

March 2019



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

www/fairhopeuu.org

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Mar 3



J. D. CROWE: Dork Side of the Toon

Nationally syndicated cartoonist and author JD Crowe will entertain us with off-the-cuff remarks and his wry humor from his published cartoons—a humor that sprouted during his Kentucky childhood amid preachers and pigs and has blossomed to include political follies as well as the more mundane eccentricities of life in southern Alabama and Fairhope.

Introducer:Harvey Joanning

Mar 10



PRESDELANEHARRIS: Alabama Arise 101

Since 1994, Organizing Director “ Pres” Harris has worked for Alabama Arise, a statewide non-profit, non-partisan coalition of 150 congregations & community groups and over 1,000 individuals that promotes state policies to improve the lives of Alabamians with low-incomes. She has a B.S. in justice and public safety from Auburn University at Montgomery and an M.S. in management from Troy University. Having the added benefit of living in Montgomery her entire life, Pres is well-educated in understanding and influencing state policy makers.

Introducer: Jane Finger

Mar 17



VELA OMA: ¿i?

I will be carrying a large black plastic bag. I will alter time. I will be. Vela Oma is a practitioner of collaboration, surreal instincts and intuitive temporal distortion. He enjoys transforming & amalgamating modern and ancient energies into a new unknown universal existence. Since 1994 Vela has actively collaborated with many artists as well as established a curatorial and solo career both nationally, internationally, and in the World Wide Web. He believes in magnifying the energy of time, space, objects and actions while blending the subconscious with spirit and allowing the unknown to present itself.

Introducer Carl Couret

Mar 24



LYNNE OLDSHUE: Learning to Listen

Listening is the easiest gift we can give someone, including strangers. Healing comes from fully present listening that understands who they are and shows their story and their life matters. An interview with photographer Vincent Lawson about his pictures of the homeless in Mobile, and a story about the city's bus riders, changed Lynne Oldshue’s direction and were the catalysts for her the vignette series Our Southern Souls. After almost 1,200 Souls interviews, including people who survive cancer, flee from war and persecution, take care of spouses with Alzheimer’s, wait for acceptance letters into graduate schools and serve hot dogs to the homeless, Oldshue is an expert on listening. She is also the founder of the Nappi-award-winning “The Southern Rambler” blog/website and the “Community of Mobile” Facebook group, which helps to create a compassionate community that takes care of each other. The Mobile Arts Council named her their 2018 Cultural Innovator.

Introducer:Michael Patrick

Mar 31 ELAINE SNYDER-CONN: T.H. Huxley: Apostle of Science, Education for All, and Agnosticism

Known today mostly as Darwin’s bulldog, Thomas Huxley made hundreds of major contributions to biology, paleontology, and evolution during the Victorian era. (Cont’d next page)

SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

MUSIC PRELUDE BEGINS 10:45 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.

TED discussion group 9:30 am Current Events discussion group 10:15 am

Youth Fellowship 11:00 am

Last Sunday of the Month Potluck: Bring a dish and join us for fellowship and conversation. March 31, 12:15 pm

1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Tel. 251-929-3207

www/fairhopeuu.org

FairhopeUnitarianFellowship@gmail.com

(Con't from March 31 ELAINE SNYDER-CONN: T.H. Huxley)

He also worked without compensation to revise the entire English system of education from one basically for the Anglican elite, focused on classics and religion, to the system largely in place today in both Britain and the U.S. After earning science degrees from Antioch College and the University of Arizona with a focus in aquatic studies and ecology, Dr. Snyder-Conn began her professional career as a Visiting Assistant Professor in Zoology at North Carolina State University. Since then she has accumulated quite a record of accomplishment as an environmental contaminant specialist. A member of this Fellowship, she retired in Fairhope, where she continues to enjoy gardening, hiking, kayaking, and bridge.

Introducer: Pat Cassidy



Traditional Unitarian Service with Video Presentation*
Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

The Traditional Unitarian Service generally includes a welcome and announcements, lighting of the chalice, a reading, music, meditation, a sermon or a live program approximately 18-25 minutes long, the collection of donations used to support the Fellowship, and closing remarks. Sermons are most often presented via video recordings available by a variety of UU ministers.

