



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



March 2019 News

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

Our services: 10:15 a.m., religious education and child care



March 3:—"A Mirror in the Road" with

Rev. Larry Hutchison
In a famous passage in "The Red and the Black", the writer

Stendhal described the novel as a mirror along a roadway. Here I am using the metaphor to track some twists and turns my life has taken to build "A Religion of one's own", to use Thomas Moore's words.

March 10: Shifting Chairs with the Rev. Jackie Clement

In anxious times, it can be difficult to enter into a wholehearted welcome. Let's talk about how we start the conversations that allow us to shift our chairs and make room for everyone at the table. UUFD welcomes the former minister of the Bloomington Unitarian Universalist Church to be guest speaker.



March 17: "A Beacon on a Hill" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

We have a 1980s UU curriculum called "Building Your Own Theology". Should we be building a UUFD community religion here on the hill? Some say we have no center. I think we we do. Let's talk about it.

March 24: "Spring Celebration", an intergenerational service, led by Rev. Larry Hutchison and Lisa Coates



A welcome to spring!
A welcome to new life!
A welcome to Luella Coates!
A welcome to all!!
Followed by a

celebration/potluck!

March 31: "Do We Still Need to Believe in Hell?" with Mark Sorensen

From ancient Middle East myths to Christian doctrine to human atrocities, there's no escaping the idea of eternal punishment. But, has hell outlived its usefulness to modern society? Former religious history teacher and UUFD member Mark Sorensen will review some of the past concepts of hell and how they might relate to current Universalist beliefs.



OK, this isn't happening until April, but ...

Travis Stimeling is coming back to visit on April 6 and 7. Travis and his family were active members a few years ago, when he was on the Millikin University faculty.

They then moved back close to his West Virginia roots to teach. We'll have much more to say later, but he's going to lead some fun activities over that weekend. Get ready to make time for Stimeling!





UU Humanists – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, UUFD. Kathy Sorensen leads discussion on “A World of Three Zeros: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment and Zero Net Carbon Emissions” by Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. He asserts that it's time for a "new economic system that unleashes altruism as a creative force just as powerful as self-interest."

Positively Plant Based for Life – 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, UUFD

UU Men's Lunch – 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, Anna Thai

Women's Book Group – 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, place to be decided. Discussing “The Girl in the Blue Coat by” Monica Hesse. Contact kathysorensen1@comcast.net.

UUFD Board Meeting – Noon Sunday, March 10.

Soul Support – 7 p.m., Thursday, March 21, at UUFD; Bill Harbeck will lead

UU Women's Lunch – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 27, Beach House

Tids & Bits

Jay Zaker has been accepted into a Planned Parenthood youth advisory group. My Body, My Story is a youth-led campaign to share facts about birth

control and sexual health to young people across Illinois.

The goal of the Youth Advisory Board is to have teens tell teens about sexual health care services and their right to access them. In that way, the program seeks to empower

Our UUFD president recuperates

Whether you know her as Kathy Vaught, or love her as Faith Vaught, our leader is working through some heavy-duty treatments for cancer. Our best thoughts and prayers go to her regularly.



Kathy Vaught

On top of that basket of worries, Kathy recently had to cope with a bout of plummeting blood pressure readings. We can hope that that has been straightened out.

Surprisingly enough, she's been able to attend some of our recent services and even head up the February board meeting. That's some kind of spirit!

A little support for Soul Support group

Soul Support is one of the newest groups at UUFD. It's an open organization that meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

The meeting begins promptly at 7, so arrive a bit early. There is a 20-minute silent meditation, followed by conversation about a topic related to mindfulness. It's an opportunity to share and to connect with each other in a quiet, safe setting. And sometimes there's laughter in the process! ALL ARE WELCOME.

young people to make healthy decisions.

If you know someone between 13 and 19 who would like to participate, contact Megan Scoville (who has presented a program at UUFD) at megans@ppil.org.

You, me and March (to somewhere?)

For us here at UUFD, the month of March is centering around "journeys" – yours, mine and ours.

- A journey to spring, seeds, growing and flowering
- A journey from always "solving" problems" to "living the possibilities"

Let's change the conversation:

- from fear, blame and poverty to gifts, generosity and abundance
- from betting on laws, punishment and shame to building a social fabric, (Let's call it community!)
- from self-interest to choosing accountability,

Rev. Larry Hutchison

lghutch@yahoo.com or minister@uufd.org

352-949-1601

Office hours
Tues. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wed. 6 - 9 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Call first or drop in if you see my car. Or call to set up a



time to meet or email, text or Facebook message.

