The Pathfinder

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

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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 August edition of the Pathfinder is **July 21, 2013.** 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.

June 2
No Choir
Worship Leader: Clark Neher
Assistant: Glenda Cosenza
Sermon: When Good People Do Bad Things

June 9
No Choir
Worship Leader: Dave Becker
Assistants: RE Children
Sermon: Walking the Rainbow Path

June 16
No Choir
Worship Leader: Kelly Thornburg
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: Summer Solstice: A Tipping Point

June 23
No Choir
Worship Leader: Donna Veeneman
Assistant: Kelly Thornburg
Sermon: We Are One

June 30
No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: An Aspirational Church

July 7
No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Clark Neher
Sermon: The Free & The Brave

July 14
No Choir
Worship Leader: Glenda Cosenza
Assistant: Sue Willis
Sermon: Keeping the Faith in a Secular World

July 21
No Choir
Worship Leader: Frank O'Barski
Assistant: Sue Willis
Sermon: The Evolution of Consciousness

July 28
No Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Kelly Thornburg
Sermon: Mind & Soul: On Reincarnation, Faith & Passion

Brother Sun is coming to UUFD in July. More details to follow.

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Sue Willis
TREASURER: Beau Anderson
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 Sue Willis or the Past President Dan Kenney.

Minister's Musings

Our May Congregational Meeting was an event rich with celebration, decision-making, laughter, struggle, and not without some imperfections. By my book…that's all good! Here are some highlights:

Board of Trustees: Newly elected members: Tom Stamatakos, President Elect; Beau Anderson, Treasurer; and Kathy Clark, Member at large. Continuing to serve are: Dan Kenney, Past President; Sue Willis, President; Cathy Schneider, Secretary; and Virginia Wilcox-Gok, Member at Large. We thank retiring members Terri Mann Lamb for 3 years of service and Donna Veeneman for two years.

The Budget passed with modest raises for all staff. We continue to work on bringing our rate of pay into compliance with the UUA guidelines for church staff. A copy of the UUFD FY14 Budget is available and if you would like to see the UUA Salary and Fair Compensation for Congregational Staff, go www.uua.org/careers/compensation/fair/178552.shtml. DeKalb, IL is Geo Index 4.

The Welcome Café and Community Kitchen (WCCK) has completed and filed its articles of incorporation and by-laws. It's Board of Directors Officers are Erin Elder and Ron Klacik from UUFD and Gretchen and Charles Sigwart from Federated Church. NIU students have volunteered for breakfasts served. To me, the WCCK offers UUFD a gift of a sustainable justice ministry.

Some Items from my Minister's Report:

Leadership Council – has met 3 times since January (January, March, & May) with over 17 people in attendance at each meeting. **What is Leadership Council for?**

**Face to face meeting of the whole UUFD leadership body; staff, board, ministry council & ministry committees.
**Training and mentoring of newly appointed council members into UUFD culture.
**Review and evaluate UUFD culture, policies, and events and report to board. Make recommendations of new policy to board. LC has NO decision making power on UUFD policy but can make recommendations.
**Effectively live into our new congregational structural model and make it easy and accessible for others to do so.
**Connect, plan, engender and support fabulous and fun ideas that enhance our mission, community building, and living out our ministries.

This year I established the UUFD Unsung UU Award: UUs who Inspire Us. - Since this is our first year to hold this award, and there are so many folks here who have given from their hearts to UUFD, I felt it best to honor all those who were nominated. But if this award is to continue, I will encourage lay leader involvement in the process, and that one or two (at most) persons be award recipients on an annual basis. Let us cherish this community!

It is time for UUFD to engage in the process of a long range plan. We have not done one since 2005. This involves how we think about ourselves and our ministry within and beyond our walls. This shapes who we are for the future and whether we will continue to fly or fade away. This requires passion and risk. This will strongly impact staff, our building, and WCCK (Welcome Café & Community Kitchen).

One book I'll be reading this summer is T. Bandy's *Kicking Habits*, *Relief For Addicted Churches:* "Thriving churches (no matter what the size) do four things: A. Increase the participation of the public in church life. B. Deepen the spirituality of adults in the church and in the community. C. Multiply the opportunities for discipleship. D. Maximize the impact of hope and gospel (good news) on the world. Justice and faith sharing are inextricably linked. What is required is a depth of creativity and richness of vision that is unique and distinct."

