



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 55, Issue 2

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

March 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.

(UUFDF mission statement adopted May 17, 2009)

DEADLINE

The deadline for the April edition of the Pathfinder is **March 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 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.

March Theme: Power and Privilege

How well do we know our own power, vulnerability, and privilege? Ours is a covenantal faith with a relational (rather than creedal) theology at its center. What does it mean for us to use our power for justice, compassion and right relations with all that is our life?

March 2

Choir
Worship Leader: Bill Lamb
Assistant: Donna Veeneman
Sermon: We've Got the Power

March 9

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Guest Minister: Rev. Gary Kowalski
A graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Divinity School, Gary Kowalski is the author of seven books on spirituality, nature, history and science including *The Souls of Animals* and *Science and the Search for God*. An ordained UU minister, Rev. Kowalski currently serves as interim pastor to the Community Church of Chapel Hill in North Carolina. Visit his website at www.kowalskibooks.com.
Sermon: At Home In The Cosmos

March 16

Choir
Worship Leader: Frank O'Barski
Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Sermon: Power and powerlessness; privilege and entitlement

March 23

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Bill Lamb
Sermon: Sex: Bodies Join & Souls Combine

March 30

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: Sex: Hotter? Better? Safer?

****Save the Date****

—UUFDF Congregational Meeting on May 18.

—UUFDF GALA on Saturday, May 3 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. @ UUFDF. Dinner, Live Music, Dancing, Silent Auction, Dessert Auction.
Watch for more info to come!

CONTACTS:

MINISTER: Rev. Linda Slabon
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Freeman
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Toni Tollerud
PRESIDENT: Sue Willis
TREASURER: Beau Anderson
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHAIR: Gladys Sanchez

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 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

For the past 4 weeks, twelve to fourteen people have gathered at my home on Thursday evenings to discuss the following kinds of questions:

*Do we inhabit a benevolent universe or is the universe hostile or indifferent to our humanity? Is there a consciousness – a potent force within the universe? Have you ever felt connected with the universe? Can a person experience god or goddess without being able to explain god/goddess?

*Is the mark of a mature faith the ability to hold several contradictory ideas in mind at the same time?

*Describe a time when you have felt connected with the universe. Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." Your thoughts?

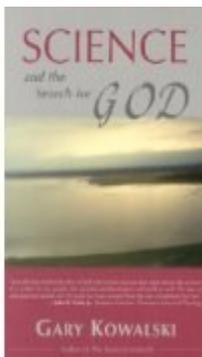


Who is this group? We are the members of the UUFD Deepening Group, *Science and the Search for God* and we want to invite you to two unprecedented and intriguing events coming to UUFD the week-

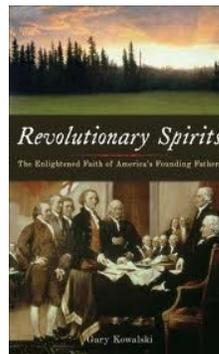
end of March 7-9. The Rev. Gary Kowalski, author of the book *Science and the Search for God* has agreed to come to UUFD to preach at the Sunday, March 9 worship service and he will give a talk on Friday, March 7.

Things to know about Rev. Gary Kowalski. Most significantly he is the brother of our own Jeff Kowalski, rock'n' roll drummer and professor at NIU. Gary, is a graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Divinity School, and has authored

seven books on spirituality, nature, history and science including *The Souls of Animals*, *Science and the Search for God*, *Earth Day*, *The Bible According To Noah* and *Revolutionary Spirits: The Enlightened Faith of America's Founding Fathers*. His work has been translated into French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Czech, been voted a "Reader's Favorite" by the Quality Paperback Book Club, and appeared in periodicals like *Tikkun* and *Yoga Journal*. An ordained UU minister, Reverend Kowalski currently serves as interim pastor to the Community Church of Chapel Hill in North Carolina. Visit his website at www.kowalskibooks.com.

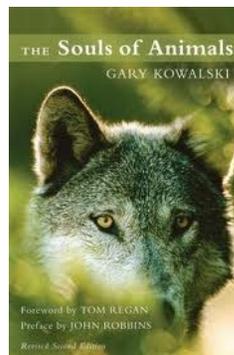


talk: "Celebrating Our Kinship With All Creation." Life is not a commodity, but a community. Animals are not our possessions, but our elder siblings, guides and teachers in the larger family of which *Homo sapiens* is merely a junior member. In this talk, Rev. Kowalski shares the journey that led him to appreciate nature as the primordial sacrament and to rediscover the ancient knowledge evident to indigenous people (reconfirmed by the findings of modern biology) that other species are not so different from ourselves....A new respect for our four-footed, flying and finny kin is not only essential to healing our planet's environmental crisis, he suggests. Compassion for all creatures is the key to our own inner peace.



