

April 2009



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Apr. 5 RAY ABLES: “Facundo Cabral—Argentine Folk Singer, Prophets’ Accomplice”

Facundo Cabral was named Messenger of Peace by UNESCO in 1996. From the most humble of beginnings he came to inspire millions around the world through his songs, poems and books. Learn about Cabral’s life as you enjoy hearing Ray Ables perform . The son of U.S. missionaries, Ray, our Children’s Fellowship teacher, was born and raised in Latin America.. He earned his BA in International Studies from the University of Alabama in 1990.

Introduction: Deborah Norris

Apr. 12 DR. DAVID MAURITSON: “The Supreme Court and Religion in Public Schools”

David Mauritson received his M.D. degree from the Harvard Medical School and a J.D. degree from Birmingham School of Law. He is founder and President of Cardiology Associates of West Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and co-founder of the law firm of Grammer & Mauritson LLC in Tuscaloosa.

Introduction: Jack Cameron

Apr. 19 DR. STEPHEN LYRENE: “Quaker Contributions to Reform in Mental Health Care: 1648 to 2009”

Dr. Stephen Lyrene is a Child, Adolescent & Adult Psychiatrist affiliated with The Family Center in Fairhope. He is Clerk of the Fairhope Friends Meeting, the Quaker group just down the road from our Fellowship. He will discuss how the Quaker view that "there is that of God in every person", led to ideas of care and respect for all persons, no matter what their current state, and how this led to Quaker contributions in the development of what came to be called "Moral Treatment" of the mentally ill. He will also discuss contributions of the Conscientious Objectors who worked in mental hospitals during WWII to reforms in mental health care.

Introduction: Flo Schneider

Apr. 26 MICKEY CLEVERDON: “American Poetry in the 21st Century: A Look at our Laureates”

Mickey Cleverdon received a B.A. in music and English at Converse College and an M.A. in English at the University of Alabama. She taught English at Jacksonville University and Spring Hill College, and since retirement has taught part-time at Faulkner State and the Fairhope campus of the University of South Alabama. Her poetry has appeared in several books and journals.

Introduction: Jule Moon

The Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the April 26 program will be at the home of Frank & Pat Laraway. See details on page 6.

Sunday Service 11 a.m., 1150 Fairhope Ave.

Adult discussion group meets each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Children’s Fellowship each Sunday 11 a.m.-12 noon. Come join us!

Write 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Tel. 251-929-3207. Visit our website at

www.fairhopeuu.org.

fairhopeunitarian@att.net

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

At the March 6th meeting, your Board:

- Approved the minutes from last month and treasurer's report.
- Agreed to allow ESILL birding classes to continue to meet at FUF.
- Heard a presentation by Jeanine Normand on pervious concrete.
- Agreed to allow four more fund-raising dinners to be scheduled.
- Decided to publish the agenda of upcoming Board meetings in the UU Weekender.
- Agreed to put a link to Amazon.com on our website to raise money for FUF.
- Agreed that the Program Committee will continue functioning as it stands now.
- Moved the Board meetings to 10:00 a.m. instead of 9:30 on the first Friday of the month.
- Agreed to the name change of the Green Sanctuary Committee, which has become the Green Action Committee and has ceased attempting to apply for Green Sanctuary status with UUA.
- Discussed pooling donations to WHIL radio in order to "buy" on-air promotional spots .

- Discussed using CFLs at FUF as bulbs burn out.

- Will consider the request of the "Meaning of Life" group to poll the membership on its understanding of that topic.
- Agreed that the children's program is working well under the guidance of Ray Ables.

Complete text of the minutes can be found in the FUF library, top shelf of the computer desk.

—Submitted by Pam Perkins

APRIL BOARD MEETING

The monthly FUF Board meeting will be Friday, April 3 at 10am.

Currently on the agenda is further discussion of pervious paving of the parking lot, building maintenance questions, and scheduling policy.

Anyone desiring to submit an agenda item may do so by contacting any board member.

