



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur



March 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

March 1: "In the Middle of Even This" with Rev. Larry Hutchison

Because the powers that be have divorced language from meaning, we are forced to live dividing the unbelievable by the undeniable. We'll take a look at the idea of Agamben's creation and command, "the work of art and the religion of capitalism."



When it seems like winter will never lose its icy grip on one's soul, the dainty crocus pushes through to put on a show of colorful revival, filling our busy lives with warmth, love, joy and kindness, awakening a beautiful mindfulness.

March 22: "What's Happening with Illinois Cannabis?" with Christine Karhliker



The community outreach and training coordinator for HCI Alternative will give a presentation on the state of affairs concerning medical and recreational marijuana in Illinois. HCI is one of the cannabis dispensaries in Springfield.

March 8: "Votes for Women" with Mark Sorensen



The 100th anniversary of universal suffrage in the United States is a few months away. Mark will discuss why it took so long to achieve and the roles played by UU women and the state of

Illinois. Mark is the former assistant director of the Illinois State Archives, past president of the Illinois State Historical Society and was the historical advisor to the 75th anniversary woman's suffrage commission in Illinois.

March 29: "As I Am" with Summer Osborne

Summer Osborne is an award-winning singer-songwriter, artist, activist, motivational speaker and spiritual teacher who entertains audiences throughout the United States and Canada with a fusion of music and spoken word. She creates an emotional odyssey of exploration and self-discovery, encouraging you to dismantle your human suit to reveal the relationship that is ethereal.



March 15: "Spring Awakening Mindfulness Intergenerational Service" with Lisa Coates, youth, UUFd Choir, String Band, Christopher Moyer, Rev. Larry Hutchison and Michael Duling



COAL IS FOCUS OF SECOND INSTALLMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL FILM SERIES, MARCH 14

See page 3



Fellowship

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

Jam session – 7 p.m., Monday, March 2. Contact Nancy Hutchison, 352-949-3308

Greater Decatur Humanists – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4

UUFD Board – noon Sunday, March 8

UU Men’s Lunch – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 11, Coney McKane (note: accessibility could be issue if they seat us upstairs)

Environmental Film Series: “From the Ashes”, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 14

Jam session – 7 p.m. Monday, March 16

UU Women’s Lunch – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 25, Applebee’s. RSVP with Barb Hannon, 454-1034

Soul Support – 7 p.m., Thursday, March 26

Community

Central Illinois DSA – 6 p.m. Thursday, March 5

Decatur Veg Society – 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18

Macon County Progressives – 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19. Guest speaker: State’s Attorney candidate Tammy Wagoner



Amy Stockwell chats with Mary Lovell’s niece and her husband at an exhibition of Amy’s artwork in Rochester, N.Y.

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.

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H



Larry Hutchison-3rd
Rene Verry-5th
Gary Brennan-6th
Mel Weinstein-7th
Darwin Shroyer-15th
Bobbie Hartman-16th

James Brockway-16th
Sue Weinstein-18th
Crystal Brockway-20th
Mary Lovell-21st
Niklas Weibull-24th

'From the Ashes' second in film series

"From the Ashes", a critical look at the status of coal, will be screened at UUFD at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 14.

The movie explores the pros and cons of ending the mining and burning of coal. Besides the impact on climate, there's the public health aspect and the disruption of jobs.

To see a trailer of the film, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV0ro0uleVo>

In addition to the film (free admission; donations gladly accepted), there will be an admirable panel for discussion.

Charles and Stacy Gloss moved to Central Illinois in 2013 after several years in Appalachian coal country.

Charles spent five years in West Virginia working with community members in a campaign to stop strip mining and to transition away from coal and gas.



He was sued twice by Don Blankenship's Massey Energy for his efforts.

Today, Charles and Stacy live in Urbana. Charles is a developer at FullSteam Labs, a worker-owned tech and design consultancy. Stacy is an environmentalist and scientist who works in the University of Illinois' Research Park on issues of energy efficiency and air quality.

Cindy Shepherd is the Central Illinois outreach director for Faith in Place, whose mission is to make people of faith leaders in environmental justice.

