



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 56, Issue 4

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

May 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.

(UUFD mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the June/July edition of the Pathfinder is **May 17, 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.

May Theme: Tradition

Tradition. For much of our U.U. history, we've seen it as a threat. We know what it is like to be bound tight by tradition. Suffocated by rules and rituals that limit what we can think or who we can love. So, rightfully, our UU message has long been: "Don't be afraid to throw tradition out!" But for a while now, we've also recognized that tradition can be a gift, not just a threat. We're even coming to recognize that tradition can be a source of freedom. Voices of the present oppress and mislead as much as voices from the past. Sometimes, allowing the voice of tradition to speak is the only way we make our way safely through the shallowness of modern day "wisdom."

May 3

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon

Assistant: Frank O'Barski

Sermon: *Sacred Time, Fertile Fire*

May 10

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda

Assistant: Dave Becker

Sermon: *A Tradition of Flowers*

UUFD Flower Communion - Please bring cut flowers (vases provided) or potted flowers to share for distribution during the communion.

May 17

No Choir

Worship Leader: Irene Faivre

Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney

Message: *Tradition in a Non-Traditional Age*

*****Congregational Meeting following a short worship service*****

May 24

No Choir

Worship Leader: Frank O'Barkski

Assistant: Sue Willis

Sermon: *The Tradition of Rebellion*

May 31

No Choir

Worship Leader: Ed Miguel

Assistant: Sue Willis

Sermon: *Tradition is Remembrance*

Congregational Meeting: May 17

All are invited to the upcoming Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 17, after a short service. Voting UUFD members are especially encouraged to attend because we need a quorum to vote on new leaders for the upcoming year. Childcare will be provided.

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon

OFFICE MANAGER: Beth Schewe

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud

PRESIDENT: Tom Stamatakos

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 Tom Stamatakos or the Past President Sue Willis.

Minister's Musings

Perspective, perspective, perspective. Money, racism, money, justice, money, haves & have-nots.

Think with me on these words in relation to our neighbors in Fairdale following the major losses after the EF4 tornado. Two lives lost, many injured, and homes demolished...all within 15 miles from where most of us live. I can't help but think, "This could have been me."

A headline on the front page story of the April 23, 2015 DeKalb Daily Chronicle read: **Federal Aid Unlikely for Fairdale.** The article by Brett Rowland states, "The road to recovery in Fairdale will be paved with local dollars...local leaders don't expect the kind of federal disaster relief assistance that helped survivors of the deadly 2013 tornado that struck Washington." It appears too early to determine if federal grants or low-interest disaster loans will be available for Fairdale's recovery. Even state assistance is questionable. Rep. Bob Pritchard is quoted: "There's really no money available that's been set aside, we could try to appropriate some things, but given this budget climate, I don't see that happening...even with as needy as disaster relief is, there isn't going to be a lot of money available." Clearly, local response is crucial.

Perspective, perspective, perspective. Money, racism, money, justice, money, haves & have-nots.

When I think of our congregation's recent response to the tornado emergency, I am proud. There is a generosity of spirit that shines from our folks at UUFD. Our Office Administrator, Beth Schewe, wrote the following article and posted it in our

weekly e-news:

Thank you for your contributions to the rummage sale for tornado relief

On April 18, UUFD provided rent-free space for a rummage sale organized by Mark Pietrowski (DeKalb County Board) and Kori Rempfer. All proceeds benefitted tornado victims in DeKalb County. In addition to hosting the sale, many UUFD members volunteered their time to help with set-up, clean-up, and the UUFD bake sale held in conjunction with the rummage sale – including Beau and Bonnie Anderson, Carey Boehmer, Sharon Blake, Annemarie Clifford, Terri Mann-Lamb, Liz Hyink, Lindsay Andrews, and Beth Schewe. Thanks to these efforts, **the sale earned a total of \$2,045.21.** And all of this was organized in just one week!

Now add to this the \$800.00 given over just two Sundays for tornado relief by twelve donors (UUFD members or families) and an additional \$200 from the general resources of the UUFD Discretionary Fund. This additional \$1,000.00 brings **our total contribution as of April 25th to \$3,045.21.**

Perspective, perspective, perspective. Money, racism, money, justice, money, haves & have nots.

I believe that we are a generous people at UUFD. I have seen it time and again. Not that we have generosity all buttoned up, dealt with, done. OH NO. But we are listening and learning. We are responding, but we have things to talk about too. Recently I've had the privilege to listen closely to minister colleagues who serve con-

gregations in the St. Louis area. They tell me of daily vigils at the courthouse since the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson. They tell of the 82 organizations that formed the "Don't Shoot Coalition" in the St. Louis area. They tell of the pain and heartbreak even in UU churches; in congregations that believe in their support of civil rights and equality and yet choke in their efforts to talk about white privilege or police brutality. They tell me of colleagues who joined other ministers in a shield wall and were hit with tear gas. Issues of justice and "Black Lives Matter" have raised anxiety, and tested the courage and faith of those who seek to do good. Controversy has battered some UU congregations into exhaustion, and some even to brokenness. A colleague said to me, "What really matters? I see our struggle over budgets and buildings in a whole new way. Is that not also white privilege?"