—Submitted by Michael Patrick

Summary Financial Statement for February '09

	Budgeted	Actual	Overage/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue			
Contributions	7,000	6,109	(892)
Other Revenue	500	1,659	1,159
Total Support and Revenue	7,500	7,767	267
Expenses			
Building	5,078	3,441	1,638
Committees	1,955	1,810	145
Donations	467	0	467
Total Expenses	7,500	5,250	2,250
Net Operating Increase/ (Decrease)	0	2,517	2,517

—Submitted by Kay Seymour

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Social Action Committee (SAC) held an open, extra meeting on January 31, to write our annual plan. As the charitable arm of the FUF, we decided to map out what we do already and what we'd like to accomplish this year. This makes it easier for volunteers to step in on projects that they like and when to prepare for seasonal projects. The detailed, monthly plan is available to all. Here is a summary by quarters:

JAN-MAR: annual planning; collect items (food, school supplies, etc.) for charities (Lighthouse, Ecumenical Ministries, etc.); begin studying charities and issues for recommendation for donations; Black history month (Feb); Women's history month (Mar); plan a fundraiser; UU Justice Sunday in March.

APR-JUNE: charity recommendation studies begin reporting to SAC members; collect items for charities; UUA Mid-South District Annual Assembly attendance and report; plan a fundraiser.

JULY-SEPT: renew Faulkner nursing scholarship; create from our studies a list of recommendations for donations (broader recommendations for membership and short list as budget allows for the FUF Board); collect

items for charities; highlight FUF members who are socially active; help line up programs for social justice issues for next year.

OCT-DEC, begin next year's review to study issues and organizations for donation recommendations; Guest at Your Table program for the UUSC and Holiday Card program; collect holiday items for charities.

When you contemplate the broader benefits and the good will generated, you can see SAC projects are one of our FUF public faces, a kind of outreach, so more people know what we UUs are and why we are a great fellowship. In March's newsletter everyone read about the young woman studying nursing who received our Faulkner-Fairhope nursing scholarship, currently a 1-semester program. This is the kind of thing that raises our positive visibility, attracting new members, families and guests. We want to continue making these valuable contributions to our community.

Please contact the current SAC chair, Jeanine Normand, 928-2284, or any SAC member to donate towards the Falkner scholarship or for more information on our projects.

—Submitted by Jeanine Normand

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

The Social Action Committee (SAC) is having a bake sale to accompany the Spring FUF Yard Sale Saturday, April 18. Our committee's goal is to raise funds particularly for continuing an annual \$500 scholarship at Faulkner-Fairhope. You may remember Robin Fabel pictured with the recipient in recent articles in The Baldwin Register and last month's newsletter.

SAC members will be baking items, of course, but we would greatly appreciate other members of our Fellowship volunteering to bake and attractively packaged goodies to help bolster our sales. Suggested items are cookies, brownies, breads, muffins, bars, pies and cakes. We suggest nothing frosted as items will be sold under the porte-cochere and the temperature may get to warm for those type delicacies.

All bake sale items are to be dropped off with Nancy Martin at FUF on Friday, April 17 between 9am-3pm. If you'd like to volunteer to bake a tasty treat or help sell baked goods on April 18, please call Lynne Switzky 644-5882.

—Submitted by Lynne Switzky





SPRING YARD SALE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18TH

This year, we will be trying something new. We will be accepting donations for the April 18 yard sale on Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:00 to noon prior to the sale as usual. However, there will be NO SHOPPING those mornings. Only those people already designated as pricers and sorters will be allowed in the building. On Friday afternoon, from 1:00 to 3:00, we will have a “Preview Sale” for all FUF Members and Friends. We feel that this is a fair and equitable way to give everyone a “first shot” at the prime merchandise!

Please bring only clean, intact, useable items to sell—items that you, yourself, might buy. (If it’s too grungy for you to buy, chances are no one else will buy it either.) No stained or torn clothing; no rusted, caked-on pots and pans with broken handles; no moldy, insect-riddled books—we reserve the right to reject any items we feel will not sell. (We know it’s difficult to throw stuff in the trash, but try to look at your stuff objectively—and save us another trip to the landfill!) We can accommodate some furniture. Ann Franklin and Burt Brun have offered the use of her truck, so give them a call if you need to. Large items are best sold on Craigslist.com. We have people who can help you do that. So—dig into your closets and garages. Remember, anything that hasn’t been used in the last two years probably won’t be missed! This is our biggest fundraising activity, so let’s all get involved.

