



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



February 2020 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

Feb. 2: "Child Marriage: An American Dilemma" with Amber Lusvardi

The perception of child marriage is that it is an unfortunate occurrence on the other side of the world, with young women often coerced into marrying older men. Manwhile, the problem of underage marriage is much closer than we think, as it happens all across the United States, and it is often unnoticed. Millikin political science instructor Amber Lusvardi returns for her fourth UUFD presentation. Mark Sorensen is service leader.



robust political anti-fascist intellectual, he championed the rights of workers and the oppressed and was one of the most outspoken critics of racism after World War II.

Feb. 15: " Guest in the Pulpit"

UUFD is fortunate to have a guest UU minister speak on this Sunday. Details were not available as of the newsletter deadline, so watch for announcements at church and the weekly eBlast for a description of the sermon topic. Mark Sorensen is service leader.



Feb. 9: "Lift Every Voice" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

A kaleidoscopic portrait of the multi-talented voice of Paul Robeson, All-American football player and Phi Beta Kappa Rutgers graduate who became a world-renowned actor, singer and motion picture star. A



Feb. 23: "The Grace of Life" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

The grace of life is living on the edge of Beatitude, always, already in the here and now. It's how to live with presence and authenticity in a culture of busyness and surfaces as life goes headlong.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Environmental Film Series details inside

Cancellation Policy:

When a service is canceled due to inclement weather, an email will be sent to those who receive the weekly eBlasts by 7:30 that morning. If you don't receive the weekly emails, call President Lorelei Zaker, 413-7359,



any time after 7:30 to inquire.



Choir practice – 9:30 a.m., before service each Sunday

Safety Committee – Noon, Sunday, Feb. 2.

Jam session – 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3.

Greater Decatur Humanists – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5

Environmental Film Series: “Billion-Dollar Crop” – 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8

UUFD Board – noon Sunday, Feb. 9

Jam session – 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17

UU Men’s Lunch – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, Mi Pueblito

Decatur Veg Society – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19

UU Women’s Lunch – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 26, Tuscany. RSVP Judy Thistlethwaite, jthistle@comcast.net

Getting personal

Please keep these people in your thoughts:

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.

To be noted

The Men’s Lunch has a change of dates for February only. We’ll meet on the *third* Wednesday this time. Feb. 19, at 11:30 a.m. at Mi Pueblito.

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A reminder that “pronoun stickers” are available on the name tag board near RE. Why have stickers? To recognize that a significant number of people among us don’t identify in a strict, male/female form. Incorporating “they” and other forms into our language is more than a courtesy; it’s a way of showing our understanding

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The first Jam Session was a fun affair, with five players. Reminding you that strings, horns, drums, washboards, accordions – and voices are welcome. And this is a “no-embarrassment zone”.

Help make a “joyful noise” on Monday, Feb. 3 and again on the 17th. Nancy Hutchison, 352-949-3308, is your contact for more information.



Cora Marschner - 2nd
 Kristal Weibull - 8th
 Liam Weibull - 8th
 Alexis Yeagle - 12th
 Barbara Hannon - 14th
 John Regan - 15th
 Nancy Hutchison - 24th
 Tim Rooney - 25th

You, me and the promise of hemp

The 2020 UUFD Green Sanctuary Film Series will kick off the season with "Billion-Dollar Crop" at 1 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 8.

The film will be followed with a discussion and Q&A led by Chris Berry, leader of the Illinois Hemp Grower Association.

The film's title is from a 1938 Popular Mechanics article promising farmers a lucrative crop, industrial hemp. A new machine had been invented that would be to hemp what the cotton gin was to cotton.

Six months later, hemp was made illegal. Now, after 80 years of prohibition, the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill made industrial hemp legal in all 50 states.

Why is this good news for Decatur? Well, why shouldn't Decatur be a center for industrial hemp? We have the land, the rail access, the know-how and the workers.

Here are some benefits hemp could bring to Macon County:

1) It is great for our environment! (and it fits great with the Green New

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.



Deal and the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act). Its long root system is good for our soil and slows runoff into our streams and rivers. It also grows so fast that it chokes out weeds (no herbicides), it is a natural pesticide (no pesticides), making it good for our water and Lake Decatur.

2) Hemp could jump-start job creation with processing and manufacturing

plants and co-ops and shops to sell hemp products such as paper, fiber and clothes and 5,000 more biodegradable items.

3) Every part of the hemp plant can be used.

4) The plant grows to 12 feet and is a carbon dioxide-eating machine.

Hemp is set to become the "New Billion Dollar Crop" – the question is: Will Decatur benefit and become a "hemp center" for Central Illinois or will we pass on this, too?

