



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 53, Issue 10

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012

OUR MISSION

Together as a religious community, we put our liberal faith in action, striving to nurture our families and our spiritual lives, protect the earth, eliminate poverty, and stop oppression, while offering love and hope for all.

(UUFD mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the February edition of the Pathfinder is **January 15, 2012.**

Please note that this is the third Sunday of the month. Submissions are to be sent to the church office via email: uufdchurchoffice@aol.com or hard copy left in Pathfinder editor mailbox in the library.

THE PATHFINDER CONTACT INFO

Editor: Melissa Blake
Phone: 758-4751
E-mail: Mellow1422@aol.com

Sunday Services: Service 10:00 A.M. till 11:15 A.M.

December 11

Choir
Worship Leader: Glenda Cosenza
Assistant: Dave Becker
Multi-generational Service
Service: Amahl & The Night Visitors' Winter Holiday Performance

December 18

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: Solstice & Yule: When in the Dark

December 24

Choir
****4:00 p.m. – Saturday, Christmas Eve****
Worship Leader: Rev Linda
Assistant: Ashe Del Valle Claudio
Sermon: A service of Carols, Readings and Candlelight

December 25

No Choir
Worship Leader: Dennis Durler
Assistant: Bill Lamb
Sermon: Holiday Songs

January 1

No Choir
Worship Leader: Donna Veeneman
Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Sermon: Joyful Beginnings

January 8

No Choir
Worship Leader: David Becker
Assistant: Ashe Del Valle Claudio
Multi-generational Service
Sermon: TBA

January 15

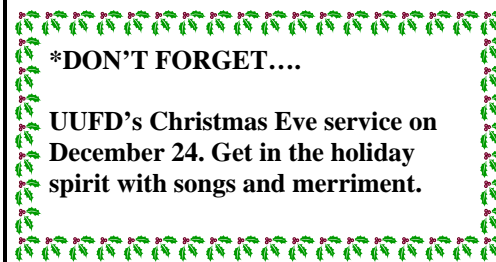
No Choir
Worship Leader: Clark Neher
Assistant: Sue Willis
Sermon: My Culture Is Better Than Your Culture

January 22

Choir
Story for all ages – children leave to go to RE
Worship Leader: Rev Linda
Assistant: Dennis Durler
Sermon: Ouch! Perfectionism and Shame

January 29

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev Linda
Assistant: Glenda Cosenza
Sermon: Imperfection's Gift: The Whole Heart



***DON'T FORGET....**

UUFD's Christmas Eve service on December 24. Get in the holiday spirit with songs and merriment.

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Terri Mann-Lamb
TREASURER: Ron Klacik
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Dave Becker

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday by appointment
Office Manager Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Church Office phone number: 815-756-7089
email: uufdchurchoffice@aol.com
Web site: uufdekalb.org

In case of an emergency, call Rev. Slabon at 756-1088, the Board President Terri Mann-Lamb or the Past President Maylan Dunn-Kenney.

Minister's Musings

Our first UUFD Conversational Café was held on Sunday, November 6. The event was fun and the results are stimulating. Thirty-nine participants explored four questions:

How do you see yourself growing and evolving within one or more of UUFD's five areas of ministry (Communications, Administrative, Worship, Service, and Lifespan Faith Development)?

How do you see our dynamic leadership model helping us to fulfill our UUFD mission?

How do you see our transformed building serving our UUFD mission?

How do you see UUFD growing and evolving?

Participants moved to form a new conversation group three times. This facilitated a cross-fertilization of ideas. I could feel the energy rise as folks shared with one another. At the end of the conversation process, ideas were presented by the table hosts and were harvested on newsprint. Next, Bonnie and I met to review the feedback. Bonnie collated the comments into 8 areas. Here are results from three:

Building Renewal -- Going well, Pay more attention to basement (8), Building should have a "signature look", Use talents such as painting a wall mural (4), Need functional and code conforming kitchen (11), Functional and beautiful space (2), Good Lighting (5), Nice carpeting, Make UUFD a community center – use and be active in the evening, Use basement for bigger events like meditation, yoga, etc.(2), Can Fellowship Hall be bigger or have the ability to make it larger for special occasions?, Love the

stained glass (2), Beautify the Sanctuary – are people staying away because the building is ugly? (4), Elevator issues - pipe dreams? Can we afford them? (2), Need a quiet space

Member Involvement -- Everyone will be asked to contribute to at least one ministry group (2), People have gifts to offer – let's use them and allow all to contribute, Investigate why people leave us, or do not continue at UUFD (2), Have annual events (like the Seder meal)

Ministry Groups -- Teamwork & helping hands (3), New structure is more open to networking, Include Social Justice on Ministries survey (6), Need good communication between ministry coordinators (2), Hold a big kick-off to introduce Ministries groups (4)

Our building renewal project and the new model for leadership and member involvement in ministries has us thinking about how UUFD's future rests in our hands. Our care now will shape what is to come. In this edition of the Pathfinder, there is a copy of the **"My Ministry of Service" form. It is presented here, in this Pathfinder, so that you can think about what you have already given, what you need, and which ministries might renew or strengthen your purpose and life path in 2012. Your UUFD leaders will engage you in a "Ministries kick-off" which will be part of the next UUFD Conversational Café on January 29 following the service at 11:45 a.m. Mark your calendars!!**

