



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

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158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

June/July 2009

OUR MISSION

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb is a liberal religious community of seekers. In our quest for truth and justice, we share understandings gleaned from our lives and experiences. We unite to nurture in all the divine seed that furthers the work of creation. We work for balance, wisdom, peace, hope and love in our families, congregation, communities and the world around us.

DEADLINE

The deadline for the August edition of the Pathfinder is **July 19, 2009**. Please note that this is the third Sunday of the month. Submissions are to be sent to the church office via email: uufchurchoffice@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.

May 31

No Choir
Worship Leader: Clark Neher
Assistant: Mark Matuszewski
Sermon: *Prison Reform*

June 7

No Choir
Worship Leader: Susan Dorbeck
Assistant: Mark Matuszewski
Sermon: *The Myths That Run Through Us*

June 14

No Choir
Worship Leader: Nicole Berns
Assistant: Clark Neher
Sermon: *Cultivating Patience*

June 21

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Dave Becker
Sermon: *Spiritual Journeys*

June 28

No Choir
Worship Leader: Mark Matuszewski
Assistant: Nicole Berns
Sermon: *Running for Life*

July 5

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Glenda Cosenza
Sermon: *Finding Faith in Blues, Finding Faith in Music*

July 12

No Choir
Worship Leader: Glenda Cosenza
Assistant: Nicole Berns
Sermon: *Love Thy 'Neighbor'? WHO must I consider to be my neighbor?*

July 19

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Susan Dorbeck
Sermon: *Faith & Feminism - Guest Speaker: NIU student Alex Springer*

July 26

No Choir
Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: *She Lived as though the Truth was True: Learning from Dorothy Day*

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Glenda Cosenza
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: TBA

TREASURER: Kathy Clark

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: uufchurchoffice@aol.com

Web site: uufdekalb.org

In case of an emergency, call Rev. Slabon at 756-1088, the Board President Glenda Cosenza at 815-787-3489 or the Past President Ann Shult at 815-787-6440.

Minister's Musings

Our May Congregational meeting covered a lot of ground:

Congregational approval for a new UUFD mission statement.

The sign – which will be mounted this summer on the front wall of our building.

New logo and website (projection for website to be completed is early August).

Our effort to set smart goals-- Board of Trustees, Committees and me – and to evaluate our work continues to impress me and will guide us well as we continue our projects and our ministry.

The Book of Committee Reports reveals a buzz of activity and deep commitment.

The Welcome Café presentation informed us about the need for food in our area and the careful process being taken to evaluate the feasibility and steps necessary for us to consider such a venture.

This July we welcome a student minister, Janet French, into our congregation. I will supervise Janet as she works to strengthen her professional ministry skills. In addition, she will help us develop our Lifespan Faith Development programming.

We passed a deficit budget which means our Board will keep a careful eye on expenditures and will bring the challenge of raising additional funds or cutting programs and salaries back to you, the congregation.

Out-going president, Glenda Cosenza did a fine job with a fully packed agenda and she thanked UUFD folks who have done

so much over the course of the year.

Whew!!

I read that Studs Terkel, author of Hope Dies Last, opens his book with these words: "Hope has never trickled down. It has always sprung up." It's tempting, with the bad news that assails us on a regular basis, to become fearful, cynical, angry, or give in to despair. Studs, I think, would ask us instead to be resourceful. I have found that at UUFD, hope "has always sprung up." We have challenges ahead but I am confident that we will find our way.

Speaking of books...I am hoping for a summer of reading and writing. Back in February, Mark Matuszewski and I did a service on Contemporary Spiritual Writers. I asked Mark to write up brief reflections answering the question: "What about this book grabbed you?" He did, and below, in time for your summer reading, is his list of 6 winners. Sharing book recommendations "could be big fun", Mark added. Say Mark....Do you still have my Daniel Quinn book? Come August, I'll share a few book recommendations myself. Send your book recommendations to Bonnie at uufdchurchoffice@aol.com and we can start a trend: UUFD BOOK VIEWS!

Lynch, Thomas (2000). Bodies In Motion And At Rest: On Metaphor And Mortality. Norton: New York. --Beautifully uses language to create art about the circle of life and death, having more experience with death as a funeral home director than most of us.

Bach, Richard (1977). Illusions: The Adventures Of A Reluctant Messiah. Dell:

New York. -- One of the books that first brought the idea that God may be inside each of us, if we knew how to pay attention. Written in an amusing, easy to read style.