In closing this Musings, I'd like to invite you to join me on **Thursday, July 4 at 9:00 a.m. for the 1st Annual Pokanoka's Trail Run/Walk** (I'll be walking) in Shabbona Lake State Park. This is a fundraising event for Safe Passage (see the flier) or visit www.pokanokasrun.com where you can also register. I hope you will walk with me and join me for brunch afterwards. Watch e-news for more info!

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 will be on vacation from May 26 until June 17.
- Rev. Linda will be at General Assembly June 19 until June 23.

Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events

June

4	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:30 pm
5	UUFD Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
6	Mindfullness Meditation @ Estelle's every Thursday	10:30 a.m.
7	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	Noon
12	Monthly Divination Night	7:30 to 9 p.m.
18	UUFD Supplies Hope Haven meal.	
23	Rise and Shine chat	9 a.m.
26	Welcome Café meeting	7 p.m.
30	Pathways to Membership I	1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

July

3	UUFD Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
10	Monthly Divination Night	7:30 to 9 p.m.
16	UUFD Supplies Hope Haven meal.	
20	Pathways to Membership II	5:30 to 9 p.m.
27	Leadership Council meeting	9 a.m. to Noon
28	Rise and Shine chat	9 a.m.

RE Students Set To Learn About Native American Culture

The Second Session of "Honoring Our Mother Earth" is winding down. The children will be finishing their Native American studies with a final field trip on June 2nd. We will meet at the church and leave for the home of Quentin Young around 10:15 AM. Quentin is a Pipe-carrier for the people, veteran Sun-Dancer, Vision-Quester and Ceremonial Leader. He is mixed blood Lakota and has taught about the Traditional Spiritual Ways of his people for over 23 years.

The children (and teachers, parents etc.) are encouraged to bring along a sack lunch to eat when we arrive at our destination. There are beautiful big oaks in the back yard- great to picnic under, so also bring a blanket to sit on.

We will need a few drivers for the event, so if this is something you can do, it would be greatly appreciated. We will carpool to Winfield, IL. and spend time there, learning about the Sacred Pipe, The Sacred Medicine Lodge (sweat lodge), and the traditions that surround these ceremonies.

We ask that all of the students be accompanied by their parents or an assigned guardian for the day. We also are willing to open up this invitation to anyone in the congregation who may be interested in attending this most informative class. We really would like to have an idea of how many are planning to attend as Quentin & his wife, Ginger are opening their home to us and space could be limited! **Please**, **tell either Donna Veeneman or Dave Becker if you want to go by Thurs. May 30th**. That way Donna can let them know in advance about how many to expect. We cannot guarantee a place for you if you do not let us know in advance!

Donna Veeneman
(815) 784-2509
Dave Becker
(815) 761-0433

UU Useables Is Returning
UUFD will be holding a UU Useables sale in August. If you are Spring cleaning please consider donating to the UUFD Sale. Bring your items to the church on Tuesdays or Fridays or contact Dan Kenney at 815/753-0950.

Youth and Adult Leadership School
The Central Midwest District of the UUA offers an outstanding one-week leadership program for adults and youth each summer in Beloit, WI. Many UUFD members have attended over the years, always with rave reviews. See more information at www.cmwd-uua.org. Registration requires a letter of support, so please discuss with Dave Becker and Rev. Linda if interested.

JOYS & CONCERNS

A note of thanks from Clark Neher: At a recent UU Sunday service, I thanked the congregation at Joys and Concerns for their support. Both Arlene and I are grateful for all the cards, calls and visits. Especially important to us was Rev. Linda's care and concern, which means so much to us. Arlene is progressing, albeit slowly, and is stronger each day. This whole affair has been difficult for us both. Thank goodness for UU support. Yours, Clark

Barbara Grant's mother, Hazel Alice Speedy, died in the early morning on Friday, May 17, 2013. She was 77 years old and had been married to Marvin Speedy for 57 years. Hazel and Marvin had seven chidren. Expressions of sympathy and support can be sent to Barbara Grant at 1972 Paw Paw Road, Steward, IL 60553. Memorial donations can be made to UUFD or Barb's family to help defray funeral costs.

To all UU Unsung Heroes who give of their time and talents and ask nothing in return.

To all affected by the recent tornados in the Midwest. May they find the strength and courage to mourn their losses and clean up from the devastation.

Congratulations to 3 couples who were married by Rev. Linda in May: Frank O'Barski & Sue Willis, Deirdre Clarke & Mike Moenk and Asheli Mann and Mark Lofthouse.