Then, on Sunday, March 9 Rev. Kowalski will preach the sermon "At Home In the Cosmos" at our 10:00 a.m. service. Last fall, the spacecraft Voyager One became the first human artifact to travel beyond our solar system into interstellar space, carrying a golden

disc filled with recordings crashing surf, humpback whales, chattering birds, world music and spoken greetings in languages from ancient Akkadian to modern Wu. But is anybody out there listening? Rev. Kowalski suggests that modern science is not only beginning to provide answers to the old question "Are We Alone?" but



laying the groundwork for a new spirituality as we learn our universe is more hospitable, more habitable, and more generous toward human hopes and dreams than earlier generations imagined.

Come with your books. Come with your questions. Come with your curiosity and with your fervent heart!

In CommUUNITY,

Rev. Spinde

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



February

25	Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:15 p.m.
27	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered) @ Rev. Linda's	7 to 9 p.m.
28	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	11 a.m.

March

1	Leadership Council	9 a.m. to Noon
5	Board Meeting	7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
6	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered) @ Rev. Linda's	7 to 9 p.m.
7	Book Reception	6:30 to 9 p.m.
12	Stitch & Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
12	Open Mic	6 to 10 p.m.
13	Teach Girls Global	5 to 6:15 p.m.
13	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered) @ Rev. Linda's	7 to 9 p.m.
14	LFDP Potluck	6:30 to 9 p.m.
18	UUFD supplies Hope Haven meal	
20	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered) @ Rev. Linda's	7 to 9 p.m.
21	Game Night	7 to 9 p.m.
22	Farmer's Winter Market	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
23	Grown Ups Table	3 to 5 p.m.
26	Open Mic 6 to 10 p.m.	
27	Rev. Linda's book group (must be registered) @ Rev. Linda's	7 to 9 p.m.
29	Welcome Café Brunch	10 a.m. to Noon
30	Choir Festival	

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 what the contribution or difference was to office@uufdekalb.org. We would like to recognize these people at the May congregational meeting. Deadline for emails is May 4. From these submissions, 3 finalists will be selected by the Congregational Support and Development Committee and Rev. Linda. Last years' honorees were Lon and Kathy Clark, Wayne Albrecht, Bonnie Anderson and Melissa Blake.



Important News From The Welcome Café and Community Kitchen

The Welcome I & Community Kitchen has scheduled brunch for the next few months, March –June of 2014. These will be held at UUFD from 10 a.m. to Noon on the last Saturday of each month: Mar 29, April 26, May 31, and June 28. Your presence and support are always welcome.

The Welcome Café is in need of supplies for the monthly meals that are provided to the community on the last Saturday of the month. Our wish list includes:

1. Maple Syrup (5 are needed. Other flavor syrup also welcome)
2. Sugar dispensers (glass with silver lids. 16 are needed)
3. Sugar (One 5lb bag is needed)
4. Non-dairy creamer (4 are needed)

Please consider donating these items to the Welcome Café and pick them up on your next shopping trip. Drop them off in the kitchen, clearly identified for use by Welcome Café. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Elder by email elder1219@yahoo.com or by phone 815-991-5534.

JOYS & CONCERNS



Betty and Wayne Albrecht are happy to make the 9th year (on March 31) of their daughter Shelle's diagnosis of brain cancer. In May, she has been invited to an event honoring her surgeon, Dr. Richard Byrne of Rush Hospital. Shelle will also receive an award for courage.



Hold these people in your thoughts and prayers as they face upcoming life transitions: Judy Bush, Dave and Teri Diaz, Ev Soltys and Maria Ocasio, Toni Tollerud and Jeff Kowalski.

Congregational Support and Development News

Don't forget to contact your CS and D team (formerly Member Care) for any needs you may have! Last month in the Pathfinder, we promised to introduce ourselves to you in this current issue. So, here goes....

Sharon Blake- I have been a member of UUFD since 1995. I have served many years on the Board, but seem to have found my niche in the Member Care business. I live in DeKalb, with my two adult daughters, Melissa and Janelle. I work at Clinton Rosette Middle School and spend most of my free time swimming, reading, or with my kids or cats!

Bonnie Anderson- I have been a member of UUFD since 2011. Sharon Blake was my inspiration to serve on Member Care (CSD). I am retired from NIU, and consider myself a happy homemaker living in DeKalb with husband, Beau, and two dogs. I also am part of the UUFD music staff. I volunteer with Hospice, play in the Kishwaukee Concert Band, take in dogs on a needs basis and sew for a couple of charities. My hobbies are swimming, needlework, sewing, reading and playing the piano and French horn.

