



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 56, Issue 6

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

August/September 2015

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.

(UUFDF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the October/November edition of the Pathfinder is **September 20, 2015**. Please note that this is the third Sunday of the month. Submissions are to be sent to the church office via email: office@uufdekalb.org or hard copy left in Pathfinder editor mailbox in the library.

THE PATHFINDER CONTACT INFO

Editor: Melissa Blake
Phone: 757-3131
E-mail: Mellow1422@aol.com

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

August 2

No Choir
Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Assistant: TBA
Sermon: Are Human Beings Naturally Good?

August 9

No Choir
Worship Leader: Ed Miguel
Assistant: Dave Becker
Sermon: The Many Faces of God

August 16

No Choir
Worship Leader: Irene Faivre
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: Love Thy Frenemy

August 23

No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Elisa Woodruff
Sermon: Music as Medicine

August 30

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Ed Miguel
Sermon: Back to the Future
****Service: Multi-generational UUFDF Ingathering: Turn the World Around. This service celebrates home-coming and connection with Mother Earth through the ritual of mingling the waters. Please bring a small bottle of water from your summer travels or from home.**

September 6

Choir
Worship Leader: Irene Faivre
Assistant: Sue Willis
Sermon: Invitation of a Lifetime

September 13

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Bill Lamb
Sermon: Do You Have the Heart?

September 20

Choir
Worship Leader: Sue Willis
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: What Would a Truly Welcoming Congregation Look Like?

September 27

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Dave Becker
Sermon: Beginners Mind

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Beth Schewe
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Frank O'Barski
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Gladys Sanchez

TREASURER: Beau Anderson

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday by appointment
Office Manager Office Hours: Tues. 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Church Office phone number: 815-756-7089
email: office@uufdekalb.org Web site: uufdekalb.org

In case of an emergency, call Rev. Slabon at 815/501-4788, the Board President Frank O'Barski or the Past President Sue Willis.

Minister's Musings

*The Sufi poet, Hafiz once wrote,
"What we speak becomes the house
we live in."*

At the July Leadership Council meeting I asked folks to write down questions and concerns prompted by our May Congregational meeting. The comments and questions were smart, pragmatic, and demonstrated the depth of care and commitment of UUFD leaders. Here are some examples with responses from my perspective:

It's sad that Rev. Linda and Toni will retire. Can we start planning for transition now? Will we have a voice and a say in the process?

First, please remember that Toni and I will not retire from UUFD until July of 2017. We have time to do much good work together. If you haven't, I hope you will volunteer or say "yes" when you are asked to serve in a way that helps to build up UUFD in this next year. Second, yes, we are already working on healthy steps necessary for transition. At its July 22 meeting, the Board began discussion on appointment of a Transition Team. The team will be made up of one Board member, one Ministry Council member, and three at large members. If you are interested to serve and want to learn about congregational ministerial transitions, please let a Board member know. The Board will make final appointments to this team by the end of September.

I do not know how we are going to survive financially, let alone expand. It's sad that we can't give raises. How will we be able to do a Capital Campaign?

First, remember that UUFD has survived since 1960. And, in 1990 when

the congregation had only eight active members, they held it together and risked change (and spent down their nest egg of funds) to bring in an ordained minister. We took risks again in 2002 when we purchased a run down, beat-up building with all our remaining funds, and many have worked and given money and time to turn it into a beautiful church home. Second, yes, there is plenty to learn. To that end the Board has agreed to read together and study D. Lansdowne's Fundraising Realities Every Board Member Must Face, and your Board will be giving temple talks once a month on financial matters at UUFD.

Third, your Board President, Frank O'Barski and I have already met with two experienced church consultants. As we learn, we will share what is needed for us to do. A Capital Campaign is not a mystery. What we will need from one another is the courage to work for UUFD's future. And, we will simply do the best we can.

How do we establish financial priorities?

It is both healthy and timely that Sue Willis' efforts with our Budget Drive, and the Ministry Council's presentation on staff salaries & UUA guidelines have generated awareness of our need. It's true that we have been operating under par in many areas. At the same time we have grown consistently, and yes, that has also been because of the huge generosity of staff members. So it is time for us to make sure that members and friends both grow in their understanding that we have three financial priorities – not just one – and that people will need to talk about them.

