



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 57, Issue 2

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

February/March 2016

## 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 April/May edition of the Pathfinder is **March 20, 2016**. 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.

### February Theme: What does it mean to be a people of desire?

Is it possible that this month is really about heart-break? We may be able to indulge some desires without much cost, but we are fooling ourselves if we think we can pursue spiritual desires without suffering a broken heart. The desire for a better world. The hunger for deep connection. The longing to actualize our full potential. Leaning into these desires is to let yourself care deeply for what can't ever be fully attained. When it comes to the most beautiful and noble of our desires, it's all about loving and pursuing that which will always be out of reach.

#### February 7

Worship Leader: Frank O'Barski  
Assistant: Ed Miguel  
Sermon: *Rejecting Desire*

#### February 14

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon  
Assistant: Dave Becker  
Intergenerational Service: *Standing on the Side of Love*  
Sermon: *For the Earth*

*\*\*In August of 2015 Kara Becker attended the Climate Justice Training held in Chicago by the UU College of Social Justice. Kara will share with us how we Stand on the Side of Love for the Earth.*

#### February 21

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon  
Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney  
Sermon: *Heartache, Heartbreak and More*

### February 28

Worship Leader: Elisa Woodruff  
Assistant: Sue Willis  
Sermon: *TBA*

### March Theme: Liberation

#### March 6

Worship Leader: Irene Faivre  
Assistant: Jack Lazzara  
Sermon: *TBA*

#### March 13

Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney  
Assistant: Dave Becker  
Sermon: *Finding Freedom in an Unfree World*

#### March 20

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon  
Assistant: Frank O'Barski  
Sermon: *UU Women Who Dared*  
*\*\*Rev. Linda and Allen Harden share stories of UU women who helped open our minds.*

#### March 27

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon  
Assistant: Allen Harden  
Sermon: *Roll Away the Stone*  
*\*\*A UU Easter Service will be held and a liberal Christian communion will be offered.*

### CONTACTS:

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

TREASURER: Lon Clark

Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday by appointment  
Office Manager Office Hours: Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3  
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 Tom Stamatakos.*

## Minister's Musings

In the first week of the New Year, I along with our student intern, Allen Harden, had the privilege to attend the The Forrest Church Learning Convocation held in Chicago at our Unitarian Universalist seminary, Meadville-Lombard Theological School. The seminar is held for students studying for the ministry and teaching pastors. I was hooked by the title and subtitle for the conference: *Lamentation, Innovation and Blessing: The Artistry of Religious Leadership in a Time of Urgency and Polarization*. Nothing about this suggests that a life of faithfulness and ministry today – despite all our physical comforts – is easy. Not for clergy, not for the people of the congregation.

I want to share two things from the conference with you to help us think, stretch and grow into our future:

#1 – The Rev. Leslie Takahashi introduced trends in religion and leadership that congregations need to consider deeply and we must determine how to respond.

- Those under the age of 50 want something different from the traditional Sunday worship service. People seek wholeness in their lives, not intellectual stimulation. They can get intellectual stimulation online.

- How is our congregation Mission Focused – that is, what does UUFD do that makes a difference and are YOU personally involved? Families are looking for ways to grow as a family. Do people in the congregation model social justice living?

- How does UUFD transform lives through genuine connection and care? How do we help ground people in a world with too much freedom and too much information? Spiritual practice is increasingly sought as a way to handle an overwhelming world. What do we offer in worship, in groups, and in classes? What is it that breaks your heart that the church can respond to? People seek meaning in an immediate way in their volunteer life. Less and less do they want to maintain the infrastructure of an organization. It is how lives are transformed and how communities do the work of transformation that needs to be front and center.

#2 – Allen and I did an exercise in response to this question: What are the strengths of UUFD? We responded:

- There is a core of folks who are deeply committed to UUFD and to responding to need, brokenness, and change in the world. This includes a large number of people in the congregational lead-

ership who are responsive, resilient, loving and supportive.

- UUFD is committed to a physical presence, a congregation-grounded, communal place- in DeKalb, IL.