Terri Mann-Lamb- I have been a member of UUFD since 1996. I have recently served as President for the past 3 years. And currently serve officially on Member Care. I was DRE for 7 years. I live in DeKalb, with my husband and 2 cats. I have three adult daughters, Indya, Asheli and Garland. I have been blessed with three granddaughters as well, Raegan, Ysabella and Violet. I have my own catering business, and I sit on the Welcome Cafe & Community Kitchen Board. I work at NIU. My new hobby is performing in a musical choral group Cymbal.



Exciting New Opportunity to Be Involved at UUFD

UUFD will be offering a open mic "coffee house" event twice a month starting soon. This is being sponsored by the Social Justice and Outreach Ministry Committee. It will be on Wednesday night and we will offer treats and snacks. We hope this will be a fun community event. If we can get volunteers to bake cookies, brownies, donate fruit, etc it can also generate some revenue for our UUFD funds.

So we are looking for volunteers. We need people to help organize the events, help get the word out, help with baking, etc.

If you are willing and able, please consider being a part of this great community outreach event. We have many poets, musicians, and others in our community who will benefit from this opportunity. Please spread the word.

If you would like to be involved in any way please contact Dan Kenney. Upcoming dates are March 12 and March 26.





UUFDF 2013-2014 Leadership

Board of Trustees*

Voted into office by members at the May Congregational Meeting

Sue Willis, President	Position ends June 30, 2014. Move to Past-President.
Dan Kenney, Past President	Term ends June 30, 2014.
Tom Stamatakos, President Elect	Position ends June 30, 2014. Move to President.
Beau Anderson, Treasurer	Term ends June 30, 2015.
Cathy Schneider, Secretary	Term ends June 30, 2014.
Virginia Wilcox-Gok, At large	Term ends June 30, 2014.
Frank O'Barski, At Large	Term ends June 30, 2015.

Ministry Council

Appointed by mutual agreement of Board & Minister

Danica Lovings, Chair	815-901-4625 – Term ends January 1, 2015
Jeanne Meyer	815-651-0080 – Term ends January 1, 2016
Pam Wicking	815-501-5947 – Term ends January 1, 2017

Ministry Committee Team Leaders & Board Liaisons*

Recruited & appointed by the Board for a one year term January - December.

*NOTE: The professional minister serves Ex-Officio on the Board and on all Committees of the Church.

Congregational Support and Development

Team Leaders: Sharon Blake, Terri Mann Lamb, Bonnie Anderson

Board Liaisons: Virginia Wilcox Gok 815-758-3284 virawilcox@gmail.com or vlw@niu.edu
Cathy Schneider 815-751-4180 cschneid_2000@yahoo.com

Lifespan Faith Development

Team Leaders: Gladys Sanchez – DRE, Dave Becker, Jenny Stamatakos, Irene Faivre

Board Liaison: Frank O'Barski 815-508-8557 or 815-756-2704 obarskif@yahoo.com

Social Justice and Outreach

Team Leaders: Dan Kenney, Jenny Stamatakos, Jessica Williams

Board Liaison: Dan Kenney 815-793-0950 dkenney53@hotmail.com

Stewardship

Team Leaders: Wayne Albrecht, Carey Boehmer, Josh Becker

Board Liaisons: Tom Stamatakos 815-991-9348 jenlandltom@comcast.net or tstamata@fellowes.com and Beau Anderson 815-758-6727 beau804@yahoo.com

Worship

Team Leaders: Rev. Linda, Toni Tollerud, Elisa Woodruff, Ed Miguel

Board Liaison: Sue Willis 815-501-3448 or 815-756-2704 uusuzanne@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee is comprised of 4 UUFDF Members: The Board Past-President and three members elected by ballot at the November Congregational Meeting.

Leadership Council

The Leadership Council (LC) is a representative body comprised of UUFDF Staff, Board, Ministry Council, and Committee leaders. The LC is not a decision making body, but meets to facilitate communication, make recommendations, and to provide mentoring, team building, and leadership development.

Terri Mann-Lamb, Convener

Danica Lovings, Secretary

If you would like to participate in leadership at UUFDF, contact a Board Member or Rev. Slabon.

Hear YE! Hear YE!!

***Save the Date....for the UUFD Choir Festival!
Sunday, March 30th at 4:00 PM, UUFD Sanctuary***



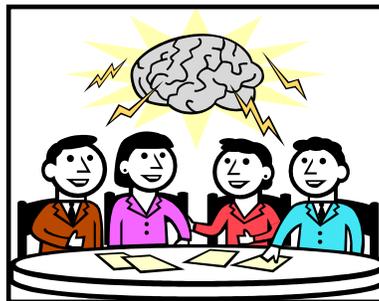
Come enjoy a gathering of over 75 singers from 5 Unitarian Universalist Church Choirs who will share their music with each other and the crowd. The UUFD Choir will welcome singers from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford, Elgin Unitarian Universalist Church, Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation of McHenry, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Geneva. The festival concert will begin at 4 PM where each choir will perform 3-4 songs. The Festival will end with a mass choir section with 4 songs sung by all. Can you imagine 75 voices filling our sanctuary with our new grand piano providing accompaniment!

