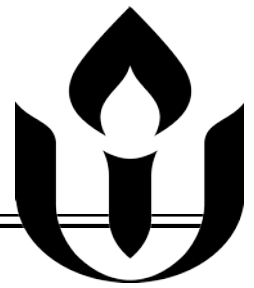


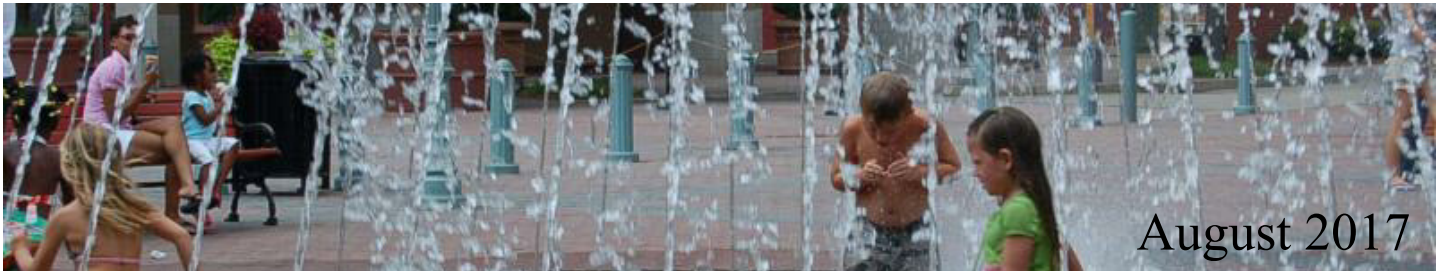


Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



News and Notes

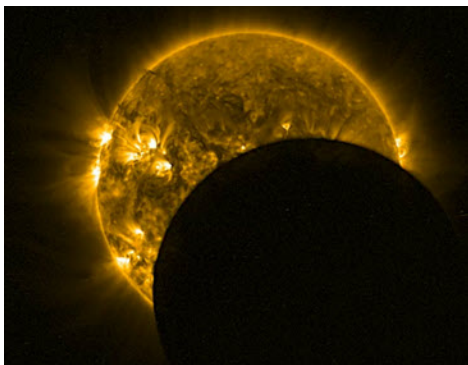
3773 N. MacArthur Rd. Decatur, IL 62526 Phone: (217) 875-5442 www.uufd.org



August 2017

Our services

At **10:15 a.m.**, unless otherwise noted



August 6 – When the Dragon Swallows the Sun, Dr. Dan Miller.

Eclipses have fascinated mankind throughout the ages – and have even changed the way we view the world. Join Dr. Miller, Millikin math professor, as he discusses the solar eclipse we will experience Monday, August 21. Joyce Throneburg is service leader.



Dr. Dan Miller

August 13 – The Rhine River Valley, Mark Sorensen. UUFd members Mark and Kathy Sorensen recently cruised up the Rhine River. Mark will share what can be learned in a trip through time and space. How did events 35 million years, 2,200 years, 500 years and



75 years ago shape how life is lived in this part of the world today? Geology, micro climates, innovations, trade, religion, mythology, warfare, tourism and ecology will all be mentioned, along with the towns of Amsterdam,

Cologne, Koblenz, Mainz, Heidelberg and Strasbourg. Perhaps even some cheeses, wines and Black Forest cake could make an appearance.

August 20, 27 – TBA.

Fundraising Ideas?

Some people have suggested doing fundraisers to augment our budget. Here are some ideas. Do you have others? Send them to Michelle.

- Chocolate Auction
- Goods and Services Auction
- Dog Wash
- Amazon Smile
- Scrip Program
- Ink cartridge and/or cell phone recycling
- Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, etc.
- Bergner's Community Day Sale
- Eat out at a local restaurant to raise money



Humanist Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 2.

Kathy Sorensen will present information from, and lead a discussion on, the book *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* by Sam Quinones. All are invited to attend, and you don't need to read the book to be able to join in the discussion.

The Women's Book Club, 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 9, at Kathy Sorensen's home, 2980 S. Amelia Ave., Decatur. Please bring a dish to share for dinner. The book is *Before the Fall* by Noah Hawley. Please RSVP to

kathysorensen1@comcast.net.

Gay and Lesbian Association of Decatur, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, August 12, Macon County Historical Society Museum. Doors open at 6:30; potluck at 7:00. The facilities are handicap-accessible. Please contact one of the co-chairs, Rene Verry, at president@uufd.org. The September, October and November socials will also **not** be UU. The December Holiday party **WILL** be at UU.