Always happy to hear from you.

- from electing the right leader to being the active citizen
- from individualism to pluralism and interdependence
- from the stock market to faith in one's neighbor

- from hostility ("the stranger") to hospitality, ("the living family").
- "When we come to it" (Maya Angelou)

What are the possibilities?

Getting personal

Please remember those in facilities, including:
John Regan, Hickory Point Christian Village, Room 204.
Mary Cleave, Primrose Retirement Community, Room 103.
John Hays, Heritage Health, 1225 Woodland Dr., Mount Zion, 62549.



Mario Richard, son of Emily and Keith Richard was among the enthusiastic (and photogenic) grade schoolers at a Black History Month celebration at Dennis Lab School. His hat featured Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at its center.



- Larry Hutchison – March 3
- Rene Verry – March 5
- Gary Brennan – March 6
- Mel Weinstein – March 7
- Darwin Shroyer – March 15
- Sue Weinstein – March 18
- Mary Lovell – March 21

Please share your birthday by Emailing newsletter@uufd.org

Growth, self-expression to be focus of RE during March

Come on spring! RE will be focused on welcoming the spring season with



Lisa Coates

themes on our living world, emotional and physical growth as well as seasonal changes. We will use poetry and creative movement to explore new ways of self-expression.

March 24 will be an intergenerational service where we will perform our creative pieces. Following the service will be a potluck and reception. Our



youngest RE member, Luella Coates, will be dedicated the same day. We are all excited to experience this event.

We are thrilled to have a new RE leader join our team. Athena Pajer is now teaching our older children, fifth grade and up.

We now have two classes, our Chalice

Children and Chalice Youth. As the director of RE, I will continue to provide the programming and curriculum for both classes. We will have harmonious lessons and continue to work alongside each other on large productions and projects.

Our children love to pretend and create! Please donate the following items this month:

- unwanted costumes, dress-up clothes and accessories
- fabric scraps
- old magazines

New RE teacher Athena introduces Pajer herself



Athena

I was born and raised in Decatur and have been coming to the UUFD since before I can remember.

I enjoy a vibrant life at Millikin University, where I study English Literature and Communications and work at the Center for International Education. I serve as co-editor-in-chief for The Decaturian student newspaper, where I

work with a close team of other aspiring journalists.

My daily mission is learning about people from other cultures, sharing student stories, raising voices, and pulling together their differing opinions.

There's nothing more important to me than building a community where people can be confident in themselves and feel strong enough to speak out when something isn't right. I try to demonstrate this when I'm

working with the young and wise kids at the UUFD. As someone who relied on strong mentors growing up, helping them is one of the most fulfilling things I do.

When I'm taking holiday breaks from school and work, my greatest joys come from playing tag with my 6-year-old brother around the house, hugging all the ponies at my family's farm, and eating all the cheese my mom keeps in the refrigerator.

Find us on the Internet

Facebook page: UUFD - Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship of Decatur, IL
Web site: uufd.org

Dick Zaker is Newsletter editor.
April edition deadline: March 25.
Newsletter@uufd.org

Treasuring the moments: Budget being prepared

The days are getting longer, and the spring budget process has now started. Thanks to your hard-working Finance Committee, each of the committee chairs has information on the spending in the line items they are responsible for.



Amy Stockwell

We have asked them to provide a list of their “must haves” and “it sure would be nice – we have an idea we’re are ready to act on” items for each these accounts. We asked them to have this information for our March 25 Finance meeting so we can begin the budget drafting process.

Lots of amazing things are growing at UUFD, and we want to make sure that we use our resources

wisely to water the growing shoots! We look forward to everyone’s input.

