



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

September 2022

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## SUNDAY PROGRAM SPEAKERS

### SEPT 4 ALLYSON RUSSELL: “Radioactive Daisies:

#### Information Literacy and Understanding What You See Online”

Viral videos, funny memes, unbelievable pictures...the internet is a visual medium and we see lots of information on it every day. But what are we seeing, and how do we know if it's accurate? In this talk, we'll get some tips about finding the truth behind pictures and claims we see online to help us stop the spread of misinformation. Allyson Cooper Russell is the Teen Librarian at Fairhope Public Library. She is a mother to several children and cats, reads a lot of YA novels, and for fun likes to listen to non-fiction audiobooks while sewing. She is currently enrolled in the MLIS program at LSU.

### SEPT 11 ROSLYN SPENCER a.k.a. CATHARSIS THA POET: “Catharsis of the Spoken Word”

For Catharsis, expression is a means of survival. Whether it's acknowledging the pain of heartbreak or celebrating one of life's victories, writing and performing spoken word provided that needed lifeline. Roslyn Spencer, a.k.a. Catharsis Tha Poet, has been performing spoken word since 2005 and is a founder and member of Mobile's award winning PowerLines Poetry Troupe. She has received the Mousai Award for Best Spoken Collaboration and the award for Best Spoken Word Artist at the Port City Secondliners Honors of Mobile Alabama. Spencer also has an extensive background in nonprofit work, creating mentoring programs and securing grants for local youth, along with helping to increase female entrepreneurship.

### SEPT 18 MIKE TURNER: “International Day of Peace - Music and Readings”

Songwriter Mike Turner, along with Dana Roberts, Thelma Hopper, Mia Lucia Manifold and Pamela Caudill will present a program of songs and readings in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace. Mike Turner is a songwriter and poet living on the U.S. Gulf Coast. His songs have received airplay in the U.S. and overseas; his poetry has been published in numerous journals, magazines and anthologies. His book, “Visions and Memories,” was published by Sweetycat Press.

### SEPT 25 MARGARET WIELBUT: “A Journey of Discovering Creative Life”

How did art therapy evolve and how has it been used? What does an art therapist do? Where does art therapy take place? What benefits could art therapy bring to you? Therapist Margaret Wielbut will explore the many facets and benefits of art therapy in our modern world. Margaret Wielbut is an art therapist originally from Warsaw, Poland. Her early work in art therapy was with children in hospitals and other special settings. After she graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit, she found it very enriching to work with adults in medical settings. She also discovered how art could be beneficial in her own life and how the path of using different media has changed in her private life. In addition to her work in art therapy, Wielbut also enjoys swimming, biking, acrylic fluid painting, and Zentangle.

**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)

CHILDREN'S FELLOWSHIP **10:30 am**, BOOK DISCUSSION **9:45 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)

1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532.

Telephone. 251-929-3207



## 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.

For more information visit [uua.org](http://uua.org)

## FUF MISSION STATEMENT

To explore new ideas, to search for truth and knowledge, to take care of the earth, to enjoy fellowship with open-minded thinkers, to support and care for each other, and to create an atmosphere of love and understanding among our members and for those who come after us

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### FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

#### July Financial Summary,

	July	YTD
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	3,327	20,845
Other Revenue	31	1,117
Total Support and Revenue	<u>3,358</u>	<u>21,962</u>
Expenses		
Building	1,469	14,997
Committees	1,476	9,991
Donations	0	1,450
Total Expenses	<u>2,945</u>	<u>26,438</u>
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	413	-4,476

#### FUF Board Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2022, 11:00 am



Attendees: Board Members: Harvey Joanning, Carl Couret, Sarah Fischer, Don Joffe, Michael Patrick, Dana Roberts, Thelma Topper. Guests: Carla Couret, Rodney Hoffman, Jeanine Normand

##### Closed Session:

1. A closed session with only Board members in attendance was held to discuss the newly created Fundraising Chairman position designated as a Member-at-Large. This Board position was passed at the June 10th meeting.
2. Since several FUF members have expressed interest in the position, the Board discussed further advertising the position, requesting proposals and selecting the new Board member at the August 12 th Board meeting. When the open session resumed, a motion to follow this process was made by Michael and approved.
3. The Board agreed that this position was important enough that serious consideration should be given to extending the appointment through 2023. This action will be decided by the 2023 Board.
4. Consideration should be given later to making this position a permanent Board position.

##### Open Session:

Meeting Minutes: June 10th Meeting Minutes were approved.

##### Treasurer's Report:

1. Don Summarized Maggie's Treasurer's Report.
2. FUF remains in the red for the year.
3. Contributions are below budgeted amount through June, 2022.
4. FUF net difference between revenue and expenses is a negative \$4,889.
5. The 2022 budget included a \$12,500 shortfall for the year.

### Old Business:

Painting Walls and Ceiling: No update from Phil.

Membership Criteria Update:

1. Rodney Hoffman presented the Committee's Responsibilities and Procedures (see handout).
2. Some FUF attendees and older members do not easily fit into the 3 categories: member, associate, or friend.
3. The Board has empowered Rodney and his committee to revise the Responsibilities and Procedures to address the concern stated in #2.
4. A closed session may be required to discuss the categories.
5. Carl will announce to members the request for all members who have not signed the membership book to do so.
6. Carl will submit the digital letterhead to Carla and Rodney for their use in correspondence.
7. Rodney has mailed letters to prospective members. (see handout)

Committee Reorganization:

1. Sarah has received several comments from FUF members on the proposed revised committee structure. (see handout) Sarah is reviewing the comments and feels that none of the comments will alter the restructuring. She will confirm this to the Board after her review.
2. Maggie is in agreement with the new structure regarding committee budgets. She will be contacted to confirm and clarify her position.
3. Motion made by Michael to accept the new committee structure. It passed with one nay from Dana Roberts.

