

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison  
Consulting Minister

3773 N. MacArthur Rd.  
Decatur, IL 62526  
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www.uufd.org

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## Upcoming Services

All Sunday services begin at **10:15 AM.**

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

### **APRIL 7 "This I Believe" Rev. Larry Hutchison**

This is pledge drive kickoff, but not boring at all!! This service will include, besides important pledge drive information, elevator speeches. The door opens: "What floor?" You say: "6th" "What is Unitarian Universalism?" You have until the 6th floor for your full answer. What will you say?  
*Board meeting at noon.*

### **April 14 "An Interfaith Message" Nicholas Cable and Maham Kahn**

Religion is a powerful force in the world. It can divide us or unite us. Voicing values, engaging in meaningful conversation and acting together on shared values to make positive impact can be a start toward a "Better Together" community. Nicholas Cable and Maham Kahn will be bringing this interfaith message from Eboo Patel's Interfaith Youth Core to our Fellowship and the community at large in events both Sunday and Monday. A potluck will follow the service. Note other events in this newsletter.

### **April 21 "The West Virginia Mine Wars through Talk, Song and Slideshow" Saro Lynch-Thomason**

Singer and writer Saro Lynch-Thomason takes the audience on a journey through the history of central Appalachia's major labor wars. She uses eye-witness recollections alongside powerful historic imagery and songs to tell the story of these oft-ignored yet impactful coal-field struggles. Come learn about the conflicts that led to America's largest labor uprising: the Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921!

### **April 28 "The Importance of Belonging" Kate Pyle**

What does it mean to belong, to a group, to a family, to a cause? How do we decide who belongs and who does not? What helps us to know where and with whom we belong? And why does it matter?

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

**Wed., April 3 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wed., April 3 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Humanist Discussion Group

**Friday, April 5 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Saturday, April 6 - 7:00 p.m.**  
"Grow" and "Fresh" Environmental Film Series

**Wed., April 10 - 6:00 p.m.**  
Women's Book Group

**Wed., April 10 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Friday, April 12 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

**Wed., April 17 - 10:00 a.m.**  
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wed., April 17 - 6:30 p.m.**  
Decatur Vegetarian Society

**Friday, April 19 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

**Saturday, April 20 - 7:00 p.m.**  
"Deep Down" Environmental Film Series

**Wed., April 24 - 7:00 p.m.**  
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Friday, April 26 - 1:00 p.m.**  
Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

## Calendar of Events

**Humanist Group**—Humanist Discussion Group - Meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Dave Snoeyenbos at 865-2409.

**Women's Book Group**— The Women's Book Club will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10 at Marge Evans' place and the book is *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton.

**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

**Decatur Vegetarian Society (DVS)** --- The DVS group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. 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.

**Wednesday Morning Covenant Group** - This group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. We are discussing Eboo Patel's new book *Sacred Ground*.



### Food Bank Sunday

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items for local food banks to the Sunday service on April 21.



**Rev. Larry Hutchison**

**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: [minister@uufd.org](mailto:minister@uufd.org)

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

**YOU, ME AND A CITY OF COMPASSION**

Rain falls easy out here on an open bench waiting for the bus as a cold dampness moves inward all the way to the bone. Yet, there is compassion in the dampness, warmth in the thirsty soil at the dark end of the street as sprouts of compassion are pushing upward for a spring look around. What future holds in the Decatur soul? Can and will we nurture and grow a culture of compassion? Will we be good gardeners of the human spirit this spring? Will compassion become a verb, a movement, up and down my street, in and out of our interactions, will we connect more deeply by listening more responsively? Help this be an inspiring story of early sprouts growing into summer blossoms and blessings to visit.

To become a "City of Compassion", the "Charter of Compassion" believes we all do, will and must inspire daily compassionate actions, that small acts of compassion by us as individuals have a huge impact on our Decatur world. We're dreaming of a spring and summer when seeds of compassionate thinking will become a harvest of compassionate actions. Like a young man helping an elderly person from her car, like a group of young people covering an elderly woman with their coats after she fell and broke her hip in downtown Decatur on a cold day and then sat around her until medical help arrived, like the granddaughter who traveled to Poland to visit her 91 year old grandmother a few days, like the bus driver in Winnipeg who stopped his bus and gave a barefoot homeless person his shoes. Compassion is like the weather, it's everywhere. Let it grow, be a big part of this nurture and this narrative.

But compassion must push beyond individual acts to organizations, to education, medical care, businesses, and even invade politics. When compassion becomes a vital part of politics, then our political decisions are about "life itself" not about special interest, greed, injustice or fear. Compassion includes everyone as one city not two, not the haves and have-nots. Therefore, we will press on until the Mayor and City Council are on board and support and promote Decatur as a compassionate city "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Peace,  
Larry

# Presidents Message

Hello Good Folks!