—Submitted by Pam Perkins

Green Sanctuary Committee Update

At its January 22 meeting the Green Sanctuary Committee voted unanimously to forgo national Green Sanctuary status while still pursuing a vigorous program of environmental advocacy. The reasons for this decision are at least two-fold:

- We were aiming at a moving target, with the national organization changing its application guidelines and requirements often enough to confuse us.
- The language of the guidelines was increasingly religious in wording, with too much emphasis on a typical church service with a minister and all the trappings.

We feel it’s very important the congregation understand this change because it was not long ago you filled out our questionnaire, indicating by a large majority you approved of our intention to pursue the national program. It was only after long grappling with the bureaucratic aspects of the process we finally realized the paperwork exercise was consuming too much time and energy. We don’t feel we wasted all this time, however, because beginning the activity gave us the focus and recognition necessary to develop ideas and projects. Now we’ve established our bearings, we will stay our course without exterior guidance.

At our February meeting we voted to change our name to Green Action Committee, which states our intention to be active in the true sense of the word. The name also dovetails with that of the Social Action Committee, with whom we feel a close affinity. Green Action Committee chairman Debbie Jessup described these desired changes to the March 6 Board meeting, where they were approved unanimously.

The Committee’s regular meeting date currently is the fourth Thursday at 9:30. However this time might be changed to accommodate people who work or have otherwise busy weekday schedules. If you’re interested in joining our committee, please contact Debbie.

In our next update, we will be describing our plans for a one-day workshop featuring computer aids to carrying out a home energy audit and/or our carbon footprints. The workshop will be in early May.

—Submitted by Debbie Jessup

UK MUSLIM TO SPEAK AT FELLOWSHIP ON APRIL 7

Imran Ahmad, London-based author of the highly acclaimed non-fiction book, *Unimagined: a Muslim boy meets the West*, and a Board Member of British Muslims for Secular Democracy, is embarking on a 12,000 mile, 40-city speaking tour of the United States by hybrid car – with re-humanization between America and the Muslim world being his key aim.

Starting in Chicago in mid-March, he will drive clockwise around the US, returning to Chicago in early May. He will speak at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, 1150 Fairhope Avenue, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday April 7. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Several events conspired to cause Mr. Ahmad to make the speaking trip:

- The AirTran incident on New Year's Day, in which a party of nine Muslim US citizens were removed from an aircraft (because two of them were overhead discussing the safest place to sit) made Imran Ahmad outraged and frustrated. Unnecessary incidents like this just help groups like Al-Qaeda assert their allegation that America is waging a 'war on Islam'.
- President Obama's inaugural speech, in which he called for a new era of respect and dialog between America and the Muslim world, gave Imran a tremendous sense of excitement and hope and a strong desire to do something.
- After a long and distinguished career in General Electric at a senior level, Imran decided that he wanted to focus his energy on this much needed re-humanization effort.

His book, *Unimagined*, was selected by three major newspapers in their best books of the year lists: 'The Guardian', 'The Independent' and 'The Sydney Morning Herald'. It describes his experience of growing up a Muslim in a newly multi-cultural Britain. He has received rave reviews for both his writing and his speaking.

—Submitted by Ed Lawrence

Art Committee Plans Walter Anderson Museum Trip

It's not too late to sign up for the trip to the Walter Anderson Museum in Ocean Springs, Mississippi! "The Lost Murals", which have never before been seen by the public, will be exhibited. We will also visit Anderson's murals in the community center and "the little room. A museum education person will guide us through the exhibits.

The group will leave at 9am on Tuesday, April 28. The cost of the trip will be \$19.00 per person, which includes transportation and admission. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant, then the group will visit Shearwater

Pottery, the Anderson family's ceramics business. Those needing to be back in time for choir practice or other activities will be back before 3pm.

Interested persons may sign up on Sunday mornings.