Perspective, perspective, perspective. Money, racism, money, justice, money, haves & have nots.

We at UUFD must continue to learn about our privilege, power, and differences. We at UUFD must consider our congregation's financial security, our need to support our operating budget and staff with justice and equity, and our goals for a new kitchen and other renovations to our building. I hope you will be at Sunday services in May and will attend the Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting on May 17. We have much to talk about.

Perspective, perspective, perspective...

Rev. Linda

UUFD Staff News

- Beth's office hours are Tues. 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Fri. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Rev. Linda's hours are by appointment. Please call 815/501-4788.
- Rev. Linda will be on vacation from May 19 through June 15. She will return to the office on June 16. In case of an emergency, please contact Beth Schewe, Office Manager, or a member of the UUFD Board of Trustees.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



May

1	Peaceful meditation (Friday mornings)	11 a.m.
1	Restorative meditation (Friday evenings)	5:15 p.m.
3	Leadership Council	Noon to 2 p.m.
3	Ministry Council @ at Rev. Linda's house	5:30 p.m.
5	Mind's Eye Theater (every Tuesday)	7 to 11 p.m.
6	UUFD Board of Trustees	7:30 p.m.
7	United Faculty Alliance	5 p.m.
9	Welcome Café and Community Kitchen Brunch and Welcome Essential Pantry	10 a.m. to Noon
10	UUFD Pagan Study Group (library)	Noon to 1 p.m.
10	UUFD Buddhist Study Group (RE Room)	12:30 to 2 p.m.
10	Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering	2 to 3:30 p.m.
10	Svaroopo Yoga with Ed Miguel	4 and 6 p.m.
13	Stitch and Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
17	Congregational Meeting (following a short worship service)	
17	Soul Matter Deepening Group	1 to 2:30 p.m.
19	Hope Haven Meal	6:30 p.m.
24	UUFD Buddhist Study Group (library)	12:30 to 2 p.m.
24	Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering	2 to 3:30 p.m.
26	PFLAG	7 to 8:30 p.m.

Sunday May 3rd - Two important meetings:

****Noon to 2 p.m.** — Leadership Council meets at UUFD Fellowship Hall. All Board, Staff, Council and Ministry Team leaders welcome. Please bring some food to share. Hope to see you there.

****5:30 p.m.** — Ministry Council members (Pam Wicking, Jeanne Meyer, & Mike Clifford) meet at Rev. Linda's home.

Please join DeKalb Interfaith Network Memorial Day Parade of Fallen Illinois Soldiers

On **Monday, May 25**, we need 30 volunteers to help carry the long and sad Rope of Photos of IL Fallen Soldiers in the Iraq/Afghanistan Wars.

We'll meet at the corner of Oak and 3rd (across from DeKalb Library) between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. Parade step off is 9:00 a.m. We have traditionally had many volunteers -- we've been so grateful for your support! The parade take us through the city of DeKalb, where we end at the Elwood House Garden.

If you'd like to help update and assemble the Rope, adding photos of recent casualties, we'll meet in the Conference Room at First Cong. UCC church from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17.

Please let me know how you can help! Thanks,

Lolly Voss

815-758-2370 or lollyvoss@aol.com

UUFD Worship Associates Training Coming Soon

Would you enjoy a chance to deepen your creative skills and leadership abilities? Consider applying to be a UUFD Worship Associate. To find out more or for the application, visit: <http://www.uufdekalb.org/node/731>.



JOYS & CONCERNS



“Thank you to all who expressed sympathy on the death of my sister, Connie Erpelding, who died March 29. One of the greatest joys and sorrows I experienced at the same moment was singing "I Believe" at her funeral as her casket was brought into the church. She had a large, loving family. I'm going to miss her.” – Bonnie Anderson



Congratulations to Dan Kenney, who received a Serve Illinois Volunteer Award on April 20, a statewide award to recognize Dan's volunteer efforts and outstanding service to the community through the DeKalb County Community Gardens.



Congratulations as well to Howard Solomon, who was recently elected to the DeKalb County School Board. Thank you for your service to DeKalb!



