

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Rev. Larry Hutchison
Consulting Minister

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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.

SEPTEMBER 1 "LABOR'S ANGEL, MOTHER JONES" Rev. Larry Hutchison

In the miner's cemetery in Mt. Olive, Illinois stands a large memorial to Mother Jones. She was a labor agitator and she was called, "the most dangerous woman in America." Her skill was to our spirits, of buoying them, of goading them to press on when hope seemed hopeless. This is her story.

SEPTEMBER 8 "HOMECOMING / NEW MEMBER CELEBRATION AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY, (60 yrs)"

As the warm winds of summer move through the cooler nights of September, we pause to celebrate old friends and welcome new ones. Homecoming: a time to celebrate sixty years of embrace and challenge; to embrace and welcome all who have been a part of UUFd's past and to except the challenge of the new and coming year. COME AND CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF LIBERAL RELIGION HERE ON THE PRAIRIE!!! Cake and all!

SEPTEMBER 15 "THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SANGAMON VALLEY WATERSHED" Stephen John

Steve John will update us on the role of the Agricultural Watershed Institute (AWI), located on the grounds of Richland Community College, in preserving the Sangamon Valley Watershed. The AWI is a national leader in the emerging field of bioenergy from perennial grasses. Their work in establishing a grass energy crop market in the Decatur area, analyzes the economics and environmental benefits of renewable energy from perennial grasses and presents a roadmap for using this biomass for power and heat. AWI is also involved in promoting efficient nutrient use for crop production and the beneficial re-use of dredged sediment. Steve is the founder and executive director of AWI and a long-time friend of UUFd.

SEPTEMBER 22 "RAINBOWS OF LIFE"

A multimedia program of photography, art, music and poetry with Delores Logue, Ron Shafer & Rev. Larry Hutchison all about water. It is water that fuels the dynamo of life; water is the basis of the energy metabolism that powers all living processes, the chemistry and the electricity of life. " Water is the means, medium and message of life, the rainbow within that mirrors the one in the sky." Mae-Wan Ho

SEPTEMBER 29 "EXPLORING AND HARNESSING INTUITION" Julie Lauper

Learn to tune into your inner voice - your intuition. Leave uplifted, recharged and tuned up spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally. Learn ways to live more effectively in your life. Julie teaches at Richland Community College.

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

Calendar of Events

Wed., Sept. 4 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., Sept. 4 - 7:00 p.m.
Humanist Group

Friday, Sept. 6 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., Sept. 11 - 6:00 p.m.
Women's Book Group

Wed., Sept. 11 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, Sept. 13 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., Sept. 18 - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Morning Covenant Group

Wed., Sept. 18 - 6:30 p.m.
Decatur Vegetarian Society

Friday, Sept. 20 - 1:00 p.m.
Men's Lunch at Benny's Grill

Wed., Sept. 25 - 7:00 p.m.
Spiritual Journey Covenant Group

Friday, Sept. 27 - 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 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Kathy Sorensen's and the book is *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo.

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 September 15 .



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 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

SEPTEMBER the 8th we will celebrate 60 years of Liberal Religion here on the corner. UUFd has a proud history and we will celebrate that past with our HOMECOMING. If you have been a part of that past this will be a reunion for you and an opportunity for us to say thank-you! For it is on the backs of these years that we enjoy our perch here on the mound today. Yes, we would love your attendance.

If you want to be a part of the future then this is a celebration of yours as we are not finished, yet.

We also, will be looking to the future , welcoming new members, and casting our gaze toward the fall and the coming great programs. We know we can grow more. We know we can grow more patient, more loving, more compassionate. We have joys and sorrows and hopes to be shared and the coming years to be celebrated.

As Carl Sandburg wrote: I am a brother of the cornhuskers who say at sundown:

Tomorrow is a day.

Peace, Larry

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



President's Message

September is upon us! What happened to Summer? Both kids and parents breathe a sigh of relief at the return to school and a "normal" routine. The same goes for us at UUFD. Our RE program is resuming and we have some interesting programs slated. Plan to join us on Sundays and get involved in one or more of our various activities and volunteer opportunities. I know that our Hospitality chair could use a few new volunteers to provide the much enjoyed treats and fix coffee on Sundays. The social time is very much a part of becoming a part of our congregation. We look forward to getting to know you better through these activities!

See ya in church. Rita

News from Religious Education



Get ready for a new Religious Education (RE) year! Jennifer Sekosky and Lorelei Zaker will be co-teaching children ages three through third grade. Kate Pyle will be in charge of fourth grade and up. A babysitter will care for babies and children too young to be in RE classes.

