



# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



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

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

### June 7 – "Flower Communion" with Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

Please bring a cut flower to share as we celebrate this UU tradition in this intergenerational service. We will also welcome new members to UUFD.



### June 14 – "Children Who are Not Yet Peaceful," with Mary J. Anderson

Anderson is the principal of Garfield Montessori School in Decatur. She will be talking about her school's Montessori program and the commitment to helping children grow up to be responsible, peaceful adults.



### June 21 – "Where Do You Stand?" with Rev. Elaine Gehrmann

In this interactive service, we will explore some of our shared and differing perspectives on any number of issues -- religious, social and political. Come and see where you stand and where your fellow UUFD members and friends stand, as well.



### June 28 – "The A.E. Staley Industrial Heritage" with Laura Jahr



In 1909, Augustus Eugene Staley purchased an inoperable cornstarch plant in Decatur. His pioneering vision helped shape Decatur to be what it is today. Jahr, curator of the A.E. Staley Museum, will give an illustrated explanation how museums such as the proposed Staley museum help us to feel pride in our industrial heritage.



### July 5 – "Wood You Know?"

In the holiday spirit, share a potluck lunch at the Throneburg farm, starting at **NOON**. Monte Throneburg will share the steps for transforming a log into usable lumber. Bring fishing poles, lawn chairs, and a dish to share. Drinks and table service will be provided. Directions will be sent out a week prior to the event.



### July 12 – "Ponies and More"

Join us at the pony farm of Julie and Zach Shields at **10:15 a.m.** for an inspirational and fun morning learning about their passion for their farm, their ponies and their beautiful surroundings. Directions will be sent out a week prior to the event.



### July 19 – "TED talks" with Tatiana Isakovski

Tatiana will guide us as we watch a thought-provoking TED-talk video. Come prepared to jump in and enjoy the outstanding speaker, followed by our own UUFD brand of lively discussion. If you have never seen a TED talk, this morning will get you hooked.



### July 26 – "Voices From Within" with Us

This will be a special morning, when we get to listen to our own members reading selections from their own writings. We will have poetry, prose, humor and who-knows-what else. The list of presenters will surprise and delight you, with 6 people already scheduled, and possibly more to come. We've got TALENT!

## June, July – watch time fly

### Sunday, June 14 –noon

UUFD Board; big things happening

### Wednesday, June 3 – 7 p.m.

Greater Decatur Humanists, UUFD

### Wednesday, June 10 – 6 p.m.

Women's Book Group,

Sharon Zimmerman's home

### Wednesday, June 17 – 6:30 p.m.

Decatur Vegetarian Society, UUFD

### Wednesday, July 8 – 6

p.m. Women's Book Group. Contact noted in article below.

### Wednesday, July 8 – 7 p.m.

SCAT Book Group - \*NEW\*, UUFD

### Wednesday, July 15 – 6:30 p.m.

Decatur Vegetarian Society, UUFD

### Wednesday, July 22 – 7 p.m.

SCAT Book Group, UUFD

### SCAT Book Group to Form

A new book group called SCAT (Science, Consciousness & Technology) is coming to UUFD this July. The SCAT group will devote itself to reading and discussing cutting-edge, nonfiction books on those subjects. Meetings will take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. The group will be open to members and friends of the Fellowship and the public.

The first meeting will be on Wednesday, July 8. Anybody interested in becoming a member of this group should pre-register by contacting Mel Weinstein at the e-mail address below. You will then be sent information and guidelines for the group, as well as the first book selection and assignment. Please don't come to the first meeting without pre-registration, since we will be discussing the beginning of the first book. [mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com](mailto:mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com)

### Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet Wednesday, June 10, at 6 pm in the home of Sharon Zimmerman. The books are "The Pearl that Broke Its Shell" by Nadia Hasimi and "The Underground Girls of Kabul" by Jenny Nordberg". Please bring a dish to share and RSVP by June 8 to [shaziart@ymail.com](mailto:shaziart@ymail.com).

The club will meet again on Wednesday, July 8. The book has yet to be decided. Contact Kathy Sorensen at [kathysorensen1@comcast.net](mailto:kathysorensen1@comcast.net) for more information.

### Greater Decatur Humanists

The Humanist Group will meet Wednesday, June 3, at 7 pm at UUFD. Dave Snoeyenbos



will make a presentation and lead a discussion on "Global Warming; What WILL We Do About It?" All are welcome.

The Humanist Group will take a summer break in July and August and will re-convene in

September with a new name and, hopefully, new participants. If you like to discuss important topics of the day, please join us.