Frankl, Viktor E. (1963). Man's Search For Meaning: An Introduction to Logotherapy. Washington Square Press: New York. -- Taught me the importance of meaning making in living. Even if you don't like the psychology part, the first half of the book, about his experiences in a concentration camp, is compelling.)

Kumar, Satish (2004). The Buddha And The Terrorist. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill: Chapel Hill, NC. --Our response to terrorism can be love, and we can be successful in defeating it through love. An easy read with a terrific affirmation of this message.

Hesse, Herman (1951). Siddhartha. Bantam Books: New York. --Hasn't everybody read "Siddhartha?" A great book for young people in particular, or those still young at heart, who want to think about what path they should take in life.

Maugham, W. Somerset (1944). The Razor's Edge. Penguin Books: Middlesex, England. --A complex novel of the human condition made into an underrated movie with Bill Murray in one of his few serious roles. Western values run into Eastern mysticism.

In the Spirit of Life,

Rev. Linda

UUFD Staff News

- Rev. Linda Slabon's hours are Tuesday and Friday by appointment
- 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.
- The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday July 14, Friday July 17 and Tuesday July 21. The office will be open on Wednesday, July 22 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
- Rev. Linda will be on vacation until June 15.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFDF Events



June

9	PFLAG of DeKalb County meeting	7 p.m.
14	Young Adult Group at Lon Clark's home	TBA
21	Summer Solstice Drum and Dance Circle	8 p.m.
16	UUFDF supplies Hope Haven meal	
24 – 28	General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah	
28	Young Adult Group at Lon Clark's home	TBA
30	UUFDF Nite at the Kane County Cougars game	6:30 p.m.

July

4	Annual UUFDF Picnic at Dave & Teri Diaz home	
12	Linc Smelser concert at Clark Neher's home	8 p.m.
12	Young Adult Group at Lon Clark's home	TBA
14	PFLAG of DeKalb County meeting	7 p.m.
14	Gremlins Deepening Group	7 p.m.
17 – 19	UUFDF Camp Outing at Rock Cut State Park in Loves Park, IL	
21	UUFDF supplies Hope Haven meal	
25	Craving Spirituality Deepening Group	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
26	Young Adult Group at Lon Clark's home	TBA
29	Hand 'n Foot FUUN Nite	6:30 to 9 p.m.

UUFDF Second Annual Backpack Drive Is Coming!

Last year, UUFDF was one of the top contributors to the Clinton Rosette Middle School backpack drive. We are hoping to meet or exceed our contributions this year! The board has given the go ahead and we will be collecting backpacks, supplies and financial donations through the months of June, July and early August. Our contributions were so appreciated by students, parents and teachers alike.

So, how can you help? Just donate school supplies, backpacks or financial donations at church. There will be a box available for the contributions.

Contact Sharon Blake for more information (blake202@aol.com or 758-4751). Thank you in advance for your consideration of this most worthy cause!

SAVE THE DATE

- * **June 20** – 10:30 a.m. Memorial Service for Al Meyer at UUFDF
- * **August 14-16 Women's Deepening Retreat** . This year's theme is **Your Creative Soul**. Held at Rev. Linda & Toni's in DeKalb. Guest teacher: Jennifer Sebastian, Svaroopo Yoga. WATCH for brochure (online & hard copy) by June 23. Registration deadline is July 31, 2009.
- * **October 18** - This year's Crop Walk for Hunger will be on October 18th. Mark your calendars and plan to walk!

JOYS & CONCERNS



Our UUFD Family join with Jim, Deborah, other family members, and dear friends of Helen Merritt in expressing our grief and sadness at Helen's death. Her love and light will continue to shine through our lives.



Many thanks go to Wayne Albrecht & Dave Diaz who recently replaced EXIT lights in our building. John Ireland and Pam Wicking are recovering well after the car accident. John's ankle was shattered, but he and the family still hope to get away for vacation this summer. The family appreciates all the support received.



We express sorrow at the news of the death of Norm Engstrom's brother.



A BIG general thank you to all who contributed to an amazing Congregational Meeting and Celebration Brunch.



The first annual UU Western Crescent Choir Festival was a smashing success. Music was outstanding and the food was delicious. Special thanks to Toni Tollerud, our Music Director, and the UUFD Choir who hosted.