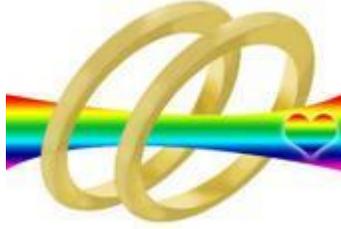
For September through December, the younger class will focus on UU's Seven Principles, but they will also learn about holidays and will sometimes explore the same subject the adults are learning about in the sanctuary.

Kate will follow the older students' lead as far as what to teach them.

Come share your expertise with the RE kids! Can you come in and lead the class in singing some traditional songs? Could you handle some kind of sport or activity (especially at the end of class)? Can you teach them an art or craft? A language? If you can help in any way, please let Lorelei know at LorCZa@comcast.net.

"Behind the Kitchen Door" Selected as UUA Common Read

The 2013-2014 UUA Common Read selection is *Behind the Kitchen Door* by Saru Jayaraman. The book reveals how restaurant workers live on some of the lowest wages in America and how poor working conditions-discriminatory labor practices, exploitation, and unsanitary kitchens affect the meals that arrive at our restaurant tables. As part of the UUA's commitment to ethical eating and economic justice, *Behind the Kitchen Door* invites Unitarian Universalist individuals, groups, and congregations to advocate for just working conditions for the 10 million restaurant workers who bring passion, tenacity, and insight into the American dining experience.



Decatur's March for Marriage Equality Rally & Informational Picket

**Saturday, September 14th, 2013
1-2:30 p.m.**

Join us at the Decatur Civil Center on Saturday, September 14th to demonstrate our support to make Illinois the 14th state for marriage for gays and lesbians!

We will be meeting in front of the Stephen Decatur statue at William and Franklin Streets at 1 p.m. and march to the Macon County Courthouse.

Please bring signs and rainbow flags.

Supported by: GLAD (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur),
Organizing for Action, and The Civil Rights Agenda

For more information contact Linda by email: Decatur_marriage_rally@yahoo.com

***"We know from our own history that change happens because people push
to make it happen" President Barack Obama***

Humanism Group

By Tim Rooney

Why do people react as they do? What factors influence decisions? And can these questions really even be answered? This started the Humanism discussion on Wednesday evening, August 08 at the UUFD. Much of the evening was centered around the proposal that human behavior is controlled equally by genetics and learned behavior. The counterpoint to this initial contention was that humans behave as they do because people naturally follow leaders and seek to fit into some of the many cultures/societies/organizations to which they respectively belong.

Dan suggested the "leadership" trait or characterizations is inherent in every person. There is some unique or isolated skill that every person tries to adopt so that individual can become the local expert.

Randy agreed but then wondered how evolution favors a cooperative gene. Man is a group animal so perhaps that was enough of an explanation? Perhaps survival is best achieved by the individual that has the most effective balance of cooperation and competition?

Tonya interjected to ponder why it mattered what influenced behavior? How does knowing the environmental/genetic split affect people? And even if people knew the cause for the behavior, what makes people think that they could control the resultant behavior?

Next, the group examined morals and tried to determine which ones span all cultures. But are these culture spanning conventions actually morals or are those only instincts?

From here, the discussion shifted to moral absolutes. Could we define a moral absolute that applied unconditionally in all situations? Tonya again chimed in to suggest moral behavior is identified by an action one knows is wrong. One feels bad when one does that "wrong" act. Dan replied with a broader question. What responsibility does man have to fellow man, to the state, and to god? How are moral values assigned in each of these cases?

As one might expect at a Humanism discussion, Dan pulled out a book to help promote the discussion. Sam Harris is a strong proponent of determinism: people don't really have a choice in their action. Genes determine what will happen, and people really don't have the freedom to choose. This was not a popular or comfortable idea to Randy!

Dan supported this contention with data from a scientific experiment that conclusively showed the human unconscious decides to take an action before the conscious mind is aware of the decision. With this scenario, humans never really consciously make a decision but only consciously follow the decision made by the unconscious mind. Randy responded that this didn't really matter because separating the conscious from the unconscious mind was beside the point--the mind was still making the decision!

Tonya then wondered about the human tendency to transform every situation into a binary decision. Why do people make decisions/questions into yes/no formats? Why don't we create situations where we present four or five scenarios? Why do people reduce situations to yes/no?

This seemed to be a convenient time to wrap up the conversation and decide what the group would discuss in September. Dan had another idea he wanted to explore, and everyone agreed it would be excellent to talk about the value of human life. But in what context? All of them! Please bring your idea, thoughts, hopes, and musings to our meeting on September 04 at 7:00 p.m. at the UUFD.

September



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*



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)

October Newsletter Deadline: September 15