



# The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 55, Issue 4

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

May 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 June/July edition of the Pathfinder is **May 18, 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.

### May Theme: Joy

*Here are words of three wise sages on JOY. Rabindranath Tagore: "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." Albert Einstein: "Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift." Khalil Gibran: "When you are joyous, look deep into your heart, and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy. When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you see that in truth, you are weeping for that which has been your delight." What inspires JOY in your own life?*

### April 27

Choir

Worship Leader: Dave Becker

Assistant: Gladys Sanchez

*A Multigenerational Service: The World We Love (Religious Education Sunday)*

### May 4

Choir

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon

Assistant: Frank O'Barski

*Sermon: Joyful Universalists: Give them not Hell but hope!*

### May 11

Choir (last choir before summer hiatus)

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon

Assistant: Elisa Woodruff

*Multigenerational Service: The UUFDF Flower Communion*

*Please bring cut flowers (vases provided) or potted flowers to share for distribution during the communion*

### May 18

No Choir

Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney

Assistant: None for this service

*Sermon: Joy Comes in the Morning*

*\*\*Brief service followed by the Bi-Annual Congregational Meeting\*\**

### May 25

No Choir

Worship Leader: Elisa Woodruff

Assistant: Dave Becker

*Sermon: Which came first? The memories or the joy?*

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: **\*\*Save the Date\*\*** :  
: :  
: —UUFDF Congregational Meeting :  
: on May 18. :  
: :  
: .....

### 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](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

May is the month when I particularly reflect on the health and future of our congregation. It happens because I attend the UU District Annual Assembly in April (this year a Regional gathering held in Wausau, WI) and I learn about the issues that other congregations are facing. I reflect because it is the month that the Ministry Council and I meet to discuss the salaries of the UUFD staff. I reflect because it is in spring, every other year, the membership rolls are seriously reviewed and people chose to quit their membership. I reflect because May is the month of the Annual UUFD Congregational Meeting and I have a report to prepare!

This year our Annual Meeting falls on Sunday, May 18. At that meeting, we as a community, review our ministries, examine our finances, vote for new leaders, and examine how we have put our mission into action over the previous year. Equally important is our discussion on how we will move forward. How will we, with diligence and wisdom, advance the long range plan that we as a congregation developed in fall of 2013?

Here are the seven aspirations from the long-range plan:

**Stewardship Aspiration:** Create sustainable financial and staff systems to support UUFD into the future.

**Stewardship: Building Renovation Aspiration:** Create a nurturing, productive and aesthetic environment that promotes spiritual, familial and economic growth within ourselves, between one another, and in the community—create a place that beckons to us.

**Lifespan Faith Development Aspiration:** Strengthen and support our Lifespan Faith Development Programs – RE for All Ages & Abilities – so children, youth, young adults, adults, and elders are all engaged in meaningful con-

gregational life.

**Congregational Support & Development Aspiration:** We will actively promote the nurturance of our well-being, our family's well being, and our spiritual lives by strengthening and deepening our human connection and the bonds of community.

**Social Justice & Outreach Volunteerism Aspiration:** UUFD will cultivate a culture of volunteerism and activism within our congregation and as part of our community presence.

**Social Justice & Outreach - Outreach Aspiration:** UUFD will provide regular, ongoing, and visible communication about our congregation, ministries, and opportunities for involvement to the surrounding community through a variety of media.

**Worship & the Arts Aspiration:** Continue to strengthen and expand opportunities for creative and spiritual expression in our worship, music ministries, and program offerings.

There are goals written for each of these aspirations. Some of those goals are already met and some we are only beginning to figure out. I do know this: A church belongs to its members, and its members' choices now become their heritage. Those choices influence the arc of history. Shall it bend toward justice?

Why do a Western Crescent Choir Festival? Why teach our children to give valentines to folks at a local nursing facility? Why explore the relationship between science and faith? Why work for local social service organizations? Why meditate together? Why hold Winter Markets, or Welcome Café Brunches, or a Creating Community Gala? Why? Because "together as a religious community we put our liberal faith in action...while offering love and hope for all." Without YOU, who cares about deepening your

spiritual life and creating community; Without YOU, who experiences the joy of giving and who works to develop a culture of generosity in your congregation; Without YOU, who seeks a purpose and joy in living your own life, UUFD has no reason to exist.

In the May 2012 Pathfinder I published an essay by Frank O'Barski. I had asked him to answer the question: *Why should I support the mission of UUFD?* Here is a selected portion of his answer: "I learned about giving, and about how beneficial to the spirit it is for each of us to feel useful and helpful. It isn't just about being middle class and moral. It is a warm feeling when you can feed someone's body or mind... Cleaning tables in a food kitchen was work I probably wouldn't have done for pay. But it felt good. Sharing with others some of my knowledge about trees, the seas and lakes and rivers gives me strokes. I never had children. But I have seen the interest in someone's eyes when you open a door to them. It does give one a buzz better than any intoxicant or drug. I guess, in the end, it comes down to something my father once said. Life is a struggle, and you spend most of it absorbed in the details and trying to make your way and do what you can to get ahead. But if, at the end, you can look back and see one or two small things you did to make this world a slightly better place than when you first showed up, it was a life worth living."

Ah, yes. Some things in life really do grow the soul.

In CommUUNITY,

*Rev. Linda*

### 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 by appointment. Please call 815/501-4788.
- Rev. Linda will be on vacation from May 21 through June 16. She will be back at UUFD on June 17. In case of an emergency, please contact Sue Willis, Board President or a member of the Board of Trustees.



## Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



### April

29 Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday) 5:15 p.m.

### May

2	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	11 a.m.
2	Set up for Gala	Beginning at 2 p.m.
3	Finish Gala set up	
3	Gala	6 to 9:30 p.m.
7	UUFD Board Meeting	7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
8	Teach Girls Global	5 to 6:15 p.m.
14	Open Mic	6 to 10 p.m.
14	Stitch & Witch	7:30 to 9 p.m.
16	Game Night	7 to 9 p.m.
25	Grown Ups Table	3 to 5 p.m.
28	Open Mic	6 to 10 p.m.
31	Welcome Café and Community Kitchen	10 a.m. to Noon

## UnSung Heroes - Making a difference at UUFD

Do you know someone who has made a contribution or difference at UUFD but without much recognition? Please send their name and a short writing about their contribution or the difference they made to [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org). We will recognize these people at the May 18 Congregational Meeting. **Deadline for emails is Tuesday, May 6 by 9 a.m.** From these submissions, three finalists will be selected by the Congregational Support Committee and Rev. Linda to receive the UnSung Heroes Award. Honorees in 2013 were Lon & Kathy Clark, Wayne Albrecht, Bonnie Anderson, and Melissa Blake.



### SAVE THE DATE.....

### Toni's Retirement Party - Saturday, May 10, 2014

You are invited to come help Toni Tollerud celebrate her RETIREMENT from NIU after 24 years!  
—Cash bar, Buffet Dinner, Short program and Dancing with a DJ.

WHERE: Faranda's in downtown DeKalb.

COST: \$25 per person. Guests Welcome. No Gifts, please. Your presence and good wishes are the perfect gift!

TIME: 6-10:30 PM

6-6:45 Cocktails at Cash Bar

6:45-7:30 Fancy Buffet Dinner and Dessert

7:45-8:15 Program

8:15-10:30 Dancing

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS: Send a check for \$25/person to: Dr. Teresa Fisher, Dept. of CAHE, NIU, DeKalb, IL 60115. Include the name of each attendee on your check. Sorry, checks will not be accepted at the door.



# JOYS & CONCERNS



Congratulations to our UUFD members who have received awards from NIU this Spring: Mi-Hee Jong, Gladys Sanchez, Elisa Woodruff, Jeanne Meyer, and Toni Tollerud. You all make this world a better place!

We extend loving support to the Lon & Kathy Clark family as Lon's mom is now in Hospice care.



A major "thank you" to those who worked to plan the UUFD Creating Community Gala on May 3. Special recognition for their time and extra contributions include: Terri Mann-Lamb, Jeff Kowalski, Frank O'Barski, Gladys Sanchez, Carey Boehmer and Diane Johns.



