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# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison  
Consulting Minister

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Decatur, IL 62526  
Phone: (217) 875-5442  
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.

### September 2 - "The Parable of Pullman" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

George Pullman was a lifelong Universalist (?) who is best known for the railroad sleeping and dining cars that bore his name. He was greatly admired for building a model industrial town, the whole city; later he was hated for his anti-labor stance, during and after the 1894 nationwide railroad strike. What is the meaning of this parable today?

### September 9 - "An Interfaith Dialogue" - Ramon Al-Amin and Rev. Larry Hutchison

With the shootings in Oak Creek and the burnings in Joplin fresh in our minds, what is interfaith's role in diversity? We will use the sharing of stories, as Eboo Patel and the Interfaith Youth Core do; making the point of connection (ours and theirs) the beginning of a new morning. "To hear another story, to defend another people, not despite your tradition but because of it, is the heart of Pluralism." Eboo Patel

#### Board Meeting at Noon

### September 16 - "My Journey As a Peace Activist" - Dr. Will Tuttle

Dr. Will Tuttle, author of *The World Peace Diet*, will discuss his journey as a peace activist over the past thirty years, and make explicit some of the hidden connections between our culturally-mandated food choices and our work to build a more harmonious and equitable world. He will explore how our cultural programming has far greater ramifications than most of us realize, especially for peace and social justice. Dr. Tuttle will also perform the music for the service.

### September 23 - "Let it Be a Dance We Do" - Mark Sorensen

For those who think that death is the end of our existence, how should we lead our lives? For those who believe in an eternal existence, how do we bear the pain of life's vicissitudes? According to the late UU poet and minstrel Ric Masten, "through the good times and the bad times, too..." we should dance. Long-time UUFD member Mark Sorensen will explore the life, ideas and poetry of Rev. Masten and what his metaphor of "life as a dance" can mean to us. This program is inspired by a 2007 sermon by the Rev. Kirk Loadman-Copeland, Senior Minister at the First Universalist Church of Denver.

### September 30 - "The Inner Citadel" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

We will be looking into the spiritual discipline of stoicism. Is there a rebirth of stoicism today? Is stoicism a good fit for Unitarian Universalism? Stoic philosophy being founded on the interconnection and dynamic unity of the universe.

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

## Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, September 5**  
10:00 a.m.- Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wednesday, September 5**  
7:00 p.m. - Humanist Discussion Group

**Friday, September 7**  
Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

**Wednesday, September 12**  
6:00 p.m. - Women's Book Group

**Wednesday, September 12**  
7:00 p.m. — Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Friday, September 14**  
1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

**Wednesday, September 19**  
10:00 a.m. - Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

**Wednesday, September 19**  
6:30 p.m. -Decatur Vegetarian Society

**Friday, September 21**  
1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

**Wednesday, September 26**  
7:00 p.m. — Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

**Friday, September 28**  
1:00 p.m. - Men's Luncheon at Benny's Grill

**Humanist Group**—Humanist Discussion Group meets at 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, September 12 at the home of Kathy Sorensen, for potluck and discussion of the book, *The Snow Child* by Ivey.

**Spiritual Journey Covenant Group**—The Spiritual Journey Covenant Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at UUF 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 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 are 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 (521-9702) for additional information.

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



### Food Bank Sunday

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food items for local food banks to the Sunday service on Sept. 16.



**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 Story

In Douglas Copland's novel *Generation X*, one of the novel's main characters, Claire, says that "it's not healthy to live life as a succession of isolated little cool moments. "Either our lives become stories, or there is just no way to get through them." The novel's other two main characters, Andy and Dag, agree. "(T)his is why the three of us... came to the desert - to tell stories and to make our own lives worthwhile tales in the process." In the desert... storytelling comes to save life - to "make" another life, the life of a tale "worthwhile".

In *Generation X*, storytelling saves the lives of those who are being consumed by "an accelerated culture." It appears that storytelling somehow has the capacity to slow their lives down, and to make them extend beyond the "succession of isolated cool moments" that Claire is talking about.

The importance of this capacity of storytelling should not be underestimated when it comes to interfaith work. It is the approach of the Interfaith Youth Core out of Chicago which we are working with in the hope of a future program.

That the story of one's moments adds up to a life worthwhile, would we want to deny anyone this? Can we spare the time to hear a story that needs to be told? To hear another story, to defend another people, to make a life worthwhile, this "is the heart of pluralism."

Peace, Larry



## President's Message



First and foremost I want to say a hearty "welcome back" to Larry and Nancy. What a difference you have made here your first year, Larry, despite those heart-wrenching hospital days. Happily Nancy is well again and we are looking forward to a wonderful year together with you both.

When you read this we will already be spic and span—clean and glowing—thanks to the help from 14 Millikin students and many of YOU loyal helpers. A big thanks all of you and especially to Linda Shroyer who organized and facilitated the event August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Green Sanctuary committee submitted a plan for the Tranquility Garden to the Board and it was approved. Perhaps you noticed it is beginning to take shape. You will also note that "shape" is all we have just yet! But did you see the benches? Planting must wait for cooler weather. But the rains are already beginning to come, and now we're looking hopefully at September 22 as a possible fall planting day.

