



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



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

Upcoming Services at 10:15 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)

Aug. 2: "Grassroots Results" with Don Carlson

Mr. Carlson of Illinois Peoples Action will discuss the successes and challenges his group has faced recently. IPA works with local grassroots and faith leaders on justice issues including home foreclosure, immigrant rights, stopping 400% payday and car title lending. Linda Shroyer is service leader.



Aug. 16: "The Joy of G.A." with Dick and Lorelei Zaker

What can happen when 4,800 Unitarian Universalists get together? Lorelei and Dick describe the joy, commitment and bonding of five days in Portland, Ore.

Aug. 23: "Love Medicine: An Old Chippewa Specialty" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

Love medicine heals and holds a people together and has the power to keep them going, writer Louise Erdrich says. How would "love medicine" fit into our UU way of looking at things? Come listen to Larry as he visits from Michigan.

Aug. 9: "Passing the Torch: From One Generation of Activists to Another" with Antares Harrison

Antares will share personal insights on the Millennial Generation. Let's define terms and dispel myths.

Aug. 30: "Need Money?" with Jon Baxter

Jon will be talking about how people, particularly the elderly, might get financial aid when in dire need. Growing up in Indiana, Jon had experience with a thrifty lifestyle. Vern Thistlethwaite will be service leader.





From the Co-Presidents

Summer is zipping by, and we've had several fun UUFD gatherings and programs. Rev. Larry Hutchison and Nancy are coming to town for a visit later in August, and Larry agreed to be our speaker at the Aug. 23 service.

Many thanks to the individuals who have kept the tranquility garden in tip-top shape. It is maturing nicely and certainly benefited from the rains.

UUFD members and friends generously gave of our time to deliver Meals on Wheels in late July. Thanks to Lorelei Zaker for helping to coordinate this great opportunity for us to do something positive for our community.

Behind the scenes, lots of preparations for the upcoming church year are in the works.

- Reverend Michelle LaGrave moves to town from Connecticut in late in August and starts as our full-time minister Sept. 1. She and her husband have found a townhome in Baker Woods, and are looking forward to getting acquainted with Decatur and our congregation.

- The board is getting estimates for some repairs to the exterior of the church building before painting later in August.



- We hope to have an RE teacher hired by the end of August to begin in September. More important than having someone in place by Sept. 1, is finding the right person to take

on this key position. If you know of someone who would enjoy doing about five hours a week of planning and teaching our UUFD youth, please contact Mary Lovell or Lorelei Zaker!! We'll keep you posted.

- Piano out of tune... again. We got the piano tuned twice during the past 12 months... most recently in April, and it is already out of tune. We consulted our piano tuner and learned that the swings in humidity due to intermittent heating and cooling throughout the year will cause this tuning problem. He recommended a device that fits inside the piano to help regulate the humidity throughout the year. Dr. Kim Hanneken recently donated money toward the next tuning.



The board decided at our July meeting to use her generous donation to help purchase that product. With that in place, our tunings should last at least six months, maybe longer. Thank you Kim!

- Help is needed as we plan lay Sunday programs for the upcoming year. Fortunately, the work involved in managing lay Sunday services will be somewhat less demanding with our new full-time minister. We will be seeking one or two volunteers to take responsibility for this programming task -- with significant support from Joyce and Mary. Please contact us if you would like to help shape our lay Sunday programs in this way.

- Welcome Dick Zaker as our UUFD vice president!!! In the true spirit of stepping up when help is needed, Dick has agreed to serve this year, continuing as president next year. The UUFD Board unanimously voted to elect Dick to fill our vacant position at the July 19 Board meeting. Dick will continue to be our Newsletter editor this year and hopes to begin working with someone to take over the publication starting next June when he becomes president. Let us know if you want to use your literary talents as our future newsletter editor.



Meals on Wheels

UUFDF members once again have shown they want to make a difference in our community.

In late July, these members and friends of the Fellowship donated their time and talents to deliver lunches to the elderly and other shut-Ins: Barbara Hannon, Michelle Downs,

Mary Lovell, Joyce and Monte Throneburg, Bobbie Hartman, Julie Lauper and Azrielle Lauper -Cook, Jon Baxter, Charla Stone, John Wylder and Stavia Stone-Wylder, Kristi Pashia, Sharon Zimmerman, Carolyn Devore, Tatiana Isakovski and Melissa Haynes.

It's a worthy goal to enable people to remain in their homes as long as they are able. This generous volunteering of time helps accomplish that goal.

