



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

May 2022

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## SUNDAY PROGRAM SPEAKERS

### May 1 MARA KOZELSKY HUNTER: “Russia’s War on Ukraine”

Dr. Mara Kozelsky joins us to provide a historical background to the current war in the Ukraine. In her most recent book, Crimea in War and Transformation, she examines the terrible toll violence has taken on the region’s civilians and landscapes. University of South Alabama Professor of History with an area of expertise in Russia and Eastern Europe, Dr. Kozelsky has written numerous books and articles relating to the history of Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia.

### May 8 FUF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: “Memories of Mothers and Others”

This Mothers’ Day, a group of Fellowship members will take to the microphone to share stories of their own mothers and the cherished others who stepped in when mothering was needed. We hope you will also bring your own stories of cherished mother figures to share during our usual Q&A time or with each other over coffee.

### May 15 ALYSANDRIA EMBERGALE: “Trans-Etiquette 101”

When do I ask about pronouns? What if I forget and use the wrong name? Can I ask about surgery? How do I know which bathroom they should use? For those of us who are just learning to act as allies of the many people who fall under the transgender umbrella, conversation can feel like navigating around landmines without a map. “Aly” Embergale (assisted by Ray Ables and Sarah Fisher) will provide a lighthearted but educational look at some of the most common Trans-etiquette pitfalls and the simple solutions to supporting the transgender members of your community with kindness and ease. A software engineer by day, a game designer by night, and an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community all of the time, Embergale has served in numerous groups that support her advocacy.

### May 22 CHANDRA BROWN: “Reimagining Black Female Community Leadership”

Mobile is a minority-majority city. Black, female Mobilians (by a slim majority) make up the largest percentage and are the most vulnerable. Impacted by a legacy of oppression, trauma, structural racism and other isms, how can we create a better community by centering black female voices? Chandra Brown, Executive Director of Lifelines Counseling Services, a United Way organization that provides counseling and education in southwest Alabama, is also co-founder of the Society of Clotilda, a joyful health and wellness collective, dedicated to the celebration, development, and prosperity of Black Women and their children. In addition to this work, Brown serves on boards for University of South Alabama, BB&T Bank, the Alabama Humanities Alliance, and the Alabama Contemporary Art Center. She previously served as Junior League of Mobile President and Alabama Coalition Against Rape board president.

### May 29 SARAH BOGDANOVICH: “Managing Anxiety:

#### Tips for Calming the Mind So You Can Focus on What Really Matters”

Feeling anxious, nervous, or antsy is a natural part of life. But sometimes our feelings of fear and vigilance get in the way of our daily life and keep us from feeling relaxed and joyful. FUF Member and mental health professional focusing on improving the health and well-being of children and their families, Sarah Bogdanovich will explain why we often feel anxious and how we can calm our minds and enjoy the good in life.

**SUNDAY SERVICE -- 11:00 AM (MUSIC PRELUDE BEGINS 10:45 AM)**

(“In person” and on Zoom--check [FairhopeUU/programs.org](http://FairhopeUU/programs.org) for zoom link)

Book DISCUSSION GROUP 9:45 am -- CHILDREN’S FELLOWSHIP 10:30 am

All visitors are warmly invited to participate as our guests.

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship welcomes and embraces people of any age, race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, language, or cultural background.

[FairhopeUU.org](http://FairhopeUU.org)

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## Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides, rather than dogma or doctrine. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from [sources](#) as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

1. [1st Principle](#): The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. [2nd Principle](#): Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. [3rd Principle](#): Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. [4th Principle](#): A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. [5th Principle](#): The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. [6th Principle](#): The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. [7th Principle](#): Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### Sources

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

The seven Principles and six [Sources](#) of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.



**FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS**

**Financial Summary, March, 2022**

	March	YTD
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Contributions	3,797	7,990
Other Revenue	318	833
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>4,115</b>	<b>8,823</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Building	4,671	8,459
Committees	675	2,389
Donations	0	550
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,346</b>	<b>11,398</b>
<b>Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>(1,231)</b>	<b>(2,575)</b>

Sarah Fischer has put the FUF Student Scholarship as one of the choices on our new PayPal account at our website, [fairhopeuu.org](http://fairhopeuu.org).  
 If you want to write a check to the Scholarship, be sure to indicate that on the bottom of your check to ensure that your contribution goes to that fund. Thanks to Sarah for making this convenience possible.

**April 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes**

The approved copy of the minutes were not available in time to publish in this Newsletter. They will appear in the June Newsletter,

**Oops!**

The “What Would We Do Without These People” section of last month’s Newsletter contained a list of very important people who volunteer to help fulfill our Fellowship mission. However, one VIP’s name was accidentally left off. **Anne Armstrong** serves ably as Chair of the Caring and Concerns Committee. The work of this committee is identify, communicate to the rest of us, and attend to the special needs of our own members. Thank you, Anne, for filling this important position and please accept my apology for the omission.

*Submitted by Jane Finger, Editor*

**Committees Still in Need of Chairpersons**

- Building Usage (non-member usage, rentals)
- Hospitality (Kitchen) Fundraising (other than music)
- Education (but there are members)
- Special Events (other than music)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**



If you’ve joined the Fellowship in the (unusual) last two years, we want to get to know you. Won’t you please tell us anything you’d like us to know about yourself to publish in a future Newsletter--include a picture if you’d like to.

Send to Newsletter editor, [jane09@gmail.com](mailto:jane09@gmail.com)

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

**Needs for the Little Free Pantry:**



- Canned goods with meat as an ingredient
- Chicken and rice soup,
- Beans and chili,
- Beef and chicken broth
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned tuna and chicken
- Cornbread and cake mix
- Canned vegetables of all kinds
- Diapers

***Thank you!***

**Meals for Amie Martin**



In her announcement on April 17, Sarah Bogdanovich alerted the congregation to a need of the relatively new FUF member Amie Martin, who was recently diagnosed with stage two breast cancer. The mother of two young children, Amie would greatly benefit from having meals prepared while she is undergoing treatment. Below is the link to her in-kind page to offer help for specific requests. Sarah asks Fellowship members to provide dishes that freeze well and cards of encouragement to be delivered following the Sunday service on May 1st. Sarah will also collect cash donations to put toward purchasing the family a new dehumidifier to address some air-quality issues that they have been struggling with since Hurricane Sally. <https://www.giveinkind.com/inkinds/D8W714T>

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Scholarship for Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Students  
Accepted at a College or University

Mission Statement (written by Prad Mathur)

The objectives of a Scholarship Fund for the teen members of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship are multifaceted. An award of a scholarship to a young member confers recognition of their meaningful participation in the activities of this Fellowship. The gift of a scholarship creates a celebratory connection with the young recipients who make a transition from one stage of life to another, as they leave to learn and grow in a new academic environment. As they matriculate from high school and end their active relationship with the FUF, a scholarship will provide a bridge for their continued connection with us while they are away. The creation of a Scholarship Fund will underscore the intergenerational process of the transmission of values and the promotion of community association. The founding objectives represent our collective responsibility to nurture our young adult community. This Fund is an invitation to each of us to make our affirming contribution and extend our support to the graduating teen members of the Fellowship. Showing care and concern for one another is central to Unitarianism.

## ART COMMITTEE

### Next Exhibit

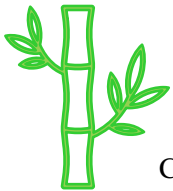
I am in pursuit of the next artist to invite to exhibit. In the meantime, the art committee has suggested coming to the congregation again. So look into your own collections and imagination and think of Spring and the images it inspires. Don't have anything to show? Make something. Take some photos and have some prints made at Walgreens and display them here. I like the flower motif-- the more the merrier. Go flea marketing and, if your prize isn't ready to hang on the wall, get a cheap frame to put it in. Bring what you have and at the end of service bring them (it) to the nave and we will get them hung.