Do check out our website when you get a chance. Tim has been working on getting it updated.

Plans for an Interfaith Project with partners at Millikin University are moving forward. Nicholas Cable and Maham Khan from Eboo Patel's Interfaith Youth Corp will be coming to speak to us on April 14<sup>th</sup>, and at Millikin U. on the 15<sup>th</sup>. You read last month that the Wednesday Covenant Group was inspired by Eboo's book *Acts of Faith*. His new book *Sacred Ground* is just off the press. Check with the *Beacon Press* if you are interested. Also our networking with Millikin has led to taking part in their Spiritual Partners programs. Larry has agreed to speak at three gatherings in Pillings Chapel on September 4<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Cheers, Larry! This is a special outreach opportunity.

Wonderful to see some new faces lately! Y'all come on out and greet them!  
In faith, Marge

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## News from Religious Education

We are so excited about the new year of Children's Religious Education at the UUFD. We are now able to divide the kids into two age groups to serve their developmental needs better!

Kate Pyle, who just earned her Master of Divinity at Harvard University, will teach third grade and older. Lorelei Zaker and Jennifer Sekosky will take turns teaching the younger group. And Macy Luedtke will soon be back babysitting our babies and toddlers! Linda Shroyer is almost always there lending a helping hand. We do get guest teachers from the congregation from time to time also. If you have a lesson, book, or talent you would like to share with our RE students, just let us know!

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## Spiritual Explorations

In September, the Spiritual Journey Covenant Group will be discussing "Lucid Dreaming" led by Mel Weinstein (Wednesday, September 12, 7:00pm) and "Facing the Afterlife" led by Bill Harbeck (Wednesday, September 26, 7:00 pm). In the following months, we will examine the existence of the soul(?), personal spiritual transformations, the importance of a guru, and other highly profound subjects. Meetings are open to all members, friends, and guests of the Fellowship.

## A National Speaker Coming to the UUFD in September

The UUFD and the Decatur Vegetarian Society have invited Dr. Will Tuttle to the UUFD for Sunday, September 16th. Dr. Will Tuttle, author, educator, pianist, and composer, has lectured and performed widely throughout North America and Europe. Author of the acclaimed Amazon #1 best-seller, ***The World Peace Diet***, he is a recipient of the Peace Abbey's Courage of Conscience Award, and is the creator of several wellness training programs. His Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, focused on educating intuition and altruism in adults, and he has taught college courses in creativity, humanities, mythology, religion, and philosophy. A former Zen monk as well as a 30-year vegan, he is devoted to cultural healing and awakening, and has created eight CD albums of original piano music. Traveling full-time with his spouse Madeleine, a Swiss visionary artist, in their solar-powered RV, he presents over 150 lectures, retreats, workshops, and concerts per year. There will be 3 separate events happening on Sunday September 16th, which are described below:

### Sunday Morning Service

Dr. Tuttle will be the featured speaker during the regular Sunday service. See the "Upcoming Services" section of this newsletter for the title and description of his talk. Dr. Tuttle is an accomplished pianist and will also be providing the music for the service.

### Sunday Evening Potluck

In honor of Dr. Tuttle's visit to the Fellowship, we will be hosting a vegan potluck scheduled for 5:30pm in the Religious Education area. If you would like to attend this event, there is a sign-up list in the foyer or contact Mel Weinstein at 521-9702. There will be the option to prepare a vegan dish (no animal products as ingredients) or to contribute \$5 per person to the Fellowship. Also, in the foyer there is a 3-ring binder containing various vegan recipes which attendees are welcome to take. On the sign-up form, please enter the dish you plan to make, so we can assure a good variety of dishes for the potluck. The potluck is not a public event and will be limited to the friends and members of the UUFD and the DVS.

### Sunday Evening Piano Concert

Dr. Tuttle will give a free performance in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm. The concert is entitled ***Piano Passion: Concert for a New World*** and will include original music composed by Dr. Tuttle. Joseph Campbell said of his music, "When playing the piano, he works from his Buddha-nature, floating, not trying, beyond mistakes." Peter Caddy, Co-Founder of Findhorn Community, Scotland, said, "Will Tuttle has the amazing ability to play spontaneous, meditational music that is truly uplifting. He has a unique style of his own, and he and the piano seem to become one in pouring forth melodious, uplifting music." This concert is offered for freedom, for Earth-healing, and for the happiness of every being. Donations in support of UUFD programs will be accepted. The music and books of by Dr. Tuttle will be available for purchase.



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur

September 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.**

## September Birthdays

Kathy Kline                      Sept. 23

*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)  
vicepresident@uufd.org (Rita Schwake)  
treasurer@uufd.org (Mark Sorensen)  
secretary@uufd.org (Barb Hannon)  
programs@uufd.org (Rita Schwake)  
newsletter@uufd.org (Kathy Kline and Terry Ankrom)**