



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 56, Issue 3

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

April 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 May edition of the Pathfinder is **April 19, 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.

April Theme: Revelation

Every UU out there agrees : to be a "people of revelation" in our liberal tradition means first and foremost to be a people of humility. Revelation is not sealed. It is on-going and spread out all over the place. And so we are called to be humble. Humble and open. Open to other perspectives. Open to new insights. Open to a diversity of perspectives and insights. Imagine that Life itself actually "wants" something for us and from us. Imagine that it's not all about us choosing and being in control, but instead about us listening and looking and letting ourselves be led. This too is what it means to be a people of revelation.

April 5

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: Death and Life Reveal
***Easter Celebration - A UU liberal Christian communion will be offered.*

April 12

No Choir
Worship Leader: Sue Willis
Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Intergenerational Service: Religious Education Sunday - A Celebration of Our Children.

April 19

Choir
Worship Leader: Elisa Woodruff
Assistant: Ed Miguel
Sermon: Universalism and Progressive Revelations.

April 26

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Irene Faivre
Sermon: Like a Seed
***Bring a Friend & New Member Sunday*

May 3

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: Sacred Time, Fertile Fire

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

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean.

But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." - Mother Teresa

How many of you still get a paper edition of the DeKalb Daily Chronicle? I do. Most people probably get their news online. I wonder how much of it is local news? I've kept the March 6, 2015 edition of the Chronicle because of the front page story: **Survey: Child Poverty On the Rise**. Here's a quote, "The number of DeKalb County children living in poverty nearly tripled from 1999 to 2012, child advocates said in a report...nearly 24% of DeKalb County children lived in poverty in 2012, the 2015 IL Kids Count Survey released by Voices for IL Children showed." # of children in DeKalb County living in poverty in 1999: 1,508 # of children in 2012: 5,371

We can get discouraged by this or we can be one of the drops, as Mother Teresa tells us. How to do that? Read the following article by Dan Kenney. Dan is a man whose compassionate heart and rock-solid sense of integrity compels him to work tirelessly for justice; but Dan can't do it alone. None of us can. We need each other. We need PEOPLE of compassionate hearts and rock-solid integrity so that we might "protect the earth, eliminate poverty and stop oppression". Read Dan's article, listen to your heart and integrity, and do what you can to feel good...

It Takes a Community

Thank you to Laura, Bonnie, Mary, Jim, Sheryl and Sharon, and Danica for your contribution to this month's picnic themed Hope Haven Meal. It was greatly appreciated. In February Hope Haven provided 5,196 meals to homeless individuals and families. Right now there are 54 people on the emergency side of Hope Haven, and 13 of them are children. They depend on churches from around the community providing meals. **UUFD provides one meal a month, always on the third Tuesday.**

I have coordinated the meals for Hope Haven for a few years now, and before that Joe Pouroy did for many years. I have had lots of help from Beth, Bonnie Freeman, Bonnie Anderson, and others.

The meals fall under the guidance of the UUFD Social Justice and Outreach Ministry Committee. Each month often the same names appear on the sign-up list; their efforts are essential. However, it would be good to see more names from our congregation appear on the list, so the burden doesn't always fall on the same shoulders.

*It may take a village to raise a child; however it also takes a community to support a community. If we all work together it will help all of us. **The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship Hall, the table in the corner where we line-up for coffee and treats after Sunday service.***

It is easy to get involved. If you would like to help with the meal,

but are not sure how, just contact me or someone on the social justice and outreach committee – we will be glad to help you through it. Or ask one of the individuals listed above; they have been part of many, many meals. If cooking for 35 plus seems overwhelming, find a friend or fellow member of the congregation to do it with you – that is why we have two places on the sign-up sheet for each portion of the meal. Sheryl Nak and Sharon Blake have teamed together every month for years. I am not sure if they have ever received an unsung heroes award, but they should. Every month for at least 10 years they have contributed to the Hope Haven meal. EVERY MONTH! Also if the cost of preparing a meal for others is too costly for your budget, we also have folks like Wayne and Betty and many others who often make financial contributions to the Hope Haven meals. If you save your receipt for the ingredients used and turn it in to Beth in the office you can get reimbursed out of the Social Justice fund.

Please consider giving it a try. Often I think, well someone else will take care of it. But then I look around and realize I am the "someone." Thank you and I will look forward to seeing your name on the Hope Haven sign-up list.

--Dan Kenney

In CommUNITY,



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.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



April

1	Book Study Group: Power, Privilege and Difference (Every Wed. in April)	6 to 7:30 p.m.
1	UUFD Board Meeting	7:30 p.m.
3	Peaceful meditation (Friday mornings)	11 a.m.
3	Restorative meditation (Friday evenings)	5:15 p.m.
5	No Yoga with Ed Miguel (Easter Break)	
6	No Yoga with Audrey Wilson (Remaining Monday yoga sessions canceled)	
7	Mind's Eye Theater Group (Tuesdays)	7 to 11 p.m.
8	Stitch and Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
11	UUFD Gala	5 to 9 p.m.
12	Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering	2 to 3:30 p.m.
12	Yoga with Ed Miguel (arrive by 5:15, all remaining Sundays in April)	5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
17	MidAmerican UU Regional Assembly Begins (Apr 17 – 19)	
18	NIU Cares Day – Clean-Up Day at UUFD	
21	Hope Haven Meal	6:30 p.m.
25	Welcome Café and Community Kitchen Brunch	10 a.m. to Noon
26	Bring a Friend and New Member Sunday	
26	Soul Matters Deepening Group	12:30 to 2 p.m.
26	Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering	2 to 3:30 p.m.
28	PFLAG	7 to 8:30 p.m.

