernie



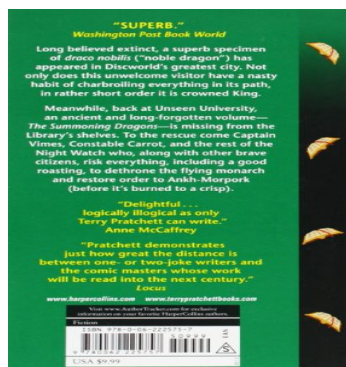
In response to requests for a book-based, new-key learning product for elementary school students, South-Western developed Learning to Type with Bernie. This fun and dynamic new keyboarding text features Bernie and Professor Keys as they help students in grades 2-5 learn the alphabetic keys, top-

Ice Hockey Basics (Quickstudy: Sports)



Ice Hockey fundamentals to "get you into the game" and part of the ice hockey experience. 4-page laminated guide includes: • rink • positions • playing the game • rules of ice hockey •

Guards! Guards! (Discworld)



Welcome to Guards! Guards!, the eighth book in Terry Pratchett's legendary Discworld series. Long believed extinct, a superb specimen of draco nobilis ("noble dragon" for those who don't understand italics) has appeared in Discworld's greatest city. Not only does this unwelcome

The Pittsburgh Steelers



For this book, Pittsburgh sportswriter Ed Bouchette has compiled a Steelers trivia celebration, featuring hundreds of questions, puzzles, lists, nicknames, anecdotes, and photos.

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Review 1:

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST POCKET GUIDE edited by REV. PETER MORALES, 5th edition (2012) ~

This slender UU guide is a delicate little pocket guide, but it packs a decent punch. I've heard reports that lots of Unitarians carry this on their persons. Personally as a Buddhist I carry the Tehillim - the Psalms - in Hebrew. But this is a great little book for everyone and I just might start carrying it, too. There's some education to be had from it.

There is one objection I have about this book, and that is its essential dishonesty in failing a solid description of Unitarian Universalism. Unitarian means a Christian who rejects the divinity of Jesus yet still calls him "Jesus Christ". The Universalist is not necessarily on board with the Unitarian, but believes Jesus Christ came to save us all whether we believe or not. However, there's more unity than ever, however tenuous, hence the UUA.

So the UU rejects the divinity of Jesus but not his role as "savior" of all humanity, nor do they relinquish the Christian bible. That is a little anti-Semitic. Either way, there's a better term for this system of theology: Manicheanism. It's one of the old heresies, and the UUA says it embraces heretics. Yet they teach a core belief that you're worthless if you reject the bible. Hmmm.

Anyway, the writing is friendly enough, accessible, and I wish the youth of today especially would read this. Along with Buddhism, Unitarianism is the way of the future as long as honesty remains a pillar. It ought to have been America's default "church setting" but alas, no. I'm sorry it shares one or two mainstream Christian bad ideas, but the UUA is the one best suited to break with all that. The question is whether they'll simply break into pieces.

This guide has informally written sections that I feel are vital for Unitarians to read - and fully comprehend. Rev. Morales is the president of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Melissa Harris-Perry provides the introduction. And in this review, I have just provided your "caveat".

What you get here is:

OUR FAITH (a beautiful definition of "faith" but it hides the core belief of the UU - and incidentally, I prefer the more accurate term "trust" over the badly chosen "faith") by Rosemary McNatt

THREE STORIES (in which we learn how individuals came to Unitarianism) by Kathleen Montgomery, John Crestwell, and Gail Geisenhainer

OUR MINISTRY by Jane Ranney Rzepka

OUR WORSHIP by Mark Belletini (a truly lovely exposition of the myriad variations in worship)

OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM by Judith Frediani (this chapter badly wants a mention of the propensity of the UUA to deny irresponsible statements made by their ministers ... which they of course actually support)

OUR WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE by Rebecca Ann Parker (which needs a subchapter called **OUR SANG FROID**)

OUR ROOTS by Dan McKanan (this is where half the truth emerges, but not the negative half and that needs revelation if it is to be debated)

It ends with a nice list of resources including addresses and websites. You won't find a more concise little history, account of the present or hopes for the future than this book gives. I just wish the UU was more honest. They're not exactly Christian but they are too much like Christians, and want to cling to the Christian bible. What can be seen here is they will continue to evolve, because they of all people recognize the inevitability of evolution.