Don't miss this hard-hitting film and important discussion!!!

*Peace and love,
Larry*

Focusing on RE: Civil rights and exciting service project

The RE classes have been making preparations for some fun surprises in February. This month is filled with love, lessons on leadership and equality.



Lisa Coates

Our focus is on the 2nd principle: That all people should be treated fairly and kindly.

Our stories and focus activities will include role plays and discussions

about various civil rights leaders. Our first is about Whitney Young and his struggles to change how black people are treated.

We also have guest speakers planned and an opportunity to gather with other local fellowships for a youth service project! More information will be sent out soon for our students in 4th-9th grade to gather in Springfield for a day of UU youth fellowship. Save the date, Feb. 29! I'm still awaiting details and registration

information. I will pass it along as soon as I have it.

Our youth love visitors! If you have a story tell, a mission behind your work, a talent to share or an interest group you belong to, please come tell us about it!

Mel Weinstein recently visited us to talk about veganism and living a plant-based diet. We were so grateful for his words, inspiring message and very yummy vegan brownies!

Humanist Group

In January, the Greater Decatur Humanists discussed what was happening in Illinois now that marijuana was legal.

It was noted that marijuana sales and consumption already were legal in 24% of the nation.

Participants also examined written accounts of people experiencing "getting high" on marijuana. They agreed on warnings and techniques for trying this: start low and go slow!

What about other ways to consume marijuana? Edibles and vaping can

produce different effects from smoking.

In Illinois, four nearby pot selling businesses were listed – one in Champaign, one in Normal and two in Springfield.

So what might one want to purchase at one of these businesses? The names of the strains might not be clear in detailing what specifically the particular mixture is like – Blue Magoo, Bubba Kush, and Jager, to name a few.



The use of the tax revenue from marijuana sales also was discussed.

Generally, marijuana may be consumed on your own property, but NOT around anyone younger than 21.

The Humanists learned that marijuana has no physically addictive traits and is not prone to overdosing.

The Feb. 5 meeting will be based on a presentation by Serene Jones about "meaning of your life, the world and the possibility of God." Check out her talk at <https://onbeing.org/programs/serene-jones-on-grace/>

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream with 2020 vision



(from Dick Zaker) It was an honor to represent the Decatur Human Relations Commission on Jan. 20 in the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I'm bundled up on the left end of the banner, next to Decatur Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe. For more than a dozen blustery blocks, we attempted to beckon bystanders to join our march. Once we arrived at Church of the Living God, we continued invoking King's spirit in a rousing program of music and prayer. The featured speaker Commission Vice Chair Nikki Garry, challenged the audience to figure out what their legacy was going to be to improve Decatur and their world.

The King Day observance began on the Saturday before the march with a luncheon and speech by James Lewis, a former U.S. attorney and civil rights champion. Several UUFD members attended. Lewis emphasized the hard work yet to be done. The essays, poems and artwork by Decatur schoolchildren on Dr. King's principles was a major highlight of the event.

Getting on Board: Pledge drive and need for sanctuary seating

Here are highlights from the Jan. 12 UUFD Board meeting:

- Heard details about Amy Stockwell's show in Rochester, N.Y.; the Unitarian Universalist Association "UU the Vote" program; and the gift delivery in cooperation with Old King's Orchard
- Discussed the March 29 service by performer Summer Osborne with possibly a Decatur Pride event that afternoon.
- Heard that the Pledge Drive schedule will be: March 22, budget draft; April 5, budget approval; April 19, Pledge Sunday; May 17, Congregational Meeting
- Determined we will not have services in July (but will in June and August)
- Suggestion was made that if anyone has a church key they aren't using, they should return it to Mark Sorensen
- Were told that if anyone's interested in registering voters at Millikin University, they should ask Amy Stockwell
- Discussed the need for more seating space in the sanctuary. Some early steps to help the situation will be taking out the pile of the children's pillows, replacing the cabinet in the far right corner (as you look from the pulpit), removing some plants and putting out more chairs

Environmental film focus



The seemingly boundless promise of the modest hemp plant will be spotlighted in the opening movie in this year's Environmental Film series.

"Billion-Dollar Crop" will be screened Saturday, Feb. 8, at 1 p.m. in our sanctuary. The showing will be followed by a discussion, led by Chris Berry, chief of operations of the Illinois Hemp Growers Association.

Industrial hemp (to be distinguished from any intoxicating properties) was a plant that sprouted excitement early in the 20th century. The plant's versatility was projected to be shown in clothing, food, paper and bioplastics.