UnSung Heroes - Making a difference at UUFD

Do you know someone who has made a contribution or a difference at UUFD but without much recognition? If you do, please send their name and describe their contribution to UUFD in 1 to 2 paragraphs (send to office@uufdekalb.org). Deadline for emails is Tuesday, March 31. From these submissions, a single honoree will be selected by the Congregational Support and Development Committee and Rev. Linda. We will recognize this person at the 2015 Gala in April. In 2013 honorees were Lon and Kathy Clark, Wayne Albrecht, Bonnie Anderson and Melissa Blake; in 2014 honorees were Will Ireland, Carey Boehmer, and Estelle Von Zellen.



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



We are happy to report Mar. 31 will make the 10th anniversary of our daughter Shelle's ongoing issue with brain cancer — Betty & Wayne Albrecht



Several of our UUFD members have struggled with different illnesses over the past months. Among those who are facing treatments or are in recovery while at home are: Blythe Stason, Teri Diaz, Frank O'Barski, Sue Willis, and Elisa Woodruff. May their strength be renewed in the season of Spring's arrival.

A Big Thank you to the Choir, Toni Tollerud and Bonnie Anderson!

The UUFD Choir did us all proud this past month at the Western Crescent UU Choir Festival. Thanks for all your hard work, Choir, and thanks to all the UUFD members and friends who came out to Rockford to hear the concert. (Check out more photos on the UUFD Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/uufdekalb>)



News From Congregational Support and Development!!!!

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us on our Sunday morning ministries by donating time and talent to greeting and coffee hour. Without our volunteers, Sunday mornings wouldn't be as welcoming or as delicious! And, imagine if there was no coffee! So, thank these people when you see them and sign up to do your part for Sunday morning ministry!

Thanks go to March greeters Cheryl Haines, Mary and Jeff Kowalski, Virginia Wilcox-Gok, Betty and Wayne Albrecht and Clark Neher. And, our coffee hour hosts for March were Bonnie Anderson, Donna Veeneman, Diane Johns, Irene Faivre and Chris Miguel.

Remember, the sign up sheet is on the table in the Fellowship Hall (right by the coffee hour line!), or you can email me anytime....I'm open 24/7 for volunteers! Thanks!!

Sharon Blake and the CSD team
sblake202@gmail.com

We hope to see you greeting or hosting coffee hour soon!!!!



UUFDF Gala Coming Soon!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Annual Gala



An Enchanted Evening
Dinner, Dancing, and Silent Auction

Saturday, April 11, 2015
5:00 pm-9:00 pm

158 N Fourth Street
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815)758-7089

Adults \$25
Children 6-12 \$15
5 and under free

Gala Schedule of Events:

5:00 Silent Auction begins, Cocktails, Hors D'oeuvres

5:45 Dinner followed by Dessert Auction

7:00 Music and Dancing

8:45 Silent Auction Closes

*****Childcare and activities for children will be provided.**

*****Food will include meat, vegetarian, and vegan choices.**

Our 2015 Gala and Silent Auction!

Get your Gala Tickets now from Toni or the church office. If you'd like extra tickets to sell to friends, family, or coworkers, you can also get those from Toni.

Here is a sneak peek at some of the tempting tidbits you'll be able to purchase at this year's gala!

2015 UUFDF Dessert Auction

As many of you know, one of the highlights of our annual Gala is the dessert auction, orchestrated by the witty and competent Jeanne Meyer. Last year, the dozen desserts brought in over \$800 for UUFDF, with an all-time high winning bid of \$165 for Julie Lamb's amazing cheesecake. Check out some of this year's offerings below, and don't forget to save room for dessert!

From Sharon Blake (I can't make up my mind; I'm going to have to bid on both of these!!): **Almond Cookies** and **Chocolate Chip Cookies** (plus, they come with a refill!!)