I've been a Buddhist priest of the Tsao Tung Chan (Soto Zen) Orthodoxy since 1992, and a proud descendant of Sephardic Jews who follows the Old Testament. Had it not been for my grandmother I'd have lost my Indian spirituality. Had it not been for my ordination into the Unitarian ministry back in the mid-1980s, I'd have lost my mind instead of learning to serve the world. This book will teach you how all that works. But it will also show you that unique church sugarcoating at its worst.

Charles Darwin wrote that the species best suited to survive, to evolve, were not the smartest or the strongest, but those most readily adaptable to change. This booklet gives me hope for the UUA.

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Review 2:

The UU would like to present itself as an all-inclusive "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Its other 6 listed principles are merely restatements of democratic ideals. However, that it is a 'faith' or 'religion' has little to nothing to do with its absence of a creed or theology [pg 3] but with its underlying theology hidden in plain sight in its name.

'Unitarian' = denial of the Christian Trinity and the deity of Jesus Christ, and 'Universalist' = everyone gets saved [even the devil] so Jesus' trip was a waste. The UU's have neither changed their name nor disavowed its position [pg 4] so their magnanimous "free and responsible search" is disingenuous and misleading. How can they claim to be a congregation of truth seekers when the testimony of the one who claimed to be Truth incarnate is dismissed out of hand? That is a distortion of truth, the very opposite of what they claim to be about.

People can meet freely and believe whatever they want but be straight about it

From what I read in their pamphlet the UU faith--like some current Islamic movements--is more a political movement than an honest quest for truth.

Review 3:

As a prospective new member attending a UU New Member class (free lunch and materials), I was handed a copy of this short book. The collective authors present their views on the church, what happens during a service, how they can help you along your spiritual journey, and a short history of the faith and its actions in the world. By the time you get to the end, you'll know whether or not this is the place for you. Here are a few of the nuggets I found within this book.

There is no creed, no saving moment, no dunking, no blood-letting, but you must agree to a set of seven principles that reflect the ideals of the church. Since faith is a journey, not a destination, you are free to agree with others or disagree, change your mind, grow as a person. The minister

who stands up front may be a man or a woman, straight or gay, old or young, but they are not the boss, not the one who decides, not the authority on matters of dispute: everyone is a teacher and everyone is a learner. All are welcome to join, whether you affirm that there is a God or if you are an atheist (freethinker or humanist) or a pagan or a wiccan or a Buddhist or a Muslim or a Jew or a Christian or from any religious or nonreligious background, and you will NEVER be coerced to change. Bring who you are to the table, whether you are straight or gay, transgender or searching, all are welcome and embraced. And when you struggle with ideas that are uncomfortable, UU reaches out a hand: "When we covenant to walk together through all that life brings, it means that when things get ugly, we don't walk away."

This is a place for those who are brave, those who want to know, those who question what others accept without thought or argument. "Most people don't question their social and religious customs. Most simply follow the conveyor belt of life."

And finally, if you have children, then you must know this: "The great end in religious education is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own; not to make them see with our eyes, but to look inquiringly and steadily with their own; not to give them a definite amount of knowledge, but to inspire a fervent love of the truth; not to form an outward regularity, but to touch inward springs."

Buy it. Read it. And decide for yourself...

Review 4:

Represents a different perspective than is typically offered or known, very intriguing and an easy quick read to go through

Review 5:

Very interesting book, just what I was looking for to get some information.

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: The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide, 5th Edition (9781558966062): Rev. Peter Morales, Melissa Harris-Perry: Books.

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