The concert should be about 90 minutes and will be followed by a light supper of soup, breads, and desserts. This will provide time for fellowship and celebration. Anyone at UUFD who would like to help with the event is encouraged to contact Toni Tollerud at tollerud@niu.edu. A free-will offering will be collected at the event. Be sure to save this date and time and come support our choir and our neighboring UU churches in this outreach event.

News from the UU MidAmerica Region

Hunger for Justice – UU MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2014 @ Wausau, WI

April 12, 2014 at the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau. There will be Justice Workshops, Worship, sing together and the Keynote address (Lived Streamed Video) will be by Paul Razor. Additional information is available at www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly and www.midamericauua.org/services/newsletters.



Reconciling Journey Group Starts in Rockford

Meetings are held 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month

For more information: website: (www.glbtcchristian.org).

Meetup group and message board: -- http://www.meetup.com/Reconciling_Journey/

Contact: Ronda DeVold rdevold@hotmail.com or Stacy McCaskill profstacy@gmail.com or call 630-301-2010

Reconciling Journey is a place of affirming faith-based fellowship with those identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and allies. Each of us fall somewhere along a continuum between reconciling our faith identity with our glbta status and being fully out and at home. What we share is a desire to build supportive community while providing a safe place for inquiry, growth, and discovery of our life's calling. Our goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for both people seeking fellowship and those still struggling to reconcile their faith with who they are as a GLBT identified person or ally.

We are a supportive Christian group, but welcome ANYONE to our online and/or in person group that would like to learn more and get support from others in their own "reconciling journey." We also want to provide a safe place for those who do not currently consider themselves Christians or who have previously rejected Christianity and the church to find hope, faith re-exploration, reconciliation, healing, and love. GLBTQ persons and allies of all faiths are welcome as well as those wishing to explore the love that God has for you just as you are.

UUFD President's Ponderings

Soon, UUFD will be starting our annual pledge drive. Our pledges represent the foundation of our annual budget; almost 90% of our funds come from annual pledges from members and friends of UUFD. The rest comes from fundraisers, non-pledge weekly contributions, and several other smaller sources (details are in the budgets presented at the May congregational meeting every year).

Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31, which means we only have a few more months in this fiscal year. Unfortunately, pledges came in below what we had projected for this year – we had budgeted assuming we would get about \$85,000 in pledges, but we only got about \$75,000. In addition, we had to cancel the February Winter Farmers Market due to extreme weather. So we really need to work hard on the remaining winter market and the gala to make ends meet.

I know that money is tight for a lot of us. People have lost jobs; people are retiring; the cost of living increases while salaries continue to lag behind. But remember what I said last month - UUFD is what we are, and what we do, and what we make it to be. If we – you and I – do not step up with our time, effort, and yes, money, UUFD cannot continue to offer the services we have been offering. Please remember that, and when the time comes to make your pledge for 2014-15, be generous. Again, we have built something wonderful at UUFD, and we continue to build it every time we walk in the door – and we need to keep building to keep that happening.

In UU love,
Sue Willis

Call for Nominations—Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism

Editor's Note: The following was taken from UUA.org

The annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism is one of the most prestigious awards given by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The Award Committee would appreciate receiving nominations from throughout the leadership of our Association so we can select from a broad range of exemplary leaders of our movement.

Candidates for this award should, over a considerable period of time, have strengthened the institutions of our Unitarian Universalist (UU) denomination or clarified our message in an extraordinary way. They should have exemplified what Unitarian Universalism stands for.

Ministers or laypersons may be nominated. Nominations should include supporting reasons and information about the candidates. Nominations made in the past two years will be automatically considered by the Committee, without requiring another nomination letter. The Award Committee itself may also nominate candidates.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 17, 2014. The final selection of the recipient will be made by the UUA Board of Trustees at its April 2014 meeting.

Recent recipients have included Rev. Mel Hoover, Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley, Rev. Jane Rzepka, Rev. Alice Blair Wesley, Rev. Forrest Church, Denny & Jerry Davidoff, Robert West, Rev. Jack Mendelsohn, Leon Hopper, Rev. Carl Scovel, Natalie Gulbrandsen, Rev. Gene Navias, and Leon Spencer.

Please send your nominations to: Susan Ritchie, Chair, UUA Distinguished Service Award Committee, c/o Stephanie Carey Maron, UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108; or by email to sritchie@uua.org.

For more information contact administration@uua.org.

This work is made possible by the generosity of individual donors and congregations. Please consider making a donation today.

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. Stay well, but if you don't, remember we're here for you :) !



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