



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 55, Issue 1

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

February 2014

## 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.*

*(UUFDeKalb mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)*

### DEADLINE

The deadline for the March edition of the Pathfinder is **February 16, 2014**. 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](mailto: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](mailto:Mellow1422@aol.com)

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

### February: Theme-Grace & Gratitude

"Count each day's blessings!" has become a common recommendation. What difference does it make to acknowledge *gratitude* in one's life? *Grace* is often defined as love undeserved or *grace* redeems. How do we truly own the concept that we are loved despite our brokenness. How have you lived or experienced redemption? How has *grace* touched your life?

### February 2 -

Choir  
Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney  
Assistant: Elisa Woodruff  
*Sermon: Poverty and Abundance*

### February 9 -

No Choir  
Worship Leader: Dave Becker  
Assistant: Sue Willis  
*Sermon: Standing on the Side of Love*

### February 16 -

Choir  
Worship Leader: Elisa Woodruff  
Assistant: Bill Lamb  
*Sermon: Smooth Moves: Claiming Grace*

### February 23 -

Choir  
Worship Leader: Donna Veeneman  
Guest Preacher: Pamela Rumanick  
*Sermon: It Can Be Wrong To Be Right*

### CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon  
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud  
PRESIDENT: Sue Willis  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Dave Becker

TREASURER: Beau Anderson

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: [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org)

Web site: [uufdekalb.org](http://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

This musings is about worship, but it doesn't start there. It starts with what wells up within me that creates a desire for worship. Having spent over 25 years as a minister (22 years at UUFD and 3 years as a Lutheran clergy), I sometimes forget that my call to ministry arose from deep feelings, yearnings, that are still a vital part of who I am. These include:

A sense of wonder filled to bursting at the beauty and magnificence of the natural world – a splash of red tulips against a blue sky on an early spring day; the glaze of crystalline ice on a bare tree as the sun strikes its branches, standing on the edge of a mountain pass in the Canadian Rockies, or walking beside a snowy egret at the shore of the Atlantic – and breathing in the miracle of it all.

The safety and connectedness I knew in the congregation of my childhood – music rendered with such joy, voices buttered the air with rich sounds, the pulse of the low notes from the organ, feeling warmth when we held hands, reverence when we prayed, and love when I was held in the grace-filled communion of that church. This is a church not without major flaws (like rejecting the ordination of women), which is why I eventually left, but do I blame and disavow the experience of religion because of this? I do not.

Humbly seeking God and Goddess in the solitude of my soul – retreats, the hours or days when I stay in at home alone to read, think, cry and gaze out the windows, meditation alone or alongside other seekers, and prayer – often on the nights I can't sleep. The Rev. Rob Hardies (All Souls, Washington, DC) wrote, "The conversation that we have with our souls in this solitude is the fountainhead of

the spiritual life, from which all else flows... In fact, the spiritual journey requires that we do two things with respect to our solitariness: It requires that we cultivate a solitude that will allow us to discover the richness of the self; and it requires that we create community so that we might alleviate the poverty of the self" (Quest, vol.LXIX, No. 2, Feb. 2014).

Empathizing with the loneliness, pain, fear, or distance that we humans experience. I recall feeling the emotion in the words Jesus spoke to the people of Jerusalem, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under wings, and you would not! Behold your house is forsaken and desolate" (Mat. 23:37). I, too, wanted somehow to alleviate our woundedness. That feeling led me to pursue a masters degree in clinical social work after I had already completed my theological degree.

So, how would *you* take these deeply felt yearnings, add responsible and critical thought, add the needs of a congregation of people who do not necessarily experience the world, or faith, in the same way that you do, and create worship services that inspire, uplift, challenge, comfort, teach, and bond a community of people to that which is most reverent and sacred in life and to that spirit which calls us to be our best selves? This, for a minister, is one of our primary commitments – perhaps only surpassed by "Love One Another". This is, also for our lay leaders who become Worship Associates, their responsibility and challenge as well. Not easy.

