



January 2016

# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## Jan 3 KEN NIEMEYER: "The Future of Cuba"

Ken Niemeyer's trips to Cuba have afforded him a unique perspective of Cuba's history, as well as opportunities to see the real side of that island country. Having traveled in Cuba in years past as well as a year ago, he will describe how the country has changed during that time. A Fairhope native, Niemeyer graduated from the University of Virginia and the University of Alabama law school.

**Introduction by:** Celeste Hinds

## Jan 10 DONNA ORCHARD : "The 1954 Desegregation Ruling: Can a Supreme Court Ruling Change Hearts and Minds?"

Author of "Behind the Schoolhouse Door," Donna Orchard began her forty year career as an educator in a North Louisiana high school in 1969. She was immediately followed by Federal Marshalls, there to enforce Brown v Board of Education of Topeka. She will describe what schools were like then and what happened, as well as include her personal perspective on what schools are like today. Orchard's dedication to child advocacy led her to teach in county facilities and juvenile halls. Now a retired teacher and administrator from the Mobile County Public School System she continues this advocacy in many volunteer capacities.

**Introduction by:** Jule Moon

## Jan 17 PRAD MATHUR: "Margaret Fuller a Woman of Many 'Firsts' "

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850), contemporary of Ralph Waldo Emerson, is a woman of many "firsts." first American to write a book about equality for women; first editor of "The Dial," the foremost Transcendentalist journal; first woman to enter Harvard library to pursue research; first woman journalist on Horace Greeley's "New York Daily Tribune"; first woman to engage in social work among prostitutes and in mental asylums. Her story inspires us to follow her lead, think independently, freely exchange opinions, believe in the equality of all people, and be open to change. Prad Mathur, our presenter and a Michigan attorney with a PHD in anthropology, has been a member of FUF since 2006.

**Introduction by:** Heather Nutting

## Jan 24 FRYE GAILLARD: "Journey to the Wilderness, a Reflection on Family Civil War Letters"

On the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, award-winning author Frye Gaillard reflects on the war and the way we remember it through the lens of letters written by his family. Included are great-great grandfather, Thomas Gaillard, and his two sons, both of whom were Confederate officers. Coming of age in a Southern generation that viewed the war as a glorious lost cause, Frye's was one of the first generations to view the Civil War through the lens of civil rights. They saw, often quite reluctantly, connections and flaws in southern history that earlier generations couldn't bear to face. Gaillard is writer in residence at the University of South Alabama and author of more than twenty books.

**Introduction by:** Nall

## JAN 31 JOHN SWITZER: "Humans: Hard-Wired to Believe?"

So much time and energy is expended on the argument between so-called "believers" and "non-believers." Are we to be divided into two separate camps, or do we have something important in common? Obviously, as humans, we all share certain basic needs: sustenance, hydration, shelter, safety. But is there something more? John Switzer argues that there is something more that is vitally important: the need to make meaning of life. This shared need should bring us together, not tear us apart. Switzer is associate professor of theology at Spring Hill College, where he also serves as director of the Center for Interreligious Understanding.

**Introduction by:** Ray Ables

### SUNDAY SERVICE 11 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 9:45 a.m. Current Events discussion group 10:15 am.

Children's Fellowship 11 – noon (Sept to May)

January 31 : Last Sunday of the Month Potluck: Bring a dish and join us for fellowship and conversation.

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## MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

### Summary – December Board Meeting

- Treasurer Pat Smith reported a shortfall in collections but a year-to-date increase in operating funds of \$3,415.
- Building manager Trudi Rogier reported an HVAC compressor is being replaced, at a cost of approximately \$3000.
- The protective cover for the chalice window has been broken; cost of repair is not yet known.
- FUF sent a \$100 donation to the Unitarian Fellowship of Huntington, WV, damaged by a fire.
- Plans for the Annual Meeting on December 13 were discussed.
- Kate Reali has volunteered to lead a youth education program for older students, to meet every-other-Sunday in the Ted room.
- Don Sawyer reported the Publicity Committee has scheduled a Mithril Concert (December 15) and a tour of Africatown (January 16).
- Zimmerman concert (November 11) brought in \$106 for FUF.
- Diana thanked Board members for serving this year. The next meeting will be January 8.
- Construction on Fairhope Avenue at County Road 13 may make alternate routes desirable in coming weeks.

*Gail Gardner, Recording Secretary*

### Board Meeting Agenda

Friday, Jan 8, 2016, 10 a.m.

