



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 58, Issue 1

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

April/May 2017

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.

(UUF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the June/July edition of the Pathfinder is **May 21, 2017**. 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 the Office Manager's mailbox in the library.

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

April Theme: What does it mean to be a community of Transformation?

Make a bit of room. Leave a little space. That may not sound like anything radical or revolutionary. But it turns out that it is one of Life's favorite ways to make us into something new. Be cautious with those cultural messages about aggressively tilling and turning up your whole soil. Watch out for all the heroic talk about striving and perfecting, struggle and control. Much of the time, transformation is a much subtler art. It's about stillness, listening and waiting to be led.

April 2

Allen Harden, Worship Leader
Rev. Linda, Assistant
Sermon: To Change the Things I Can (Choir)

April 9

Maylan Dunn-Kenny, Worship Leader
Ed Miguel, Assistant
Sermon: Change of Heart (No choir)

April 16

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Kriss Olsen, Assistant
Sermon: Nothing Beautiful Comes Without Some Suffering (Choir)
A Unitarian Universalist celebration of Easter

April 23

Forrest Brandon, Worship Leader
Jack Lazzara, Assistant
Service: Religious Education Sunday (No choir)

April 30

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Diane Johns, Assistant
Sermon: To Be In Love With Life Again (Choir)

May Theme: What does it mean to be a community of Embodiment?

Every religion worth its salt will tell you that the reason to pay attention to the present moment is so that we can better hear what life and our hearts are trying to tell us! Embodied living is not simply about being grateful for the unnoticed gifts in front of us; it's also about noticing that every moment and every context -- no matter how imperfect, messed up and incomplete -- is trying to talk to us! The reason we are called to sink into and care for our bodies is not just to relieve stress; it's so that our body's voice no longer gets drowned out by all the other noise.

May 7

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Allen Harden, Assistant
Sermon: First and Last Breath (Choir)

May 14

Rev. Linda, Worship Leader
Forrest Brandon, Assistant
Multi-Generational Service: Flower Communion and Bridging/Coming of Age (Choir)
Please bring cut flowers (vases provided) or a small potted plant to share during the communion.

May 21

Ed Miguel, Worship Leader
Sue Willis, Assistant
Short Service followed by Congregational Meeting (No choir)

May 28

Jack Lazzara, Worship Leader
Dave Becker, Assistant
What is UU? (No choir)

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Beth Schewe
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Bill Lamb
TREASURER: Lon Clark
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Gladys Sanchez

Minister's Office Hours: 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 Bill Lamb or the Past President Ashley Ford.

Minister's Musings

There are many people at UUFD and accomplishments that I'm currently quite proud of:

- I'm proud of our newest Board members – **Ashley Ford, Annemarie Clifford, Jack Lazzara, and Laura Gillberg**. They are bravely stepping up and working hard for their congregation.
- I'm proud of the Leadership Team of 13 UUFD women who made the 2017 WomanSpirit Conference possible at UUFD. **Together our efforts raised a total of \$3,136.87** and over 130 women participated. Total funds brought in from the conference + concert for UUFD is \$1,652.87 (Net from concert \$777.87 + Net from Soup Supper \$800 + \$75 donation = \$1652.87). The auction and donations raised \$1000 for Safe Passage, DeKalb's Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center. And the Sunday special collection brought in \$484 for Camp Woodbrooke. My deepest thanks to the Leadership Team of **Bonnie Anderson, Barb Andree, Carey Boehmer, Maylan Dunn-Kenney, Debbie Gaines, Marilyn Hrymak, Liz Hyink, Diane Johns, Terri Mann-Lamb, Beth Schewe, Cathy Schneider, Toni Tollerud, and Donna Veeneman**. My dream of hosting a social justice WomanSpirit Conference at UUFD could not have been realized without the dedication and creative juice these women contributed!
- I'm proud of the people who will continue their leadership roles and will move to deeper commitments for UUFD's future. Among them are **Bonnie Anderson** who has agreed to serve as UUFD's Music Director upon Toni's retirement,

and **Beth Schewe**, Office Manager, who will need your steadfast support and a salary raise. Her work will increase and will, at times, be overwhelming.

