



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

March 2022

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

SUNDAY PROGRAM

Mar 6 **DEBBIE ELLIOTT: “The Importance of Independent Journalism”**

NPR National Correspondent Debbie Elliott can be heard telling stories from the American South, and occasionally guest hosting the network’s flagship news magazine programs. She covers the latest news and politics and is attuned to the region’s rich culture and history. Elliott will join us to talk about the mission and importance of public radio journalism and share some of her experiences working for NPR for the last twenty-five years.

Mar 13 **JASON FISHER: “Finding the Path Home After Grief”**

Grief is all too often an individual journey, sometimes born from traumatic experiences and fueled by both positive and negative memories. The isolation one feels during the grieving process can have a profound impact on relationships and happiness. This discussion will focus on how to best help those in need of support and compassion during this difficult time. Jason Fisher, author of the recently published moving memoir, *To Where You Are*, lost his wife Mandi when she was just thirty years old, leaving him a grieving widower and single father of a two-year old daughter with a rare chromosomal abnormality. Through counseling and expressing his grief, Jason persevered following Mandi’s death to heal and reimagine how to best live out the passions of his life. (Signed copies of his book will be available for sale after the program.)

Mar 20 **SUZANNE TORMOEN: Spring Clean Up**

FUF member and Clean Up Chair Suzanne Tormoen will lead the many hands to make light work, so we hope the hands of other members and friends alike will join us in spending an hour or two to beautify our corner of Fairhope Avenue. Pack your gardening gloves and lawn tools and help us clear away the debris of winter and make room for Spring’s new growth. (Coffee and donuts will be provided)



Mar 27 **ALLYSON COOPER RUSSELL:**

“And Here My Troubles Began: The Banning of Art Spiegelman's MAUS”

In 1992, Art Spiegelman's MAUS made history as the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer. Now it's in the news again, thirty years later because it has been banned from a school. What's all the fuss about? You decide as we examine the objections and the work itself. Allyson Cooper Russell is the Teen Librarian at Fairhope Public Library. She is a mother to several children and cats, reads a lot of Young Adult novels, and for fun likes to listen to non-fiction audiobooks while sewing. She is currently enrolled in the MLIS program at LSU.

SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

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

MUSIC PRELUDE BEGINS **10:45 AM**

“A Chosen Faith” 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

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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

FUF Board Meeting

February 25, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Harvey Joanning, Liz Conway, Carl Couret, Sarah Fischer, Maggie Joffe, Michael Patrick, Dana Roberts, Thelma Topper. **Guest:** Donna Orchard

Meeting was called to order by Chairman of the Board Harvey Joanning. January 2022 minutes were approved. Treasurer Maggie Joffe presented current financials. The Board expressed appreciation for the clarity of the information.

The facility security system requires renovation to function properly, and it must be operational to meet the building's liability requirements. Phil Striniste evaluated options and provided his recommendation in writing to Board members prior to the meeting. Hunter Security offers the comprehensive service needed at the most favorable price. Cost is \$9,632. The Board voted approval. Payment will be directed from the Lawrence Fund.

The operational status security cameras was questioned. Phil Striniste will be asked to investigate and report back to the Board. Next steps will follow Phil's report.

The Board seeks to make it easier and more convenient for members to support the Fellowship financially. Harvey, Maggie and Sarah all investigated options and presented their findings. After an in-depth discussion regarding automatic donation systems, including a fee for service option by PNC Bank, the Board opted to encourage members to take advantage of the services offered by their respective financial institutions rather incurring additional fees for third party services. Members may make one time or (preferably) recurring donations by using their personal financial institution's online "bill pay" function. Unless otherwise specified, donations will be directed toward the General Operating Fund. If a member wants to donate to a specific fund, simply note it on the payment instructions and Maggie will assign it as requested. Liz will write basic guidelines for the FUF Newsletter and website.

As expressed by Dana Roberts and echoed by other Board members, ensuring donations via FUF's website are safe and secure for both donors and the Fellowship is of paramount importance. Sarah's research provided insight and options. For those preferring to make online donations utilizing a credit card, PayPal's charitable donation function will be incorporated into the FUF website. It will be a secured transaction. Sarah will develop this feature in conjunction with Maggie. Activation of the online donation capability will be announced at a later date. It will be initiated on a 90-day trial basis.

Discussion of FUF Committees was tabled until the next Board meeting; however in the interim, Sarah and Liz will review and provide recommendations for possible refinement.

To make Board meeting attendance accessible to the most members possible, Sarah has developed a survey via Survey Monkey which has been approved by the Board and will be sent to the FUF membership. Results will inform future meeting days and times.

Michael Patrick made a motion to continue FUF's \$2000 College Scholarship Fund and to continue matching congregant scholarship-specified donations up to the limit of the Scholarship Matching Fund. Sarah seconded.

FUF's Little Free Pantry will operate with revised hours and onsite supervision. Donna Orchard developed the proposal with input from congregants. Starting March 9, the Little Free Pantry will be open full days on Wednesday and on Sunday morning. FUF members will be present to provide assistance. The Little Free Pantry will be locked at other times.

The talents of Sarah Fischer has greatly expanded and improved the FUF website. Additional features planned include FUF history, leadership profiles, activities, etc. Liz will develop supplementary content, and Sarah will continue her artistic development for the site. Updating speakers weekly and posting the newsletter monthly will be assigned to the Office Administrator.

The Office Administrator will also be asked to document building usage and any potential clean-up needs as it is the responsibility of those using the building to leave it in the same state as they found it.