Before the benefits could be explored, hemp was made illegal. It wasn't until the Hemp Farming Act of 2018 was included in the latest Federal Farm Bill that some of the wraps were take off development of the plant.

The enthusiasm over that development is building, with part of the focus right here on Decatur. "Billion-Dollar Crop" could fan those flames of excitement.

The following film in the series is "From the Ashes" on Saturday, March 14, at 1 p.m. This documentary follows people in communities throughout America as they deal with the legacy of the coal industry and what its future

should be. The Faith in Place environmental group out of Champaign is assisting in delivery of this film. As a special promotion, petitions calling on the state legislature to pass an Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act will be promoted.

Kids particularly will be excited with the final movie in the series, "The Lorax". But there's an important message for all in the Dr. Seuss classic. The movie will be shown at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Note that "Billion-Dollar Crop" and the two other movies in the series are free admission. Donations will be gratefully accepted.



That's Leanne Mull and Dick and Lorelei Zaker, getting all elfin at Old King's Orchard. Jay Zaker pitched in, too, including taking this photo.

UUFDF donations, work help brighten holiday for five families

Some UUFDF members helped the Old King's Orchard organization bring Christmas joy to some Decatur families.

On Dec. 24, Leanne Mull, Jay Zaker, Lorelei Zaker and Dick Zaker helped pack five boxes with toys, gloves, clothes,

hats, pizza gift cards and small presents for adults. The gifts were made possible with the help of \$400 in donations from members of UUFDF.

The final step was taking the boxes out to homes. The deliveries brought smiles to the faces of the recipients.

Emily Steele gets growing in magazine article

UUFDF member Emily Steele brightened Decatur magazine's latest edition with a story headlined "Kid Tested Gardening".

Don't be afraid of growing your own

greens indoors, Emily writes. You can do it, with the right location, plant type, container and watering regimen.

She even outlines three reasons you're killing your plants.

Here are some 2020 political dos and don'ts

The posting of a new calendar reminds us it's an election year. Many of us will donate, sign petitions and work for candidates.

Here are guidelines from the UUA about how to what extent churches and their officials can act politically.

- ✓ Ministers and churches cannot encourage anyone to vote for or against a specific candidate. They can speak out on war and oppression and other issues vital to them.

- ✓ Congregations can partner with organizations such as social welfare organizations and local associations of employees to carry out charitable, nonprofit activities.

- ✓ Anyone can endorse a candidate, so long as they're not speaking at an official church function and does not claim to speak as a representative of the church. Such individuals are prohibited from endorsements in an official church publication or using church assets.

- ✓ Partisan events can be held on church property, so long as the event conforms to existing church use policies (for instance, not charging for space or just allowing groups invited by a member to use the building). Church policies can require that groups using the space hold similar values to UU principles to avoid having to host groups whose partisan activities are contrary to UU beliefs.

<h1>FEBRUARY</h1>						
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	Choir - 9:30 a.m. each Sunday					
2	Service- Child marriage/ Lusvardi	3	Jam session - 7 p.m.	4		
				5	Humanists, 6:30 p.m.	
				6		
				7		
						8
						Film: 'Billion- Dollar Crop', 1 p.m.
9	Service - Lift Every Voice/Hutchison; Board meeting noon	10		11		
				12		
				13		
				14		
16	Service - Guest minister	17	Jam session - 7 p.m.	18		
				19	Men lunch, 11:30, Mi Pueblito; Veg Society, 6:30 p.m.	
				20		
				21		
						22
23	Service - Grace of Life/ Hutchison	24		25		
				26	Women's lunch, 11:30 a.m., Tuscany	
				27	Soul Support, 7 p.m.	
				28		
						29

Mark Sorensen adds purchasing agent to his UUFD roles

From Amy Stockwell

There are a lot of "hidden" jobs necessary to keep UUFD running smoothly. Did you ever wonder why we have enough paper towels? Or enough office paper?



We've gotten big enough that one of these important hidden jobs needs to be made more formal. I am very pleased to announce that Mark Sorensen has taken on the role of "purchasing coordinator".

He will watch all the major supply areas and make sure we have enough. If you are responsible for an area like hospitality, please notify Mark when you see something running low. He will either ask you to replace it, or batch it with his other purchases. Receipts and requests for reimbursement will still come to me from the one making the purchase.

If you have any questions, please ask Mark — and in any case, thank him for (continuing) to take on this duty!

Dick Zaker is Newsletter editor. March edition deadline: Feb. 24.
Newsletter@uufd.org

Find us on the Internet

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

Submit items to
eblast_mgrs@uufd.org
by Monday
of each week.