From Kathy Clark: scrumptious **Cherry Pie** and her incomparable buttery **Caramels**

From our new contributor Laura Gillberg: "killer" **Baklava**

From Diane Johns: luscious **Cream Puffs** (with real custard filling)

From Mary Kowalski: angelic **Devil's Food Cake**

From Julie Lamb (do I hear \$200?): **Raspberry Ghirardelli Chocolate Chip Cheesecake**

From Terri Mann-Lamb: **Beautiful Decorated Cookies**

Diane Johns, Dessert Auction Coordinator

2015 UUFDF Silent Auction

Another of the Gala highlights is the silent auction, which puts the talents of our UUFDF community on display. Here are some of the fetching finds you'll be able to bid on at this year's auction:

- *4 hours of yard work from a strapping young man (donated by Josh Becker)
- *20 weeks of delicious, locally grown vegetables (donated by Dan Kenney and the DeKalb County Community Gardens)
- *Insight into your life and wishes through 2 tarot card readings (donated by Jack Lazzara)
- *A collection of healing herbs, all organically grown and handcrafted with love from Donna's backyard gardens (donated by Donna Veeneman)
- *2 hours of professional editing or writing coaching from an experienced editor and teacher (donated by Beth Schewe)
- *Homemade cookies, baked at your house (donated by Patty Rieman)





March 17, 2015

2015 Pledge Drive for UUFD

From: Sue Willis, Board of Trustees Past President

To: UUFD members and friends

We will soon start our annual pledge drive to support UUFD and all that it does. 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.

Many of us give to a variety of charitable causes; why is giving to UUFD different? Let me explain how I see it, using our mission statement.

Together: We are a community. What we do, we do together. We rejoice in each other's joys, mourn each other's sorrows, and celebrate each other's milestones. We support each other in times of need – Frank and I have been the grateful beneficiaries of this for over two years now.

As a religious community: We are not just a community, but a religious community. This probably means something different to each of us; to me it means that we care for each other – and the wider community, local, national, and global – and uphold not only our physical needs but also our spiritual needs. We provide food for the table and rides to the doctor or the store; we also provide shoulders to cry on and ears to hear.

We put our liberal faith in action: We don't just come together on Sunday mornings. We also act in our local community – hosting winter farmers markets, providing the Welcome Café community meal, operating the non-perishable items bank, participating in Crop Walk, providing meals at Hope Haven, supporting Safe Passage – the list goes on and on. One of the hallmarks of our liberal faith is that we respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and turn away no one on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender expression or identity, or any other irrelevant quality.

We strive to nurture our families: We have many kinds of families in our congregation – traditional families with mom and dad and kids; families without children; same-gender partners, with or without children; single parents; people who are single by choice and/or circumstance – and we support them all. We have recently hired several new child care workers, and are improving the RE space for the children; many UUFD members, both parents and not, are involved in the children's RE.

And our spiritual lives: Besides the Sunday morning services and RE, we have deepening groups, meditation groups, yoga, music, crafts, and others; a pagan group is in the process of forming. The inspiration for all of this has come from you – UUFD – you are the ones who make this happen.

Protect the Earth: We support the DeKalb County Community Gardens; our electricity has come from a green supplier; we recycle; we have committed to emphasizing green options in our upcoming construction even if they represent additional initial cost. Our children volunteer at Oaken Acres; they also learn about our environment as part of their religious studies. These are but a few of the many ways in which we recognize the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part, and on which we depend for our very lives.

Eliminate poverty: We are active as a congregation in many anti-poverty efforts, both in direct aid and in policy issues. We act not only locally – with the efforts I mentioned before – but also nationally and globally, as we support the UUA, the UUSC, and others. While we will (probably) never eliminate poverty, we are doing what we can to reduce it and reduce its effects.

Stop oppression: We have supported same-sex marriage, opposed war and related aggressions, supported the rights of LGBT people, and undertaken many other actions. We now have a monthly beneficiary of our non-pledge collections; these organizations provide services to people locally and around the world.

While offering love and hope for all: and with this the circle is complete. We are a loving community that cares about each other and about the world around us.

So supporting UUFD is not like supporting NPR, the World Wildlife Fund, the USO, Doctors without Borders, or any of the other thousands of deserving organizations which many of us also support. 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.

Here is a summary of UFD Pledges and Pledge Payments for FY 2014 and FY 2015...

FY 2014

Number of pledging units: 36
 Total amount pledged: \$ 70,039.00
 Total amount paid: \$ 74,736.92

Highest pledge: \$8,000.00
 Lowest pledge: 144.00

Families who paid less than full pledge: 18
 Families who paid more than pledge: 24 (some of these did not originally pledge)

Families pledging

\$ 6,000 or more: 4
 \$ 4,000 - \$5,999: 2
 \$ 2,000 - \$3,999: 6
 \$ 1,000 - \$1,999: 9
 \$ 500 - \$999: 8
 \$ 0 - \$500: 6



FY 2015

Number of pledging units: 39
 Total amount pledged: \$74,886.00
 Total amount paid to date: \$56,161.34

Highest Pledge: \$ 12,000.00
 Lowest pledge: \$96.00

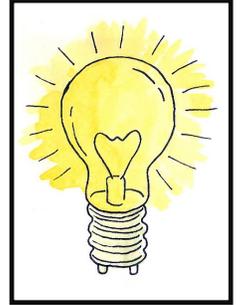
Families who have already paid their full pledge: 2
 Families who did not originally pledge but have paid: 18 (\$34 to \$2,000)

Families pledging

\$ 10,000 or more: 1
 \$ 6,000 - \$9,999: 2
 \$ 4,000 - \$5,999: 2
 \$ 2,000 - \$3,999: 8
 \$ 1,000 - \$1,999: 7
 \$ 500 - \$999: 7
 \$ 0 - \$500: 12



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!



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