Submitted by Jean Lawrence

FUF/UU Orientation Classes Postponed

The three-week series planned for new members and friends of the Fellowship has been postponed and will be open for sign-up at a later date. Watch the newsletter for details.

"DELICIOUS DINNERS" SUMMARY

WARREN KATZ WAS A FINE BUTLER

While growing up in NYC Warren Katz must have trained as a butler because he fit the part perfectly at the elegant dinner he and Sarah served to FUF guests in January. They kicked off the fundraiser dinners with a memorable feast followed by Sarah's world-famous made-from-scratch apple pie.

At the simple country dinner George and I served, the lively conversation turned to travels and we learned that Irene Shetler was born in China and has lived a life of intrigue and adventure. My Chocolate Bar Cake and Strawberry Trifle topped off the menu.

Wilma and Henry Albers served cocktails in their parlor, dinner in the country kitchen and dessert in the formal dining room. Seeing their art collection was a treat for all. During the social hour I learned that guest Robin Fabel should present a program on his very non-ordinary early life adventures, especially sailing around the Horn.

Pinky Bass outshined everybody preparing a Mexican spread that included Margaritas de Granado, Antojitos, Caldo de Pollo, Ensalada de Nopales, Chilaquiles Verdes, Mole de Pollo, Chile Colorado, Sopa de Arroz and Crepas de Cajeta. Favors were very artistic hand-made menus and recipes bound by decorative fabrics.

Edith Hinrichs and Aaron Hinrichs prepared a typical Jewish chicken dinner to delight of guests. Challah slathered with rich, delicious liver pate, and Edith's fresh, hot blintzes topped with raspberry jam and sour crême are not things ordinarily on menus in homes or restaurants around Fairhope; Nancy Martin reports they were her favorite.

Carolyn Garbett's Sage Crusted Pork Tenderloin was tasty and succulent. She also served mashed root vegetables, a dish she learned to prepare while living in Ireland. Her decadent Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Sorbet was

the grand finale. Her animals behaved, although I might not say the same for guests Renick Marsh, Bud Gardner and Richard Bond. Just kidding!

Rose Marie Morgan and Bud Worrall's elegant banquet began with cocktails on the veranda where guests admired their lushly landscaped garden. Their Woodlands home was perfect for this lovely evening.

The Fellowship coffers were enriched and a great deal of thanks goes to all the hosts who not only prepared the delicious meals, but added special touches to every memorable evening - definitely your money's worth.

If you are interested in hosting such a dinner next fall, please let Gail Gardner 928-3041 or Celeste Hinds 928-6526 hear from you. Hosts may choose a menu ranging from simple to gourmet and there are plenty of volunteers for kitchen duty.

—Submitted by Celeste Hinds

APRIL'S LAST SUNDAY POTLUCK

The April 26 potluck will be held riverside at the Fish River residence of Frank & Pat Laraway. Arrive any time after noon, eat at 1:00 p.m. Tables and some chairs will be furnished. Bring lawn chairs if you have them along with a dish to share and your dinnerware.

Directions: Drive east from FUF on Fairhope Avenue, cross Hwy 181, continue past Wal-Mart for about 4 miles. About 100 feet after crossing the second of two bridges in the long valley, turn left onto the concrete drive with the white mail box. Cross a small bridge on driveway 100 feet, turn right toward the river picnic area. Pull as far into parking spaces as possible to allow room for other cars.

—Submitted by Frank Laraway



KNITTERS GROUP STILL KNITTING AWAY!

The very talented knitters who gather at FUF each Tuesday 1-330pm have sent yet another shipment of colorful, hand-made woolen items to an orphanage in Afghanistan. This most recent collection of items included eight hats, six pairs of socks, five pairs of mittens and a sweater.

—Submitted by Pat Smith

NON-FICTION TWICE A MONTH

The Non-fiction Book Group meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 9:30.

Bring a book you would like to share and give a ten minute report on it. Or just come and take part in the discussion of others' books. Or just come and listen. It's a favorite activity of those who participate. We invite you to give it a try—newcomers are always welcome!