This year at the November 13 Congregational Meeting, I introduced the work of Dr. Brene Brown, the keynote speaker at the Illinois Counseling Association Conference. Dr. Brown is an affect research-

er who spent years studying shame, scarcity and fear. Her findings indicate that we are kept in a low-grade state of fear in our culture...fear that we are not good enough, rich enough, safe enough, certain enough, perfect enough, extraordinary enough, or relevant enough. We carry within us a pervasive and haunting sense of shame. Unlike guilt, which is the healthy awareness that we did something wrong and encourages us to seek forgiveness and reparation, shame belittles our very being. We berate ourselves with internalized language that tells us we cannot do enough or be enough. Shame exhausts us. BUT Dr. Brown did not stop there. Her research then switched to examine people who realize the fear and shame sickness within our culture, but who choose to live from a different place; a place of wholeheartedness. She found that these people do not have easier lives; struggle, crisis, and pain in life hold constant. These people however -- who have a strong sense of love and belonging -- have it, because their choices and practices are intentional. All of us can learn to live wholeheartedly.

This past fall I have been preaching on World Religion themes – from the primal religions of Aboriginal and Maori cultures to Christianity, Taoism, Buddhism, and Paganism's Winter Solstice. Beginning in January of 2012, I will preach and teach on Pastoral Care themes, including the books and curriculum of Dr. Brene Brown. Hope to see you.

Blessed be,

Rev. Linda

UUFD Staff News

- Bonnie's office hours are Tuesdays 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Rev. Linda Slabon's hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment.
- Rev. Linda and Toni will be on vacation from December 28 – January 16.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



December

6	Restful Meditation	Noon – 1 p.m.
7	UUFD Board Meeting	7 p.m.
8	Mindfulness Meditation @ Estelle vonZellen's	10:30 a.m.
9	Restful Meditation	Noon – 1 p.m.
9	Set up for Farmer's Market	5 – 7 p.m.
10	Farmer's Market with Crafts	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
11	Choir Rehearsal for Children's Service	9 a.m.
11	Yoga – must be pre-registered	7:30 – 9 p.m.
13	Restful Meditation	Noon – 1 p.m.
16	Restful Meditation	Noon – 1 p.m.
18	Choir Rehearsal	9 a.m.
18	Yoga – must be pre-registered	7:30 – 9 p.m.
20	Restful Meditation	Noon – 1 p.m.
20	UUFD supplies Hope Haven meal	
21	Choir Rehearsal & Party at Toni and Rev. Linda's home (Bring sweet treat and white elephant gift)	7 p.m.
23	Caroling to UUFD Members and Friends. (Meet at Church. Pizza following)	6 p.m.
24	Choir Rehearsal at 3 p.m. followed by 4:00 p.m. Service	
24	Open House at Toni & Rev. Linda's	6 – 10 p.m.

January

4	UUFD Board Meeting	7:15 p.m.
5	Mindfulness Meditation @ Estelle vonZellen's	10:30 a.m.
15	Yoga – must be pre-registered	7:30 – 9 p.m.
17	UUFD supplies Hope Haven meal	
20	Set up for Farmer's Market	5 – 7 p.m.
21	Farmer's Market with Crafts	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
22	Worship Associates mid-year meeting @ Rev. Linda's	1:30 – 3 p.m.
22	Yoga – must be pre-registered	7:30 – 9 p.m.
29	Yoga – must be pre-registered	7:30 – 9 p.m.

A Note From UUFD's Director of Religious Education

Greetings! A few weeks ago, the children's faith development program took a trip to Nehring Forest Preserve, joined also by Danica Lovings and Donna Veeneman. We spent the morning building a fort in the woods, discovering a variety of nature's hidden gems as we played. We found pill bugs, lichen, fungi, moss, wild grapes, as well as a wide range of colors and shapes, as we searched the ground for just the right tree branches for our fort. When our fort was complete, we gathered inside and read about one of my favorite Unitarians, the ecologist Rachel Carson.

For those not familiar with Rachel Carson, she was a wonderful woman, with an incredible talent for writing and for science. Early in her career she wrote about the ecosystems that exist along the beaches of main, along the waters edge. She is perhaps best known for her book *Silent Spring* in which she chronicled the impact that pesticides were having on birds. *Silent Spring* warned of a world without birds, and helped launch the modern day environmental movement. Her last book, published after her death, was called *A Sense of Wonder* in which she describes the time she spent exploring nature with her nephew and calls on adults to share their own sense of wonder with the children in their lives.

To me, this is a beautiful model for our ministry with our children in our congregation. The heart of what we do is to share our own sense of wonder and support our children's sense of wonder. There are so many opportunities to do so this holiday season and throughout the year ahead.

In the spirit of live, love, and learning,

Dave Becker - Religious Education

JOYS & CONCERNS



Gene Desavouret was at Mercy Hospital in Aurora thru Friday, December 2. Cards or well wishes can be sent to his home at P.O. Box 286, Malta, IL 60150-0286.