March 2 “**Religion Within: The Limits of T-Shirts Alone**” Rev. Lucas Hergert, North Shore UU, Deerfield, IL video

There is a slogan t-shirt epidemic in America. We put our feelings, beliefs, and attitudes on our t-shirts. But do they really express our own beliefs or that of a group? Is it a way of belonging in an isolated society? How powerful an instrument for change can we be when wearing them? And, what are the consequences? If you have a UU yellow “Love is the answer” t-shirt, this might be a good time to wear it!

March 9 “**The Courage to Be**” Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, All Souls Unitarian Church, Tulsa, OK. video

Sometimes it takes a lot of courage to go on living our lives. Other times it takes courage to change course. Where does this courage come from? How do we rise above the everyday circumstances we find ourselves in and act in the face of fear, danger, or despair? Some people draw on a higher power and others on a higher purpose. These are complicated and troubling times. Where does your “courage to be” originate?

March 16 “**Why Are You UU?**” Rev. Tamara Casanova Suzuki, Live Oak UU Congregation, Goleta, CA. video

What is your "elevator speech" when friends or family ask you why you are a Unitarian Universalist? And what do UUs believe anyhow? Come hear Rev. Tamara share some thoughts about who we are and who we should be as Unitarian Universalists.

March 23 “**Eleven Americas**” Rev. Lucas Hergert, North Shore UU, Deerfield, IL video

Based on Woodard's book, **American Nation**, Rev. Lucas Hergert explores the various geographic and cultural differences of American society and how they shape and determine our societal and political differences. He explores how the northeast, Tidewater and deep southern sections of America are different in their approaches to community and individual responsibility. A thought-provoking exploration of why Unitarianism is of so prevalent in some parts of America and not in others. Sermon by the Rev. Lucas Hergert, North Shore Unitarian Church.

March 30 “**The Limits of UU Tolerance**” Rev. Beth Dana, First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

Tolerance is one of the guiding values of Unitarian Universalism, now and throughout our history. What are the limits of such an open approach? Check it out.

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

HIGHLIGHTS

February Board Meeting

Saturday, February 9

- The volunteer handbook has been updated and approved. Thank you, Dana, for your efforts.
- Before the April program, a new survey will be created and distributed to members. Questions will include the addition of congregational singing and a joys and sorrows option, and the creation of a membership photo directory. If a membership directory is created, the amount of personal information included will be defined (for privacy) and a photographer will be used (rather than asking members to submit their own photos). Dana offered to draft this new survey, and members will be asked to sign their names on the surveys to prevent multiple surveys per member.
- Based on feedback from members, it was decided that Sunday Program Readers should be held to a three-minute time limit.
- The idea of providing an average amount of weekly donation was discussed. All agreed that "pledges" should not be requested or required.
- Choir Director Heather Nutting will take some time off after the February 17 performance, possibly through the fall. Other options for a temporary pianist or choir director will be investigated.
- Ray Ables will send the program/speaker information to the local newspapers. The same will be placed in the Fairhope visitor's center.
- A motion to donate \$100 to the Southern Poverty Law Center passed.
- Pam Perkins has resigned as Building Usage Manager. It was suggested that we hire a part-time administrator to take over this responsibility as well as others.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Melita Willke



AGENDA

March Board Meeting

Saturday, Mar 9, 1:00 p.m.

Approve minutes of January Meeting
Treasurer's Report

Old Business

Care and Concerns of our members
Harvey Joanning: January 27th meeting of the congregation relating to the survey
Jane Finger: Update on framed sign out front
Dana Roberts: Update on Committee Volunteers
Part-time administrator selection.

New Business

Publicity Committee
Membership Committee: Anne Armstrong
Welcoming Committee
Building Committee
Programs: Ray Ables
Education: Harvey Switzky Number of Teacher Positions
Traditional Unitarian Service
Scholarship Committee for FUF Students: Donna Orchard
Yearly Report for the UU: Donna Orchard

To add agenda items, please promptly notify Donna Orchard or Carl Couret. Board meetings are open to all friends and members.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January, 2018

	January
Support and Revenue	
Contributions	2,779
Other Revenue	204
Total Support and Revenue	2,983
Expenses	
Building	2,041
Committees	663
Donations	0
Total Expenses	2,704
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	279

More Detail About January 27th Congregational Meeting

This summary was provided by Harvey Joanning, Dana Roberts, and Ken Hudson based on notes taken during the UU Fellowship focus group discussion January 27, 2019

1. What do you like about the congregation that you do not want changed?
 - Many folks are happy with the format of our services and see no need for change.
 - Folks also like that our group is open to people of all beliefs and see our group as open minded.
 - The suggestion was made to better organize care and concerns for our members.