Two of our beloved Worship Associates Glenda Cosenza and Clark Neher are retiring from the worship leadership ranks as of September 1st. They have dedicated many years of service, and we dearly appreciate the beauty, power and spirit of their sermons and worship services over the past years. Thank you! Rev. Linda.

Monthly Divination Night

With Jenny Stamatakos (Wren Starling)

Second Wednesdays – 7:30-8:30 p.m. – at UUFD Library

June 12, 2013
September 11, 2013

July 10, 2013
October 9, 2013
December 11, 2013

August 14, 2013
November 13, 2013

Location: UUFD Library)
158 North 4th Street, DeKalb, IL 60115
To participate: This is an open experience. All are welcome.
Cost: Free – Donations to UUFD are appreciated.

Jenny Stamatakos (whose working name is Wren Starling) will be doing one card draws from her unique bird oracle cards (and occasionally other decks). Anyone who uses any other form of divination (Tarot, Runes, I Ching, etc.) is invited to come and read for others as well. Anyone interested in getting a reading is welcome. Stay the whole time or just stay for your reading.

If you are facing a choice, divination may help point in the most positive direction for you. Request something to meditate upon or for inspiration. You might want to know what new thing may come into your life or what is the most important thing facing you at this time. Ask a specific question and see what answer you get. If no one requests readings, we will talk about divination, how we do it, why we do it, what we believe, and learn together.

This is a UUFD Adult Lifespan Faith Development event.

Don't Forget About These Fun UUFD Events!!

******Sunday, July 28, 2013 Picnic, Potluck & BBQ***
5:00-10:00 p.m. Dinner grilled & served at 6:00 p.m.
for all those who help create our Sunday Worship Services:
WORSHIP ASSOCIATES & CHOIR MEMBERS & SJ CANDLE PEOPLE
at Rev. Linda & Toni's, 1622 Carlisle Lane, DeKalb

******Tuesday Meditation Sessions***
5:30-6:30 pm at UUFD will be guided by Forrest Brandon while Rev. Linda is on vacation. May 21 through June 25 Forrest will read portions of Radical Acceptance Embracing Heart Your Life With The Heart Of A Buddha by Tara Brach. Guided meditations from the book will be used in sessions. Forrest adds, "This book has greatly changed My View on Life" Interested ? Stop on By! For More INFO: Email:forrestr.c.brandon@hotmail.com.

******UUFD PATHWAYS TO MEMBERSHIP CLASSES***
Explore your religious odyssey. Meet others who are on their spiritual quest. Learn about Unitarian Universalist history, identity, and aspirations.
Classes conducted by Rev. Linda Slabon & Jenny Stamatakos
Pathways I – Sunday, June 30 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Pathways II – Saturday, July 20 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Pathways III – Saturday, August 3 6:30-9:00 p.m. (Potluck)
To sign up you can call or email the church office or contact Rev. Linda.

UUFD: Life In Pictures

Congratulations to Wayne Albrecht, Bonnie Anderson, Melissa Blake, Kathy Clark and Lon Clark. All were nominated as UU Unsung Heroes and received recognition at the bi-annual congregational meeting.

UUFD celebrates with great joy the Bridging Ceremony at the May 12, 2013 Flower Communion Service. Bridgers are (from left) Elisa Woodruff, Will Ireland, Kara Becker , and Ryan Mishler. These young adults gave their statements of faith and commitment at the service.

Congregational Support and Development News

Well, we have a new name.... formerly known as Member Care, we are now known as Congregational Support and Development. We're still on the job, though, just like last year! So, keep us in mind for any needs you might have. We are always ready to help with meals, rides, companionship, get well wishes and much more.

We also have a few interesting and fun things planned for the upcoming church year. Starting in June, we are having themed coffee hours the first Sunday of the month....June is chocolate themed, July is hot and spicy, August is a picnic theme and September is back to school! So, get ready for some fun. In August, we are also offering a two-hour retreat for old and new greeters! We'll get the date out, and if you are a greeter or have always wanted to be a greeter, please plan to attend! It'll be fun and informative, as well as help us tighten up our greeter program and policies! We'll also have a retreat in December to help people take care of themselves around the holidays, plus two more retreats in the spring!

Don't forget to contact any of us at any time for any member care needs you may need. Have ideas for us? Let us know!!! Remember, we're here for you! Email or call me or talk to any of us. We're here to help!

Jen Stamatakos, Bonnie Anderson, Terri Mann-Lamb and Sharon Blake :)

Sharon Blake
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