

April 2012

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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

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Marge Evans

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Mel Weinstein
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UUF Trust Board:
Ken Robertson
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Dave Snoeyenbos



Upcoming Services

All Sunday services begin at 10:15 AM.

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

APRIL 1 - "The Forgotten Samaritan" Rev. Larry Hutchison

At 14 she was teaching school, by 54 she had traveled a good portion of the country and Europe, at 60 she was in charge of nursing for the North and South in the Civil War. Dorothea Lynde Dix changed our way of understanding mental illness; let us not forget our extra-ordinary Unitarian sister. This is a story of the "long now", in the spirit of Dorothea Dix and with the knowledge we now have, are we doing our best?

Board meeting at noon.

APRIL 8 - "The Power of Life" Rev. Larry Hutchison

Life is one our most basic concepts, for UU's spring (Easter) is all about birth and the rebirth of life, yet when examined directly life proves remarkably contradictory and elusive, somewhere between the scientific, mystical and political. However, even if we don't know what it is we sure can enjoy it here together on Easter!

April 15 - "The Magic of Mushrooms" Larry Evans

Larry starred in the documentary film *Know Your Mushrooms*. He has lectured and led forays across the country and in South America and is recognized nationally as an expert in the field of mycology. He has found the "fun" in fungi, which makes him entertaining as well.

Food Bank Sunday

APRIL 22 - "All Together Now!" Rev. Larry Hutchison

With deepest respect for each other we claim the dignity of mutual support. Within our congregation of many voices we affirm a common treasury. Yes, it's pledge drive time again! Pledge drive is about the costs of our corner of Decatur: about being here and our community, about our voice amidst the traffic, about realizing networks of possibilities, about us, together.

Potluck Brunch following the service.

April 29 - "Beyond Red and Blue" Dr. Peter S. Wenz

Peter Wenz claims Americans use 12 different political philosophies, each individual drawing on at least half a dozen when contemplating hot-button political issues. Coalitions of the right and left can form because people on the opposite sides of the political spectrum can often find different reasons for reaching the same conclusions as one another. Join us as he illustrates this thesis by considering same-sex marriage, school vouchers, and genetic engineering. Wenz is an Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Illinois. He is the author of *Environmental Justice*, *Nature's Keeper*, *Political Philosophies in Moral Conflict*, and the newly-released *Beyond Red and Blue: How Twelve Political Philosophies Shape American Debates*. This presentation is made possible in part by an award from the Illinois Humanities Council "Roads Scholar" program.

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

Calendar of Events

Wednesday April 4

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning
Covenant Group

Wednesday, April 4

7:00 p.m. — Humanist Discussion
Group

Friday, April 6

1:00 - Men's Luncheon at Tuscany

Wednesday, April 11

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

Wednesday, April 11

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

Friday, April 13

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

Wednesday, April 18

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning
Covenant Group

Wednesday, April 18

6:00 p.m. — Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, April 20

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

Wednesday, April 25

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

Friday, April 27

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.

Women's Book Group— Women's Book Club meets on Wednesday, April 11th at the home of Marge Evans. The book is *Growing Green* by Margaret M. Evans.

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.

Wednesday Morning Covenant Group - This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All are welcome.

Community Food Bank: Please bring a donation of nonperishable food items for our local food banks to Sunday service on April 15.



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

You, me, and it feels like spring!

Today, spring arrived, here on the corner
drifting up the drive
In a sunny sort of way

All the way past the daffodils
who were showing off
moving slowly toward a gorgeous hallelujah

Out at Hickory Point, too
although not so much
They, operating within Hofstadter's law
"It always takes longer than you expect,
even when you take into account Hofstadter's law."

True, spring is here and I missed too much of last month
Yet, we have accomplished much this year
the list is impressive
However, there are things for spring
the film series is not over
the pledge drive is just beginning
and have you heard about the speakers coming in April

But today, standing with the daffodils
I wish to thank everyone, members and friends
for all the thoughts, warmth and care
you have given Nancy and me

Spring this year at UFD
is like learning a new language of love and care
Yes, our boundaries are greening
as March winds turn warm at the curbs and move inward

We are ordering flowers now!
Because we don't live on memories, alone
but rather, believe in what we are,
in what makes us care,
and keep on caring

Peace

Larry

President's Message

Greetings to Members and Friends

Barb Hannon has taken over the job of keeping UUFD's Facebook current. She states she is learning and values your input. If you have any ideas, let her know. If you are a Facebook person, check it out.

Marge Evans, Dick Zaker and Mary Cleave have agreed to help on the Nominating Committee. They have begun their work to find officers for next year. If you are called upon, please consider a positive response. We need responsible people leading our Fellowship.

The Pledge Drive is coming up soon. This is always a very crucial time of year. The proposed budget is higher than it has been. Rev. Hutchison salary is more because he will be working three-quarters time for 11 months. We are fortunate to have his expertise at our Fellowship. Insurance has gone up. We can't operate in our building without adequate insurance. As I looked over the proposed budget, I felt every item was necessary for us to maintain the high level of service we give to our members and friends.