I want to thank everyone for their patience and please stick with us. Hey, we can even have a in-house opening on the Saturday after we get the show up. It's in the budget.

Questions? Mark, email [1pot1fish@gmail.com](mailto:1pot1fish@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Mark Oehler, Chair*



## GROUNDS COMMITTEE

### Idea Brainstorm

Contributors: Freya and Burt Sonenstein (master gardeners); Phil Strinste, Harvey Joanning, and Gwen Snyder, (farmers); Carla Couret, Maggie and Don Joffe; Rodney Hoffman, Jane Finger, Allyson Russell.



This is a brainstorming of ideas that people have asked if we could do. (We're open to suggestions from anyone else that wants to help)

1. Weeding, trimming, and raking -has been done twice per year 10/3/2021 and 3/20/22, instead of a service we had a landscaping party those that can not physically help brought sustenance and water. Please remember that diabetics cannot eat sweets and a table full of sweets only is not sustenance. Therefore, the next cleanup day would be the first Sunday in October 10/2/22 and which also happens to be daylight savings time (if we still do that) and first Sunday in March 3/5/22 and people arrive earlier than the 11 fellow ship time. They brought trimmers, rakes, bags, hatchets, weed eaters, hedge trimmers and blowers.
2. Rocks for the irises will be delivered 4/12/? along with mulch and dirt.
3. Operation add color and hide the overgrown dead stumps ugly area near the little house.: Phil, Joshua, and I planted carl's donated elephant ears, and I came back and planted the hydrangeas, more bulbs: elephant ears, caladium, daisy, and gladiolas. If we water this area which is not in shade once per week then hopefully this area will grow tall and full and will provide a welcoming garden upon entering the fellowship.
4. OUTDOOR SEATING ... several people have expressed a need for a picnic table with an umbrella (200 \$) and maybe some chairs (100-300 \$). Another group would like to move the Mexican heather and some of the irises under the creep myrtle tree and plant them some where else and replace this with engraved brick patio paid for by those that would like to dedicate them. We would need enough bricks to form a patio to hold 2 benches. teak benches ranged from 200-400 \$ and metal benches 140-200 \$. I searched for pavers, but I do not know how much engraved pavers would cost but it is a fund-raising device.
5. Spruce up the area around the sign. I planted 2 agapanthus on both sides of the sign (one is in the ground and the other one is above the heavy tarp that is under the pine straw, water supply must be brought to them. Not much can be planted there unless we cut through the tarp. So, we may have to use container plants, that can be seasonal.
6. The corner on the left of the fellow ship could use a nice garden. That would need to have a small border because it angles towards the sidewalk and be a small triangle with bulbs and perennials. Since the fellow

ship needs money, I do not think we can afford another sign at this time. I was wondering how large churches get traffic signs directing people to their church.

7. Spruce up the circle garden with some color. Have an event in the circle garden to encourage people to go there.
8. A vegetable garden that the teenagers could help us with. The only place there is a water spicket is by the small house. So that is the logical place to put a vegetable garden. First, we would need to cut down a few of the trees near the fence. Then we would need to have the stumps removed. One of the guys that came out to give us an estimate said once the stumps are removed it is going to tear up everything we planted there, and they would have to be moved (maybe to the left corner or opposite the sign east of the entrance. Before digging we must know where the water lines and the electrical lines are. Once the stumps are out there will be holes and this area would need to be filled with dirt. So that means we could do raised beds on top of the dirt or plant in the ground. Two of the volunteers most interested in the garden feel this garden will be especially good for the teenagers and we could put out produce as part of our pantry. Another suggestion is that we plant a sister's garden which I think means planting things that make complete proteins when added together. They also wanted a fence around the garden to protect the children from cars if they are helping and to keep out dogs. The garden would have to be watered and that would increase the utility bill. There was concern about the drainage. I am not sure why putting in a garden would change the slope of the parking lot. I have 2 different estimates pending
9. The parking lot. the guy that came out to look at the stumps says that some areas of the parking lot are just down to dirt. There are many areas where the grass and weeds are encroaching and will just eventually become grass and weeds that would have to be mowed. Theoretically there are 2 ways to get rid of this. roundup and heavier cover possible over a landscaping tarp just for the area most used. Or we weed it every 3 months by hand and/or get a heavier cover of rocks. It may have been a dirt road in the past, I don't know but to me it looks bad but others may think grass is ok. This would be very expensive for us right now, so we need to brainstorm this some more. The guy is going to give us an estimate for only the most used areas. I will Round-Up the grass in the gravel in the gravel if most people do not object.