RE life: In 'the Pod'

Steaming through summer

Activities will be in session each week during August, with the accent being on Bible stories. Stavia Stone-Wylder has been doing fine work, and we thank her very much for that. Alas, she leaves us at the end of the month. will be taking care of the younger children and helping with summer classes. Anybody who knows someone who would like the babysitting job should pass those names along to Lorelei Zaker or Linda Shroyer.

And this won't come as a shock, but anyone who could lend a few Sundays as an RE teacher is deeply appreciated.

And now, a request from your editor

We'd like to start a new feature, but we need your help. We propose to publish essays about "Why I'm a UU" and "Why I value UUFDF". The two related topics certainly could dovetail into a single writing.

If we get even 10 percent of the membership participating, we'll have enough to pretty well get through the year with one a month. We hope everyone

would be inspired to put their words together, but we're hoping for the best.

The "rub" may be that we'll impose word limits. But to do that Decatur daily newspaper one better, we'll make it 350 words, rather than their 300.

Time to do some reflecting? Please send along your essays to newsletter@uufd.org. And thank you in advance.

Second time around

An editorial

This edition marks the "new year" of this version of your Newsletter. And it is "your" Newsletter. Its success will rise on the basis of your suggestions and offerings of information to share with your Fellows in the Fellowship. Use that email, telephone and even written notes to pass ideas to your editor. Oh, photos, too: Last year's best issues were ones that were dressed up by pictures from RE, the Christmas tree and church cleanup.

One other point: This Newsletter will be an unabashed advocate for the Three-Year Growth Plan the congregation adopted this spring. To succeed, which is to say sustain the Fellowship for the future, everyone should be thinking of what they can do to make this work. Growth – in terms of numbers, activity and youth – will not be achieved primarily from the "outside", through imposition by a board or minister. In the end, it will be accomplished organically – from your effort and contributions. Oh, but it'll be worth it. Your membership and past participation proves you see something special here to hold onto.



Cleanup coming up

Rake and broom time, people! The UUFD Workday Inside and Outside is planned for Saturday, August 22, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Millikin students are scheduled to be there to lend many helping hands. Please mark your calendars and plan to help.

'Show up for Ferguson'

(This information is from the UU MidAmerica Region)

The killing of Michael Brown on Aug. 9, 2014, sparked a cry from Ferguson, Mo., that has not relented. Protests have continued daily across the greater St. Louis metro region ever since Aug 10.

The Unitarian Universalist leadership in St. Louis joins the local Action Council, Don't Shoot Coalition and Movement community in a call for people of faith and conscience to join us here for the weekend of Aug. 7-10. We are calling for UUs to Show Up for Ferguson.

The weekend will kick off Friday evening with a UU rally at one of the local congregations. This rally will include orientation for the weekend's events and all who plan to participate must attend. Saturday we will join the "I Am Mike Brown" march, dressed in white t-shirts, khakis and baseball caps. The local organizers are calling for all who attend to dress as Mike Brown was dressed when he was killed, we will humbly comply. Sunday will be a day for worship and additional opportunities to support the local Movement community (yellow Standing on the Side of Love shirts would be appropriate for these events).

Monday is direct action day. There will be specific requests about how we show up for this from our community partners, so please be sure to stay tuned for these instructions.

We will be releasing information through Standing on the Side of Love, the Mid America Region, UUMA Connect and the St. Louis Standing on the Side of Love Facebook page.

Not able to come to St. Louis for this weekend? Consider attending a solidarity event in your area. If you have questions about the weekend Rev. Julie Taylor is the local contact and can be reached at mail to: WokeUUp@gmail.com.

... ROOTS HOLD ME CLOSE

WINGS SET ME FREE ...



Sometimes, you just don't fill out every page

What's missing here

We can tell you there's going to be a Board meeting at noon on Sunday, Aug. 9. We have no other information in hand about group meetings.

This list will resume as we collect updates from women book readers, humanists, etc.

The deadline

Please have your items in by Aug. 20, either at newsletter@uufd.org or the Newsletter mailbox in the Fellowship office.

The birthdays

Rita Schwake Aug. 16
Vern Thistlethwaite Aug. 21

We're beginning to get a complex, thinking you don't want your birthday in. Disavow us of that notion by submitting your birthdays to newsletter@uufd.org

The "officials"

Co-Presidents: Joyce Throneburg and Mary Lovell

president@uufd.org

Vice President: Dick Zaker

vice_president@uufd.org

Past President: Bernadette Lundeen

Treasurer: Mark Sorensen

treasurer@uufd.org

Secretary: Kathy Kline

secretary@uufd.org

Board Members at Large: Eric DeVore, Tatiana Isakovski.

UUFd Trust Board: Ken Robertson, Dave Snoeyenbos, Vern Thistlethwaite

The buck stops here

Editor Dick Zaker- UUFdNewsletter@gmail.com