This spring, we welcome Sabiha Sorgun, Jessica Williams and Billy Clem as new members.

UUFD Holds Annual Summer Campout Annual UUFD Camp Outing Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee

Where: Rock Cut State Park
Loves Park, IL

When: Friday, July 17th-
Sunday, July 19th

Hiking, swimming, star gazing, more
Worship service on Sunday morning

Cost is \$24/site for 2 nights plus \$3 for firewood.
(The park does charge \$3 for swimming/person.
This is optional and paid at the park.)

Prepayment of fees by June 21st will secure a campsite.

Contact Ann Shult at (815) 787-6440 or ams40@dnacom.com with questions or to make payment.

Bring the Family!!



It's Summer Fun Time At UUFD

Member Care Committed To Finding More Ways To Have Summer Fun!

The UUEC is still going strong. We have tentative meeting dates of June 20 and July 25. We are discussing a Mongolian Grill dinner and possibly at La ZA-ZAs. Stayed tuned to the weekly updates from church office for further details, and as always, Teri and David Diaz are the ones to contact for information and reservations.

We are trying to set up a Day At The Zoo the last Friday in June. We are trying to see if we can get a special tour or behind the scenes type look with help from Dave Becker. Let us know if you are interested.

And how about a day at the museum? Tentative date is last Friday in July, the 31st. Do you want to go? Should we take a train? Most likely it would be the Field Museum, judging from people I have talked to about this idea.

Annual UUFD Fourth of July Picnic & Party

Teri and David Diaz will again be hosting the annual 4th of July party on July 4th. Party starts at 1pm and will end in time for folks to seek out fireworks in DeKalb or Kirkland. People are invited to come and play, or just visit with one another. We have a nice big yard, so we can offer softball or volleyball, we have a ping pong table and card tables and a big tent will be set up. If it is very hot, we will have an indoor party as well as outdoor, as some of us just can't handle the heat. Please bring your own meat to grill. We have a propane grill, so any time you want to eat should be fine. Also bring a dish to pass. Some soft drinks will be provided, but any beer or anything special you want or need, please bring it along, too. We have a swing set and a sandbox, and if people want, we could set up a wading pool for little ones. There may even be dancing in the driveway again! Last year we even had an outdoor fire, and that is certainly an option. Come and have good, clean fun.



S U M M E R N I G H T S 2009

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Summer Solstice Drum and Dance Circle at 8 p.m. in the Gazebo out behind UUFD weather permitting. Drums and other percussion will be provided but you are invited to bring your own. Britt Halvorson and Glenda Cosenza, leaders.

SUNDAY JULY 12:

Cellist Linc Smelser, in Recital at the home of Clark and Arlene Neher, Sunday July 12 at 8:00 p.m. With Guest Appearances by UUFD singers and performers.

Mr. Smelser's recital is made possible due to Dorothy Coleman's gift to UUFD. The event is free of charge but due to limited space, attendees will need to obtain tickets in advance from UUFD Church Office (these will be available as of June 19). A free-will offering will be taken that will be used to benefit a UUFD service project.

UUFD Night at the Kane County Cougars Game

Tuesday, June 30, 2009
Game time: 6:30 p.m.

Vs.

Peoria Chiefs
(without Ryne Sandberg...sigh)

Prepayment of ticket(s) by Sunday, May 31st to Ann Shult will reserve your seat(s).
Price is \$9.75/person if we get a group of 20 or more.



Green Tip Of The Month

Use cloth over paper napkins and paper towels. It is true that you have to wash and dry your cloth napkins and that takes energy, but electric dryers are actually twice as energy efficient as the manufacture of paper towels. When you factor in all of the components of making a paper towel or napkins (harvesting the material, processing and bleaching it, packaging it, shipping it, stocking it at a supermarket, transportation to and from the store to purchase it, etc). all for a single use, you find that the paper towels and napkins are about twice as energy-intensive and create more greenhouse gases overall. A cloth napkin or dishtowel may go through similar processes to get to your kitchen drawer, but it will stay there for many, many years, rather than being sent directly to the landfill. You can buy used towels and napkins at second hand stores (I found new ones at the Salvation Army, still packaged in the original packaging). If you chose to buy new, look for organic cotton, hemp, or linen to be the most environmentally friendly. Happy eating! (info taken from www.care2.com)

Sarah Adkins



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