I wrote this musings because our UUFD

Long Range Plan, created by us, asks that, "The Worship Associates and Minister continue to create inspiring, exciting, emotionally charged sermons each year; Worship Associates will institute a method to receive congregational feedback; and that Worship Associates will utilize UU resources to enhance their skills." We will strive to do these things. We need for you to be clear, kind, specific, truthful, kind, and clear (yes, I wrote "clear" and "kind" twice) when we seek your feedback. This will support our development.

I wrote this musings because "Worship brings more Unitarian Universalists together in one place at one time than any single other event in the life of our congregations" and there are many ways to understand what we do in worship and why we do it. I wrote this musings because cultural and generational differences change our lives. If UUFD plans to stay vibrant and alive, then our worship will change. We will need to be open to new adventures in worship even as we remain humble and reverent before the Spirit of Love and Life.

Finally, I wrote this musings because at UUFD, lay people are invited to apply to serve as Worship Associates. Consider applying and remember just how precious the privilege of creating communal worship is. Bring your questions, concerns, praise, and application to your Worship Ministry Committee: Toni Tollerud, Ed Miguel, Elisa Woodruff, Sue Willis and me, Rev. Linda. We shall do our best to honor the trust you give us.

In CommUUNITY,



### UUFD Staff News

- Bonnie's hours are Tuesday 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.
- Rev. Linda's hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment. Please call 815/501-4788.



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



### January

28	Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:15 p.m.
30	Mindfulness Meditation@ Estelle's (meets every Thursday)	10:30 a.m.
30	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered)	7 to 9 p.m.
31	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	11 a.m.

### February

1	Winter Farmer's Market	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2	Pathways class	11:45 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
5	UUFD Board Meeting	7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
6	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered)	7 to 9 p.m.
7	LFDP Potluck (meets every first Friday)	6:30 p.m.
12	Stitch 'n Witch	7:30 p.m.
13	Teach Girls Global (meets every second Thursday)	5 p.m.
13	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered)	7 to 9 p.m.
18	UUFD supplies Hope Haven meal	
20	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered)	7 to 9 p.m.
21	Game Night (meets every third Friday)	7 p.m.
22	Welcome Café Brunch	10 a.m. to noon
23	Grown-Up's Table	3 to 5 p.m.

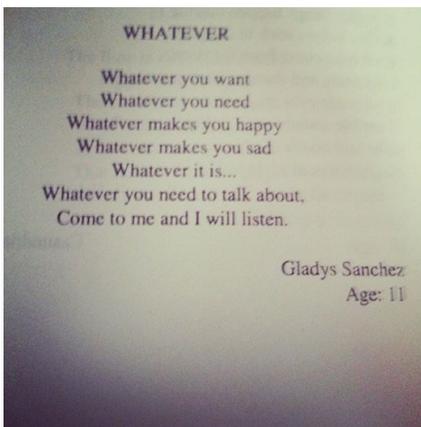
## New Religious Education Director

Hello UFFD Family,



It is an honor to serve our congregation and to join the UUFD staff. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with passionate, driven, and dedicated people. Through my voluntary involvement in our RE program, I observed many strengths. I am impressed with the strong foundation that we already have which are the Rainbow promises. The Rainbow promises truly exemplify our UUFD mission statement. We also have a fantastic routine with the children that includes meditation, blessings, and practices that help our children with their self-awareness.

I gratefully accept the new Director of Religious Education position, I want to share a vision that is filled with ambition, creative ideas, and social-justice centered projects. Part of my vision includes having our children being involved with DeKalb County Community Gardens, Feed 'em Soup, Welcome Café and Hope Haven. This involvement with the community will heighten UUFD'S visibility in DeKalb, and it will enrich our children's understanding of volunteerism and how to be a "public servant." As our membership grows and evolves, I want to offer energy, support and to always practice active listening to welcome ideas and thoughts.



I am a big believer in working together for a greater purpose. I share with you a poem that I wrote when I was eleven that was published in The Anthology of Poems by Young Americans. This is a piece of me that will never change.