- The congregation is less set in their ways, more open-minded than most congregations, and is not tradition bound (for example to an overly intellectual, academic approach, or to privileging a single religious tradition, such as Humanism).

Strong programs that are supported with leadership and training include the Worship Associates, the Choir, Religious Education, and Social Justice.

These are all good things to know. Now ask, “How will I support this legacy for mission and ministry at UUFD and in my own life in this time of urgency and polarization?”

*In the Spirit of Life,*



### UUFD Staff News

- Rev. Linda's hours are by appointment. Please call 815-501-4788.
- Office manager Beth Schewe's hours are Wed 9 - 2 and Fri 10 - 3.
- Ella Vietmeier concluded her work with us as a Childcare Provider on January 31st. Ella did an excellent job and we will miss her kindness and attentiveness with our children. She is graduating early from DeKalb High School and moving on to full-time employment. We thank her and wish her both challenges and peace as she moves into her future.
- Rev. Linda and Toni will be on vacation Saturday, February 27th through Tuesday, March 15th. In case of an emergency, please contact Frank O'Barski, Board President, Beth Schewe, Office Manager, or a member of the Board of Trustees.



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



### February

2	English Country Dance (Every Tuesday)	5 to 8 p.m.
3	UUFD Board Meeting	
3	Svaroopaa Yoga with Ed Miguel (Wednesdays)	6:30 p.m.
5	Restorative Meditation (Friday evenings)	5:30 p.m.
6	Yin Yoga Workshop	1 to 3 p.m.
7	Social Justice and Outreach Meeting	11:30 a.m.
7	Buddhist Study Group and Meditation (1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays)	Noon to 1:30 p.m.
7	Svaroopaa Yoga with Ed Miguel (Sunday evenings)	5 to 6:30 p.m.
10	Stitch and Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
13	Winter Farmers' Market	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
14	Non-theist Discussion Group (2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays)	12:30 p.m.
14	Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering	2 to 3:30 p.m.
16	Hope Haven Meal	6:30 p.m.
23	PFLAG (library)	7 to 8:30 p.m.

### March

2	UUFD Board	
5	Yin Yoga Workshop	1 to 3 p.m.
6	Social Justice Meeting with UUANI	11:30 a.m.
9	Stitch and Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
15	Hope Haven Meal	6:30 p.m.
19	Winter Farmers' Market	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
29	PFLAG (library)	7 to 8:30 p.m.

### A Note About the Pathfinder

If you would like to receive your Pathfinder electronically, rather than receiving a hard copy by mail, please let Beth know in the church office! Please help us save paper and postage if you like reading it online.

# UU Winter Market

**Saturday February 13, 2016 from 9-3**

**at the Unitarian Universalist of DeKalb**

158 North Fourth Street

**Live Music**

**Artisan Gift Market**

**Local Honey and Produce**

**French and German Baked Goods**

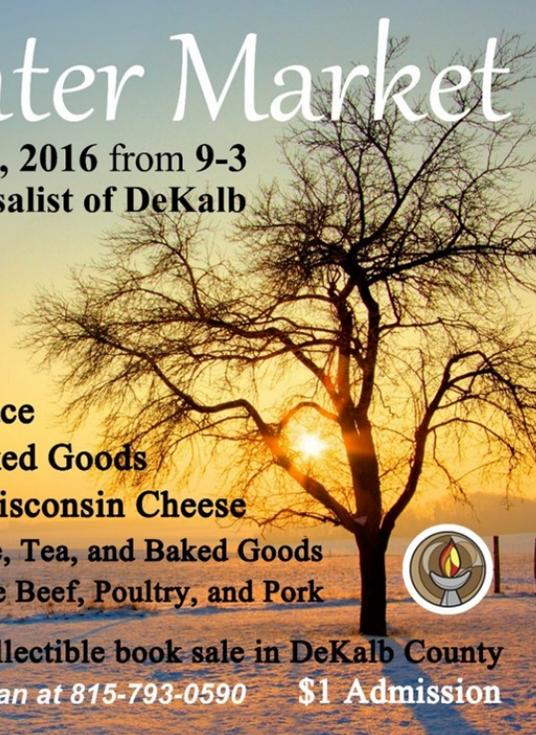
**Farm Fresh Eggs and Wisconsin Cheese**