Along with partners from the Clean Jobs Coalition,

Faith in Place is focused on building healthier communities in Illinois by passing the Clean Energy Jobs Act.

Cindy is especially interested in the "just transition" features of that legislation, which protects fossil fuel workers and their communities from devastation when industry shuts plants and walks away.

3RD FILM

"The Lorax, April 4,
1 p.m.
Come see what
Dr. Seuss let loose!

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.

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

Focusing on RE: Music, poetry, pets, oh my!

We are so excited to welcome in spring and all of the wonderful changes that occur.

This month will be filled with music, poetry and pets! On March 8, Emily Steele will be speaking about her very special dog and association with Paw Print Ministries.



Lisa Coates

Save the date for March 15! Our big spring intergenerational service will include student performances and a spectacular puppet parade.

Our final Sunday of the month, March 29, will be a service centered around music and inspiration with performances by Summer Osborne. Chalice Youth (fourth grade and up) will be encouraged to stay in the sanctuary for this service. Child care and

Chalice Children will have a regular RE class.

We plan to head outdoors as much as possible this month. Students should bring jackets and water bottles each Sunday.

Consider RE as you do your spring cleaning. We can always use craft supplies, dress-up clothes/costumes, storage boxes and toys. Happy spring everyone!



Take a curious, bright bunch of youngsters, add a smiling adult, and sprinkle in poetry and history and you have a surefire Children's Focus. On Feb. 9, Kim Schwarz did the honors, educating our kids on the Harlem Renaissance and reading some verse from Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks.

A-budgeting we go

(from Amy Stockwell to Committee Chairs,

As we start the initial phase of thinking about next year's budget, I'd like your thoughts on what \$\$ you would like for your committee. Think about both "absolutely required" and "new ideas we are ready to implement."

With your help we can have a budget that involves everyone's good ideas.

The Finance Committee will meet March 2, and we will discuss your input at that time. We will have a draft budget for Board review by March 22 – hopefully!

We're an Honor Congregation

That means we donate our "fair share" to the work of the national and regional Unitarian Uni-

versalist organizations. They cited that effort for fiscal year 2018-19.



Mourn Linda's loss; celebrate our time with her

(This was adapted from the family's obituary. Many of us have expressed our heartfelt thoughts, in church, on Facebook or elsewhere. That her Celebration of Life would brimming with grateful remembrances of her is certain).

Linda Ruth Shroyer, 78, of Decatur passed away at Decatur Memorial Hospital on Feb. 21, 2020.

Linda was born July 6, 1941 in Clinton, daughter of Telvin and Thelma Laverne Tuggle. She is survived by her daughters Jennifer Sekosky (Jeremy), Debra Doom (Steve), and sons Scott Shroyer (Lori) and Dane Shroyer, 12 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister Harriet Kunesh (Scott), two nieces, Megan Restis (Joe) and Lauren Mitchell (Jon) and many other special family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Carol and daughter Patricia.



Linda married Darwin Shroyer May 4, 1965, in Lincoln.

Linda graduated from DMH School of Nursing in 1963 as a Registered Nurse. She obtained master's degrees from Sangamon State University in social work and in clinical psychology.

Linda was the director of the Children & Adolescent Program at Adolf Meyer Mental Health and Developmental Center in Decatur, then served for many years as the regional facilitator liaison for the Illinois Department of Human Services, serving orphans, seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities

in 33 counties. She retired in 2016 from Decatur Public Schools where she was a school nurse.

Linda enjoyed gardening, reading, listening to bluegrass music, spending time on the boat and at Riverfront Campground.

She was an inspiration to all who knew her, not only for her professional accomplishments, but also for her kindness, positivity, and bravery in the face of serious illness.

She was a source of unwavering support for her family.

The service to celebrate her life was scheduled at First Congregational Church of Decatur on Feb. 29.

Memorials were directed to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur or Scovill Zoo. The family would like to acknowledge and thank the staff of Cancer Care Center of Decatur and Linda's private nurse, Mary Cooksey.