Our deep appreciation to the 2015 UUFDF GALA TEAM. Rev. Linda wants to apologize and especially thank the two people that she forgot to include in the earlier reports: **DIANE JOHNS and TONI TOLLERUD. Both Diane and Toni have helped with our UUFDF Gala's since the early years...1996 to the present.** Thanks also to: Kristina Olsen, Terri Mann Lamb, Jeff Kowalski, Carey Boehmer, Annmarie & Mike Clifford, Beth Schewe, and Gladys Sanchez. We raised over \$5,100 for our ministries. Thanks also to those who helped set up, clean up and to all those who contributed to the auctions. We appreciate YOU!

A Note About Pathfinder Production

Publication of the Pathfinder will be changed to a bimonthly schedule, beginning with the June/July issue. Please note that each issue will now cover two months, so keep that in mind as you publicize UUFDF events and activities. And for weekly information, check the eNews and Facebook! Thank you so much!

News From Congregational Support and Development!!!!

CS&D would like to take a moment to thank all our April volunteers for greeters and coffee hour hosts. UUFDF would not be such a welcoming and fun place to be on Sunday mornings if it weren't for our friendly and talented volunteers. Make sure you thank these people when you see them, and if you aren't a friendly volunteer yet, rest assured there is always a spot for you. Training is free and the rewards are priceless!

Many thanks go to Teri and David Diaz, Virginia Wilcox-Gok, Betty and Wayne Albrecht, Bonnie Anderson, Chris and Ed Miguel, Dave and Teri again (!), Beau Anderson and Sharon Blake. And, we need to thank Lon Clark, who is always there when we need an extra hand. Also, we owe a weekly debt of gratitude to our very own Mr. Coffee, Beau Anderson....he's the one to thank when you drink your coffee at coffee hour!

And guess what? The month of May is wide open for volunteers. Only 1 or 2 slots are filled in. Now's your chance to step up to the plate and enjoy some quality volunteer time! Contact me (sblake202@gmail.com or Beth at the Church Office. We thank you!

Remember, CS&D is here when you need us! Just call if you need some member care!

Sharon Blake, Annemarie Clifford, Bonnie Anderson and Terri Mann-Lamb!



UUFd Annual Pledge Drive

We are in the midst of our annual pledge drive, so if you have not submitted your pledge form for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year yet, there is still time!

The vast majority of our annual budget comes from pledges, so this drive is crucial to the life of our congregation. The Board and I have set a goal this year of raising \$100,000 from pledges – this is an increase of about 33% over what was pledged last year.

Why have we set this goal? First, it will allow us to once again become a congregation in good standing with the UUA and the MidAmerica Region, by restoring our full fair share contribution – we have cut this in half for the past two years due to lack of funds. Second, it will allow us to come closer to paying our staff the minimum recommended fair compensation for a congregation of our size. And finally, it will allow us to gradually build up a reserve of funds for use in case of unanticipated large expenses.

We will be posting the results of the pledge drive as pledges come in; our goal is to conclude the drive in early May, so the Board has a solid basis on which to do the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

In my letter in last month's Pathfinder (<http://www.uufdekalb.org/member-center/pathfinder>), I explained why giving to UUFd is so important, and in some ways, so different than supporting other charitable causes. In short, UUFd is our own creation, and is part of our lives in ways that those other organizations, wonderful as they are, can never be. My own pledge represents about 5% of my gross (yes, before taxes) income; that's a stretch for me, but UUFd is worth stretching for. Please join me. UUFd is you and me, and we are worth it.

To make your pledge now, call the church office or visit: <http://www.uufdekalb.org/member-center/member-forms/stewardship-pledge-form>.

Sincerely,
Sue Willis, Board of Trustees Past President



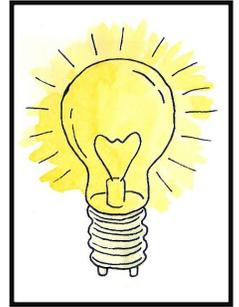
Buddhist Study Group – Summer Plans

The UUFd Buddhist Study Group is off and running...or sitting. As a starting point, we have organized our study around the book Buddhism: A Concise Introduction (Huston Smith & Philip Novak, Harper, San Francisco, 2003). Newcomers are welcome, even if you don't expect that Buddhism will ever become an important philosophy for you. The readings for May are Chapter 5, The Eight-Fold Path, and Chapter 6, Other Core Buddhist Concepts.

We've added a brief meditation period (12:30-12:50) preceding the study group for those who are interested. The Study Group itself runs from 1:00-2:15. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both sessions. If you have questions, email Irene (Faiivre05@yahoo.com) or just come to the group and check us out. The meeting dates for May have been shifted due to scheduling conflicts. Our new dates are May 10 (in the RE room) and May 24 (in the Library). Beginning in June, we will be back to our regular schedule of the first and third Sundays in the Library.



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!



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