**Hot Soup and Bread, Coffee, Tea, and Baked Goods**

**Grass Fed and Hormone Free Beef, Poultry, and Pork**

**The best rare, used, and collectible book sale in DeKalb County**

**For more information call Dan at 815-793-0590 \$1 Admission**



**This year's winter markets are 9 -3 Saturdays Feb. 13 and March 19.** Assistance is needed with set-up for market and book sale late afternoon the Friday before, and clean-up between 3 and 4 after the market closes. People are needed during the sale to person the UUFD Social Justice table, take money at the two doors, food/coffee serving area, and with the book sale. Usually 2 hour shifts.

If you are willing and able to lend some assistance for any of the above, please contact Dan Kenney, [dkenney53@hotmail.com](mailto:dkenney53@hotmail.com), or call 815-793-0950.

Together we can have fun, raise funds for our congregational home, and provide a great event for our wider community. Come out and join in. What a great way to celebrate winter!

# JOYS & SORROWS



Our hearts go out to Irene Faivre, whose mother, Mary L. Faivre (born in 1924), died on January 1st, 2016. To learn more about Mary's long and full life, view her obituary at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/daily-chronicle/obituary.aspx?pid=177129194>.



Florence Gerlach continues her recovery from complicated shoulder surgery. She welcomes visits!



## RESTORATIVE MEDITATION

2016 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Fridays

Sessions held February 5, 12, 19 and 26  
March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1<sup>st</sup>

At the UU Fellowship of DeKalb  
158 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, DeKalb, IL  
Door on Locust street open at 5:20 p.m.

Welcome, Check-in, Opening Reading  
Meditation Practice  
Closing Blessing

All are welcome. No Charge - Free to participants.  
Leaders: Arlene Keddie and Rev. Linda Slabon, LCSW

We meditate to find, to recover, and to come back to something of ourselves.  
Lawrence LeShan, psychologist.

Mindfulness is the miracle by which we master and restore ourselves...  
it is the miracle which can call back in a flash our dispersed mind and restore it to wholeness so that we can live each minute of life.

Thich Nhat Hanh, Zen master and peace activist.

When I am not practicing, anxiety rises. When I am practicing, I live more compassionately and well. What changes, is me. I gain power, peace, and perspective.  
Linda Slabon, minister and therapist



## UUFD Treasurer's Report

UUFD is in basically the same financial situation as reported in the previous Pathfinder, except that now we are two months closer to the end of a church year for which projected expenses exceeded estimated revenue by more than \$11,000. Pledge payments are coming in on time. However, as budgeted, there is not sufficient income from pledges and other sources to cover the cost of operating the fellowship in the manner to which we are accustomed. To continue the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's existence in DeKalb, the canvass for the upcoming church year needs to bring in a larger amount than the \$69,568 pledged for the current year. How much are each of you reading this newsletter willing and able to give in order to sustain this community?

**Pledge vs. Expense Summary for Fiscal Year 2016**

With 60% of Year Past

Amount pledged	69,568
Projected fundraising and other income	12,507
Total projected income	82,075
Total budgeted expenses	93,339
Projected Shortage	(11,264)

	Budget for year	Actual 6/1/15 - 1/6/16	% of Budget
<b>Income per budget approved 5/17/15</b>			
Pledges	69,568	42,656	61%
Other income	12,507	7,976	64%
Total Income	82,075	50,632	61%

**Expense per budget approved 5/17/15**

Professional Ministry	44,034	22,396	51%
Lay Ministry and Outreach	500	27	5%
Church Home (Building)	11,520	4,407	38%
Religious Education	8,558	4,358	51%
Worship and Music	4,800	2,762	58%
Finance and Office	13,557	5,011	37%
Denominational Contributions	3,694	1,238	33%
Insurance	5,000	3,971	80%
Payroll Taxes	1,676	901	54%
Total Expenses	93,339	45,071	48%

**Budgeted and Year to Date Income vs. Expense**

Total Income	82,075	50,632
Total Expense	93,339	45,071
<b>SHORTAGE (in parentheses) OR EXCESS</b>	(11,264)	5,127

## Getting to Know UU

By Frank O'Barski



I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I was adopted three days later in a private adoption and immediately left for New York City, where my parents lived. I grew up there and then New Jersey, where my parents moved when the New York school issue started to concern them in the 1950s.