Women's Lunch Group, 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 30, Anna Thai Cuisine, downtown Decatur. RSVP with Judy Thistlethwaite, jthistle@comcast.net.

Mindfulness & Spirituality. Contact Mel Weinstein for information: mel.weinstein.domehome@gmail.com

UUFd Board Meeting, 12:15 p.m., Sunday, August 13. Everyone is welcome.

Rev. Michelle Returns August 13



**Rev. Michelle LaGrave
Minister
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Decatur, IL**

michellelagrave@gmail.com
or minister@uufd.org
860-539-3248 (cell)

Office hours:
Monday: Day Off
Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(most weeks)
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fridays: Reading and Writing Day - phone calls for urgent matters welcome.
Also by appointment.

"Coming Home to Our Selves"

*UU Women's Connection
Summer Retreat*

August 18 - 20

Watervliet, Michigan

Register at uuwomensconnection.org



Working Groups Begin

At the May 14 Board meeting, Rev. Michelle explained her concept of reorganizing the activities of the Fellowship into Working Groups. Our traditional committee structure would be converted into five groups: Community Building, Community Action, Buildings and Grounds, Sunday Services and Lifetime Religious Education.

To summarize the responsibilities, Community Building would bring together such tasks as hospitality and marketing under one umbrella, Community Action would oversee work in environmental, social justice and other areas, Building and Grounds would center on maintenance, capital needs and accessibility, Sunday Services would concern itself with program scheduling, Sanctuary aesthetics, etc., and Lifetime Religious Education would encompass activities for adults as well as children.

As of now, the "point people" for these Working Groups are: Dick and Lorelei Zaker (Community Building), Rene Verry and Kathy Vaught (Community Action), Amy Stockwell (Buildings and Grounds), Joyce Throneburg and Pat Rossiter (Sunday Services) and Kathy Kline and Melissa Hendrian for Lifetime Religious Education. Those of you who have had jobs you love won't have to change them, but you may be approached about taking on a new role for this coming year. Look for notices of meetings for these groups.

This much is clear: To accomplish even as much as we did last year, we will need MORE buy-in from more of you this year.

Bits o' news



Our RE Teacher, Emily Richard, will be back from summer break soon! We'll be looking forward to a super start to

classes!

The UFD Board will be monitoring the pace of pledges to keep our budget on track. There won't be extra dollars anywhere, but ideas are circulating to raise funds to bolster our bank account. Child care and music are two areas

that would be expected to benefit from additional funds.



Perhaps one of the biggest myths surrounding UFD is that being coffee host is some kind of chore. In reality, it can be as simple as bringing some cheeses and crackers and turning on the coffeepot. If

you're more adventurous, you could bake or cook. Worried about messing up the number of scoops of coffee? There's always someone there to advise you. Please take a crack at coffee hosting in 2017.

The national UU organization has its first woman president. The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, 41, of the Phoenix church, outpolled two other female candidates. Frederick-Gray also is one of the youngest UUA presidents ever. Rev. Michelle and Dick Zaker, a General Assembly delegate, voted in the election.

UUFD Leadership 2017 - 2018

President, Rene Verry
president@uufd.org

Vice President, Kathy Vaught
Vicepresident@uufd.org

Treasurer, Amy Stockwell
Treasurer@uufd.org

Assistant Treasurer, Mark Sorensen
assisttreasurer@uufd.org

Deputy Treasurer, Stuart Black
deputytreasurer@uufd.org

Secretary Melissa Hendrian
Secretary@uufd.org

Past President, Dick Zaker
Pastpresident@uufd.org

At-Large members:
Lorelei Zaker
board1@uufd.org

Kathy Kline
board2@uufd.org

Pat Rossiter
board3@uufd.org

Trustees:
Joyce Throneburg
trustee1@uufd.org

Vern Thistlethwaite
trustee2@uufd.org

Eric DeVore
trustee3@uufd.org

Religious Education Teacher, Emily
Richard
re@uufd.org

Eblast (Deadline Monday)
eblast_mgrs@uufd.org

Pianist, Michael Duling
music@uufd.org



Rita Schwake Aug. 16
Vern Thistlethwaite Aug. 21

*If YOU want to get some recognition,
email newsletter@uufd.org*

Lorelei Zaker is the editor of this
Newsletter.

The deadline for the September
edition is Aug. 24.

Newsletter@uufd.org



Love radically.
Serve gratefully.
Wonder daily.
Unitarian Universalism



Find us on the Internet

Facebook page: UUFD - Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, IL

Twitter: UU Decatur

Thank you for helping us raise awareness
of UUFD via social media.