Chris Berry, chief of operations of the Illinois Hemp Growers Association, described the diverse features of industrial hemp that have many excited about the industry for Decatur and Illinois. He spoke on Feb. 8, following the screening of 'Billion-Dollar Crop', a feature on the history of hemp in America and its association with marijuana. Berry brought along a variety of products made entirely or partially from hemp.



Summer retreat set in Missouri

The Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly, an intergenerational Unitarian Universalist retreat, will be held June 28 to July 4 at YMCA of the Ozarks, Potosi, Mo.

and various forms of recreation and entertainment. The featured speaker will be Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout, director of worship and music at First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Mich.

The retreat, titled "To Breathe on Purpose", offers workshops, hiking

Find a brochure at <https://www.muusa.org/brochure>

Getting on Board: talking over food policy, fire drills

Here are highlights from the Feb. 9 UUF Board meeting:

- We have affiliated with the Illinois Public Action group. We are one of three Decatur churches to do so. The group soon will hold a meeting at UUF.
- If you have food left over from an event you hold at the Fellowship, please seek out another group to which to donate it or take it with you!
- We will be thinking of a fire drill we will conduct occasionally for RE and our members.

Anne Reeser, rest in peace

Anne, a former UUF president, religious education director and active member, died Jan. 27 at the age of 82. She had been ill since November.

She recently had belonged to the Champaign-Urbana UU church. She served as a grade school teacher in Weldon, a DeWitt County district. Later, she substituted in the Monticello schools.



Anne was passionate about books and was the librarian for the Star Island UU camp for two summers. A strong Democrat, she did racial justice and social justice work through the Champaign church.

Cards and memories can be sent to: Micki Porter, Box 141, Argenta, IL 62501.

Women's History Month

1916 - Margaret Sanger opens the first birth control clinic
 1903 - Marie Curie is awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of radioactivity
 1854-1860 - Susan B. Anthony crusades for women's rights in the United States and internationally
 1920 - With the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, U.S. women get to vote
 1542 - Mary, Queen of Scots is the first known female golfer
 1928 - Women compete for the first time in Olympic field events
 1849 - Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first American woman to receive a medical degree
 1966 - National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded
 1969 - Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel.
 2570 B.C. - Queen Nefertari rules Egypt, calling herself "God's wife."

Humanists

The Greater Decatur Humanists will meet on Wednesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. Jim Palmer will lead a discussion on "Grace". This is a re-scheduled meeting from February. Please read or listen to the following interview on NPR. It can be found at: onbeing.org/programs/serene-jones-on-grace/



Rebecca Gant, an intern minister in Kansas City, Mo., spoke to us about relationships on Feb. 16. She reached back 400 years in UU history to describe the ways Unitarian Universalists should act toward one another. Still today, we should support each other but be ready to speak out when someone has spoken or done wrong. 'It's all spoken in love', we repeated in unison.

What's behind the flaming chalice?

(this is taken from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Stanislaus County, Calif.)

image had connotations of sacrifice and love.

Some UUs may not know that the flaming chalice tradition started with Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist.



To UUs, today, the flaming chalice is a symbol of hope, the sacred, the quest for truth, the warmth of community, the light of reason and more.

Deutsch worked with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the

We light the chalice in worship to create a reverent space for reflection, prayer, meditation and singing.

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.

<h1>MARCH</h1>							Choir - 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
1 Service- In Middle of This/Hutchison	2 Jam session - 7 p.m.	3	4 Humanists - 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7	
8 Service- Votes for Women/ Sorensen; Board noon	9	10	11 Men lunch, 11:30 a.m., Coney McKane	12	13	14 Film, 'From the Ashes', 1 p.m.	
15 Service- Spring Awakening; Board meeting noon	16 Jam session - 7 p.m.	17	18	19	20	21	
22 Service - Illinois Cannabis/ Karhliker	23	24	25 Women's lunch, 11:30 a.m., Applebee's	26 Soul Support, 7 p.m.	27	28	
29 Service- As I Am/Osborne	30	31					

Cameron Williams evoked the compelling style of Paul Robeson in singing 'Ol' Man River' in the Feb. 9 service. Williams is a veteran of Theatre Seven productions. Later, Rev. Larry outlined the life of the singer, actor and civil rights champion



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.