UUFD does a lot for members and friends. If you feel, like I do, that the UUFD is important to your life, please try your best to help meet this proposed budget with your increased pledge for 2012-2013.

UUFD needs more than financial support. Next year's president, Marge Evans, will need committee members to do the "grunt" of the Fellowship. If you have an area or committee you would like to serve on, please let her know.

Thanks for all you do.

Judy Thistlethwaite

News from Religious Education

April 1 The Miracles of Jesus, Jennifer Sekosky.

April 8 Easter, Lorelei Zaker.

April 15 The Parables of Jesus, Jennifer Sekosky.

April 22 Earth Day, Lorelei Zaker.

April 29 Two stories about Jesus' life, Jennifer Sekosky.



We are tentatively planning an RE meeting after church on April 15. Everyone is welcome!

Yum! An Earth Day potluck! April 22nd after the service

Please bring a dish to share as we celebrate spring while munching and muddling over our finances. Yes, 'tis that time when we consider our pledges for the next year. What did she sing "Just a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down -in a most delightful way"!

April may bring flowers and showers, but it also brings a UU "new year". It's our special time of year to gather together, enjoy fellowship over a potluck, and consider what UU gives to our lives and what we should choose to give back. Please save the date, April 22nd and enjoy the fellowship and good food after the service as we consider the bucks necessary to back our new year.

General Assembly June 20-24

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations General Assembly is in Phoenix, Arizona June 20-24. Would you like to go? Could you go? We need to be represented and you could be the one. Rev. Larry Hutchison has the information. You would need to be sent by our congregation and have delegate credentials. He has all that info for you. June and Chelso have gone many times and had a great time. This year there is also a way to "attend" off site. It is all done via the computer. You can be an off site delegate and even vote. If either of these possibilities interest you, talk with Rev. Hutchison. Deadline for registering is June 8, 2012.

AMUUSE (Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles Enrichment)

Amuuse is a group sponsoring camps for single UU's. There are three camps during the summer in Michigan. Look on the bulletin board for the flyer giving more details about the camps. They sound great.

2012 Environmental Film Series

The environmental film series had a great kickoff with the documentary ***Garbage!*** Over 50 people showed up that night. Although we had a brief scare with figuring out the operation of the popcorn maker, we overcame that obstacle at the last minute and everything worked out fine. For future problem solving, a video was taken of the popcorn-making process, so we will quickly resolve that problem if it crops up again. We had fantastic staff support from the Green Sanctuary Committee for the films shown in March, and a shout-out goes to everyone who has helped with publicity, concessions, donations/sales, setup, and cleanup. It takes a good deal of planning and work to pull off these events and many people have stepped up to help. Specific kudos will be mentioned in the May newsletter with the final article about the film series.

The last film in the series is scheduled for Saturday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. The documentary, ***Addicted to Plastic***, is a global journey to investigate what we really know about the material of a thousand uses. If you have ever used plastic (duh!), you'll want to see this informative film about this pervasive, extremely important but highly controversial material. A flyer for the film is included with the newsletter.

And finally, as a bonus, the Decatur Audubon Society, in conjunction with the UUFD, will be showing a new film, called ***Green Fire*** about the life of Aldo Leopold, a Wisconsin conservationist, who in the early 20th century is credited with establishing the first land ethic in America. That film is scheduled for Saturday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. A flyer for the film is included with the newsletter, and more information can be found at <http://www.greenfiremovie.com/>. The film was released in 2011, and will be the most current environmental documentary ever shown at UUFD.

Please come out to support the Green Sanctuary Committee in these outreach events, eat some healthier popcorn, and also to enjoy some top-notch, engrossing films.

April 14: ***Addicted to Plastic***

April 28: ***Green Fire***

SEE ATTACHED FLYERS FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FILMS

2012 ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES

WHAT: ***ADDICTED TO PLASTIC (2008)***

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]

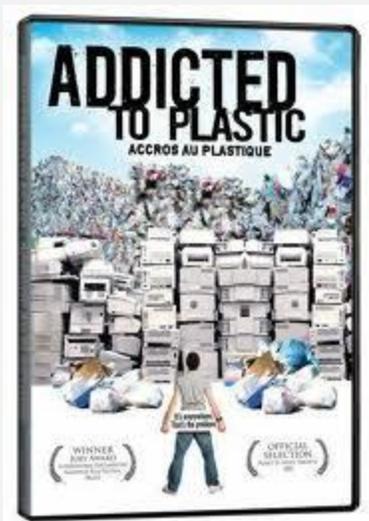
WHEN: **7:00 PM, SATURDAY, APRIL 14** (85 minutes)