My mother, who was Ukrainian-Russian, was Eastern Rite, and my father, who was Anglo-Irish and Polish, was raised Roman Catholic, though I don't know how much of it he bought into. He vaguely believed there "must be something" to the "God" question, but he was extremely cynical about most organized religions.

When I was seven or eight, my mother's brother Bill came to live with us for a couple of years, off and on. He was a veteran of the last months of the Second World War. He had terrible scars, both physical and emotional. My father told me years later that he believed the emotional scarring was a result of seeing so many good men die and having to kill little boys in Hitler Youth German uniforms. It was either kill them or lose more of his own men. His experiences made a huge impression on me.

I was a terrible student in school. A source of deep anger and frustration for my dad. But I was a relentless reader and thinker, and threw myself into any subject that intrigued me. I taught myself the binomial nomenclature used by science to describe thousands of species of plants and animals. I learned about ecosystems, water chemistry, the interplay of the natural world and all that lives in it. I learned enough to be

very humble about what I know compared to what there is to learn.

Through all this reading and defiance, I soon realized (at about 13) that I did not believe the words I recited in the Nicene Creed at church. I was clearly not a Catholic, though I retain a sense of guilt. I read about other religions, read philosophy, science, history, science fiction and realized there was wisdom in many sources, but no one font of "Truth."

Three teachers in my otherwise undistinguished elementary school career took an interest in me and saved me from a life of failure. They gave me advanced reading lists and field trips that assisted in my random education. One in particular, I believe, convinced my dad to send me to a prep school (Admiral Farragut Academy, then in Pine Beach, New Jersey). I struggled with following orders, but did get a good education, in spite of myself. My grades remained spotty, at best, but I managed to get into college.

My pleasure and sense of awe and grace was always felt in nature and science. My passions to this day are science, politics, baseball, history and a wide variety of lesser passions. I never felt the lack of religion. Indeed, when I came to DeKalb in 2008 to be with my high school love Suzanne, I was not looking for a religion. She suggested we visit UUFD because she had received support there and knew I would feel at home. Which I did and do.

I think the most vital spiritual view I hold I learned from fighting with my mom over religion. After she passed away, I realized that I could have kept my agnosticism/atheism and still respected her views and loved her. It was not my job to convert her. I have not always been a "good" person. I am guilty of many sins of omission and commission. But I firmly believe the most important things are to cherish the wonders and "grace" of the universe, its complexity and its gift of life. I believe I should treat others as I would have them treat me, and to try to give back in whatever ways I can.

## Letter from the Director of Religious Educator: Happy New Year, UUs!

This year will be magical, celebrative and productive! Together we will work to build a safe and inclusive community. We are beautiful pieces of a mosaic and our Religious Education program celebrates being different and unique. I look forward to delving into world religions this year. I welcome you to share your beliefs and journey with our Rainbow Children and Bridge Builders. It is a fact that we come from all walks of life and backgrounds, which is what makes us so interesting. Please contact me to collaborate and with any further questions 708.710.0684/ [gladyssanchez33.gs@gmail.com](mailto:gladyssanchez33.gs@gmail.com).



Your life is just a candle that never goes out!

## UUFD Seeks Childcare Workers

### Position Available

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb is seeking applicants to serve as childcare workers during Sunday morning services from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### Prerequisite Skills & Disposition:

- Applicants must be at least 15 years of age.
- Previous experience preferred.

Childcare training is desirable and/or training in basic first aid.