#1 – We have a commitment to our Operating Budget. This includes staff

salaries. Currently we are about \$25,000 under our ideal staff compensation budget.

#2 – We have no reserve fund. A reserve fund of \$30,000 could keep us afloat for 3-4 months. To maintain such a fund demonstrates mature and sound financial practices.

#3 – We held a Long Range Planning Process that polled the entire congregation. It was thorough and thoughtful. From that process our primary goal was the development of a professional kitchen, followed by improving our Fellowship Hall and Religious Education space. Estimated cost \$225,000. Impossible? Ridiculous? Pipe-dream?

Hmmm. I remember when the church phone # was my home phone# and the church office was a desk in my home. I remember when the choir was 4 people – on a good day. I remember when we rented space each Sunday and took RE materials out of a closet and from the trunks of our cars. I remember when we brought lawn chairs to sit on.

It's natural to face some anxiety as we face change. But let us not dwell on fear of what we think we can't do or believe we don't have. At UUFD I have seen a wealth of resources, ample gifts of compassion and commitment, and a people with hope, talent and faith for the future. Let us envision and speak well of the spiritual home in which we shall dwell.

Rev. Linda

UUFD Staff News

- Rev. Linda's hours are by appointment. Please call 815-501-4788.
- **Beth Schewe** will return as Office Manager in August. Watch for possible changes in the schedule of the Office Manager.
- A big "Thank You" to **Bonnie Freeman**, who was our Office Manager for 10 years and came back to fill in for Beth during her maternity leave. The UUFD starship continues to sail under good direction. Thanks, Bonnie!
- Rev. Linda will be away from July 31 thru August 14. Please contact a Board member if you need assistance.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



July

26	Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering (2 nd and 4 th Sunday each month)	2 to 3:30 p.m.
28	Book Club	7 to 8:30 p.m.
28	PFLAG	7 to 8:30 p.m.
30	Minds Eye Theatre (meets every Tuesday)	7 to 11 p.m.
31	Restorative Meditation (every Friday)	5:15 p.m.

August

1	Yin Yoga Workshop with Beverlee Burke	1 to 3 p.m.
2	Buddhist Study Group and Meditation (1 st and 3 rd Sunday each month)	12:30 to 2 p.m.
5	UUFD Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
12	Stitch and Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
16	“Garden Day at the Minister’s”	Meet at UUFD at 10 a.m.
18	Hope Haven Meal	6:30 p.m.
29	Worship Associates Training	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
29	Exploring the Stars with UU @ Steve & Donna Veeneman’s home (backup rain date is Saturday, September 12)	6:30 to 10 p.m.

Important Dates - Mark Your Calendars:

- **August 29, Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at UUFD Fellowship Hall - Worship Associate Training
- **September 13, Sunday - 1 to 3 p.m. at UUFD Fellowship Hall - Leadership Council meeting (*note time change*).
- **September 19, Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Rev. Linda's home - Board of Trustees fall planning retreat

Garden Day at the Minister’s

There will be an RE outing to Rev. Linda and Toni’s home on Sunday, August 16. Meet at 10 a.m. at UUFD.

A Note about the Pathfinder

The Pathfinder will now be published 6 times a year, in December, February, April, June, August and October. Be sure to check the church Web site (uufdekalb.org) and sign up for the eNews (email Beth at office@uufdekalb.org) for the latest events and updates. And, of course, don’t forget to “LIKE” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/uufdekalb.

If you would like to contribute an article to the Pathfinder, please contact Beth in the Church Office or Melissa Blake, Pathfinder editor. We welcome thoughtful submissions of book reviews, a seasoned UU’s thoughts on why they became a Unitarian Universalist or other articles related to UUFD’s mission and our seven UU principles.



Congregational Support and Development News!

We want to give a big shout-out to those people who have helped us so much this summer by signing up for greeting and coffee hour hosting. It's hard enough in the regular church year to get our bases covered, but in the summer, it is especially difficult, so if you see any of these people on Sunday morning (or any other time), you should give them a big thank you for helping to keep our fellowship running smoothly!