A "Thank You" for UUFD's generous hospitality was received from the Rockford UU Church. The "Unicantors of Rockford" participated in the recent Choir Festival held at UUFD.

## Thinking about becoming a Member of UUFD??

I invite you to my home on Sunday, May 4, to attend the third session of our Pathways classes. Each Pathways session is a chance to meet folks and build relationships. You need not have attended Sessions I or II to attend. Your attendance does not constitute a commitment to join UUFD. This is an opportunity to learn and raise questions in a supportive and casual environment.

In Pathways III you will find out about ways to get involved at UUFD, our hopes for the future, our congregation's leadership, the expectations for membership, and about some of our UUFD traditions. This session is open to all but you must register. To attend please contact Bonnie Freeman, our church office manager [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org) or Rev. Slabon, [revslabon@aol.com](mailto:revslabon@aol.com). If you need assistance for childcare for the evening, please contact the church office ahead of time and we will assist you in arranging childcare. Call UUFD at 815-756-7089 or Rev. Slabon at 815-501-4788.

### Pathways to Unitarian Universalism - Session III

**Sunday evening, May 4**

**7 to 9 p.m.**

at the home of Rev. Slabon, 1622 Carlisle Lane, DeKalb

**Do we fit? Is UUFD the right place for you as a spiritual home?**

Learn more about UU and what being a member means.

***Registration is required.***

You may bring snacks to share! A variety of beverages & finger foods will be on hand.

Come deepen your spirit and travel the road for a time with the spiritual seekers at UUFD. Come explore your religious odyssey. Come meet others who are on their spiritual quest. Come learn about Unitarian Universalist history, identity, and aspirations.

In the Spirit of Life,  
Rev. Linda S. Slabon

## Learn about UUANI in person on May 4

Ministerial Intern, David Kraemer, will meet with those who want to put their faith into action to create economic justice here in Illinois. Come learn about UUANI, the Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois, on Sunday May 4, following the service. Join the UUANI Facebook group for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1421369798079834/>

***Creating Community Gala***  
*Dinner, Silent & Dessert Auctions, Music & Dance*  
**Saturday, May 3, 2014**  
**6 to 9:30 p.m.**

*At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*  
 158 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, DeKalb, IL

*Admission Tickets and 50/50 Raffle Tickets available from UUFD Leaders & Office*  
 Contact [office@uufdekalb.org](mailto:office@uufdekalb.org) or 815-756-7089  
*Suggested Donation: \$25 Adults (13 and up)*  
*\$15.00 per child ages 6-12*  
*5 yrs and under are free*

**6:00 p.m.**

*Doors open, Silent Auction and Wine tasting open*

**6:15-7:00 p.m.**

*Dinner with music by Nathan Dettman*

**7:00 p.m.**

*Dessert Auction with Jeanne Meyer*

**7:30 - 9:30 Dance**

*Music by live rock band, Dan Becker & the Tourists*  
*"reminiscent of the Eagles"*

*Catering by Terri Mann-Lamb*  
*Food choices include meat, vegetarian and vegan*

*Childcare/nursery and child-friendly activities*

**All welcome**

*This event is open to the public. Please invite your friends.*  
*Dress: casual dressy*



## UU RAINBOWS KIDS

### FAITH IN ACTION PROJECT

The children of UUFD will be holding a clothing and toy drive amongst themselves for Feed 'em soup. The Drive will be going on from April 20th-May 11th. They will decide which toys and clothes to donate from their closet teaching them the value of giving. The children will be going to Feed em soup on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to drop the donations off, serve food, and enjoy the delicious meals Feed em soup offers.

**Day of Action: Wednesday May 21st**

**Time: 5:30- 7pm**

**Where: 122 S 1st St, DeKalb, IL 60115**

Please Save the Date and join our children on their mission to GIVE and SERVE.

We will only be collecting children clothes and toys. The bin will be located in our children's library. Call 708.710.0684 or email [gladyssanchez33.gs@gmail.com](mailto:gladyssanchez33.gs@gmail.com).



Got something on your mind? We'd love to hear it! Email mel-low1422@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