1. Approve December 2015 Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Update on Strategic Plan
  - B. Volunteer Handbook & Bylaws – approved revisions
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Policy on Concert revenue
  - B. Publicity Committee report- Africatown visit
  - C. Membership Committee – Welcoming Committee
  - D. Building Committee
  - E. Program Committee Report
  - F. At Large FUF Board members

### Annual Meeting Highlights

#### 2016 Board Officers Elected

President - Rodney Hoffman

Chair of the Board - Diana Gardiner

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Don Sawyer

VP for Programs - Ray Ables & Julie E. Brent

Recording Secretary - Lynne Switzky

Corresponding Secretary - Pat Smith

Treasurer - Kay Seymour

#### Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws Passed

Both amendments passed without objection.

### Financial Summary

#### November 2015

	November	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Contributions	4,558	39,457	41,250	(1,793)
Other Revenue	93	7,332	4,125	3,207
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	4,651	46,789	45,375	1,414
<b>Expenses</b>				
Building	2,655	32,045	31,579	(466)
Committees	979	8,878	11,229	2,351
Donations	100	2,450	2,567	117
<b>Total Expenses</b>	3,734	43,373	45,375	2,002
<b>Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)</b>	917	3,416	0	3,416

## WELCOMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE NEWS

### “Souper” Sundays

The first Souper Sunday will be January 10<sup>th</sup> immediately following coffee, about 12:15. Soup and bread will be provided, but more important will be the Q&A session and discussion generated about issues and concerns relevant to becoming a Welcoming Congregation. There will be a sign-up sheet to attend at the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday program. We hope to have lots of questions and suggestions.

### Investigation into Possible Opportunities

The committee will investigate several activities that address needs of the LGBT community. Among those discussed is the Free2Be LGBT youth group headquartered in Huntsville and its beginning program in Mobile. We will investigate the opportunity to form an Eastern Shore affiliate. Other investigations include the Mobile PFLAG group, PBS gender ID programs, bullying policies in our school systems, Gay Pride events in our area, education on scientific research about sexual changes before birth, and relevant TED talks. We will be in touch with Jack Harvey, the November 27 FUF presenter of “Becoming a Welcoming Congregation,” for more information.

### Movies with LGBT Themes

The following movies were identified that have LGBT themes or portray LGBT relationships as part of the story (possibly to be shown at FUF): The Kids Are Alright, Fried Green Tomatoes, Jenny's Wedding, Cloud Burst, The Fosters (An ABC series also on Netflix), Gracie and Frankie.

*Submitted by Irene Wegner, Membership Committee Chair*

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

### Annual Planning Brunch Invitation

The Social Action Committee (SAC) invites all FUF members to come to our January meeting for “annual planning of social action” and brunch for 2016. We will meet at Eloise Roger’s home on 808 Crystal Wells Court So., on the third Sunday, January 17, at 12:45 p.m. Bring a dish to share and RSVP to any member of the SAC in advance.

### Items Request for Lighthouse

Throughout the month of January, we will collect items for the Lighthouse, the shelter for abused women and children in Baldwin County, a charity that the FUF supports. The Lighthouse would like cleaning supplies, and also, new (as in unopened) toiletry items for women. Put donated items in the basket under the bulletin board in the FUF hall.

*Submitted by Jeanine Normand, SAC Chair*

## NEW SILENT AUCTION COMMITTEE

### Raise FUF Funds

Let’s sell off a few goodies we no longer need to benefit the Fellowship. I propose having an on-going silent auction of items too valuable for a yard sale. We’ll begin with a diamond/ruby ring I once treasured but no longer want. Carl Couret, Pam Perkins, Jean Lawrence and I are the committee. Let any one of us know if you have items to donate. Art, jewelry and other valuables are wanted. Beginning in January and continuing as long as we have things of value to offer, we will offer one or two to be viewed after the Sunday programs each week.

*Submitted by Celeste Hinds*

## CULTURE COMMITTEE EVENT

### **Africatown Tour for FUF Members and Friends Scheduled for January 16, 2016**

At a recent meeting of the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network at the Mobile County Training School in Africatown we were treated, not only to a gracious welcome by community members, but also a fascinating historical summary by community leader Joe Womack of this fascinating community less than an hour away. If you don't know the history, in brief it was the site of the last shipload of slaves brought to the US, which landed just outside of Mobile harbor in 1860. Slave importation had been outlawed since 1808 and the illegal enterprise was carried out as a bet by a group of wealthy plantation owners that they could defy the law and blockade and smuggle in a shipload of slaves. After a raid by Dahomey warriors on a community in northern Ghana near Tamale (particularly interesting to me since I worked with a university in Tamale for several years), survivors were taken to what is now Benin and sold to the Alabama slavers for \$100 each. Once the ship arrived in Mobile, it was burned to destroy the evidence. Some of the slaves were abandoned and settled in what is now Africatown and others returned just a few years later after the Civil War. They founded the community of Plateau, the only community in America founded by Africans and whose bylaws were based on the traditions of their African homeland. Their African language was spoken into the 1950s, and the last survivor of the original group of Africans, Cudjoe Lewis, died in 1935. Despite neglect by officials and encroachment by development and industry, Africatown has survived and now has a population of around 1,200 people. In 2012 it was named to the National Registry of Historic Places.