We are a team and a family. Our congregation is filled with overflowing knowledge and creativity. I welcome questions, ideas, and volunteers so we can work together to create a spectacular community for our children to grow with integrity and self-strength.

Peace,  
Gladys Concio Sanchez

# JOYS & CONCERNS



Our UUFD Family sends hope for healing to Estelle VonZellen for her back pain and pneumonia and we offer support to Mary VonZellen if needed.



We extend our sympathy to Mary Kowalski and family on the death of her brother-in-law and hope that Mary and Jeff had a safe trip and a meaningful visit with family.



We welcome Gladys Sanchez as our new Director of Religious Education while at the same time, we thank Dave Becker for his years of service in this position at UUFD. Also, we are grateful that Dave will continue in leadership on the Lifespan Faith Development Ministry Committee.



Hip Hip Hooray – the new website was unveiled in January 2014. BIG appreciation to Will Ireland, Dorothy Coleman, Rev. Linda and others who gave their time and creativity to enhance our UUFD public presence. Check it out at [www.uufdekalb.org](http://www.uufdekalb.org).

Elisa Woodruff continues to struggle with severe headaches. May she find relief with the upcoming treatments.

## It's Time For Tea

**Event:** Tea Class and Open House

**Date:** Sunday, February 23

**Time:** 2 to 6 p.m.

**Host:** Virginia Wilcox-Gök (815-758-3284), 135 Ilehamwood Drive, DeKalb

Ilehamwood Drive is the first street (on the right) north of the intersection of Dresser Road and North Street. Last house on the left (at the corner of Joanne Lane).

**Event:** Barb and Cora, owners of Babs & Coco's Tea Emporium, will start us off with their introductory tea class, Tea 101. It's a fun overview that includes tea sampling and information covering the plant to the cup and more! After the class, there will be plenty of time for relaxing with a cup of tea and conversing with friends. Virginia will provide tea, coffee, and other drinks, finger foods, desserts, and a fire in the fireplace. You need only bring good cheer! Significant others and children are welcome.



First

## UUFD Winter Farmers' Market With Arts and Crafts

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb is hosting a winter farmers' market with arts and crafts at their church located at 158 North Fourth Street Saturday February 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The market will include grass fed beef, free range chickens & eggs from the Hasselmann Farm just over the northern DeKalb county border. Also Montabono Farms from Sandwich will also have early fresh produce available. You will also have an opportunity to sign-up for this year's CSA boxes. There will be locally produced honey, elderberry cordial and elderberry jam. There will be several artists and crafters, including home spun yarn from DeKalb. Fresh baked French pastries and other goods will be available as well. Among the great craft choices too numerous to mention are handmade jewelry, knitted items, birdhouses, sun-catchers, goat soap, homespun yarn, weaving tools, wood-carving, and many other handmade items. There will be over thirty vendors, some joining the market for the first time. There will also be a used book sale with a wide variety of books to choose from.

In addition to the great shopping opportunities there will also be live music all day and hot food all combining to create a festive and fun atmosphere. We will also have many new musicians playing at the market for the first time.

"The market has become a very popular community event that supports our local farmers and artists. We had nearly 400 attend our December market," said Dan Kenney the market organizers. "It is part of our goal of building a more sustainable community. Research shows that of every \$100 spent at locally owned businesses \$68 stays in the community, as opposed to only \$43 staying in the community when purchases are made at non-locally owned businesses."

A small admission fee of one dollar will be collected at the door.

If you would like more information call Dan Kenney 815-793-0950.

## UUFD President's Ponderings

Sitting at my desk on a cold January morning, I am thinking about the year just ended and the promise of the new year that has just begun. There are some amazing things happening at UUFD: we have a new Director of Religious Education, Gladys Sanchez, who promises to bring her special energy and enthusiasm to our religious education programming. We raised the funds for a new piano in only a week of fundraising, and the piano has been gracing the sanctuary since its debut at the December 22 service. We have a Winter Market coming up soon, and are beginning to plan for our Spring Gala. Our minister and worship associates have planned out an entire year of themes for our services, all around our central theme for the year of Me, Myself, and UU. Our annual pledge drive will begin in a couple of months. And we recently completed a short, but intense, long range planning exercise, and will be beginning a new capital campaign for further building renovations shortly.