- I'm proud of the five Coming of Age & Bridging students and their five adult mentors. Since January of 2016 – over a year and five months – these mentors and mentees have worked and played together to deepen their UU spiritual identities. Come hear their Credo Statements of UU values and faith at the May 14 Flower Communion Service.
- I'm proud of **Gladys Sanchez**, UUFD's Religious Education Director, for her spirit of hope. She initiated and coordinated two community workshops with grant monies she secured from the UUA. She brought her UU values into the public square with "Continuing the Conversation In the Name of Justice" on March 26 when DeKalb leaders, youth, and social service persons met to discuss multi-cultural and anti-racism issues.
- And, I'm proud of those of us who seek rest and renewal – **Kathy & Lon Clark, Sharon & Melissa Blake, Toni Tollerud**. It is not uncommon that when a longstanding minister retires, and change looms, others who have served for many years will retire from ministries they have led as well.

It is important that we name the feelings. James Baldwin wrote, "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced." I recently had lunch with Diane Johns (UUFD member since 1987) and she said the best thing. It went something like this... "Of course I'm happy for

YOU, that you are retiring, but I'm mad too. Probably many of us are feeling angry." I thought, "Way to go Diane; great insight and integrity naming a hard truth." Yes - angry, sad, or maybe a little afraid. It's frustrating, maybe even infuriating, when we expect that someone will go on doing what they've been doing – especially when they've been doing it for 26 years. We get comfortable. We know intellectually that nothing goes on and on forever, but when faced with the impact of change, we have feelings about it. Some may feel bewildered: "I'm new here at UUFD and what's this anxiety I'm feeling?" Or, some may feel abandoned: "I can't handle another loss. I feel so tired."

So it is important that we are compassionate with ourselves and each other. Charles Darwin wrote, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." We have work to do in the months ahead. I am not being a good minister if I hide from feelings or pretend that the status quo will just keep rolling along. It won't. What comes now are Sunday services where I talk about the transformation ahead, meetings with leaders and members as I beat the drum of transition even though you may not like it, and rituals that bring us together even as we think about letting go. I am reading *The Book of Joy; Lasting Happiness in A Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I'll be sure to share what I learn with you in the months ahead.
In the Spirit of Life,

Rev. Linda

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.

Rev. Linda and Toni will be on vacation from May 17 through June 12.

We are thrilled to welcome two new childcare providers, DeAndre Monroe and Sarah Thompson!



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



April

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| April 1 | <i>The Third Reconstruction</i> Book Discussion (Part 3) | 10 a.m. – noon |
| April 1 | Yin Yoga with Beverlee Burke | 1 – 3 p.m. |
| April 2 | Buddhist Study Group and Meditation (1 st and 3 rd Sundays) | 12 – 1:30 p.m. |
| April 2 | Annual Western Crescent Choir Festival, Elgin UU Church | 4 p.m. |
| April 5 | UUFD Board Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| April 5 | Yoga with Ed Miguel (Every Wednesday) | 6:30 p.m. |
| April 7 | Restorative Meditation (Every Friday) | 5:30 p.m. |
| April 8 | Leadership Council Meeting (Bring breakfast foods to share at 9:15) | 10 a.m. – noon |
| April 9 | Annual Pledge Drive Ends | |
| April 9 | Humanist Discussion Group (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) | Noon |
| April 9 | Wiccan Study Group (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) | Noon |
| April 9 | Ordinary Folk Musical Gathering (2 nd and 4 th Sundays) | 2 – 3:30 p.m. |
| April 12 | Stitch and Witch | 7:30 – 9 p.m. |
| April 18 | Hope Haven Meal | 6:30 p.m. |
| April 19 | UUFD Board Budget Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| April 21 | Womyn's Spirituality Group @ 1622 Carlisle, DeKalb | 7 – 9 p.m. |
| | Opening & Closing & Program "Earth Day" by Donna Veeneman & Cathy Schneider | |
| April 22 | NIU Cares Day | |
| April 23 | New UU and Pathways to Membership Discussion | 12:30 – 3 p.m. |
| April 23 | Bridging/Coming of Age Meeting | 3 – 5 p.m. |
| April 29 | Welcome Essentials Pantry | 10 a.m. – noon |

May

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|--------|--|----------------|
| May 3 | UUFD Board Meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| May 7 | Bread and Roses Concert to benefit UUFD Welcome Essentials Pantry @ Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb | 3 p.m. |
| May 10 | Stitch and Witch | 7:30 – 9 p.m. |
| May 16 | Hope Haven Meal | 6:30 p.m. |
| May 21 | Congregational Meeting following a short worship service | |
| May 27 | Welcome Essentials Pantry | 10 a.m. – noon |



Save the date!
Congregational Meeting
May 21 following a short service

*All are invited.
 Signed members are especially encouraged to attend to vote on the UUFD budget and leadership.
 Childcare will be provided.*

Jack Lazzara, UUFD President-Elect and Rev. Linda have called a **Leadership Council meeting for Saturday, April 8.** Coffee and bring b-fast treats at 9:15 a.m. Meeting 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon *We face challenges and hope for our future. This is Rev. Linda's last Leadership meeting. Please attend this gathering of people who care for UUFD's future.*

JOYS & SORROWS



We offer our sincere gratitude to Melissa Blake, who is stepping down after more than 10 years as the Pathfinder editor! Thank you for your service to UUFD – for the countless hours you’ve spent editing, formatting, and wrestling with those margins, and most of all for your thoughtfulness, dedication, and intelligence. You have helped bind this community together by allowing us to communicate and share with one another.



