

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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www.uufd.org

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Vice President:
Bernadette Lundeen

Past President:
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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.

OCTOBER 6 "CONNECTING THE DOTS" Jerry Johnson

The Decatur Area Arts Council introduces and promotes the arts, enhances arts educational opportunities, and increases the impact of and access to the arts to improve the quality of life in the community. To accomplish this mission, the DAAC works hard to stay connected with local artists, arts organizations, and community groups, as well as help them connect with one another.

OCTOBER 13 "SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS" - Rev. Larry Hutchison

Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendor in the grass,
Of glory in the flower.... Wordsworth
A little of the movie, some of Wordsworth but more of ecstasy. We all love a bit of ecstasy, don't we? Those moments of expansion, elation and awe we sometimes feel, when our heartstrings seem to vibrate in harmony with the universe, when the vast cosmos seems to radiate with love.
Board Meeting at noon.

OCTOBER 20 "ADLAI!" - Joe Bean

Illinois Humanities Council "Roads Scholar" Joe Bean will give an illustrated presentation about the life of former Illinois governor and two-time Presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson. Joe Bean, a resident of Libertyville, IL, is a professional writer specializing in corporate communications and executive speechwriting. His research for Adlai!, a non-partisan, 60-minute presentation, has included conducting interviews with two associates of Stevenson during his term as Governor of Illinois and as a Presidential candidate in 1952 and 1956, and with his son, Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III. His long-time interest in Adlai E. Stevenson was sparked by reading the Governor's widely-acclaimed acceptance speech at the 1952 Democratic Nominating Convention in Chicago. The event is free and open to the public and is being produced in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau.

OCTOBER 27 "TRY A LITTLE TENDERNESS" - Rev Larry Hutchison

The Bruised reed shall he not break Isaiah 52:8
Centering around a powerful story of a pottery man in Cincinnati and his son, we will look at the many sides and possibilities of tenderness. And yes, we will play Otis Redding's "Try A Little Tenderness".

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

Calendar of Events

Wed., Oct. 2 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., Oct. 2 - 7:00 p.m.
Humanist Group

Friday, Oct. 4 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., Oct. 9 - 6:00 p.m.
Women's Book Group

Wed., Oct. 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, Oct. 11 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., Oct. 16 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., Oct. 16 - 6:30 p.m.
Decatur Vegetarian Society

Thurs., Oct. 17 - 7:00 p.m.
Flannery O'Connor Discussion

Friday, Oct. 18 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., Oct. 23 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, Oct. 25 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

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 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Nancy Shoop's and the book is *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland.

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 October 20 .



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

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

You, Me and the Good Bishop

"Leaving Alexandria", which came out last year, is Richard Holloway's story, and the former Bishop of Edinburgh has quite a tale to tell - from failed monk to missionary in Africa, from socialist priest in the slums of the Gorbals, to his time ministering among the dying during the AIDS epidemic. Finally, Holloway is made a bishop, and he has a serious run in with the evangelical wing of the Anglican communion.

The crisis comes at the Lambeth conference of 1998, where a 'pincer movement' of evangelicals and Anglo-Catholics vote that homosexuality is 'incompatible with Scripture'. Holloway is disgusted by the homophobic hatred and bile expressed by the evangelicals, and offended by their utter certainty that they know God's opinion on matter's of sexuality and gender.

His stance in solidarity with the marginalized is admirable, but rather than trying to defend it with Scripture, which would befit a bishop, he writes a book called "Godless Morality", suggesting we leave God out of public discussions of morality. The idea of God, he comes to believe, simply muddies the waters of civil debate. Who knows what God thinks anyway? Archbishop Carey denounces the book, and Holloway's own congregation votes him out. This offends Holloway but really, what did he expect? He briefly wonders if there could ever be a 'liberal evangelism', one not so sure of itself, one less keen to pronounce and condemn, open to the possibility that it's wrong. This interests me, for I think there could be a liberal evangelism here in Decatur. What do you think?