Mary and Jeff K. (we miss you!!!), Sharon Blake, Wayne and Betty Albrecht, Beau and Bonnie Anderson, Irene Faivre, Donna Veeneman, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Vanstrom Dracul, Nicole Berns, Shane Diebel and Cathy Schneider. And, our upcoming volunteers for the rest of the summer: Cheryl Haines, Dee Hodge, Cat Nefstead and Wayne and Betty Albrecht!

Sunday mornings wouldn't be the same without all these folks who take time and talent to come and make things pleasant for all of us. Consider doing your part today to help out. Contact me to sign up and thanks! Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com). And, remember, we are here when you need us! Sharon, Bonnie Anderson, Annemarie Clifford and Terri Mann-Lamb. Be well, UUFD, and if you aren't, call us :)

JOYS & CONCERNS



Beth Schewe and Shane Sharp are proud to announce the arrival of Daniel Ezekiel (Zeke), born at 6:00 a.m. on July 1st. He joins Maggie at home.



Hip Hip Hooray! The newly updated 2015 Members & Friends Directory was made available at the May congregational meeting. Pledging members and friends are each entitled to one free copy. A second copy can be purchased from the Church Office for \$3.00.



We hold in our hearts our members or friends who have had recent surgeries or continue to struggle with health concerns: Teri Diaz, Frank O'Barski, Terri Mann-Lamb, Barb Cuppett, Kathy Clark, Elisa Woodruff. If we missed your surgery or you need support due to health concerns, please contact our Church Office.



On Sunday July 12, the memorial service for Blythe Stason was held at UUFD. Blythe died at the age of 90 years on June 26, 2015. He was remembered well by family and friends. Rev. Linda conducted the service and Rev. Joe Gastiger, from First Congregational Church, gave the eulogy. Blythe's wife, Judy Stason, remains in DeKalb and appreciates your gentle support.



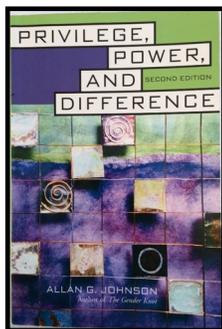
Congratulations to the young adult leaders at UUFD who have participated in UU leadership events this summer: Gladys Sanchez and staff member, Taylor Richier, who attended Midwest Leadership School. And, to Kara Becker, who was selected to participate in a special UU Social Justice training on the environment. We look forward to hearing about their experiences.



Congratulations to the newly retired Lon Clark and Joe Pourroy. We wish Lon and Joe many excellent adventures. Lon will fly high (back to school) and Joe will be living in luxury on a lake.



We bid a fond farewell to Joe Pourroy and Patty Rieman as they move to Kenosha. There will be a Going Away Party for Joe and Patty on Sunday, August 9, in the Fellowship Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun.



Privilege, Power & Difference Book Group

This past summer, Maylan Dunn Kenney and I had the privilege to lead a Deepening Group studying Johnson's book, *Privilege, Power & Difference*. We found it to be a rich, honest, and engaging experience. Our group of 7 members will hold our final session on August 18. This fall we will again offer the group - and possibly in a workshop format as well. Keep both eyes focused on our e-news, our Sunday services, or website for the next times to participate. I hope you will join us. We think you will find it worthwhile. Rev. Linda

Here is some basic information about the group:

Privilege, Power & Difference by Allan G. Johnson, McGraw Hill, 2006. Johnson invites us to examine systems of privilege and difference in our society through an engaging, conversational style of writing. We will think critically about inequality and oppression without getting mired in guilt or despair.

Registration: No fee, but you must register. Limited to eight participants, this Deepening Group will be offered this fall at UUFD. To attend you must register with Office Manager, Beth Schewe at 815-756-7089 or office@uufdekalb.org.

New and used books can be purchased on-line through Amazon. Book cost range from \$35 to \$50. On a needs request basis, two copies will be available to borrow. These can be checked-out from the church office.