Abaché and Cudjoe Kazoola Lewis  
at Africatown in the 1910s

While at the meeting, I had the pleasure to speak with Mr. Womack, who generously volunteered to provide a tour of this fascinating community for FUF and friends. We have set the date for January 16, 2016, at 1:00. We will carpool from the Fellowship, leaving at 12 noon. There is no cost for the guide, but it would be appropriate to provide a donation to the community. If interested, please contact me or sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

Don Sawyer

[dnsawyer@gmail.com](mailto:dnsawyer@gmail.com)

251-517-9056

*Submitted by Don Sawyer*

## "SOUPER" SUNDAYS

### Souper Sundays Begin January 10

The Welcoming Congregation Committee will be serving soup and bread immediately after Sunday coffee and cookies (around 12:15). The purpose of these monthly lunches is to generate discussion of issues related to our obtaining UU "Welcoming Congregation" certification. We invite anyone and everyone to participate in the Q&A (and lunch, of course) and offer suggestions, ideas, and concerns. The committee needs to know how many to cook for so please sign up at the Sunday program on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you'd like to attend and haven't signed up call or email Irene Wegner at 517-7248 or [Hgbiker44@gmail.com](mailto:Hgbiker44@gmail.com) before Wednesday 1:00, January 6 to add your name.

### GENTLE YOGA

During January Julie E. Brent will offer again the Gentle Yoga classes on Mondays at 1:30 pm for about an hour at the Fellowship

The class is for anyone, no matter your experience or condition. You will be able to work sitting in a chair, standing or on the floor depending on your comfort zone. Bring a yoga mat and a large towel for use as a bolster in various ways when rolled up. Dress in comfortable clothing that does not bind you around the waist. Socks and a sweater are recommended if you are cold natured. For more information call Julie at [251-504-5328](tel:251-504-5328). There is no charge but donations to the FUF are suggested. Thanks so much to Julie. The previous class was very well received.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE PLUS

Every Wednesday morning, people gather at 10:00 and enjoy coffee and conversation until 11:30. Some bring craft projects and others just come for the pleasure of getting together. Everyone is welcome! There's no need to sign up...just show up. We've met for three years, and would love to see a few new faces!

*Submitted by Jean Lawrence*

### FICTION BOOK GROUP

The Fiction Book Group will meet Monday, January 11, in the FUF Library at 10:30 am. The book selection for January is "Black List" by Sara Paretsky.

*Submitted by Helen Earl*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Regularly Scheduled Events

#### Sundays:

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

10:15 Current Events Discussion Group

10:45 Pre-program Music

11:00 Children's Fellowship

11:00 Sunday Program

Third Sunday: Social Action Committee, 12:20

Last Sunday of every month: Pot Luck Lunch, noon.

#### Mondays:

1:30 GentleYoga

#### Tuesdays:

3:30 Choir Practice

#### Wednesdays

10-11:30 UU Coffee Plus

3:00- 4:30 Back Porch Singers

5:00 Weekly Bulletin Deadline

### Special Events

**Wed., Jan 6:** Welcoming Committee, 1:00 pm

**Fri., Jan 8:** FUF Board meets, 10:00 am

**Sat., Jan 9:** Game night, 6:30 pm

**Sun., Jan 10:** Souper Sunday, 12:15 pm

**Mon., Jan 11:** Fiction Book Group, 10:30 am

**Thu., Jan 14:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

**Sat., Jan 16:** Africatown Tour, 12:00 – 4:00 pm

**Sun., Jan 17:** Guest at Your Table final collection

Social Action Annual Planning, 12:45

**Sat., Jan 23:** Game Night, 6:30 pm

**Mon., Jan 25:** February Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm

**Thu., Jan 28:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

### SUNDAY BULLETIN INFO DEADLINE

Wednesday at 5:00 pm is the deadline for information to be included in this weekly bulletin.

*Submitted by 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 to editor at:

[Janef09@gmail.com](mailto:Janef09@gmail.com)