It is with great joy that we welcome our new childcare providers, DeAndre Monroe and Sarah Thompson! Congratulations to Sarah, as well, on the recent birth of her daughter. We can’t wait to meet her and to welcome you back.



We received a thank you note from Camp Woodbrooke, our February special collection beneficiary: *“Thank you very much for your generous contribution to Camp Woodbrooke’s scholarship fund. Because of your kindness, children who otherwise would not have been able to afford to will have a summer to remember!”*



Elisa Woodruff will be having surgery on April 6th at Kishwaukee Hospital, and she'd appreciate good thoughts for the outcome. It should be a quick recovery, but she may also need an assist or two in the days afterwards, as her family is not nearby.



Thank you to all the attendees and volunteers who made the 2017 WomanSpirit Conference possible. From February 3 to 5, UUFD welcomed 130 women, and our building came alive with singing, dancing, learning, lots of good conversation, laughing, and a little crying. Together our efforts raised a total of \$3,136.87 for UUFD and our non-profit beneficiaries.

Young Adult Bridging and Coming of Age

Come celebrate on Flower Communion Sunday (May 14) the Bridging and Coming of age of five UUFD young adults: **Maddy DiNatale** (UUFD sponsor Dave Becker), **Gabriel Ford** (UUFD sponsor Allen Harden), **Gladys Sanchez** (UUFD sponsor Maylan Dunn-Kenney), **Vanstrom Dracul** (UUFD sponsor Donna Veeneman), and **Josh Becker** (UUFD sponsor Ed Miguel). Our young people will each share their credo (personal faith statement) with the congregation.

Nominating Committee Seeks UUFD Board Members

This May, the congregation will vote on 3 new members to the Board of Trustees: President-Elect, Treasurer, and At-Large. Qualifications for Board service include a year's signed membership, a fulfilled pledge, and activity in a ministry committee. We urgently need strong leadership on the 2017-2018 Board to help guide us through the ministerial transitions ahead. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact a member of our Nominating Committee: **Ashley Ford**, **Ed Miguel**, **Cathy Schneider**, or **Mary Von Zellen**. We would be very happy to discuss the details of Board service, and you may view full position descriptions and duties at <https://uufdekaib.org/member-center/leadership/board-trustees-job-descriptions>

What time is it? PLEDGE TIME!

The 2017 UUFD Pledge Drive began on March 12 and closes April 9.

I know, I know. Everywhere you turn, some worthy cause is asking for your contribution, and this year the myriad pleas are more urgent and overwhelming than ever. I feel it, too. UUFD takes priority in the “giving” section of my household budget, though, and this is why:

- *The church needs us in order to function.* It’s that simple. The vast majority of UUFD’s operating budget comes from annual pledges: staff salaries, building maintenance, electricity, programs, insurance, etc. We are a small congregation, which means that each Pledge is vital; its impact is felt and deeply appreciated, no matter the amount. Without our support, the church cannot exist.
- *I need the church in order to function.* My personal goal in life, one I’ve tried to impart to my children, is to “leave things better than you found them.” That’s hard work, and when I need guidance, support, wisdom, and camaraderie in this quest, I find it here. This congregation lives its values passionately, and we are planting seeds: in the ground, with the DeKalb County Community Gardens; in the community, with Winter Markets and the Welcome Café and Welcome Essentials Pantry; in my kids’ spiritual development, with vibrant RE and Coming of Age programs. The mentorship, discussion, and support that my son Gabriel has experienced this past year as he Comes of Age is an indelible expression of your love that he will always carry with him. In a few short years it will be Seth’s turn, and I pledge so that we can look forward to that experience with the assurance that it will be just as amazing.