2. What do you like about the congregation that you would like modified?
 - A suggestion was made that we change to a “moment of silence” rather than using the word “meditation”.
 - Confusion exists about how policy is put in place by the board and a request was made that the congregation have more input about policy changes.
 - Many folks would like more congregational singing although one person expressed concern about having enough time to work it in without taking time from the presenter. More people need to become involved in leading singing if we are to have more music so our choir director cannot be expected to provide more music. The UU Hymnal has wording appropriate to our congregation and could be used as a source of congregational music.
 - The suggestion was made that we move to welcoming and educational readings rather than political comments. It was also suggested that we limit political comments from podium and to be aware that because of our non-profit status we cannot advocate for a candidate.
 - More openness to different philosophical and religious views should be encouraged.

3. What would you like to see added to congregational activities?
 - More congregational singing as suggested in response to question 2.
 - Establish a ritual each week for Joys and Sorrows and have people make comments themselves although concern was expressed that such a ritual may take too much time and be like
 - “testifying”, a very non-Unitarian activity. If people do come up individually, they must keep their Joys and Sorrows comments brief.
 - Develop a Directory of members with at least a photo and an optional bio. The directory could have birthdays without the year of birth. Concern was expressed about how to set up a directory and the moderator said he would describe to the board how that has been done at other churches.
 - The Thursday afternoon beer drinking club at Market by the Bay is open to all.
 - There was a discussion regarding having a spiritual component as part of the Fellowship although how that would be done was not clear because the meaning of “spiritual” is not well defined.
 - Suggestions were made that we work toward more integration of members and have more group trips.
 - It was pointed out that opinion regarding the meaning of church and fellowship differ among congregation members.
 - Concern was expressed that we cannot squeeze all suggestions into time limitation of one hour for our service. Consequently, it was suggested that we keep readings to two minutes, limit announcements, and give speakers the time they need to complete their presentations in a 35-40- minute time frame. To save time it was suggested that we have less applause between elements of service.
 - It was suggested that we encourage more tolerance of spiritual opinions in keeping with Unitarian principles.
 - It was suggested that we have more programs about important national and world issues.
 - Someone commented that we need to compliment committees involved in having the fall dinner and focus group discussions.
 - Someone mentioned that we need a fundraising committee and that all members need to contribute what they can. It was suggested that an average contribution of \$10 per week by all regular members would provide the annual funds needed to run the Fellowship. It was pointed out that for the last several years funds contributed to Fellowship have exceeded expenses. It was also pointed out that committees and the Board have
 - been very frugal to avoid running a deficit. Caution needs to be taken so members do not assume that they can contribute less because we have not run a deficit in recent years. Decreased contributions would quickly establish a deficit.

ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Tick-Tick-Tick in the Delta

Riva's Reponse to Lagniappe Article about Local Coal Ash Threat

Thank you, Mr. Holbert, for addressing a major environmental disaster in the making (Ala. Power's Plant Barry unlined coal ash pond). The handwriting is on the wall: greed, money and power versus doing the right thing. Here, locally, kudos to Mobile Baykeeper, the Mobile Sierra Club (and their Beyond Coal campaign) and the Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition (mejac.org) for bringing this public health and environmental issue to the public's attention.

We, the people, have the power of the pen and the squeaky wheel--you're right: visit, call and/or write all of our representatives at every level of government; ask them to support passage (at the Federal level) of the "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act." The long-term answer is to wean ourselves off of fossil fuels (e.g. "Green New Deal"). Experts say we only have 11 years to reduce CO2 levels by 50% and until 2050 to reduce them 100% if we hope to keep climate change from causing irreparable harm to the planet. We are the cause and we are the solution. Senator Richard Shelby: 202-224-5744; Senator Doug Jones 202-224-4124 Representative Bradley Byrne 202-225-4931 (251-690-2811/Mobile; 251-989-2664/Baldwin).

Sincerely, Riva Fralick, rivafralickoh@gmail.com, 954-457-0415
Mobile Bay www.citizensclimatelobby.org
Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, Environmental Action Committee

(Mr. Holbert is the publisher of *Lagniappe*. The article appeared in the February 6 issue and can be read online at <https://lagniappemobile.com/tick-tick-ticking-in-the-delta/> .)