—Submitted by Dane Ehlers

AUTHORS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Authors Discussion Group meets the second Thursday of each month, at 9:30 in the Fellowship library. New people are encouraged to come and try it out. Read any book by the author to be discussed, or just come and listen.

Upcoming authors are:

April 9: Anne Perry (suggested by Helen Earl)

May 14: M.C. Beaton (Jill Teumer)

June 11: Timothy Findley (Jean Lawrence)

—Submitted by Diane Ehlers

YOUR FUF LIBRARY

Did you know that we have over 300 titles in the FUF Library, ranging from books on the arts to sociology, religion, history, biography, and a Great Courses series on cassette? You can check these items out at any time. Please remember to:

- Write the title of the book, date, and your name in the black “check out” binder on top of the computer desk. (Someone checked out two books, with date and title, but no name—I have no idea who has these books!)
- There is no due date, or late fee, but please return the items in a timely manner so that others may enjoy them. (Some of you have books out from several months ago—please check your bookshelves at home for these items.)
- There are 18 items not listed as checked out, hence unaccounted for. Do you have them?

We can accept new books you might want to donate:

- Books should be in reasonably clean condition (no mold, insect parts, etc.) and should be of relevance (no fiction, please, except books written by FUF Members and Friends).
- Please place new books in my mailbox (either “Admin” or “Recording Secretary”) so that I can add the titles to the master list if accepted.

Thanks for helping keep the library current and tidy!

—Submitted by Pam Perkins



APRIL DOCUMENTARY MOVIES

The First Saturday Documentary Movies at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will be suspended until further notice. The movies may be started once again in the fall. Please note many of the movies shown at FUF can be rented from the UUflix table during coffee hour.

The “Preparing for Fairhope’s Future” study group (not affiliated with the Fellowship) has two movies scheduled in April at the first floor auditorium of the Fairhope Public Library:

2 p.m. Thursday April 9: *“The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil”* When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, Cuba's economy went into a tailspin. With imports of oil cut by more than half – and food by 80 percent – people were desperate. Cubans share how they transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens.

2 p.m. Thursday April 23: *“A Crude Awakening–The Oil Crash”* This movie demonstrates the era of cheap oil is over. It looks at the realities of a world that is both addicted to fossil fuels and blissfully unaware of the looming “peak oil” crisis. The movie offers hope, however, hinting at a humbler way of life built around sustainability and alternative energy.

—Submitted by Ed Lawrence

GAME NIGHT TWICE MONTHLY

Game Night is a great way to meet Fellowship members and friends — come join in the fun starting at 6:30 p.m.! We have a variety of board and card games, and new games are always welcome. New players are invited to learn a game or share one they know.

Game Night is held on the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month.

For information contact Ruth Geraci, 251-970-3407 or uuruthg@gulftel.com.

—Submitted by Ruth Geraci

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wed., Apr. 1 Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Apr. 2 Non-fiction Book Group 930am
Fri., Apr. 3 FUF Board meeting 10am
Tue., Apr. 7: Knitters’ Group 1-330pm
Tue., Apr. 7: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Tue., Apr. 7: Speaker Imran Ahmad 730pm
Wed., Apr. 8: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Apr. 9: Authors Discussion Group 930am
Sat., Apr. 11: Game Night 630-9pm
Tue., Apr. 14: Knitters’ Group 1-330pm
Tue., Apr. 14: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Apr. 15: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Apr. 16: Non-fiction Book Group 930am
Sat., Apr. 18: Spring Yard Sale 7am-12noon
Sun., Apr. 19: May newsletter deadline 5pm
Tue., Apr. 21: Knitters’ Group 1-330pm
Tue., Apr. 21: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Apr. 22: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Sat., Apr. 25: Game Night 630-9pm
Sun., Apr. 26: Last Sunday Potluck 12pm
Tue., Apr. 28: Knitters Group 1-330pm
Tue., Apr. 28 Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Apr. 29: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm



NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month or as noted in the newsletter calendar section. For events, please include all pertinent information. Members and Friends are invited to submit poems, quotations or other brief words of wisdom to be published as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

nanpie@juno.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Nancy Martin

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton