

March 2012

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# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Rev. Larry Hutchison  
Consulting Minister

3773 N. MacArthur Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62526  
Phone: (217) 875-5442  
www.uufd.org

President:  
Judy Thistlethwaite

Vice President:  
Marge Evans

Treasurer:  
Mark Sorensen

Secretary:  
Mary Lovell

Board Members at  
Large:  
Carolynn Devore  
Mel Weinstein  
Joyce Throneburg

UUFD Trust Board:  
Ken Robertson  
Vern Thistlethwaite  
Dave Snoeyenbos



## Upcoming Services

All Sunday services begin at 10:15 AM.

We offer religious education for children and child care for babies.

**March 4 - *Is Nature Enough?*** Rev. Larry Hutchison  
Some UU's say yes, others answer no. We will explore Religious Naturalism through the thinking of UU professor Jerome Stone and authors like Ursula Goodenough in her, "The Sacred Depths of Nature."

**March 11 - *I Would Prefer Not To*** Rev. Larry Hutchison

A look at the human situation through Herman Melville's, "Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Tale of Wall-Street". This story has been read as a story of passive resistance, a parable of walls, an attack on capitalism, a psychological double, a Christ figure, a study in self reliance, an expression of melancholy and the resistance to community. It suggests a deep tension between 'the self' and community.

*Board meeting at noon.*

**March 18 - "Good Without God"** Millikin University Students

Students from Millikin University's new "Good People" secular student alliance will explain why they came together this year as well as present ideas from the recent book GOOD WITHOUT GOD by Greg M. Epstein the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University. Several members of Millikin choirs have volunteered to provide special music. Service Leader is Mark Sorensen.

*Food Bank Sunday*

**March 25 - "Magnificent Unity"** Rev. Larry Hutchison

A look at how we grew out of Christianity and the Enlightenment through the variegated mind of Joseph Priestley. He was a British and American Unitarian, a dissenting theologian, a political theorist, a chemist (discovery of oxygen, 1774), a major figure in the English Enlightenment, a friend of Jefferson and Franklin and a leader of Unitarians in this country from 1794 - 1804.

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**All activities take place at the Fellowship, unless otherwise noted. Visitors are always welcome!**

## Calendar of Events

### Friday, March 2

1:00 - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

### Sunday, March 4

1200 noon — CUUPS group

### Wednesday, March 7

7:00 p.m. — Humanist Discussion Group

### Friday, March 9

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

### Sunday, March 11

6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church  
JUST FLICKS  
"Storm Warning" will be shown with discussion led by Mark Sorensen

### Wednesday, March 14

7:00 p.m. — Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

### Wednesday, March 14

6:30 p.m. - Women's Book Group

### Friday, March 16

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

### Wednesday, March 21

6:00 p.m. — Decatur Vegetarian Society

### Friday, March 16

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

### Saturday, March 24

4:00 p.m. HISTORY COMES ALIVE at Gov. Oglesby Mansion  
Dale Jenkins will discuss the Illinois Terminal Railroad

### Wednesday, March 28

7:00 p.m. — Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

### Friday, March 30

1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

**Humanist Group**—Humanist Discussion Group meets 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Dave Snoeyenbos at 865-2409.

**CUUPS Group** - UUFD Sacred Pathways CUUPS meets monthly to study earth-centered spirituality, drum and chant on the first Sunday at noon.

**Women's Book Group**— Women's Book Club meets on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Heather Stoa. The book is *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit that changed the World* by Koepfel

**Spiritual Journey Covenant Group**—The Spiritual Journey Covenant Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at UUFD from 7:00-8:30. For further information contact Ron Shafer at ron.shafer52@gmail.com or 865-2527.

**Decatur Vegetarian Society (DVS)** --- The DVS group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm for a vegetarian potluck dinner, followed by a live or video presentation at 8:00 p.m. The meetings are open to the public. If you interested in participating in a potluck, please either (1) bring a vegetarian or vegan dish with a list of ingredients or (2) donate \$5. Also, you should bring your own eating utensils. Contact Mel Weinstein (763-0509) for additional information.

**UUFD Men's Group**- This group meets every Friday at Tuscany at 1:00 for lunch and conversation.

**Community Food Bank:** Please bring a donation of nonperishable food items for our local food banks to Sunday service on March 18.



## Minister's Message

### Rev. Hutchison's Office Hours

Monday day off

Tuesday 10 - 12

Wednesday 10 - 12 & 6 - 8

Thursday 10 - 12

Friday study at home

E-mail: lghutch@comcast.net

Phone 352-949-1601 anytime Church phone 875-5442

Nancy Hutchison's new e-mail: nanjhutch@gmail.com

## Rev. Larry Hutchison

A "big thank-you" to everyone for all visits, calls, cards, thoughts and concerns.

Nancy's address: Nancy Hutchison  
Hickory Point Christian Village  
565 W. Marion Ave. Rm 304  
Forsyth, IL 62535

My office hours may be a little changed depending on Nancy's rehab schedule.

## President's Message

Greetings to Members and Friends,

Nancy Hutchison, wife of Rev. Larry Hutchison, is still recovering from a very serious heart attack and the surgery repairing damage. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nancy and Larry as she continues to improve.

A big thank you to Kathy Sorensen for organizing the Bowl and Roll on Sunday, Feb. 19. Members and Friends donated over \$400, which will be given to the Northeast Community Food Bank. There was great food and fellowship. Thanks to the members that donated the delicious soup. I hope we can repeat this event next year.

June Allison is in Barnes Hospital as I write this. She may be moved to the rehab center later this week. I do not have an address, but she has her cell phone, which is 620-2134. She appreciates hearing from us.

Keep in touch with other members and friends. Let me know if someone needs assistance.

Thanks for all you do.

Judy Thistlethwaite

## News from Religious Education

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

We will be continuing our focus on the Bible and the lessons to be learned from certain stories, and celebrating a fun holiday.

March 5 -- David and Goliath – facing difficult situations; even the young can do important things.

March 11 -- St. Patrick's Day Party

March 18 -- Daniel in the Lion's Den – standing up for what you believe.

March 25 -- Start of New Testament study. Jesus' life from birth to death.

## 2012 Environmental Film Series

**It's almost here again!** Now in its fifth year (almost a tradition), the Green Sanctuary Committee, in conjunction with the Audubon Society of Decatur and the Community Environmental Council, is sponsoring an environmental and nature film series at the Fellowship starting in early March and continuing through mid-April. The purpose of the film series is (1) to bring awareness to environmental issues, (2) focus attention on Earth Day (April 22, 2012), and (3) as an outreach project for the Fellowship. All the films are free (what a deal!) and are shown on a movie screen with stereo sound. The flyers for the first three films of the film series are included in this newsletter. Also, e-mail reminders about the documentaries will also be sent out prior to each showing. Donations are accepted at these events and the purchase of concessions (organic popcorn made with unrefined oil using a theater-style popcorn maker), along with healthier drinks, will help support the Fellowship in this endeavor. For the first time this year to encourage young families to attend the events, the Green Sanctuary Committee will be offering free childcare for kids who are five or under. Note that the films have likely **not** been shown in a theater setting in Decatur or on local television. For those interested, we will also have a short discussion session after each showing. And finally, as an after series bonus, the Decatur Audubon Society, in conjunction with the UUFD, will be showing a new film called **Greenfire** about the life of Aldo Leopold, a Wisconsin conservationist, who in the first half of the 20th century is credited with establishing the first land ethic in America. Details about that film, which is scheduled to screen at the end of April, will appear in the next newsletter. Please come out to support the Green Sanctuary Committee in these outreach events, eat some healthier theater popcorn, and also to enjoy some top-notch, engrossing films.

March 3: ***Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home***

March 17: ***Blue Gold: World Water Wars***

March 31: ***Planeat***

**SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FILMS.**

# **2012 ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES**

**WHAT:** ***Garbage! (2009)***

**WHERE:** SANCTUARY, UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF DECATUR  
3773 N. MacArthur Road (Corner of Mound & MacArthur), Decatur, IL  
SCREEN PROJECTION WITH STEREO SOUND [for info contact 217-521-9702]

**WHEN:** **7:00 PM, SATURDAY, MARCH 3** (76 minutes)

*Discussion follows  
the show.*

**ADMISSION:** **FREE!** Donations Accepted --- No One Turned Away If Seating Is Available

**CONCESSIONS:** Fresh theater-style popcorn and healthy drinks sold

*Free child care  
for 5 and under*



Audubon Society of  
Decatur



Community  
Environmental Council



Unitarian-Universalist  
Fellowship of Decatur

***Garbage! The Revolution Starts at Home*** is a feature documentary about how the family household has become one of the most ferocious environmental predators of our time. Concerned for the future of his new baby boy Sebastian, writer and director Andrew Nisker takes an average urban family, the McDonalds, and asks them to keep every scrap of garbage that they create for three months. He then takes them on a journey to find out where it all goes and what it's doing to the world. From organic waste to the stuff they flush down the potty, the plastic bags they use to the water they drink out of bottles, the air pollution they create when transporting the kids around, to using lights at Christmas, the McDonalds discover that for every action there is a reaction that affects them and the entire planet. Everyday life under a microscope has never been so revealing. By the end of this trashy odyssey, you are truly inspired to revolutionize your lifestyle for the sake of future generations.

"There's lots of good 'ick' factor, tons of riveting facts on how much trash we produce, as well as an eye-opening investigation into where our trash goes." (A. Vasil, NOW Toronto); "All because of [this] movie, I will continue to drive my recycling the 10 miles it takes ..." (C. Jusinski, Santa Fe Reporter); "Finally a film that covers all the bases of our garbage and the humorous yet serious consequences of what we are doing and how we are living. A genuine wake-up call." (HopeDanceFiLMs' editor Bob Banner.)

Best Documentary Award (SCP Film Festival); Prize Winner (SiciliAmbiente); Special Mention Award (CINEMAMBIENTE Italian Enviro Fest)

**NEXT SHOW:** **Blue Gold: World Water Wars**, Saturday, March 17, 7 pm

# **2012 ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES**

**WHAT:** ***Blue Gold: World Water Wars (2007)***

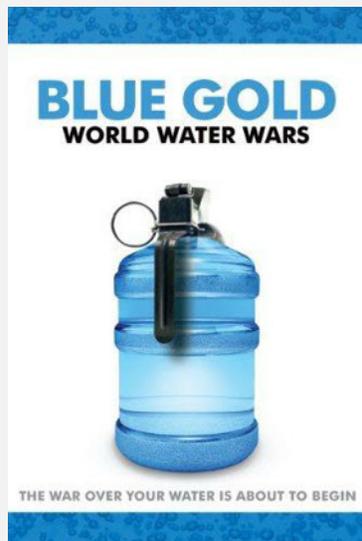
**WHERE:** SANCTUARY, UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF DECATUR  
3773 N. MacArthur Road (Corner of Mound & MacArthur), Decatur, IL  
SCREEN PROJECTION WITH STEREO SOUND [for info contact 217-521-9702]

**WHEN:** **7:00 PM, SATURDAY, MARCH 17** (90 minutes)

*Discussion follows  
the show.*

**ADMISSION:** **FREE!** Donations Accepted --- No One Turned Away If Seating Is Available

**CONCESSIONS:** Fresh theater-style popcorn and healthy drinks sold



*Free child care  
for 5 and under*



Audubon Society of  
Decatur



Community  
Environmental Council



Unitarian-Universalist  
Fellowship of Decatur

***Blue Gold: World Water Wars*** examines the problems created by the privatization and commoditization of water.. It shows how we can empower ourselves and empower communities around the globe to fight for the universal right to water. It's a moving film that educates and inspires unity across all ranks of people. It instills a reverence for a resource many of us simply under-appreciate. Based on the book **BLUE GOLD: THE FIGHT TO STOP THE CORPORATE THEFT OF THE WORLD'S WATER** by Maude Barlow and Tony Clark.

"Ultimately the world's water supply is at risk of disappearing, and rich or poor, no one can't escape it. Get informed and inspired – watch this film." (J. Heimbuch, TreeHugger); "Finally, a water film that kicks ass... A must see film for every person on the planet." (GreenMuse.com); "The film doesn't lecture, it engages. The film dramatically and persuasively outlines the conflict facing the world." (ToNite); "Watch this documentary, this movie will take you to a new level of water appreciation." (Rotten Tomatoes)

Best Documentary (Newport Beach Film Festival); Best Ecology Film (European Independent Film Festival); Best Documentary Docufest (Atlanta); Audience Choice (Tri-Media Film Festival)

**NEXT SHOW:** **PLANEAT**, Saturday, March 31, 7 pm

# **2012 ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES**

- WHAT:** ***PLANEAT (2010)***
- WHERE:** SANCTUARY, UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF DECATUR  
3773 N. MacArthur Road (Corner of Mound & MacArthur), Decatur, IL  
SCREEN PROJECTION WITH STEREO SOUND [for info contact 217-521-9702]
- WHEN:** **7:00 PM, SATURDAY, MARCH 31** (72 minutes) *Discussion follows the show.*
- ADMISSION:** FREE! Donations Accepted --- No One Turned Away If Seating Is Available
- CONCESSIONS:** Fresh theater-style popcorn and healthy drinks sold

*Free child care  
for 5 and under*



Audubon Society of  
Decatur



Community  
Environmental Council



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*Planeat* addresses the questions: Where have we gone wrong? Why has the death rate from heart disease and cancer exploded in recent times? Why are the ice caps melting, the oceans dying and the forests being cut down as we produce the food necessary to support our burgeoning populations? Against a backdrop of colorful and delicious food grown by organic farmers and prepared in the kitchens of world-famous chefs, this film for the first time brings together the ground-breaking studies of three prominent scientists who have made it their life's work to answer these questions. Dr. T. Colin Campbell in China by exploring the link between diet and disease, Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn's use of nutrition to treat chronically ill heart disease patients, and Professor Gidon Eshel's investigations into how our food choices contribute to global warming, wasteful land use and lifeless oceans.

"*Planeat* shows how we are damaging our own health and that of the planet through an unsustainable diet and environmentally damaging food policies in the Western world." (William Bain, UK Agriculture & Fisheries Minister); "The movie makes clear that excessive dependence on foods of animal origin may lead to illness and death, while putting stress on the environment." (Per Pinstrup-Anderson, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Copenhagen Univ.); "Makes its case clearly... Rather than let the focus fall on what it is suggested we should give up, it instead tempts us with a look at some of the things we could be eating...*Planeat* is refreshingly upbeat, seductive and enjoyable, a truly refreshing contribution to the genre." (Eye for Film)

The Jury Selection, UK Green Film Festival Award; London International Documentary Film Festival; Newport Beach Film Festival; Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital; Melbourne Environmental Film Festival

**NEXT SHOW:** **ADDICTED TO PLASTIC**, Saturday, April 14, 7 pm

## Humanism and Growth Busters... So Big it Spans Two Months!

The Humanist group, meeting the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 at the UUFD, explored the topic of population growth and its control for our February gathering. With springtime just around the corner and all of nature's beauty ready to grow forth, the Humanist group will wrap up our discussion/exploration of this population topic.

What have we covered so far? The video presentation is very well done. GrowthBusters, written and directed by Dave Gardner and released in 2011, "asks the most critical question of our time: How do we become a sustainable civilization?" There are several main points or sections in the video, and the movie has already progressed through three of those topics. With several more to finish, though, there is still much to be gleaned from the video.

The movie begins by examining the problems created by growth. The world has an energy demand, people have an energy demand, and these demands begin to encompass more and more "stuff." As the population grows, we find an overabundance of traffic, crime, and the nasty "side effects" of people on the earth. And "people" are concerned about this growth, but those people are keeping very quiet. For essentially the existence of humanity, growth has been a wonderful idea. Prosperity, for all of this time, was focused on growth. Many countries continue to reinforce this value by giving money or tax credit for children. More people lead to a bigger economy; this bigger economy leads to economic growth. That has been the standard for the human race as long as society has existed.

Why is this a problem now if we've had people in place for millions of years? The movie gets into a bit of mathematics and looks at exponential growth. With an annual growth rate of 3%, the system will double every 24 years. Humanity could do this initially because we were such a small group. When we began to grow, though, we quickly got to be too many and the astounding consequences of exponential growth are now being recognized firsthand.

It's only been the last 15 years or so, but we're finally realizing that growth does NOT mean prosperity. A study in 2007 examined human resource consumption and population and determined we were living sustainably on an earth 1.5 times bigger than what we actually have. This means we CANNOT continue on this path and simultaneously hope the earth keeps pace with us.

How is the earth being altered to meet our ever-increasing demands? So far, 80% of the forests on the earth have been wiped out by humans and pollution and development. Future healthy economies and societies must embrace the end of growth and eliminate growth-oriented goals. The religion of growth must NOT be worshiped as we have done for the history of human culture.

What is stopping us from stopping this growth? As is usually a culprit in such disastrous scenarios, GrowthBusters next examined the role that money plays in this very dangerous game. It demonstrates how the system of interest is an unsustainable foundation. And it illustrates how banks and business and the construction industry are all benefiting from this flawed system.

The good news? The first solution was presented! Limit population growth to limit consumption of resources. This will surely be further explored in the second half of the movie, on Wednesday, March 07, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the UUFD. Hopefully we'll see many of you there to catch the end of the film; and don't worry about missing the first half of the movie if you weren't there in February. Between the above summary and the comments of everyone who's already seen the first half of the film, you'll have no problem joining in immediately and enjoying the show and discussion.

Tim Rooney

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

March 2012



## Fellowship Mission

**In a nurturing environment of openness, mutual respect, and friendship, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur is a welcoming, diverse congregation. We share values and seek to celebrate life and support one another in our inward and outward searches for spiritual meaning, provide a liberal religious presence, and strive for compassion and justice in our community and our world.**

## March Birthdays

Larry Hutchison	March 3
Mel Weinstein	March 7
Darwin Shroyer	March 15
Sue Weinstein	March 18
Evan Zaker	March 19
David Kent Coy	March 20
Mary Lovell	March 21



*Want to see your name on the birthday list?  
Send e-mail to [newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org)*

**minister@uufd.org (Rev. Larry Hutchison)  
president@uufd.org (Judy Thistlethwaite)  
vicepresident@uufd.org (Marge Evans)  
treasurer@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)  
secretary@uufd.org (Mary C Lovell)  
programs@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)  
newsletter@uufd.org (Kathy Kline and Terry Ankrom)**