### Duties:

Caring for children from infancy to 4 years of age during Sunday morning services. Also may be needed for special church events and assisting with Religious Education.

### Current compensation rate:

**\$10.00 per hour, paid monthly.**

### To Apply

An Application, along with two letters of reference, must be submitted.

Those interested please contact:  
Beth Schewe, Office Manager  
UU Fellowship of DeKalb  
158 North Fourth St. DeKalb, IL 60115-0961

For more information, call the UUFD church office at 815-756-7089

## Womyn's Spirituality Group Gathers at UUFD



Gathering: Once a month on Fridays  
7 to 9 p.m.  
At: 1622 Carlisle, DeKalb

**Womyn's Spirituality Group  
For Spirited, Spiritual Womyn**

**Questions?  
Contact: Rev. Linda Slabon  
815-501-4788  
revslabon@aol.com**

### Upcoming Gatherings:

February 19 – <i>Drumming &amp; Chanting</i>	Leaders: Toni & Linda	Opening: Donna
March 18 – <i>Womyn's Rituals (Maid, Mother, Crone)</i>	Leader: Barb	
April 15 – <i>Womyn's Healing and Health</i>	Leaders: Cathy & Sara	
May 13 – <i>Spiritual Properties of Plants</i>	Leader: Donna	

### Purpose of our Gatherings

For womyn to explore issues of feminism, spirituality, age, sexuality, Mother Earth, and our relationships in a circle of trust that we create.  
For singing, drumming, and chanting that is about connection and deepening rather than about performance.  
To share our lives and acknowledge the transitions we face.  
To support and develop a WomanSpirit Conference to be held at the UU Fellowship of DeKalb in February or March **of 2017**.

### About UUFD Womyn's Spirituality Group

For ten+ years the women of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb and Rev. Linda coordinated a Womyn's Spirituality group that met on Friday evenings. You are welcome to participate in this newly forming Womyn's Spirituality group. We will meet once a month. You do **not** have to be a member of UUFD to attend.

### Simple Gathering Outline

Light Our Chalice with Opening Reading and/or Singing  
Covenant – Creating a Circle of Trust – Understanding Limited Confidentiality  
Check-in  
Topic Time – Leadership rotates among the womyn  
Tasks – calendar, leaders, questions, food, etc.  
Closing Reading and/or Singing  
Social and snacks

## Congregational Support and Development News!

We want to take a moment to recognize our January and February volunteers for service support. The whole congregation benefits from the loving care and kindness you all show on Sunday mornings!

Our January and February greeters are Beau Anderson, Jen Stamatakos, Wayne and Betty, Virginia Wilcox, Kevin Vancil, Cheryl Haines and Jack Lazarra.

Our January and February coffee hour hosts are Howard Solomon, Kathy Clark, Nicole and Shane, Bonnie and Beau, Annemarie and Mike, Maylan and Dan, Sharon and Vanstrom and Ed and Chris.