President's Note: UUFD Looks Toward Future

Hello, my name is Frank O'Barski. As many of you know, I have been given the honor and responsibility to serve as your Board of Trustees President for July 2015 through June 2016. At the end of that term, I will become the Board Past President, and my colleague, President Elect William Lamb, will take over as Board President.

My term reminds me of the old curse, "May you live in interesting times." But I don't see it as a curse, really. I do see it as challenging, as are all periods of change, but also hopeful. I did not start coming to UUFD looking for a church. But what I did find was a community of truly wonderful, decent people, all struggling to find the best way to be in the world. I was welcomed into this community. My wife Suzanne Willis and I are both grateful for the kindness and support we have received in good times and bad.

I am going through personal change, and my cancer sometimes makes me wonder if I will even be able to complete my remaining two years' responsibility to you all. But life is always uncertain. We do not stop accepting responsibilities merely because tomorrow we might die of something, expected or unexpected.

And when I look around at the dedicated people who volunteer and work to make this humble congregation a success, I am filled with the same hope I see in people when they are at their best.

We are facing a critical juncture in the life of UUFD. We are at the most difficult size for any church congregation, with fewer than 90 members. Our long term minister, Rev. Linda Slabon, will be retiring in two years. I don't know if those who are not involved in the leadership of UUFD are aware of just how important she has been. Nor are they likely aware of how many things she has done to help keep us on track.

When Rev. Linda steps down, we will also lose the bonus we have enjoyed during her tenure in having her spouse, Toni Tollerud, running our music program.

This double blow will be difficult to make up. I and your Board will be seeking candidates to help us with a transition team to take us into the future, undiscovered country without these two devoted friends of UUFD.

There are also serious and worrisome financial issues, and I and your Board will be looking for help from you, the members of UUFD, to find ways to build a "rainy day" reserve, fund our planned improvements to the Religious Education space and hopefully build the dreamed-of professional kitchen.

I am very easy to talk to in coffee hour, and I know I and the rest of your Board will gladly listen to your suggestions and offers to volunteer (and give money) to keep this community we all love a success.

Artful Summer at UUFD

The month of June was extremely eventful for our UU Rainbow Kids and Bridge Builders. We had our first ever Art Camp where they learned about the secrets of the Terracotta Warriors, Picasso's techniques, Frida Kahlo's amazing persistence and George Seurat's pointillism skills.



Getting To Know: Ashley Ford



Greetings, UUFD Friends:

At the most recent Leadership Council meeting, we discussed ways to get to know one another better. It was suggested that the new bi-monthly schedule for the Pathfinder could allow for a "Who Am I?" section in which to highlight new members, and I was tagged "It!" to begin.

My name is Ashley. My husband is Rick, and our sons are Gabriel (almost 13) and Seth (10). We moved to this area 3 years ago. I was a lifelong resident of Florida, and though I was truly delighted to experience four seasons for the first time, I was also anxious about finding "my people" after having been settled in one place for so long. I'm an introvert who craves community.

UUFD is my first experience with Unitarian Universalism. I needed a place that shared my values, but where it was also safe to ask questions and be content with not having all of the answers. This congregation welcomed us, and I've found so many people to admire and enjoy. Many of you have taught and inspired me in ways you may not even realize.

Rick and I received B.A.s in English from the University of Florida in 1995. He's a web programmer at DEVNET, Inc. in Sycamore, and I homeschool the kids. Home education isn't for everyone, but it's been a fascinating inspiration for me ever since I discovered its viability years before we had children. We enjoy the freedom and flexibility it affords our family, and so far the boys seem to be turning out okay!

Let's see, hobbies: As a family, we study aikido, enjoy board games, and watch a lot of nerdy TV. The guys are computer gamers. I knit, crochet, spin, make soap, putter in the garden a bit, and play a few instruments.

Making music is my passion. My skills are amateur, but the experience of working with other musicians to create a cooperative sound just transports me. I've been so grateful to UUFD for providing the space to start Ordinary Folk; I want everyone to have the opportunity to experience that mutual thrill. It forms a bond. To anyone who is interested but unsure of their skills, you are welcome! Please come as often or seldom as you like. We're learning together and having a great time.