To prevent operational mishaps, the office computer and printer are to be used only by Carla and Maggie to conduct FUF business. Any other use must be approved by the Board Chair. Passwords have been changed to protect the equipment.

Sarah's concern regarding the number of outstanding building keys and who has them provided the basis for a lively exchange. The discussion concluded with the acknowledgement that people who needed keys had them, and that historically it has proven far more beneficial rather than problematic.

Spring Clean Up for the Fellowship's grounds is scheduled for Sunday, March 20 at 9 a.m. Dr. Suzanne Tormoen will chair the event. As that date coincides with the Fairhope Arts & Crafts Festival, it was suggested to start early, provide coffee and donuts, etc.

A discussion followed regarding leadership style and meeting procedures. Dana Roberts reminded participants that Roberts Rules of Order will be followed at all times during Board meetings. Speakers must be recognized by the Chair. Visitors may speak only after Board discussion of the issue at hand and only after being recognized by the Board Chair. The goal is to ensure an orderly and efficient process.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The date for the March 2022 meeting will be announced by the Board Chair at a later date.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Conway



Financial Summary

The January and February Financial Summaries will be published in the April Newsletter.

Committees Still in Need of Chair Persons

Building Usage (non-member usage, rentals)

Education (but there are members)

Fundraising (other than music)

Helping Hands (for members in need)

Hospitality (Kitchen)

Special Events (other than music)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Members



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, janef09@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENT



Champagne Reception & New Art Exhibit

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will be hosting a Photography Exhibit with Champagne Reception featuring the works of local photographer Darlene Drogmiller on Saturday March 26, 2022, from 3 to 6 PM. Ms. Drogmiller's works will be on display at the Fellowship through the month of March, 2022."

FROM A MEMBER

**On Putin and the Invasion of Ukraine:
a Letter To My Fellow Americans**

Maybe it's because my mom was a child during Hitler's Germany. Maybe it's because my dad is buried at Barrancas National Cemetery, in Pensacola, Florida, among thousands of dead American veterans who fought for our democracy. Maybe it's because of all those veterans, from many different countries, who died on foreign lands and never came home. Maybe it's because I'm a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the League of Women Voters, and I have the right and duty to speak up as an American. Maybe it's because I have dear friends, neighbors, and coworkers who are Jewish and/or Ukrainian. Maybe it's because I volunteered with a womens' shelter organization and I know about abusive spouses and boyfriends who terrorize, bully, control, and kill their wives or girlfriends and their children. Maybe it's because I'm a Unitarian Universalist and I believe war is immoral and wrong. Putin, and his insistence on invading and attacking Ukraine, twice now, in the name of "reunification of the Soviet state," and his reckless disregard for democracy makes me speak my mind. Well, you cannot unscramble an egg. We all know B.S. when we hear it. He just reminds me of a jilted boyfriend who can't take the hit to his ego and is secretly a misogynistic tyrant. There have been other egomaniacs and authoritarian regimes that try to squash democracy with ruthless brutality, fear and intimidation, but not now, not this time. We must all stand up to Putin. Even the Russian people are bewildered by the instability and illogical behavior of their "leader," and are saying, "Enough!" Someone has to stand up to him. All of us stand with the people who are fighting the uncalled-for aggression of Putin and his Army. There is no justification for the attack on Ukraine. When you kill men, women and children whom you consider "brothers," you have lost all standing and should be sanctioned. People see through you and will not be your pawn in a game that only you want to play. Your bullying threats and perverse twists of who is really the aggressor will not be tolerated. We are not afraid of your macho posturing. There are too many critically important issues that need to be addressed. Keep your fossil fuels. Thanks to you, this will only make us turn sooner to clean, renewable energy sources. Pack up your stuff and go home. Let the adults take care of business. And for those of you who want to know what to do: Donate to UNICEF and let your elected leaders know you stand with Ukraine and NATO. Thank you.

Submitted by Riva Fralick, Co-lead of the Social and Environmental Action Committee.



GROUP ACTIVITIES

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. In pre-Covid days, with presentations done, some members would head for lunch and more talk at a local cafe. When healthier times return we shall resume that habit. May it be soon!

Submitted by Robin Fabel, Moderator

“A CHOSEN FAITH” BOOK DISCUSSION

Beginning the first week of February two newly-formed groups will meet at the Fellowship every Sunday at 9:45 and every Friday at 10:00. Both groups will discuss one or two chapters each week of this new edition of the classic introductory text on Unitarian Universalism, which, according to the most influential 20th century UU theologian James Luther Adams, “will be a gift for everyone...engaging, seductive, infectious.” While the groups are intended to remain eight or less members, anyone interested is welcome to join. Another small group will be formed if needed. We would like to offer an evening group on Tuesday or Wednesday evening. Please let Jane Finger know if you would like more information or would like to join—or just show up at one of the meetings.

Submitted by Robin Fabel, Moderator

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Regularly Scheduled Events at FUF
(Masks required)

Sundays

- 9:45 – 10:45 *Chosen Faith* 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

Fridays

- 10:00 -- *Chosen Faith* Discussion Group

Other Events

Thu, Mar 10: Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

Sun, Mar 20: Envir’l/Soc’l Act’n Com, 12:20

→ Tues, Mar 22: March Newsltr deadline, 5 pm
(Unless otherwise noted, always 5 days before the last Sunday of the month)

Thu, Mar 24: Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

Sat, Mar 26: Champagne Reception 3:00-6:00

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
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