Building Usage:

1. Carla and Jeanine are editing the Building Usage Policy and Procedures.
2. A fourth category will be added for Board review.

### New Business:

Sarah requested a copy of the April meeting minutes. The minutes should be found in the 2022 notebook located in the office.

All handouts are attached to these meeting minutes. Copies may be obtained from the Board.

Schedule for Board Meetings: August 12, 2022 11:00AM CST

September 9, 2022 11:00AM CST

Adjourn: 12:36PM

*Respectfully submitted by Don Joffe*

## **AND THE WALLS SHALL BE PAINTED!**

*by Phil Strniste, Building Maintenance Chair*

In record time, the walls of the main hall were repainted by members of the fellowship! Changing the color from "Honey Graham"(which many thought was too dark) to "Blanched Almond"(one tone darker than what is on the stage wall) required two coats of paint after the prep work of scuffing(lightly sanding), cleaning(with a damp cloth) and taping of the woodwork(so beautiful-but there seem to be miles of it). But WE did it, over two-and-one-half days, because a coalition of members came together and applied their experience, skills, and labor. It was a very satisfying group effort to my eye.

Pickle's Painting completed their work repainting the ceiling in the main hall on Tuesday around noon(more on them in the next newsletter). By Thursday at 3pm the walls had not only been painted, spots touched up, the tape carefully removed, and the detail work excruciatingly done...but the furniture had also been moved back into the hall!

On Thursday just before noon, **Hal Knox, Mark Oehler, Carl Couret, Maggie and Don Joffe, Gwen Snyder and I** were starting to flag from our effort when **Carla Couret** arrived with lunch. As we enjoyed some tasty croissants and ice tea, and a fruit crisp for dessert, we were entertained by one-year old "**Mo**"(Maurice - Carla and Jay's son). Distracted by such a lively soul we seem to forget our tiredness and applied ourselves for three more hours -not stopping until the job was done.

This experience contains all the elements of meaningful work -a common goal; it's organized; it's skill appropriate(do what you feel comfortable doing and no more); it's fun to do with others; and it's inspiring(and the fellowship saved some money). I am glad to have been part of it.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Newsletter Editor," [jane09@gmail.com](mailto:jane09@gmail.com)

### 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 "FUF

### Reminder to All Members

If you are a member of the Fellowship and have not yet signed the Membership Book, you can find the book in one of two places: 1. At the back on the Fellowship Hall after the service on Sunday.

2. In the Administrator's office any day.

Any communication with the membership committee should go to [Rod\\_me@bellsouth.net](mailto:Rod_me@bellsouth.net)

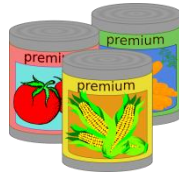
*Submitted by Rodney Hoffman, Chair*

## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### Little Free Pantry:

"The Food Pantry exists because FUF has a culture of generosity."

True story... We go to the Fairhope Dog Park almost everyday. It was our bloodhound, Maggie's Birthday. Per tradition, we brought bags of treats for the other dogs. In exchange, I BOLDLY asked the others to bring canned foods as a present in her honor. Hey, I had a 50-50 chance of getting something for the Pantry. Maggie received spaghetti, tomato sauce, peanut butter and \$50! We are always looking for new ways to fill the Pantry. Asking others in other groups that you belong to is one of them. Do you belong to a bridge group, book club, music group? How about the many groups that meet at FUF? You aren't too shy. You, too, can ask for donations. You've got 50-50 odds and it really does work! Also, a big thank you to the many folks who help move your generous donations to the storeroom after the Sunday service. The children have been great about doing this. Building an understanding of compassion and community responsibility starts young. THANKS Y'ALL!



### PANTRY ALWAYS NEEDS

Canned meat (tuna, chicken)  
Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Cereal  
Pastas  
Tomato sauce  
Hearty soups  
Healthy snacks  
Rice  
Canned fruit  
Canned Vegetables (except beans)  
Soap  
Diapers- all ages!  
Toothpaste  
Cleaning supplies

*Submitted by Irene Wegner, Pantry Chair*

**GROUP ACTIVITIES**



**SUNDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP**

On September 4 the Sunday Morning Book group will resume meeting from 9:45 until 10:45 and discuss Siddhartha by Herman Hesse. Anyone who would like to be part of this group contact Jane Finger ([jane09@gmail.com](mailto:jane09@gmail.com)) or just show up at the Tedtalk room by 9:45.

*Submitted by Jane Finger*

**MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP**

Convening weekly at the local Kind Cafe –(on Section street across from the police station behind Section Street Pizza), this newly formed open discussion group meets from 9:00 – 10:00. Subjects of discussion are determined in real time by those present.

*Submitted by Rodney Hoffman.*

**“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*

**2022 Officers & Executive Board**  
President: Carl Couret  
Vice President: Thelma Topper  
Chairman of the Board: Harvey Joanning  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres/Programs: Sarah Fischer  
Treasurer: Maggie Joffe  
Recording Secretary: Don Joffe  
Corresponding Secretary: Dana Roberts

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**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

**Tuesdays**

- 9:00 –10:00 Men’s Discussion Group  
(At Kind Café)

**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, Sept 8:** Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

**→ Tue, Sept 20:** Oct Newsltr deadline, 5 pm  
(Unless otherwise noted, always the Tues. before the last Sunday of the month)

**Thu, Sept 22:** Non-Fiction Bk Group, 9:30 am

**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 printed copy or email,  
  
“FUF Newsletter” Subject In, to  
[Jane09@gmail.com](mailto:Jane09@gmail.com)  
  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER: JANE FINGER