*Submitted by Suzanne Tormoen, Spring Cleanup Chair 4/10/2022*

## UPCOMING EVENT



***Let's Write!***

Save the Date

### July Memoir Writing Class

Donna Orchard will facilitate another memoir writing group on Tuesdays in July: 5,12,19, and 26 from 10-11:30 at the Fellowship. *On Writing Well: A Guide to Writing Nonfiction* by William Zinsser will be used. Says Donna, "Every week is its own writing experience so if you have to miss a week, no problem." To enroll call Donna at home: 251-947-8411. If you get her voice mail, please leave a message that you plan to come (and get a copy of the book).

*Submitted by Donna Orchard*

## HOORAY, HARVEY!



FUF Board Chair, Harvey Joanning

Completing on April 8 at the FH pier the **60,000<sup>th</sup>(!!)** mile of documenting running.

**GROUP ACTIVITIES**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP**

From its start individualism and consensus dominated the practice of our non-fiction group. Unlike most such groups, its members do not all read the same book or author. Instead, each reads and reports on whatever he or she is reading at the time. It may be a book or, equally well, an article or pamphlet. Participants summarize their reading in ten minutes or so, before general discussion and questions. History, biography, science, and current politics are favorite topics. Only fiction is unacceptable. The group meets at 9:30 every other Thursday morning in the FUF lobby, unless public holidays clash. With presentations done, some members head for lunch and more talk at a local cafe.

*Submitted by Robin Fabel, Moderator*

**“BEER” DISCUSSION GROUP**

Convening weekly at a local restaurant (currently Fish River Grill) where beer is sold--as well as food and other beverages--this free-wheeling discussion group welcomes all comers. (One doesn't have to know anything about beer or even like beer to be an active participant in this group). Some choose to complement the discussion by ordering dinner.

*Submitted by Michael Patrick*



**“SUNDAY MORNING BOOK DISCUSSION**

On May 1 this group will conclude its discussion of A Chosen Faith but would like to continue meeting to discuss another yet-to-be-determined book. Anyone who would like to be part of the group and would like to suggest a book for discussion contact Jane Finger—or just show up on Sunday morning.

*Submitted by Jane Finger, Moderator*

**Regularly Scheduled Events at FUF**

**Sundays**

- 9:45 – 10:45 Book Discussion Group
- 10:30—Children’s Fellowship
- 10:45 -- Pre-program Music
- 11:00 -- Sunday Service

**Mondays**

- 2:00 - 4:00 Uke Club

**Wednesdays**

- 3:00 – 4:30 Back Porch Folk Singers Practice
- 4:45 -- Eastern Shore String Rehearsal
- 5:00 – Weekly Bulletin Deadline

**Thursdays**

- 5:00 – 7:00 Beer Group (at Fish River Grill)

**Other Events**

- Thu, May 5:** Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am
- Sun, May 15:** Envir'l/Soc'l Act'n Com, 12:20
- Thu, May 19:** Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am
- Tues, May 20:** June Newsltr deadline, 5 pm  
(Unless otherwise noted, always 5 days before the last Sunday of the month)

**SUNDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE**  
Wednesday at 5:00 pm is the deadline for information to be included in the weekly bulletin. Submit to Mary Matthews.

**NEWSLETTER**  
Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship by the date 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,  
**“FUF Newsletter”** Subject In, to [Janef09@gmail.com](mailto:Janef09@gmail.com)  
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