Welcome to April! Welcome to springtime! Welcome to daffodils and budding trees—and Kick-offs!

Yes, we will be kicking off thoughts for the upcoming year with our annual pledge drive kick-off. Just like NPR asks us to help fund their programs for the next year, we at UU need to do the same. It is YOU that makes US tick. Let's send it off to a flying start with our pledges. I think when you check out the upcoming April schedule you will agree our programs are kicking off to a good start! April 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> will be a full two days with our speakers Nicolas Cable and Maham Kahn from the Interfaith Youth Core. Did we ever too many potlucks? I hope not! Two are scheduled; one after our service Sunday noon, and another at the Temple B'ai that evening. Do print out the enclosed flier and share this with friends and the young people you know. May this be an intergenerational as well as an interfaith time for all. The Sunday afternoon panel at the Greek Orthodox Church will be a time for reflection on what we have in common regarding spirituality, faith and pluralism. The evening program at Millikin will be an interfaith celebration through music. We hope the Monday program at Richland will catch some folks we missed on the way, while the wrap-up at the Decatur Public Library will ask "Where do we go from here?" and "How does your faith inspire you to serve others?" Just as the Wednesday covenant group was inspired by Eboo Patel's book "Acts of Faith", so too do we hope his message will resonate here in Decatur.

Now here's one more kick-off! Have you noticed little green sprouts coming up in the Tranquility Garden? Would you like to be someone on the team who takes turns keeping it spiffy? There's a sign-up sheet in the foyer so you can be one to help kick this one off as well! Many hands make happy gardening! Hooray for spring!

Marge

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## News from Religious Education



RE for April

- April 7 – Bill Harbeck will do Yoga with the kids (we had a blast last time Bill did this – you won't want to miss it!)
- April 14 – [To be decided](#) - Lorelei Zaker
- April 21 – Earth Day – Jennifer Sekosky
- April 28 – Cinco de Mayo – Lorelei Zaker

Looking ahead to May, we'll do some fun activities centered around moms and families of all kinds and we'll have our party for the end of the church year!

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## POT LUCK at noon on Sunday, April 14

Welcome our Interfaith Youth Corps visitors. Please bring a dish to share and UUFD will supply beverages and table settings. All are welcome!

**INTERFAITH FRIENDLY –BETTER TOGETHER**  
INTERFAITH YOUTH CORP SPEAKERS APRIL 14,15  
Maham Khan and Nicolas Cable

ARRIVAL Sunday, April 14th  
10:15 AM Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 3373 N. MacArthur Rd

LUNCH – potluck at UU

**AFTERNOON**

2:00 PM Location: Greek Orthodox Church 570 N Union St  
Introductions Rev. Larry Hutchison

Communities of Faith

Panel: What is Spirituality? What is Faith? Pluralism?

How does your faith inspire you to serve others?

1. Nic Cable IFYC
2. Maham Kahn IFYC
3. Father David Eynon - Greek Orthodox
4. Lethia Draves – Baha’i
5. Ramon Al-Amin - Muslim
6. Annette Cavanagh Temple B’Nai Abraham - Jewish
7. Miley Palmer -Christian
8. “Good People”

Questions, Discussion

DINNER 5:00 PM potluck at Temple B’Nai Abraham 1326 W Eldorado Coordinators: Eileen Ruski and Marshall Susler

**EVENING**

7:00 **Interfaith Celebration** - Richards Treat Center, Millikin U

Coordinator: Lethia Graves

MC Marge Evans Sharing traditions through music

Words from Nic and Maham

- 1) Bluegrass– Travis Stimeling
- 2) Decatur Baha’i Ensemble
- 3) MVOP Gospel choir
- 4) Intervarsity
- 5) Circle of song Bill Clark & Steve John

**MONDAY**

10:00 AM Richland Community College

Introductions: Maham and Nic Teena McWilliams

Interfaith friendly—BETTER TOGETHER

How does your faith inspire you to serve others?

LUNCH 11:30 – 1:00 RCC - Evan Comerford

Lunch with students in pit -different faiths; working together

2:00 PM Decatur Public Library

Coordinator: Mary Jo Comerford -introducing Nic and Maham:

How does your faith inspire you to serve others?

Where do we go from here?

# DECATUR AREA ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES 2013

## Continues in April

LOCATION: 3773 N. MacArthur Rd.

SPONSOR: Green Sanctuary Committee of the  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



### **FREE TO PUBLIC**

### **APRIL 6th GROW!**

Grow! Profiles a new crop of idealistic young farmers who have turned to the fields for a more fulfilling life, driven by a strong desire to change how our food is grown.

### **FRESH**

"Fresh" celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system. Forging healthier, sustainable alternatives, they offer a practical vision for a future of our food and our planet.

### **APRIL 20th DEEP DOWN**

Deep in the Appalachian mountains of eastern Kentucky, where coal is king, Beverly and Terry find themselves at the center of a contentious community battle over a proposed mountaintop removal coal mine.

