



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



April 2019 News

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

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

April 7: "Future of Contemporary Appalachia" with Travis Stimeling



As a lifelong student of the music of the region, Travis has lots of insights to share about the people who make it and listen to it. Caution: things could get tuneful!

April 14: "Impact of European Imperialism on Western Africa" with Pape Cisse

Pape was born in New York City to Senegalese parents. He is serving in Assumption as an AmeriCorps volunteer as he earns his masters' degree in community development from Western Illinois University. Joyce Throneburg is the service leader.



April 21: "The Struggle for Paradise" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

On Easter, do we celebrate the life of Jesus or the death of Jesus? Do we celebrate the life of Decatur or observe the death of Decatur? Well, here at UUFd we will be celebrating the life of Jesus, the life of Decatur and the life of UUFd, even to the point of our "pledge drive" kickoff. We will be doing a take off on "The Music Man".

April 28: "Moms & Babies – Creating Opportunities at Decatur Correctional Center" with Carol Brand

Brand has a masters' degree and has worked for the Department of Corrections for 18 years. She created the library at the center, has taught Adult Education and GED classes for 12 years and has served as the Infant Development administrator for over five years.

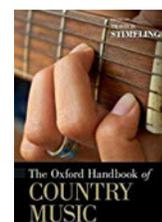
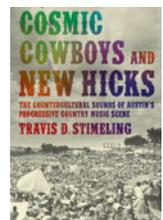
It's time for Travis

Former UUFd member and Millikin professor Travis Stimeling, who knows a thing or two about the music of America, will come back to strum up some fun early in April.

Travis is a music professor at West Virginia University. Travis has devoted his career to

researching the history, development and the people behind this rich strain of tune-making.

Travis will present "Why Oral History Matters -- Stories and Music of Appalachia" at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at UUFd. To sweeten the pot, there'll be pizza and jamming afterwards.





Greater Decatur Humanists – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 3, UUFD; topic: progress in artificial wombs.

Positively Plant Based for Life – 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, UUFD

UU Men's Lunch – 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 10, Coney McKane's

Women's Book Group – 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 10, home of Karen Clarkson. The book is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Bring a dish to share. Contact Kathy Sorensen to RSVP and for directions at kathysorensen1@comcast.net.

UUFD Board Meeting – Noon, Sunday, April 14

Soul Support – 7 p.m., Thursday, April 18, at UUFD

UU Women's Lunch – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, Cheddars, Forsyth

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.

Humanists ponder income inequality

The correct extension of capitalism could save the world, was the thesis the Greater Decatur Humanists discussed in March.

The basis of discussion was "A World of Three Zeros: The New Economics of Zero Poverty, Zero Unemployment, and Zero Net Carbon Emissions" by Muhammad Yunus. The Nobel Prize-winning author asserts the key is empowering small business and microfinancing.

Combating rampant income inequality depends on entrepreneurship and, specifically, social business: this is a business created to solve a social problem.

The baseline for social business is a bank/investor. A lump-sum loan is eventually returned to the lender at a reasonable rate of return, but it is only a single return. The lender helps the entrepreneur start a business, and the lender may earn as much as 20% on the investment.

Yunus points to the Golden Bees project in Africa (www.goldenbeesltd.com) as a successful example. This program has allowed more than 1,200 farmers to provide for themselves through beekeeping businesses.

How successful is this sort of investment? The repayment rate for loans administered through this program is 99%. Golden Bees also allows groups of people to work together and pool knowledge to expand everyone's success. Other microfinancing examples include home solar panel installation in Haiti and potato farms in France.

You, me and UUFD after the equinox

UUFD is a home for celebration; celebrating a reunion with our heritage and a renewal of spirit in the light of a new spring.

Our Fellowship is a home for celebrating freedom and creativity: creating a caring community, giving strength to the weary, promoting the possibilities of interrelationships giving wing to an on going hope.

Today -- we are seekers of truth, in freedom, in a spring when dogma is more fashionable.

We are doers of justice in a climate of cold narrow-mindedness.

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.**

We are lovers of life in a world "hell bent" on destruction.

We have a vision for the future, and it will not be vengeful, but wealthy with

love, compassion, justice and knowledge.

*Peace,
Larry*



*Please share your birthday by emailing
newsletter@uufd.org*

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| Faith/Kathy Vaught | April 3 |
| Stuart Black | April 11 |
| Kathy Sorensen | April 21 |
| Willa Hartman | April 28 |
| Pat Rossiter | April 29 |

Time to celebrate and rejoice

Whether your tradition is what in the Vernal Equinox, enjoy!