For more on the Humanist group, go to [www.gdhumanists.org](http://www.gdhumanists.org)

### Decatur Vegetarian Society (DVS)

A potluck at UUFD is followed each month by a presentation at 8 p.m. Bring a vegetarian or vegan dish with a recipe or donate \$5. Contact Mel Weinstein ([mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com](mailto:mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com)) for more information.

\*NOTE: Please contact Mel before coming to the potluck to make sure the event has not been canceled or replaced by another event.

## Along the lane with Elaine

Dear Friends,

As I told you in my letter of May 10, 2015: It is with very mixed feelings that I tell you that I will not be renewing my contract as your minister for the coming year. My husband Axel and I have been offered the opportunity to serve as co-ministers for the UU Church of the Monterey Peninsula in California.



I have greatly enjoyed my time with you, and it has been wonderful getting to know you. I feel sad because it seems like we were just getting started, but I feel confident that you will continue to build on the energy and great volunteers that you have here at UUF and that your future is bright.

I appreciate all that you have done: You welcomed me into your lives, entrusted me with your community, and supported my initiatives. I have tried to be a positive and involved minister, both in the congregation and in the Decatur community and tried to represent you well.

While I loved being your minister, I have missed co-ministering with my husband. We have previously served two different congregations as co-ministers, for five years each, and I am really looking forward to serving with him again, as equal partners working together in one congregation.

I understand that you, too, may have mixed feelings about my departure, and I encourage you to speak with me if that is helpful, and I am happy to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Please know that my decision is no reflection on you, nor is it the result of any lack of affection or appreciation on my part; it just so happens that this opportunity has arisen at this time. We have been in Central Illinois for almost 20 years, and now that our children are in college, and "launched" (mostly), we feel that it is the right time for us to embark on a new adventure.

I will miss you all and will treasure my memories of this time with you. I will still be your minister through the end of June, and we will have plenty of time to say our goodbyes. I look forward to following your adventures as the future unfolds.

With much appreciation and affection,

*Elaine*

**Office hours** are:

Tuesday 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.  
(at Starbucks)

Wednesday 10 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.-noon

Reach the minister by e-mail,  
[minister@uufd.org](mailto:minister@uufd.org), or by phone:  
Home 217-344-2335, Cell  
217-358-9412, or Church  
217-875-5442.

## Feel the tranquility

The vitality of the Tranquility Garden outside the Fellowship building is unmistakable. Of course, the weed and maple seeds have found the good soil, too. So to keep them at bay, it's time to mulch. A big pile of wood chips will be delivered the first week in June. So bring a shovel to church (and wheelbarrow, too if you can) Sunday, June 7, and spread around the trees, walk and plants.

To help keep it looking great, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Pick a week any time that is good – and come out and check the garden for weeds and watering. The key for the outdoor faucet is on a low wire on the light post (in the shrub) nearby.

For more information, call 864-2843 or go to [mmedec@aol.com](mailto:mmedec@aol.com).

## RE life: In 'the Pod'

### In the summer

It'll be a touch laid-back during the next few months. Lorelei and Jasmyrn Zaker will be discussing classic Bible stories. Stavia Stone-Wylder, our college student, will be taking care of the younger children and helping with summer classes.



On May 17, the RE youth finally had the chance to show the congregation their command of and interpretation of our Seven Principles.

## Welcome to Summer from Joyce and Mary

As your incoming UUFD co-presidents, we are looking forward to a fun year, with some of our regular traditions, some new faces and activities, perhaps some long-term initiatives and plenty of variety along the way.

UUFD has an important place in our hearts and our lives, as well as in the life of the Decatur/Macon County area.

### **Can you imagine our community without a UUFD?**

This question is one that we will revisit many times as we work together to make sure UUFD thrives to meet not only our own needs but also those of the larger community we represent.

For us, UUFD provides a community of safety and support, where we can explore, learn, and grow intellectually and spiritually. Our Fellowship is a community where we

connect with people of diverse beliefs and circumstances, and where we respectfully challenge and share each other's ideas. UUFD is a community of people who laugh and cry and learn together, and who enjoy meals,

outings, service activities, and small group activities together. What does UUFD provide for you?

In the upcoming year, with your help, we hope to keep defining and redefining the meaning of UUFD to all of us. We promise to work hard with

you, our board and professional leadership to build a stronger, more vital Fellowship for all of us, and for our Decatur/Macon County community. Stay tuned for ways in which you can help.



### **Seminary honors official from Cook County**

Meadville Lombard Theological School has bestowed a Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

Preckwinkle has led that county's government for more than four years, after almost

20 years as a Chicago alderman.