**SHOWS BEGIN AT 7:00 PM Discussions follow led by leaders versed in each field  
Fresh popped popcorn and healthy drinks are available for \$1.00 each**

### **DONATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED**

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*More information about the Sunday April 21 service:*

**Come Experience the History of America's Largest Labor Uprising through the *Blair Pathways Mine Wars* Presentation!**

This show was born out of research conducted by Saro Lynch-Thomason as producer of Blair Pathways, a music CD project. The CD presents a series of historic music pieces covered by contemporary musicians, which take the listener step-by-step through the main events and themes of the West Virginia Mine Wars. CDs will be available for sale, and more information on the project can be found at [www.blairpathways.com](http://www.blairpathways.com).

*The West Virginia Mine Wars through Talk, Song and Slideshow* not only educates about Appalachia's important working-class history, it speaks to the region's current need for cultural and environmental preservation. With a focus on the effects of mountain-top removal mining and the debate over the fate of historic Blair Mountain, WV the presentation offers audiences opportunities to become involved in current struggles for labor and environmental justice.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**UUWomen's Connection Spring Conference JUNE 7-9, 2013**

Pilgrim Park, Princeton, IL KEYNOTE: Teressena Bakens

For more information visit [www.uuwomensconnection.org](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org)

## Humanism and Humanity's Endangered Future

"It's the end of the world as we know it!" Sure, that starts the chorus to a popular 1980s REM song, but maybe the band was on to something? The idea provided a great topic for Adam to explore in his latest book, and he was kind enough to share this with the rest of the Humanist group. Again, we missed some of the regular attendees--vacations happen at the most inconvenient times, but it appears we also picked up at least two new visitors that intend on making the Humanism group a regular stop for each "first Wednesday of the month."

When did humans escape from domination by the environment? The Industrial Revolution marks the start of humanity's exception from environmental control. Once we have escaped absolute domination by the environment, humanity should consider a goal. What general aim can be made for society's activities and efforts? Adam proposed "working to optimize the global quality of life for present and future generations." So how can we do this? First, a definition of "quality of life" would aid in the discussion. We agreed that "quality of life" and "happiness" could be considered synonyms for the purposes of the discussion. With a working definition for "quality of life" in place, how can society achieve this goal?

But what if someone has already figured out that answer? The Nordic countries of Europe seem to be approaching (already arrived at?) this general happiness/quality of life for a great percentage of residents. How have they managed this? Income disparity across a range of jobs is much more equitable than in the United States. Additionally, the safety net structure there is more fully developed and supported by the general populous. Why can't we have this in the USA? Perhaps our "frontier spirit" of "every man for himself" prevents America from adopting this Nordic lifestyle?

But what about charity in America? Doesn't that function similarly to the systems setup in those Nordic countries? Examining charity in America was an interesting diversion that could result in a topic all to itself, but this digression was quickly enough summarized and focus returned to the topic at hand. What else was preventing America from achieving this improvement in quality of life?

Population growth was next examined. Projections estimate human population growth will finally level off at 10 to 10.5 billion people around 2100. Can the world support this many people? Can we feed, clothe, and provide for this many needs?

With this growing population, shouldn't we also consider the vaunted economic growth so praised by society? Can we embrace improving economically when the population is already increasing? The economy must improve just to keep pace with the growing population, but society demands not just improvements to maintain the quality of life but further improvement to elevate this quality of life. Can we continue on this course? What can we do to encourage everyone to embrace stasis or reduction in quality/growth? How can we convince everyone that this economic growth comes at the expense of the rest of the world? Maybe if we could promote educational and cultural growth instead of material and possession growth?

Beyond this cultural and education growth, what can we do to improve the environment? Global warming is a significant problem. Now insurmountable? How can society embrace altruism instead of capitalism when it comes to the environment? And maybe beyond the environment, how can society generally change the focus from capitalism to altruism? Join us next month, Wednesday, April 03, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the UUFD as we continue the discussion by examining wealth distribution, globalization, food, technology, religion, and work.

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### **"WAYSIDE PULPIT" SIGN UPDATE**

There are several problems with our current UUFD sign near the driveway entrance. Solutions were presented to the Board 2 years ago and the decision was to make minor repairs to the current sign. The issue has again arisen and after research by a "sign committee," the Board approved presenting the whole Fellowship the question of whether to replace the current sign with a larger digital sign in that same general location. A proposal to that effect will be presented at the Annual Congregational meeting, Sunday, May 19th. Information about the sign design and various options will be distributed to the membership before the meeting. It will be up to the Fellowship to decide how best to proceed with this project.

April 2013



## 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](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org)*



**minister@uufd.org (Rev. Larry Hutchison)  
president@uufd.org (Marge Evans)  
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