Easter represents or has roots in Judaism, enjoy!

HAPPY EASTER



HAPPY PASSOVER

If your practice is to rejoice (besides the crabgrass), enjoy!

And if it just revitalizes you to observe the re-greening and blossoming of Nature

New life and death, too, will serve as RE topics in April

We have successfully welcomed the season of Spring with a lovely celebration! The RE students did a fantastic job creating puppets and poems presented during the March intergenerational service.



Lisa Coates



very age-appropriate way, I will introduce conversations about feelings of grief and death. We also will spend time outside, searching for blooms and new signs of growth.

The focus of these discussions will be that death is a natural part of life, but so, too, are our

a memories of those who have died. Since this a sensitive topic, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Our Easter Sunday service will be a joyful intergenerational celebration. We will have a whole congregation egg hunt!

We will need plastic egg and candy donations. Please bring your gifts to the RE room by April 14.

We take you now to Stuart and Mary, reporting “from the field” in Tucson

While on a whirlwind tour of our western states, Stuart Black and Mary Lovell spent part of St. Patrick’s Day at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson, Ariz.

They say there were fewer young folks to sing out than at UUFD – “maybe an odd Sunday”.

The rest of the audience was similar in age to our Fellowship. They estimated attendance at 150 to 200. On an aesthetic note, their chairs were similar to our red ones but black.

Stuart and Mary note their experience was different, based on the larger group and amenities. However the service was similar in message. They had hoped to see more ethnic minorities, but that wasn’t the case.



The environment was more of a focus, and the service had a second speaker who reached out with a “fusion” message. It tied the need for social

justice and environmental justice together as opposed to struggling the prioritize one over the other.

There is a second UU in Tucson, closer to University of Arizona, that Stuart and Mary had attended a couple years ago. At the time, that church was in middle of relocating, and services were held at a school.

So there is a short UU “field” report from the “on the road” Lovell/Black family.

Treasuring the moments: Pledge Sunday is April 21

During April, we will be giving you information for your pledge of financial support to our Fellowship.

We have some exciting areas that are growing, and we are going to ask you to help fertilize and nurture them.



Amy Stockwell

Your presence, energy and enthusiasm, your gifts of service, and your connections with fellow members are absolutely vital to the continued health of this Fellowship.

In addition, we need gifts of financial support to keep the lights on, the programs coming and the work of our awesome team continuing, including minister, music and RE staff.

Your Finance Committee is working hard to prepare the draft budget that we will share with you on Easter Sunday. We'll be asking that you carefully consider what this Fellowship means to you in anticipation of your decisions on Pledge Sunday April 21.

Let's welcome spring and new growth together.

Getting on Board: Food issues, programming and more

Here are highlights of the March 10 meeting:

- The Board is going to invite the Decatur Vegetarian Society to return for monthly meetings

- The church organization manual's section on the Committee on Ministry will be changed. The committee won't evaluate the minister; the Board will evaluate employees, including minister. The committee's mission will be

to recognize and nurture needs of minister and to maintain the channel of communication between minister and congregation

- If your group has an activity with food, please take leftovers with you or leave them in the refrigerator. Putting the food on the counters or even in the cabinets invites mice.

- Sunday programming is set through the end of May; Program Group

volunteers are working on the summer schedule

- RE's age-divided groups are doing well, and attendance is steady

- Attendance has been good at the Environmental Film Series. Room-darkening shades are being considered for future films

- The church will be shopping for a banner with our logo and name to be displayed at public activities

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

Find us on the Internet

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

Dick Zaker is Newsletter editor.
May edition deadline: April 24.
Newsletter@uufd.org

Something precious this way comes



Those fortunate enough to be in church on March 24 saw beautiful things happen. The good-natured wonder known as Luella Coates was welcomed formally into the UUFD community.

Rev. Larry tenderly sought the power of the Four Directions to help nurture and guard the little one through Life's challenges. The lovely symbol of the rose touched us as he touched it to her head and heart.

Larry's commitment to Luella's future was not lost on the many relatives who came from near and far. Their numbers swelled an already robust audience that filled nearly every sanctuary seat.

We don't know the quantity of Luella's years with us, but we've seen a promise that their quality will be uppermost in our minds.