PREVIOUS PROGRAM

On February 3, the Children and Teens Fellowship explained and illustrated the Chinese New Year Celebration. Participating were, clockwise from top right: Leader Melita Wilke, Emerson Wilke, Aiden Anderson, Linda Ables, Brissa Ables.



UPCOMING EVENT

Life is uncertain. Eat dessert first!



And, that's exactly what we are going to do on Thursday, March 14th, 4-5:30. It's the only day we can have Pie Day. (Think about it!). ..Yup, that pi! So, come and enjoy a piece of pie. Bring a pie (apple, lemon, pizza pie-whatever) and enjoy the company and conversation. Take a piece home for your real dessert.

We hope to see YOU there!
Sign-up sheets will be available at both services.

Contact Irene Wegner or Donna Orchard for more information or to volunteer your set-up help.

VACATION WITH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Star Island

Mid-winter greetings from Jeanette, Registrar for Midweek 1 at Star Island.

Given all the cold and snow we have had here in New England, it's time to turn your thoughts to warmer weather and getting ready for Midweek 1 – 2019, Monday, September 2 through Friday September 6. Register at <https://starisland.org/program/midweek-1-retreat/> What's the rush to register so early? Well, you know the rates don't go down for last minute bookings, you KNOW you will come back, AND you will be entered for a chance to win free room and board for the conference if you register before April 1!

Can't commit just yet? Star also offers some discounts so check here to see if you are eligible: <http://starisland.org/discounts/> Star is offering discounts to both old timer Star Islanders and new shoaler attendees if you refer someone who has never been before. 1-3 referrals - \$50 credit, 4+ referrals - \$125 credit, and for the new attendee 30% off the room and board bill. (The individual must have affiliation with a qualifying organization.) FUF is a qualifying organization.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2019

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2019 is for you! Four Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Our program is truly the best way to visit Alaska! Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete information go to:

www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

GROUP ACTIVITIES



SUNDAY TED DISCUSSION

The "TED Talk Discussion Group" meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 sharp in the room adjacent to the Children's Classroom. Often moderated, the group chooses among several suggested TED Talks and other short videos on a wide variety of topics. After the Group watches the video, an interesting discussion often follows. All ideas are welcome.

GAME NIGHT

A great way to meet Fellowship members and friends, Game Night meets the second and fourth Saturday of each month 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. For information contact Pam Perkins – perkensp947@gmail.com.



FUNCTIONAL LIFESTYLE YOGA CLASS

Led by Maggie Cunningham, FLY meets at 6:00 pm every Wednesday except the first one of the month. Specifically tailored toward "functional fitness", this class also incorporates principles of yoga. "Functional fitness" refers to the ability to maintain independence and reduce risk of injury or accident due to diminished or dysfunctional physical capabilities of the activities performed for daily living. The class is designed around the fitness levels of the participants and all are welcome. (Please bring a yoga mat and towel.) There is no charge but donations will be accepted gratefully to help cover the cost of opening the facility during these hours.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Regularly Scheduled Events

Saturdays

5:00– 6:00 Traditional Unitarian Service

Sundays

9:30–10:45 TED Discussion Group (Please be on time)

10:15 Current Events Discussion Group

10:45 Pre-program Music

11:00 Sunday Service

11:00 Children's Fellowship

3rd Sun: Social /Environmental Action Com., 12:20

Last Sunday of every month: Pot Luck Lunch, 12:15

Wednesdays

3:00 – 4:30 Back Porch Folk Singers Practice

5:00 – Weekly Bulletin Deadline

6:00 – 7:00 Functional Lifestyle Yoga (Except Mar 6)

Other Events

Tues, Mar 5: Spring Writing Workshop, 9:30-11:00am

Thu, Mar 7: Non-Fiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Sat, Mar 9: FUF Board meeting, 1:00 pm

Game night, 6:30 pm

Tues, Mar 12: Spring Writing Workshop, 9:30-11:00

Thu, Mar 14: "Pie Day," 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Sun, Mar 17: Environ'l/Social Action Com, 12:20 pm

Thu, Mar 21: Non-Fiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Sat, Mar 23: Game night, 6:30 pm

Tues, Mar 26: **April Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm**

Sun, Mar 31: Pot Luck Lunch, 12:15

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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