She was in Decatur last August to present our own Amy Stockwell with the Penny Severns Integrity Award.

Meadville Lombard noted Preckwinkle's dedication to serve the



community of Chicago and lead innovatively through the changing times.

The seminary highlighted the contribution of a leader who takes the Unitarian Universalist values of justice, equity and compassion to the Chicago community. Preckwinkle praised UU's devotion to social justice issues.

## Do we need a UUFD Hall of Fame here?

### *The Sorensen Philé*

You know him as the ever-present facilitator of nearly everything good that happens at UUFD, but Mark Sorensen also



Mark Sorensen receives a Lincoln statuette from Chicago History Museum historian Russell Lewis in the Old State Capitol.

has become the recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society Lifetime Achievement Award,

In an April ceremony in the Illinois House of Representatives' Chamber of the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Mark

was recognized for his long dedication to history.

The award was presented during the annual Historical Society's presentations to the state's best history teachers, authors and museum workers.

A former Decatur history teacher, Mark retired from the Illinois State Archives after 20 years as assistant director. He has been active in the not-for-profit Illinois State Historical Society for the past 25 years and recently served as president.

Mark somehow has found time to sit on Decatur's Historical and Architectural Sites Commission and the board of the Governor Richard J. Oglesby Mansion Historic Site. He is secretary of the Decatur Public Library Board and is assisting with the creation of the library's new local history room.

He was the consulting archivist for Moweaqua Coal Mine history project and wrote the biographies of the miners killed in the 1932 disaster <http://www.miningmoreinmoweaqua.com/html/bios.html>. He is now preparing biographies of each of the men who were associated with the 1920-21 Staley football program for the forthcoming Staley Museum and has in the past published articles about the role of George Halas in this endeavor <http://www.lib.niu.edu/2005/ih050910.html>.

Our congratulations!

### *Inspirational Julie*

The RE:Decatur online magazine has featured Julie Shields in its series on inspirations in the community. The woman who nominated her noted Julie's contributions as mother, entrepreneur, teacher and wife.

After getting her children off to school, all she has to do is take care of the chickens – before she heads to her job at Millikin University. And that job is a bit prestigious: She's an instructor of Entrepreneurship in the Tabor School of Business.

Julie's evenings are just as busy as her days, because she owns Sangamon Welsh Ponies. She gives the credit for the fine points of the horse breeding business to her husband, Zach Shields, executive director of the Decatur Public Schools Foundation.

Add to these three roles (remember the parental responsibility) Julie's supervision of Blue Connection, Millikin's "learning laboratory." Blue Connection is run by business students and art students.



Julie Shields takes a rare breather.

Julie's day job mostly revolves around Millikin University's Center for Entrepreneurship. She states that there are three main pillars: Academic, Youth Entrepreneurial Efforts, and Community. The center focuses on helping children from 5th grade on in developing the entrepreneurial spirit. Julie's older children also each run their own little "business." She says, "I believe that if you can teach a young person about the value of what they can create themselves, and produce themselves, that opens up so many different doors to them as opposed to than here's how you consume."

Julie has four children: Noah Shields, 2 years old; Caius and Hadrian Pajer, twins 11 years old; and Athena Pager, 15 years old. Her children are all named after unique characters, and Noah is no exception to that rule.

I think we're all a little more inspired, Julie!

Sometimes, you just don't fill out every page

### Oh, yes, it's quiz time

This, as you hopefully will quickly notice, is based on our Seven Principles. This also could be an open book quiz, seeing as you can refer to your hymnals or whatever resources (past Newsletters?) you have at hand.

1. The inherent \_\_\_\_\_ and dignity of every person.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to \_\_\_\_\_ growth in our congregations.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the \_\_\_\_\_ process within our congregations.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and \_\_\_\_\_ for all.
7. Respect for the \_\_\_\_\_ web of all existence of which we are a part.

### The deadline

Please have your items in by July 20, either at [newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org) or the Newsletter mailbox in the Fellowship office.

### The birthdays

#### June

June Allison .....	June 29
Joan Brown.....	June 30

#### July

Linda Shroyer .....	July 6
John Hays .....	July 21
Al Brumett .....	July 31

*Your birthday's not being ignored—  
we just don't know about it.  
E-mail birthdays to [newsletter@uufd.org](mailto:newsletter@uufd.org)*

### The buck stops here

Editor Dick Zaker- [UUFDFNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:UUFDFNewsletter@gmail.com)



May your summer be beautiful