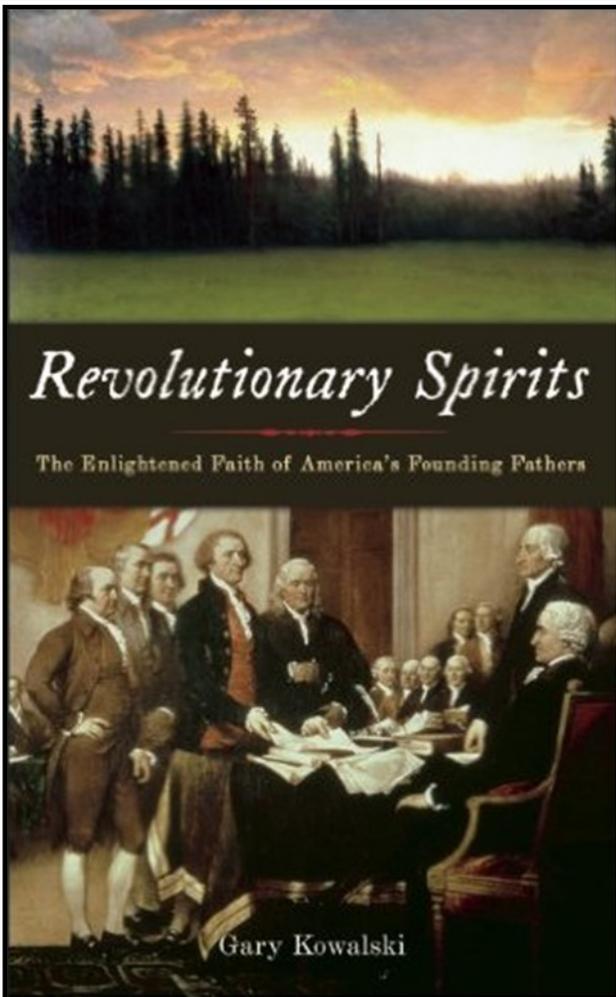
If there is one thing we all enjoy on Sunday mornings, it is a friendly face when we walk in before the service and some delicious food and coffee after the service. When you see the above volunteers, give them a hearty thank you! Remember, you too can be a greeter and/or a coffee hour host. We need 2 people for each job, and right now, there is mostly just one for every Sunday. So, how do you volunteer, you may ask? Talk to Sharon Blake or Bonnie Anderson at church and we can get you going. Greeters need training, which we are happy to provide to you...it's quick and painless to learn. Coffee hour hosts just need a pleasant personality and the ability to bring some snacks on your assigned week! Ask us with questions and do your part for Sunday service support at UUFD!

We must give a super shout-out to a couple guys who work hard every Sunday morning and do so quietly and unobtrusively. Thanks to Beau Anderson, coffee maker supreme and on-call greeter. Also, Lon Clark is always there to lend a greeting hand and offer assistance whenever it is needed! Tell them thanks next time you see them!!!

As always, notify us if you have or know of any Member Care concerns....we're here to help. Stay well, but if you don't, call Member Care. Our business cards are on the table in the Fellowship Hall with all our contact information that you can keep at the ready!

Thanks....Sharon Blake (sblake202@gmail.com or 815-757-2444)

## Book Talk with Beau Anderson!



My name is Beau Anderson, and I am the church librarian. Last year, I took over the responsibility of the library following years of dedication to this project by Estelle VonZellen. With this column, I am hoping to introduce or reacquaint UUers to what makes our library special. Over many years the library has grown through donations of books that relate in some way to UU Principles or interests. This column will summarize some of the titles among the hundreds of books currently available for checkout.

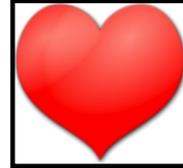
One recent addition that may be of interest is Gary Kowalski's *Revolutionary Spirits: The Enlightened Faith of America's Founding Fathers* (2008, 196 pages). This highly readable book portrays the religious views of our Founding Fathers, such as Benjamin Franklin and James Madison. Early Founders shaped a democratic faith based on reasoned investigation, free inquiry, and the right of each individual to approach the Holy in his or her own manner. Thomas Paine, for example stated, "My own mind is my own church."

The UUFD library is a self-serve library, though the librarian (me) is willing to help in locating a book. Library books are arranged by subject matter. Subject headers are placed on the bookshelves, for example, "Social Science" and "Women's Studies." All books are available for checkout by all UU members and friends. The checkout is easy. Just place your name and date on the library card found inside the book's front cover. Then, place this card in alphabetical order by author last name in the small file box on top of the desk next to the book shelves. This box is marked "Checkout" and "Check back in." When you're through with the book, return it and

retrieve your card. Place the card back in the book and the book back on the shelf.

## Time for Reflection with 30 Days of Love

Our UUA's Thirty Days of Love program runs Saturday, January 16 through Sunday, February 14. This year's weekly focus is on racial justice as it intersects with other core justice aspirations, such as immigration justice and LGBTQ equity. 30 Days is a part of our Standing on the Side of Love work and is designed to help all UUs bring deeper reflection and engagement during the 30 days in between Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Valentine's Day. <http://tinyurl.com/zgz4qv>



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