



The Pathfinder



A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb

Volume 54, Issue 7

158 N. Fourth St.

DeKalb, IL 60115

September 2013

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 October edition of the Pathfinder is **September 22, 2013**. Please note that this is the fourth Sunday of the month. Submissions are to be sent to the church office via email: uufdchurchoffice@aol.com or hard copy left in Pathfinder editor mailbox in the library.

THE PATHFINDER CONTACT INFO

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

September 1

No Choir
Worship Leader: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Assistant: Elisa Woodruff
Sermon: Together & Alone

September 8

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda Slabon
Assistant: Maylan Dunn-Kenney
Sermon: Exile - But I don't WANT to!

September 15

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Frank O'Barski
Sermon: Pain & Possibility

September 22

Choir
Worship Leader: Frank O'Barski
Assistant: Elisa Woodruff
Sermon: ME? Talk FEELINGS?

September 29

Choir
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda
Assistant: Sue Willis
Sermon: Oh, the Places You'll Go!

CONTACTS:

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

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: uufdchurchoffice@aol.com
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

"Who am I?" and "What's next in my life?" are perhaps two of the most-often-asked questions in a person's mind. I have learned who I am over and over again – not only in solitary reflection, but as I see myself in relation with those I love, and the communities I am a part of. My history is made up of my memories, stories, identifying characteristics, and issues. My experiences and interpretation of them shape me, as does my vocation. My vocation is formed by the goals, dreams, callings and aspirations that I set for myself. So, my personality, shaped by many factors, joins with my vocation (my goals, dreams, etc.) and from this joining, out spins my life! Rather like how tufts of loose wool are intentionally spun together to form the magic of yarn.

And like yarn, sometimes my life is smooth and strong, and sometimes there are lumps or weak places that require special care. But the bumps give the yarn character! Sometimes aspects of my personality, for example, my "control issues", keep me from taking a chance. Sometimes my history (growing up in the age of birth control, having choice, and eventually having a lesbian spouse) contribute to a decision (not to have a biological child). And sometimes a vocation's call (being a minister) can be so strong as to overcome challenging social and physical obstacles (ex: only men were accepted as ministers in many congregations when I began seminary, and I was recently divorced, and I had no financial cushion for graduate school).

What's the point of my ruminations? To suggest the comparison that a con-

gregation is like a person. A congregation has a personality with its own stories, memories, identifying characteristics, history, and issues. And a congregation has a presence and a vocation, that is, its own communal hopes, dreams, goals, callings, expectations, and aspirations. And YOU, UUFD, have not reflected on your existential questions of "Who am I?" and "What's next in my life?" since 2005, when the last Long Range Plan for UUFD was completed. So the Board has appointed a Long Range Planning Task Force who will, over the next months, invite us to explore these questions. In addition, your Worship Associates have also begun this process by setting a yearly theme for our services: *Me, Myself, and UU*. Your Worship Associates and LRP team will, in the September services, focus on questions of *Our Identity, Our History, and Our Future*.

Sept. 1 Service: Together & Alone

We are a religious community but also lead individual lives and face the existential abyss on our own. How do we "accompany"? We don't have the power to save others, but we can strengthen each other as we walk together.

Sept. 8 Service: Exile, But I don't WANT to!

587 BCE is a significant metaphor for today. How do I navigate this age of smashed ideals and destroyed icons? How do I handle the "it" of change and where might the Spirit lead us?

Sept. 15 Service: Pain & Possibility

A historical storytelling experience asking such questions as: What do I

value? How have those "liberally religious" folks affected me? How are we transformed? What does this mean for community?

Sept 22 Service: ME? Talk FEELINGS? Who am I emotionally as I experience change? What feelings do I avoid? What must I address?

Sept. 29 Service: Oh the Places You'll Go! What is our ministry in this millennial age? How shall mission guide us through the exile and help expand our circle of compassion? How shall vision inspire and transform me, and UU?

Let's begin by pondering the following ideas. They are quite compelling: *Congregations need to understand that the freedom they seek in order to move with confidence into the future will come from the strength of their spirit, not structure, programs, attendance or financial giving, but the strength of their spirit* (Gilbert Rendle); and "Vision is a continuous conversation to define clearly the results a group of people want to create" (Nancy Ammerman). Now ask yourself: "What is UUFD's strength of spirit?" and "What results do we want to create?"

In CommUNITY,

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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment.



Mark Your Calendar For These UUFD Events



September

3	Evening Meditation (meets every Tuesday)	5:30 p.m.
3	Long Range Planning Task Force meets @ Rev. Linda's	7 p.m.
4	UUFD Board Meeting	7 p.m.
5	Mindfulness Meditation @ Estelle's (meets every Thursday)	10:30 a.m.
6	Peaceful Meditation (meets every Friday)	Noon
7	Leadership Council meeting	9 to 11:30 a.m.
7	Website Training for staff	11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
8	DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church dedicates new sanctuary, Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President, preaching	4 p.m.
10	Long Range Planning Task Force meets @ Rev. Linda's	7 p.m.
11	Welcome Cafe & Community Kitchen meeting—Sanctuary	7 p.m.
11	Monthly Divination & Creativity Night—Library	7:30 to 9 p.m.
12	TeachGirls Global	5 to 6:15 p.m.
14	Board Retreat @ Rev. Linda's	8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
17	CROP Hike for Hunger Recruitment Rally @ St. Peter's Episcopal, Sycamore	7 p.m.
17	UUFD Supplies Hope Haven meal	
22	Rise & Shine Chats resume	9 a.m.
28	Community Breakfast @ UUFD hosted by Welcome Cafe & Community Kitchen	10 a.m. to Noon

October

2	Board of Trustees in the Fellowship Hall	7:30 p.m.
4	Local Flavors Fundraiser at UUFD for DeKalb County Community Gardens & WCKK	6 to 8 p.m.

Heads Up: There Are New Guidelines For Greeters And Coffee Hour Hosts

You can find the new guidelines for greeters and coffee hour hosts at church. The greeter guidelines are on the table in the sanctuary, and the coffee hour guidelines are on the island area where we serve the food. There will also be a laminated copy up on the refrigerator. Here are a few things you should know....

1. We really want to improve our interactions with visitors. This is an important part of greeting, but it is really something that everyone in the congregation can help with! If you see a visitor, please, please take a minute to introduce yourself and make that person feel welcome. Just think how wonderful that would be if you were a visitor somewhere and you had lots of people welcoming you!
2. We know that people love to bring leftover food for coffee hour, but Member Care would appreciate it if you would contact the coffee hour host for the week before bringing anything. We will start publishing the greeters and coffee hour hosts in the E-news/Pathfinder beforehand, so you will be able to contact them.
3. If you are a coffee hour host, please take all food home or give it away. Too much food has been left to spoil at church. Also, coffee hour hosts are responsible for dishes or for finding someone to take them home to wash.

We would LOVE to have new and many different people to help us with our greeting/coffee hour tasks on Sunday mornings. These are important extensions of our Sunday morning ministry for members, friends and visitors, and it is a very wonderful and fun ministry to be involved in.

Call or email me to get on the schedule! If you are unsure of what to do, we will provide training or actually do it with you until you feel comfortable. As Mikey would say "Try it, you'll like it!" (Whether you get that joke or not probably depends on your age, but either way, we would love to have you help out!) :)

Thanks....Sharon Blake 815-757-2444 or sblake202@gmail.com

JOYS & CONCERNS



Patty Rieman's step-dad Curt passed away on August 23. He was her mother's first and fourth and final husband, and he was the father of Patty's big sister Polly Bradley. We join with Patty's friends and family in sending our condolences and hoping comfort and support as they grieve this loss together.



Thank you's are definitely extended to all those who helped with the UU Useables Garage Sale on August 23 & 24. Many people devoted hours of their time to help our congregation. According to Treasurer Beau Anderson, the official figure equals \$1829.62. Whoo Hoo!



Congratulations to these beautiful children: Kaylee, Zak, Maggie, Will, Finn, Buddy, Juliette, Steven, and their families! Our congregation celebrated your dedication Sunday and your belovedness as travelers with us on our Earth home.



We at UUFDF send healing light to those who continue their journeys of recovery from hospitalizations or surgeries: Lolly Voss, Kelly Thornburg and LeeAnn Abel



UUFDF has received a Certificate of Appreciation from UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, thanking us for our contribution to the Annual Program Fund. Our status as a Merit & Honor Congregation in 2013 supports the work of Unitarian Universalism "in programming for all ages, against the forces of oppression, and in support of peaceful relations".



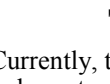
It is with joy that we welcome our Office Manager, Bonnie Freeman, back to the Church Office to resume her duties. Bonnie still needs our support as her recovery continues, but we are sure happy to have her competent self back at the helm!



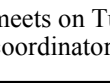
Many thanks to Elisa Woodruff, who covered the office with professional diligence while Bonnie was out. We send Elisa our love and light for healing as she has faced recent hospitalization and continues treatment for persistent headaches.



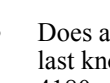
Jeanne Meyer will had surgery on August 20 to have her gall bladder removed. May her healing be smooth and uneventful.



UUFDF friend, Lolly Voss, was hospitalized in Rockford after a serious fall that cracked her skull and caused a brain bleed. She is doing very well following surgery and is now in recovery at DeKalb County Home and Nursing Center. Visitors are welcome.



Diane John's 14-yr-old nephew Jesse continues to receive treatment for bone cancer. May her travels to New Orleans to support her family be safe and may inner peace guide her on this journey.



We are relieved and happy to share that Bonnie & Beau Anderson's son-in-law continues to recover well. We hope that their road trips will soon be for only happy and healthy gatherings!

Three Meditation Groups Held For UUFDF Members and Friends

Currently, there are three opportunities for members and friends to practice meditation. Research has shown that meditation helps to reduce stress, focus the mind and relax the body. **Mindfulness Meditation** meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Estelle Von Zellen. **Peaceful Meditation** meets on Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. at the UUFDF Library room. **Evening Meditation** meets on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at UUFDF and will resume on September 3 after a summer hiatus. If you have questions, contact the coordinators of the meditation groups: Estelle Von Zellen (815-756-2801) and Rev. Linda Slabon (815-501-4788).

News From Around The Congregation...

- Does anyone know what happened to an oil painting of a sailing ship that Cathy Schneider donated to the online auction? It was last known to be in the Church Office. If you know anything about this painting, please contact Cathy Schneider at 815/751-4180.
- A super big thank you to all who contributed money or school supplies for our UUFDF/CRMS annual backpack drive. It was another banner year! As I always say, we are changing lives, one backpack at a time!!!! Thank you from the students and staff of Clinton Rosette Middle School!
- Did you miss the opportunity to donate to the Take Steps Walk for Crohn's and Colitis that Will and Ashe walked on June 22? Don't fret! There is another opportunity. Will will be walking 13.1 miles with Team Challenge in Las Vegas in November in honor of Ashe. All donations go to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America to support research and patient support programs for Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis. Donations can be made online at: <http://www.active.com/donate/vegasIL13/wireland>. If you prefer to give offline (check or cash) donation, you can see Will at any of the upcoming services. Thanks for your support!

The Inside Scoop: President's Ponderings

It is with considerable joy, and some trepidation, that I step up to the position of president of UUFD. I am honored and humbled by the trust you have put in me, and look forward to a fruitful year for all of us.

One of the things that I firmly believe is that, more than many more traditional religious groups, we are what we make ourselves to be. We do have professional ministerial leadership, and benefit greatly from it, but UUFD would not be what it is without all of you. Every Sunday, we list some of our volunteers who have helped with the service, but there are many more who also contribute; in one way or another, we all do our part.

We are a growing congregation! If you see someone you don't know, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Remember that some people are ready to jump in right away, while others need more time to figure out who we are, if we are the right group for them and how they want to participate in congregational life.

Not only do we all contribute our time and effort to UUFD, we also contribute financially so the church can function. Normally, the pledge drive is run by the president-elect in the spring; however, as many of you may recall, I was busy in the spring due to personal and family matters. The UUFD Board of Trustees took over the pledge drive, which is still going on. At the May congregational meeting, we voted in a budget for the 2013-14 church year that allowed for slightly increased compensation for our staff – although we are still paying less than the UUA recommended minimum for a church of our size. This, plus increased costs for things like utilities and insurance, gave us a budget about 10% higher than last year's, which will therefore require about 10% more income to cover. Unfortunately, our pledges so far are less than they were last year, so we have a shortfall to overcome. I personally have raised my pledge quite a bit to help overcome this shortfall, but if we don't show anticipated income to cover our expenses by the time of the November congregational meeting, the Board will have no choice but to recommend cuts in the budget. Please, if you have not yet made a pledge, we need your commitment so we don't have to do this! Pledge forms are available from the Church Office, in the collection plate and from me. Also, if you can increase your pledge, that would be wonderful! And don't forget the UU Useables, the Gala, the winter markets and so on – every little bit helps.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, ideas or advice – this is your church! You can always reach me by email at uusu-zanne@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook.

Sue Willis
President, UUFD

DeKalb County Community Gardens – 2013 Harvest Garden Tour

WHEN: Saturday, September 21st 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Visit our nine gardens (that represent our school and community involvement) and enjoy light refreshments straight from the gardens. Get a chance at winning great prizes. If you would like a ticket, contact Sheryl Nak (snak974@comcast.net) or see Dan Kenney.



Monthly Divination & Creativity Night

Divination with Jenny Stamatakos (Wren Starling)

Creativity with Kathy Clark

Second Wednesdays – 7:30-8:30 p.m. – at UUFD Library

*October 9

*November 13

*December 11



To participate: This is an open experience. All are welcome.
Cost: Free – Donations to UUFD are appreciated.

This is a UUFD Adult Lifespan Faith Development

Jenny Stamatakos (whose working name is Wren Starling) will be doing one card draws from her unique bird oracle cards (and occasionally other decks). Anyone who uses any other form of divination (Tarot, Runes, I Ching, etc.) is invited to come and read for others as well. Anyone interested in getting a reading is welcome. Stay the whole time or just stay for your reading.

If you are facing a choice, divination may help point in the most positive direction for you. Request something to meditate upon or for inspiration. You might want to know what new thing may come into your life or what is the most important thing facing you at this time. Ask a specific question and see what answer you get. If no one requests readings, we will talk about divination, how we do it, why we do it, what we believe and learn together.

UU YAYA Is Our Youth And Young Adult Group at UUFD...

Next two meetings are at UUFD on:

Sunday, September 15 6:00 p.m. Bring music! A song or 2 that tells something about YOU.

Sunday, October 13 6:00 p.m. Event to be determined!

UU YAYA meets to build community, have fun, lend support, learn and serve together and to give witness to our spirituality. Age range is 13 to 39. We follow a covenant that includes: Practicing Step Up, Step Back. Meaning that we will share honestly and compassionately when someone needs to pull back, and we will invite someone to speak up or step in. Limited confidentiality. Be responsible for your own level of sharing and remember that you can ask that something be held in confidence. Steering clear of trash talk, and Practicing Ouch!!- Oops. Sometimes someone says or does something that hurts -- Usually not on purpose. Don't ignore it. Acknowledge it and work together to understand it.



DuPage UU Church Dedicates New Sanctuary

You are Cordially Invited to attend the Dedication Ceremony for the New Sanctuary of the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, September 8, 2013 at 4:00 pm. We are honored to have the Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, join us and deliver the sermon. Rev. Morales has been an active leader nationally in immigration and other social justice issues. Rev. Morales will help us dedicate this new space as a place for peace and justice, respectful dialogue and community building. Preceding the ceremony, we will host the next session of the 2013 Community Interfaith Dialogues. This group includes members of all faiths and ways of life who study and share together to build connection and familiarity for a more peaceful world. All are welcome to join us at 1:30 p.m. as we explore the many ways we "Build Bridges to the Holy." Please join us on this day of celebration and dedication. Refreshments will follow each event.

Members of the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church and minister, the Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher
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