Anne Battista is regaining her strength at DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center. You can visit her in Room 255A or call her at 815-217-0800. Cards can be sent to Anne Battista DeKalb County Rehab, 2600 North Annie Glidden Road in DeKalb, 60115.



Throughout the holiday season and into the short, dark days of January, please take the time to nurture your spirit, lighten the load of expectations you place on yourself and find warmth with friends, family and community. Blessings, Your UUFD Staff.

UUFD Looks At New Funding Option With Gifts of Stock

Thanks to the good work of Frank O'Barski at the request of the UUFD Board, we are now able to accept gifts of stock. We also have in place a way to accept gifts of mutual funds, as well as planned gifts such as bequests and gift annuities.

We will soon have a brochure to explain the process. We are using the UUA Umbrella Giving Program. The gift is given to the UUA and then distributed to UUFD. The cost is free, although they ask that you consider giving a percentage to the UUA.

Some reasons to use the UUA Umbrella Giving Program include:

- Creates a way for you to give anonymously
- Gives you access to life income gift options such as charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts.
- Allows our congregation to focus its resources on programming instead of gift administration.
- Provides you access and support from knowledgeable and professional staff.
- Creates accountability for gifts with restrictions
- Simplifies estate planning
- Leaves a lasting legacy

The funds are readily distributed. Once the UUA receives the funds from stock gift, estate, trust, or other vehicle we will process and distribute the funds according to your intentions within two business weeks.

So as this year comes to an end or as you make your future financial plans remember our UUFD family. We now have other ways for you to contribute to the growth of our spiritual community.

You can contact the UUA Umbrella Giving professional by calling, writing or emailing. Below is also a link to the website.

UUA Office of Legacy Gifts
25 Beacon Street
Boston MA 02108-2800
(888) 792-5885
giftplans@uua.org
www.uua.org/giftplanning



Or speak with a UUFD Board Member and we will help you find a contact at UUA.

Thank You,
Dan Kenney

UUFDF Lights Up The Holidays!!!

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the annual UUFDF holiday cookie decorating extravaganza! This year it will be held on Sunday, December 18, right after the service. Please bring 1 dozen unfrosted cookies and 1-2 dozen other cookies to exchange. We will provide frosting and decorations for the unfrosted cookies, and we can all have fun creating the perfectly decorated cookie! Please bring your own container, if possible, to take your cookies home in. Questions? Ask me....Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com). Hope to see everyone there!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December 17, 2011

3:00 p.m.



Bread & Roses

Directed by Peggy Safford
presents

Holiday Happenings

Suggested donation \$10
to benefit various local charities

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 830 North Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, Illinois

Amahl & The Night Visitors' Winter Holiday Performance

On Sunday, December 11th, UUFDF Worship Associates, Choir, and other UUFDF members and friends will perform a Readers' Theatre version of Gian Carlo Menotti's One-Act Opera, Amahl and the Night Visitors during the Sunday worship service for a special intergenerational service. All children in attendance will be invited to participate as shepherds in the performance. (If they would like to, being an audience member is totally acceptable). If you have additional questions or would like additional info, please talk with Glenda Cosenza or Dave Becker.

OPEN HEARTS, OPEN HOMES

If you are interested in hosting an Open House, a cooking baking, games night, hot cocoa and a movie or a party at your home during the holiday season and are willing to extend an invitation to UUFDF members and friends, please sign up on the clipboard that Rev. Linda will have available on Sunday mornings or contact the Church Office and share your plans with Bonnie Freeman, our Office Manager. The final list of Open Hearts, Open Homes events will be published in the e-news on Tuesday, December 20 and will be posted on our website and bulletin boards.



UUFDF Winter Farmers' Market with Crafts

WHEN: Saturday December 10 (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

WHERE: Unitarian Universalist, 158 North Fourth St. DeKalb

COST: \$1

Grass-fed beef, free range eggs & chickens, home-spun wool, goat soap, fresh vegetables & herbs, & over 20 arts & craft vendors. Live music & Hot Food all day! Other markets 1/26 & 3/24

More info call: Dan Kenney 815-793-0950.

A Private Haiku: Ceramic Work of Helen Merritt

WHEN: *November 29 – December 16, 2011*

WHERE: *NIU Art Museum, Altgeld Hall, First Floor, West End*

World-renowned Japanese print scholar, Helen Merritt, first ventured to Asia from Illinois to study the traditions of Japanese pottery. This intimate memorial exhibition features some of the private works of ceramic figurines, wall pieces, and simple pots that Merritt created while writing her many scholarly tomes on the graphic arts.

Silent Auction

Selected items will be available for silent auction in the gallery 12/1/11 – 12/15/11

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 – 5 and Saturday 12 – 4

High Bid Notification 12/6/11

Pickup 12/17 – 12/19 12 – 3 or by appointment 12/19 – 12/20 or after 1/3

Proceeds to benefit the scholarship fund in Helen Merritt's name.



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb
158 North Fourth St.
DeKalb, IL 60115