Our congregation faces new challenges this upcoming fiscal year, with Rev. Linda’s and Toni’s retirements looming. While we joyfully celebrate this milestone with them, the loss of their guidance, talent, and financial contributions will be keenly felt, and we **must** be focused and strong in our support for the church as we embrace the exciting transitions ahead. A search committee has been established to find and secure an Interim Minister, and the success of the search will largely depend on whether or not we can fairly pay this individual. **We are the Keepers of the Dream, so let’s pledge!**

Now, for the fun stuff! Our Pledge Goal this year is \$70K, and starting in March, you’ll be able to track our progress on The Giving Tree displayed in the Fellowship Hall. Sustainable growth is the ultimate objective, and I do enjoy my gardening metaphors, so we will have 3 prize categories that you may collect at your discretion during the last two Sundays in April:

Seed Planters. Have you never pledged? Do you think you can’t afford enough for it to matter? I promise, it matters! No one is judged by the amount they can give; my own small contributions are just a drop in the bucket. A pledge of even \$1 symbolizes a larger commitment, though, and you will be surprised at how good it feels and how it deepens your emotional investment in the success of this church. First-time Pledgers, your prize is a packet of seeds for your garden.

Fertilizers. All right, established Pledgers, let’s get this budget growing! You’re invested, you’re committed, and maybe, just maybe, you can afford a little more? Just a little? Anyone who increases from last year’s contribution, your prize is a bag of organic compost for your garden.

Harvesters. Faithful, long-time Pledgers, you’ve tended this crop, and now it is yielding beautifully. Anyone who has pledged for at least 10 years in a row, your prize is a selection of vegetable seedlings, herbs, and flowers from assorted flats.

Happy Pledging, everyone! Forms may be submitted in person to me after worship services, to the Office, or at <https://uufdekalb.org/pledge>.

Yours in CommUUnity,
Ashley Ford, “Past President,” UUFD Board of Trustees

Saying Goodbye: Memories of Rev. Linda and Toni

As we prepare to bid farewell to Rev. Linda and Toni – who are retiring in summer 2017 – our UUA consultant has reminded us that one of our important duties as a congregation is to “say goodbye well.” To that end we have dedicated a portion of each Pathfinder to stories and memories of Rev. Linda and Toni.

To Rev. Linda and Toni: With sincere gratitude and affection, we say “thank you” for your many years of service to UUFD.

From Patty Rieman

I first met Linda and Toni in early spring, 1993. Joe didn't come along until later in the summer. I don't actually remember meeting Linda and Toni, rather, it seems like they were just always there—singing, planning, organizing, and doing way, way more than our little Fellowship could pay them to do. We met in the Wesley Foundation building, and sometimes just the little coffee lounge area was large enough for the group. What I remember most about Linda is her humanness. She's the first minister I ever got to know really well, and I treasure the myriad ways I have known her. While I was working as the office assistant, the church office was in their spare bedroom! I'd show up for work in the morning and hear this, “Patty? I'm still in my pajamas!” So I'd pour her some coffee (which required a precisely administered sploosh of milk), laugh at her, call her Reverend Tootsie (RT), and get to work.

While working with Linda as board president, board secretary (I think? Didn't I do that, too?), newsletter editor, or a member of the Committee on Ministry or the Social Justice Committee, I learned about all the faces of Linda. There was justice with joy Linda (my favorite!), firmly down to business Linda, and slow down—we need to process this Linda. And always, regardless of which face was showing, there was loving Linda. I don't think there's a minister alive who has given more love to her church family.

Toni!! This week I am running the very first meeting of a new, progressive Kenosha-Racine community women's chorus. Me! I started a women's chorus, and I suppose Toni is its grandmother! I had forgotten how much I loved to sing until I met Toni. She coaxed rhythms, notes, and courage out of me that I never knew were there! Toni started the church choir that (I think?) I joined in its second year. Toni started the DeKalb women's choral group to sing with the mass chorus at the 1995 choral festival, which gave birth to Bread & Roses! Toni co-founded and directed Cymbal, with whom I sang in their first year. I could go on and on. Toni's friendship and love of music, as well as her desire to bring the best music out of her choirs, has permanently enriched my life. I will always be grateful.

Due to health issues and my dissertation, I started very slowly weaning myself away from UUFD responsibilities around 2005 until finally in 2015 we moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin. I never really said goodbye, it was just too hard. Now I say, “Not goodbye!!” Retire and rest, then get yourselves up here and visit us! Bring that grandbaby! There's a deck, an anti-gravity chair, cranberry wine, and a lake view waiting for you! And, of course, there's us. With so much love,
Patty Rieman UUFD member 1993-2015

Why We Pledge

We value our membership in UUFD, but that's not the only reason we pledge.