Peace, Larry



President's Message

It was wonderful to see such great attendance at our 60th anniversary celebration this past month. Lots of folks we haven't seen for a while! It brought back many good memories of our early days and a few bittersweet ones of those no longer with us. We can all be very proud of our endurance here. Here's hoping you will join us in continuing to make a strong Fellowship here in Decatur for now and for the future.

See ya in church,
Rita

THANK-YOU!!! THANK-YOU!! THANK-YOU!!
ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY was beautiful here at UUFD.
Today fall floats in my head.
It is a cool wave
from a long direction.

I know the smells of fall,
hiding in the brown grass,
struggling for change in the leaves.
Yes, it is a profound medicine.

I'm holding unto Sunday's many smiles
while preparing for the coming fall with high hopes.
It was so great seeing everyone that Sunday!!
So many years went into getting ready!
A huge thank-you goes to all the workers!!
Echoing across the years.
As we braid the beautiful colors of fall
and sing the soft melodies of falling leaves
weaving our hopes
and blanketing with warmth our dreams
'to meet the asking years'.

With thanks, Larry

News from Religious Education



October is an exciting, transitional time for RE. Jennifer will be working with the younger group, along with some guests. Lorelei will be leading the older group, with help from Bernadette Lundeen. We will be focusing on the seven principles and welcoming fall. Please join us anytime! Contact Jennifer at 433-0202 if you can help in any way. Welcome Bernie to the crew!

Labyrinth Walk, Oneness Blessing, and Communion

The Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation in Springfield holds a monthly Labyrinth Walk, Oneness Blessing, and Communion. Walking the labyrinth is an ancient practice -- older than most religions and is a wonderful way to center. Labyrinth walks have grown in popularity not only among UUs, but among other faith traditions as well. The ALUUC labyrinth has been in use longer than most in central Illinois. Adding to the spiritual depth of the experience, John Malan and Carley Mattimore-Malan will be offering a Oneness Blessing to participants. A UU Communion will be celebrated afterwards.

The next labyrinth walk will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11. They will also hold the walks Nov. 15 and Dec. 20. The dates for 2014 are: 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, and 5/16.

Notes From UUFD 60th Anniversary Homecoming

Former UUFD member Cathy Ritchie sent along this recollection about her first time attending the Fellowship, in connection with our 60th Anniversary observance. She is with the Dallas Public Library in the Acquisitions Department:

The first people I met at UUFD one Sunday morning in 1988 were long-time members Virginia Strohecker and Sue Donovan, greeting me at the door. I had been raised without any kind of spiritual orientation and had not been at a church service in decades, but in doing my research, as a good librarian does, I had a feeling that Unitarianism might possibly be a faith that would fit the life experiences of a 35-something, newly lesbian, Minnesota transplant professional with a virtual blank slate where “Religion” was concerned.

Reverend Mary Moore officiated that day. When she referred to “Jesus of Nazareth” in her remarks, instead of “Jesus Christ,” the figurative angels sang. To quote my favorite song from Hello, Dolly! (as per the Broadway baby I am), “It Only Takes a Moment.” I immediately felt comfortable in my surroundings and knew I would never look back. I never have.

UUFD became a cornerstone of my life from that wonderful morning until I left Decatur in 1998 for additional education, eventually leading to permanent relocation to Dallas, Texas. I gained not only friends who remain with me to this day, but also a keener appreciation of Religion in all its variety, along with leadership and presentational skills, largely honed thanks to satisfying years serving on the UUFD Board, leading services and working with kids in RE. I was also able to appreciate our faith on a national scale, as I became involved with the UUA’s GLBT interest group Interweave, enabling me to visit UU churches around the country during the group’s annual meetings. All invaluable gifts beyond measure.

Before that special Sunday in 1988, I always believed (and still do) that an individual can have a fulfilling life and indeed be a “good” person without formal church affiliation of any kind. **But**, I am now visible flesh-and-blood proof that such affiliation can indeed make a given life just *so* much richer. Who knew?? Thanks to this exceptional Fellowship, *I* do.

Thank you, UUFD, for your open door that morning so long ago, and best wishes for another life-affirming 60 years to come.

Cathy Ritchie
Dallas, Texas

You wouldn’t think of it when you look at our building, but the Fellowship has many “pillars”.