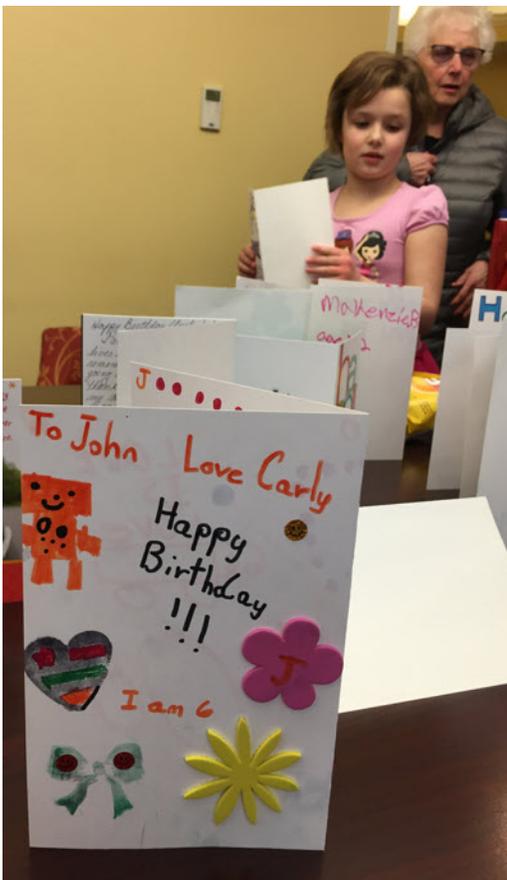
Future steps

April: Board discussion/ approval of draft budget

April 21: Easter and Pledge Sunday

May: Board discussion/ approval of revisions

May 19: Congregational meeting and budget vote



Carly Coates and Judy Thistlethwaite look over some of our RE kids’ handiwork to honor the 108th birthday of John Regan, a UUFD founder.

Getting on Board: Pride Fest, pagans and RE teachers on docket

On Feb. 10, your Board: meet March 25 to finalize the budget proposal

- Agreed to staff the kids area at Pride Fest in October. Decatur Illinois Pride will be hosting the event in Central Park
- Approved Jennifer Ellis’ request to start a pagan group within UUFD
- Learned that the Finance Committee will
- Authorized a \$50 per week payment for a second Religious Education teacher to split the children into appropriate age groups. The employment would be through May

Start thinking potluck for March 24 after service

You are all invited to join us for a fun food time. Since part of the service will include a child dedication of baby Luella Coates, her family will bring a large cake and others are bringing mac and cheese

and maybe even some hot dogs (vegan and meat).

Please bring whatever you’d like to share and join in the fun, fellowship and good food.

Next film up: What our oceans tell us about our planet

Here in Central Illinois, we are hundreds of miles from the ocean. Why is the ocean important to us? How will you be affected by the loss of coral reefs, by the acidification of the seas, by the warming of the deep ocean? What about ice melting at the North Pole – what does that have to do with our lives here?

Delores Logue will present a multimedia program on Saturday, March 9, with video clips, slides, animations and display panels to help us all understand the connections.

Learn how to get through to family and friends who still don't buy climate change. Those who don't believe what has been observed, measured, recorded, chronicled and



is widely accepted by the world's climate scientists.



"Our Oceans Are in Trouble – What Will This Mean for You?" will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a free lunch. Chili will be furnished; your side dishes are welcomed.

The film, "Amazing Planet: Ocean Realm", will be shown at 1 p.m. In it, National Geographic investigates the awesome power of our water world by journeying from the mind-bending beauty of coral reefs to the deepest depths of the Mariana Trench and the many wonders in between.



In February services

Some of the highlights were Millikin University students comparing and contrasting American life and their Burundi homeland, and Urbana High School teacher Dan Bechtel explaining how better use of statistics could lead to better reforms of discipline in the school. See you in March!





GA: Experience the 'Power of We'

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 G.A. will be June 19 to 23 in Spokane, Wash.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? G.A. 2019 will be a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals for our religious community. This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity.

Registration and Housing

Open March 1 at www.uua.org/ga. Full-time registration is \$425 for

adults and \$240 for high school youth. (Rates will rise on May 1). Two of the three G.A. hotels are connected to the convention center. Rates range from \$123 to \$169 per night. Make reservations at uua.org/ga beginning March 1. UUs from local congregations will host some families, B&B-style.

Spokane

The Spokane region, located within driving distance of Glacier National Park and Yellowstone, is nestled in natural beauty. Spokane is located on Interstate I-90, 110 miles from the Canadian border and 18 miles from Idaho.

Activities

You can be as busy as you want to be, with workshops, services and community service events. Several people at UUFD can give a fuller taste of the G.A. experience.

Publish your event or meeting in the weekly e-Blast – submit items to eblast_mgrs@uufd.org by Monday of each week.