UUFD is not just for members. UUFD opens its doors to organizations and groups that hold the fabric of our community together. UUFD welcomes the community to special events and informative programs.

UUFD ministers to people's need for connection and meaning, on Sunday mornings and also through programs like yoga and Friday evening meditation.

UUFD opens its Welcome Essentials pantry each month for anyone who needs it.

UUFD has a congregational ministry devoted to social justice in our community and in the world.

UUFD lifts its voice in the community for UU values such as human dignity, equity and compassion, and the democratic process.

We want UUFD to be in our community today and into the future. That's why we pledge.

Dan Kenney and Maylan Dunn-Kenney

A Message from the President, UUFD Board of Trustees

We're in a time of change right now. We have a much loved minister and music director leaving our congregation. Toni and Linda have given so much to our congregation in love, leadership, good music, and the creation of a good, reliable, sacred worship space. We have been given much, and it is our job to carry forth this legacy that they have both left us. With the creation of the Interim Minister Search Committee, armed with the guidelines that have been created by the Transition Team, we hope to fill the void created by this change. Reverend Linda has been working with all of the legs of our church involved with governance, human resources, spiritual guidance, and any other item related to keeping our wonderful church operational in her absence. She has helped us develop the criteria we need for effective leadership going forward.

This provides me with the opportunity to talk about the "bones" of our church, the physical space we occupy. We have a fantastic opportunity now to realize the visions we have for doing more with our physical space set aside for Religious Education and Fellowship by creating a working kitchen and renovating the Fellowship Hall and RE Rooms. I feel that it is our obligation to grow—as individuals, spiritually, and as a congregation, physically. We have identified how and where we want that growth and now it's time to grow the physical space into maturity. While some of us may be having a little difficulty making ends meet, we still need to look into the future of our growing congregation and its needs. This is the time to confirm what we can do for our growth by making our pledge to the "Building our Future" campaign.

In closing, I would like us to take a look at the future of our community, of which we are each a vibrant and socially responsible part. The next time we come to church, I ask us to look around, notice the people approaching newcomers, the sparkle in our eyes as we articulate why we come. Look around as the choir sings a marvelous song of love, hope, or responsibility. Look at the nodding of heads as a sermon is being given, the cheer and important discussions afterward in the Fellowship hall.....this is our gift to this community, this is our legacy, passed on by so many before us with the same vision. It is our job as a congregation to keep the lessons taught us in these last several decades at the forefront of our minds, for we are the keepers of this space, made up of so many dreams and visions.

With love and service,

Bill Lamb
UUFD Board President
Cell phone: 815-761-4449

Interim Ministry Search Team Update

In case you missed the announcement, in January the UUFD Board of Trustees appointed **Laura Gillberg, Clark Neher, Jenny Stamatakos, and Beth Schewe** to serve as an interim minister search committee.

The team has been engaged in the process of completing a packet of information to submit for potential candidates. During this process, we have engaged in outreach to neighboring UU congregations to determine whether we have the opportunity to share a minister. A meeting with a UUA financial consultant, a free service, yielded discussion about financial recommendations for today's competitive ministerial market. After the UUFD board determines our budget for June 2017 – May 2018, then the final numbers can be submitted for a half time or quarter time interim minister. The Interim Ministry Search Team's deadline for submitting the packet is April 18. If you are interested in the transitional Ministry Handbook, see:

http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/transitional_ministry.pdf

As we weather this transition together, the team remains available to answer questions. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Sincerely,
Laura Gillberg and the Interim Minister Search Team

New UU and Pathways to Membership Discussion

Sunday, April 23, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb
158 N. 4th Street, DeKalb, IL 60115

Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation?

Please join Rev. Linda and other UUFD members for a conversation about UU and our journeys of faith and spirit. As UUs, we affirm that we do not need to think alike in order to love alike.

Explore these topics in a respectful and welcoming environment:

1. Who Are We, the Unitarian Universalists?
2. Who Are You? What is your religious journey, and what brought you to UUFD?
3. Do We Fit? Is UUFD the right place for your spiritual home?

All are welcome to attend these sessions! Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join our congregation.

Questions? Please contact Rev. Slabon at 815-501-4788, or contact our office manager, Beth Schewe, at 815-756-7089 or uufdchurchoffice@aol.com. Children are welcome to be present nearby while we adults are in class together, OR please contact the church office ahead of time and we will arrange childcare.

The session is free, but we encourage you to register by contacting our office manager, Beth Schewe, at 815-756-7089 or uufdchurchoffice@aol.com.