As our wonderful Homecoming service was unfolding on Sept. 8, I couldn’t help thinking about my 20 years at UUFD and some of those important people who have passed away.

They enriched my life, either by welcoming me into the membership, cooperating with the big 50th anniversary service in 2003, or assisting me during my time as president.

Ann Limerick comes to mind. Once I figured that I’d won her respect, she was wonderful to be around.

Rosemary Idleman always projected a sense of intellect. Jeanne Robertson had such dignity. Sue Donovan just seemed impish — I can picture the expression on her face. Ed Seymour could seem crusty, but I could learn so much from him on so many subjects.

I miss all these folks and others whom I’m not even thinking of right now. And they’re just the ones who have died.

Many, many more have passed through our halls and away to other locations. They, too, helped make UUFD, and my life, a little better.

Dick Zaker

Humanism Group
By Tim Rooney

What Is the Value of Human Life?

How can we measure the value of a human life? Life insurance providers have to do this, but that only puts a cost/number/value on life. What other ways can we measure or value life? How do all these values relate? On Wednesday, September 04, the Greater Decatur Humanists gathered for the regular monthly meeting to discuss these questions.

Although the initial question, value of human life, is very broad and open-ended, Don narrowed the group's focus. He handed out four graphs that detailed the value of human life in terms economic, social, familial, and individual. The discussion began with the economic value of human life. As many of the Humanists discussions begin, the group examined the semantics of a word or term. What does "the sanctity of life" mean to a humanist? To the common person, "sanctity" denotes holiness, sacredness or saintliness. To the humanist, the group agreed that it simply means highly regarded. With this distinction clarified, Don then introduced a very successful, almost completely uncontested example of the economic value of human life. For the September 11 victims of the World Trade Center, the government selected one man and put no limits on cash settlements for victims. This one man examined each situation and determined an arbitrary value to give to the surviving family members. The average settlement was between \$200,000 and \$300,000, but there were almost no appeals. Everyone seemed very happy with the allotted settlement amount. This system was very successfully and worked well, but how can we apply this in general?

Looking at Don's graph, we decided on average that the area of production vs. consumption of each individual should be equal. Sure, some people will consume more and others will produce more, but the goal for the average over all people is to have equal amounts of production and consumption.

From here, the group shifted to the social value of life. An intriguing concept here was that some lives have no social value or even negative social value. But these people are in prison. A surprising counterexample presented by Don was a Down Syndrome child. The value of this child to the family was immense. Although this child was costly in economic terms, the social value of the child to friends and family was an enormous asset. Perhaps canceling this asset, though, the group also wondered about the social value of absent fathers.

After examining social value, the group looked at familial value of life. Don again presented a good example of the familiar value of life. When Don was raising his children, he had a much higher familial value for his life because children and a family depended on his skills and abilities to raise and maintain that family. As Don has progressed in age, his life still has familiar value, but he concedes that this value has lessened since his family has moved beyond his control and is actively contributing to society instead of needing Don's full support. Lenny replied that all this talk of trying to attach a value to life is very unsatisfying. There is an inherent value to life that supersedes what we were trying to discuss. Randy agreed with the note that attempting to quantify the value of human life is so complex that this effort is futile.

The group finished the discussion examining the individual value of life. Here the group looked at health care costs. So much money is spent on health care to prolong individual life. Terry conceded that he has had some expensive heart surgeries, but he believes this investment was worth it for all that Terry has contributed—a good investment. But is this always a good idea? Should society steal of the children and youth to preserve indefinitely the life of the senior members of society? And how is this money allocated since Europe spends 8% of GDP on health care but the USA spends 17% of GDP on health care. Where and how is that disparity double for the USA?

This wrapped up discussion, and Tina volunteered to lead the discussion next month. On Wednesday, October 02, at 7:00 p.m. the Humanism group will meet at the UUF to discuss corporate social responsibility. Please join us for discussion and treats--wine and snacks are a fixture for the discussions.

October 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.

October Birthdays

Chelso Frescura	Oct. 16
Marge Evans	Oct. 28

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

November Newsletter Deadline: October 20