*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



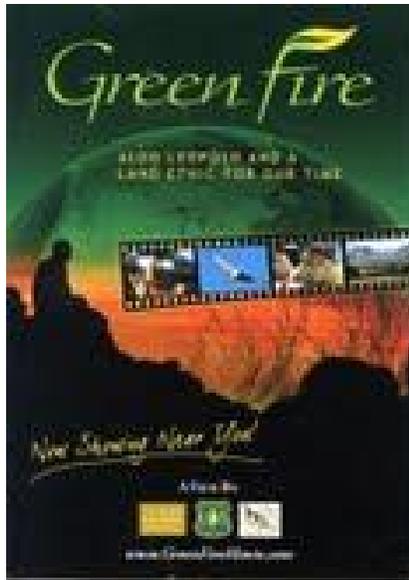
Unitarian-Universalist
Fellowship of Decatur

Addicted To Plastic is a point-of-view style documentary that encompasses three years of filming in 12 countries on 5 continents, including two trips to the middle of the Pacific Ocean where plastic debris accumulates. The film details plastic's path over the last 100 years and provides a wealth of expert interviews on practical and cutting edge solutions to recycling, toxicity and biodegradability. These solutions - which include plastic made from plants - will provide viewers with a new perspective about our future with plastic. The documentary is a global journey to investigate what we really know about the material of a thousand uses and why there's so darnn much of it. On the way we discover a toxic legacy, and the men and women dedicated to cleaning it up.

"A sobering must-see and needs to be shown at every educational level globally!" (Dr. J. Cervino, Woods Hole Dep't of Marine Chemistry); "Candid interviews, especially a particularly revealing one with a representative of the industry's American Plastics Council" (J. Meikle, author of *American Plastic: A Cultural History*); "... riveting, disturbing, and even sometimes comforting. Everyone should see this important film." (R. Kauffman, VP Earth Policy Institute); "A great, well-made film for all ages, that should help people think twice about their plastic habit." (Greenmuze.com); "Militant without being moralist, teaching without being tedious, this documentary suggests possible answers." (The New Observer)

Audience Award, Special Jury Award, Amazonas Film; Best International Documentary, Barcelona International Environmental Film Festival; Runner Up, Environmental Film Audience Award; Finalist, Overall Audience Award, Vancouver International Film Festival; Best Medium Length Documentary, Ecofilms Team Award

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE 2013 ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES.



The *Green Fire* Film Project

Green Fire was produced in partnership between the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the Center for Humans and Nature, and the US Forest Service. The film provocatively examines Leopold's thinking, renewing his idea of a land ethic for a population facing 21st century ecological challenges. Leopold's biographer, conservation biologist Dr. Curt Meine, serves as the film's on-screen guide.

Green Fire describes the formation of Leopold's idea, exploring how it changed one man and later permeated through all arenas of conservation. The film draws on Leopold's life and experiences to provide context and validity, then explores the deep impact of his thinking on conservation projects around the world today. Through these examples, the film challenges viewers to contemplate their own relationship with the land community.

The high-definition film will utilize photographs, correspondence, manuscripts and other archival documents from the voluminous Aldo Leopold Archives as well as historical film and contemporary full-color footage on location, including landscapes that influenced Leopold and that he in turn influenced.

The film also features commentary and insight from some of today's most recognized and credible scholars and conservation leaders, including: three of Aldo Leopold's children—Nina, Carl, and Estella, Leopold scholars, noted environmental writers, scientists, humanities experts, public policy leaders, business leaders,; and leaders of non-profit groups inspired by Leopold.

Social Action at UUFD

The Outreach Committee under the leadership of Rita Schwake, recently organized a social action sub-committee, the purpose of which was to explore ways that the Fellowship could expand our involvement in the community as regards charitable pursuits. This committee addressed proposals for an on-going financial commitment to local charitable organizations as well as active participation by the Fellowship in providing goods and services.

Regarding the financial commitment, the sub-committee recommended that the Fellowship donate \$250 to each of two local community organizations for the next fiscal year with different organizations to be selected in subsequent years. Specifically, the sub-committee chose Oasis Drop-In Center (homeless shelter) and Dove (offers diverse programs and services for those in need), as recipients of the monetary contributions for the first year. This proposal was presented to the Board at the February meeting, and a motion to adopt was unanimously passed.

Furthermore, the Outreach Committee hopes to sponsor activities throughout the year to raise money or collect goods to benefit charitable organizations in our community. If you have any ideas for activities and/or would like to help out in these endeavors, please contact Rita Schwake.

We hope that everyone in the Fellowship will see these changes as an opportunity for the UUFD to directly connect and support local charitable groups. For years, many of us have devoted our personal time, energy and money to those in need, but now, in addition, we will have the active and committed participation of the Fellowship in these endeavors.

In closing, these proposals by the sub-committee will be brought up for discussion with the members at the Annual Meeting in May.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

April 2012

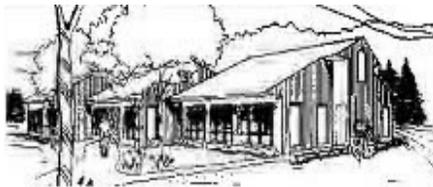


Fellowship Mission

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.

April Birthdays

Ken Robertson	April 6
Kathy Sorensen	April 21



*Want to see your name on the birthday list?
Send e-mail to 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)**