That's a lot for a small congregation such as ours! We are fortunate to have many very enthusiastic and energetic members who contribute to making all of this happen. I am reminded of the beginning of one of our offertory readings: "This church is our community of faith, hope and service. Its energy and resources are our energy and resources." At UUFD this is quite literally true – UUFD is what we are, and what we do, and what we make it to be. It is, in the best sense of the word, a community. We may not all believe exactly the same things, or think exactly the same way, but we have built something wonderful at UUFD, and we continue to build it every time we walk in the door. Thank you for what you have built – it is amazing.

Sue Willis

## UUFD 2014 PATHWAYS PROGRAM

All are welcome to attend these sessions. Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join our congregation, UUFD. Questions? Please contact Rev. Slabon at 815-501-4788, or contact our office manager, Bonnie Freeman, at 815-756-7089 or office@uufdekab.org. 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 Unitarian Universalist Pathways Seminars at the UUFD Library, 158 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, DeKalb*

**Pathways I** – Sunday, February 2      11:45 a.m.– 12:40 p.m.

*Welcome to UUFD. Learn and ask questions about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. This session takes place after service, is informal, and lasts about an hour.*

**No registration needed.**

**Pathways II** – Sunday evening, February 16      6:00-8:00 p.m.

*We share our life and spiritual journeys.*

*Who are you? And who are we, the Unitarian Universalists?*

**Registration deeply appreciated.**

**Pathways III** – Sunday evening, Date - TBD      6:30-9:00 p.m.

***Do We Fit? Is UUFD the right place for you as a spiritual home?***

*Learn more about UU and what being a member means.*

*Pathways III with a potluck is held at the home of Rev. Slabon*

**Registration is required.**

We celebrate the Mystery, work for justice, and to heal the human spirit. Come learn about us and our church of the living tradition.

Sessions conducted by:

Rev. Linda Slabon has served as minister of UUFD since 1991. In addition to her ministry degree, she completed two additional Masters degrees, one in Social Work and one in American Culture Studies from the University of Iowa.

## UUFDF's New Piano Begins The New Year With Us!



In December 2013, Toni Tollerud, UUFDF Music Director, and Bonnie Anderson, Church Musician, found an ebony 6-foot Yamaha used Grand Piano that seemed perfect for our congregation. Over approximately a two week period, selected members of the congregation were contacted, announcements were made during the Sunday service, and donations were secured for the Piano Capital Campaign so that it might be purchased without a loan. Pianoland in Geneva delivered the piano on Monday, December 23, the day before our Christmas Eve Service. We are so delighted and elated for the energy and excitement over this campaign and are forever grateful to those who have contributed.

We also want to express our gratitude for years of service from the piano donated by Francis and Marjory Stroup. The piano we have had in the sanctuary for the past 11 years was donated by Frances and Marjory Stroup. We are very grateful to them for their contribution. It has served us well. It has aged, is fragile, and is not in good shape. The cost of removal is more than the piano is currently worth. The Stroup piano will be taken by Pianoland in Geneva for a new home.

A personal note from TONI: *Words cannot express my personal gratitude for the love and support for the Piano campaign. It has been a long wish of mine to put a high-quality, grand piano into our sanctuary and this will now be a reality. As a member of this congregation for over 23 years I have watched it grow and mature, and move from a box of hymnals and a few religious education items that were taken out each Sunday in a rented facility to growing and decorating our own church home. WE have a beautiful worship area and a building that allows us to dream and plan. Having this piano will add so much to our worship services and to the growing music program and choir. Imagine next what we will be able to do with a new kitchen and the opportunity that will provide for outreach into our community. But most of all I am grateful to each of you who make our community what it is, a loving and supportive family who deeply care about and for one another. That is the greatest blessing we can have.*

In song, The Piano Capital Campaign Committee:

Toni Tollerud, Bonnie Anderson, Linda Matuszewski, Ed Miguel, and Rev. Linda

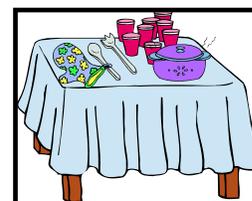
## DeKalb County Hospice

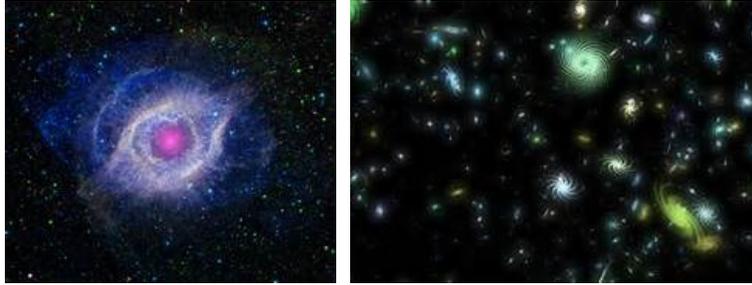
DeKalb County Hospice will be sponsoring the six-week nationally offered program, *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* on Tuesdays, March 4 through April 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the KishHealth System Hospice office, DeKalb. Pre-registration is required. Individuals are encouraged to call Helen Mauer, L.C.S.W. at 815/756-3000 for more information and to register. There is no cost for class participation.

In the weekly classes, caregivers develop self-care tools to reduce personal stress: change negative self-talk; communicate their needs to family members and healthcare or service providers; communicate more effectively in challenging situations; recognize the messages in their emotions; deal with difficult feelings and make tough caregiving decisions. Class participants also receive a copy of *The Caregiver Helpbook*, developed specifically for the class.

## RE Potluck and Discussion

Our next RE potluck and discussion is Friday Feb. 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the UUFDF Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to pass. Children welcome to attend. Discussion focuses on children, youth, and family programs at UUFDF. All current RE volunteers and those interested in becoming volunteers are asked to attend to work on program content and calendar, along with exploring questions and ideas. RE families also welcome and encouraged to attend. Held the first Friday of each month.





## ***SCIENCE and the SEARCH for GOD***

by Gary Kowalski

“Kowalski has written the story of faith and science in a way that reads almost like a novel.” John B.Cobb, Jr., Claremont School of Theology

This Deepening Group will discuss issues raised in Gary Kowalski’s book including objective & subjective realities, physics & meaning making, evolutionary consciousness, & the cosmos.

**STARTS Jan., 30, 2014 THURSDAYS 7:15-9:15 p.m.**

Held at: The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb  
158 North Fourth Street, DeKalb

***You must have access to a copy of the book and register for the group.***

***Call Rev. Linda Slabon, M.S.W., M.A., L.C.S.W. at***

***815-501-4788 or 815-756-7089 or email the Church Office [uufchurchoffice@aol.com](mailto:uufchurchoffice@aol.com).***

Chapter 1: Healing the Blind, Curing the Lame	Thurs., Jan. 30
Chapter 2: Tell Me Why	Thurs., Feb. 6
Chapter 3: Star Dust	Thurs., Feb. 13
Chapter 4: All Is Forgiven, Galileo	Thurs., Feb. 20
Chapter 5: A Brief History of Stuff	Thurs., Feb. 27
Chapter 6: Gaia and the Great Mother	Thurs., March 6
Chapter 7: After Darwin	Thurs., March 13
Chapter 8: A Passionate Epistemology	Thurs., March 20
Chapter 9: God Is a Verb	Thurs., March 27
Chapter 10: Elephants All the Way Down	Thurs., April 3
Chapter 11: The Future of Faith	Thurs., April 10

## Member Care Is Here To Help!!!

Congregational Support and Development (a.k.a., Member Care) is still alive and well. We'll all introduce ourselves to you in the next Pathfinder, but in the interim, if you need anything, don't hesitate to contact me, Sharon Blake, 815-757-2444 or [sblake202@gmail.com](mailto:sblake202@gmail.com). Stay well, but if you don't, remember we're here for you :) !



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