DeKalb was our new address. Thank you all for helping us turn it into our new home.

Exploring the Stars with UU



Come and join the Religious Education group on an extraterrestrial journey at Donna and Steve Veeneman's home. We will have a real telescope, experiments, bonfire, Native American dancing and a bbq! Please bring food and dance moves to share. If you would like something on the grill, please provide meat or nonmeat.

Date: Sat. August 29th canceled if rain date Sat. Sept. 12

Bring: Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.

A dish to share instead of "food".

Steve & Donna will provide coffee, tea and soft drinks.

Date: Sat. Aug. 29th cancelled if rain date Sat. Sept. 12.

Location: 131 W. Second St. Genoa, IL. 60135

Time: 6:30 to 10 PM

If you have any questions: Please call DRE Gladys 708.710.0684.



Leadership Council Holds July Meeting

Leadership Council meeting, July 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:16, with an opening reading by Jenny Stamatakos. A brief check in was held.

Members present included Sharon Blake, Annemarie Clifford, Mike Clifford, Lon Clark, Ed Miguel, Wayne Albrecht, Jenny S, Ashley Ford, Dave Becker, Carey Boehmer, Vanstrom Dracul, Bonnie Anderson, Toni Tollerud, Frank O'Barski, and Rev. Linda Slabon

Educational session- Three topics we need to stay on top of are responses to the May congregational meeting, Fundraising Realities (and our budget), and the UUFD long-range plan. We have to be mindful of our surplus, or lack thereof, and of our responsibilities to our staff.

Rev. Linda asked the group to write down their reactions, questions, or concerns from the May Congregational Meeting. Concerns discussed included:

Linda's retirement (how is the congregation feeling about that?)

Finances and our budget. Staff salaries as compared to UUA guidelines. The building presentation. What happens to Toni and the choir when Linda retires? The gap in the commitment of this church between what we want and what people are willing to work/pay for. How do we generate fundraising ideas? Should we drop the idea of a bigger, professional kitchen? Strong & diverse feelings among the leadership regarding the building remodel. Approximately \$40,000 has been paid out for building design – not just the kitchen. We need to consider UUFD Long Range Plan efforts – what the congregation indicated – and the outreach benefits of kitchen & fellowship hall renovations.

Linda pointed out that we have to be realistic, but we still need to take risks in order to grow, (Linda stated that we need the tension of multiple voices and opinions!),

****The Board will discuss and decide whether to pursue the capital campaign.

****A transition team will be appointed to investigate options for ministry after Linda retires.

From her Professional Expense account, Linda purchased copies of **Fundraising Realities Every Board Must Face**, by David Lansdowne, for the UUFD leadership. The LC spent some time looking at chapters in this book. How do we feel UUFD cultivates our relationships with our top donor prospects, what do we do well, what should we do more of, what have we done in the past that we don't do now?

What have we done well? Circle dinners to cultivate relationships. We should bring back the circle dinners. Who will do this? What else can we do? Inform members better. Publish board/LC minutes, use bulletin boards, and social media to get more current information out.

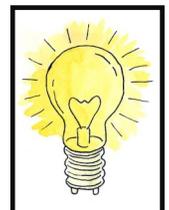
Table for further discussion – Ministry committees need to be budget generators for the board, give ideas, etc. Example CSD might want to go to some pastoral care trainings or bring someone in. Need to request funds for this.

Other agenda items: Pathfinder is now every 2 months, Allen Harden, seminary student will be working with us for the next 2 years, Worship associate training is coming up on Saturday, August 29, Soul Matters themes were listed...

Next Leadership Council meeting: Sunday, September 13, from 1-3 (note time change). Bring your lunch if you care to. The educational presentation will feature CSD talking about caring for yourself while caring for others.



Got something on your mind? We'd love to hear it! Email mellow1422@aol.com today and stay tuned to next month's Pathfinder for more exciting UUFD announcements and events!



Beth Schewe returns to the UUFDF office on Wednesday, August 5, and her hours at UUFDF will be Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many, many thanks to Bonnie Freeman, who has filled in as interim Office Manager while Beth was on maternity leave.



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