



February 2016

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Feb 7 DONNA WEBER: “Qigong for Health and Well Being”

In this interactive presentation, you will discover the ancient Chinese practice of self-healing. You will learn how life force energy can create disease or health. You will experience a simple Qigong exercise to enhance your life force energy. A Licensed Professional Counselor, Donna Weber started her professional life working for a large corporation, but eventually realized that this was not a career she loved. After earning a Masters degree in psychology she became a counselor, working with families and children. She currently works with adults and writes a self-help blog, ReclaimYourTrueEmotions.com. For most of her life, Donna has been interested in alternative healing practices and has explored a variety of energy healing techniques. She believes that everyone has a natural healing ability that can be enhanced through the practice of her favorite technique and the one she will present to us, Qigong.

Introduction: Chester Schmidt

Feb 14 DEBORAH H. JESSUP: 'The Rise of Nazism in Germany circa 1922; Could the Same Happen Here?'

Looking back on the buildup to Nazism in Germany, Deborah Jessup applies that history in her consideration of modern life in the face of a quasi fascist presidential candidate and the apparently widespread sentiment that America has become weak and beset by vicious characters like refugee Muslims and undocumented Hispanic immigrants. This will be her second talk to UU on the Holocaust, but with a different emphasis on its relevancy to today. Having lived in Germany from 1959 through 1962 and learned to speak German, Deborah has long studied the rise of Nazism with its attendant horrors in such a civilized country and among people whom she found friendly and extremely well informed. A lifelong Unitarian, Deborah has worked as a teacher and a writer on government, energy and environmental issues.

Introduction: Harvey Joanning

Feb 21 ZACH SIERKE: “ Wild Clay: Introduction to the Woodfired Ceramic World”

For Zach Sierke, wood-firing is more than a simple means to an end. Wood-firing is a process that brings together the worlds of geology and ecology, catalyzes community and personal development, and produces products that tell the complex and powerful story of their birth. Sierke has been obsessed with the power of native earth materials and transformative heat since his freshman year at Eckerd College. After graduation he moved back to Fairhope and built a large wood-fired Anagama kiln where he continues to investigate the native resources and ceramic history of the area.

Introduction: Ben Gall

Feb 28 JUDITH RICHARDS: “Are You a Real Writer?”

Judith Richards will describe her journey to writing through the influence of C. Terry Cline, Jr., author of 10 novels, husband for 34 years, and partner in writing “Thelonious Rising,” Fairhope’s 2015 One Town One Tale book selected as its community read. In 1979, Judith married C. Terry Cline, Jr., shortly after the publication of his first book. Fairhope has been home for 39 years. Her six novels include *Summer Lightning* and *Too Blue to Fly*, both awarded the Alabama Library Association Award for fiction. Her first readers are always her two sons.

Introduction: Jule Moon

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)

February 27 : Last Sunday of the Month Potluck: Bring a dish and join us for fellowship and conversation.

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

www/fairhopeuu.org

FairhopeUnitarianFellowship@gmail.com

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

Summary – January Board Meeting

- Contributions received in 2015 were \$3,000 more than budgeted.
- The Board is considering the purchase of an easier-to-use handheld mic.
- There were 13 new members in 2015.
- It was recommended that the President make all announcements to shorten time spent on announcements. Only announcements pertaining to FUF will be made. Information about outside groups will be posted on the bulletin board.
- The policy on concert revenue was clarified. All proceeds will be deposited to the FUF bank account, and the entertainer will be paid by check.
- The Welcoming Committee will have a table at the Gay Pride event in Mobile.
- The glass that protects the stained glass window broke. A replacement is being investigated.
- Kate Mercer, who has been teaching the UU youth in grades 7 to 12 for free, will be paid for each class she teaches.
- Pam Perkins agreed to continue as an at-large member as Past President. Jane Finger, Trudi Rogier, and Irene Wegner were nominated as additional at-large members of the Board.

Lynne Switzky, Recording Secretary

Board Meeting Agenda

Friday, February 12, 2016, 10 a.m.

1. Approve January 2016 Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Building Committee
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Membership – UUA Certification
 - B. FUF Publications – Volunteer Handbook
 - C. Program Committee Report
 - D. FUF Website

To add agenda items, please promptly notify Rodney Hoffman or Diana Gardiner. Board meetings are open to all friends and members.

New At-Large Board Members

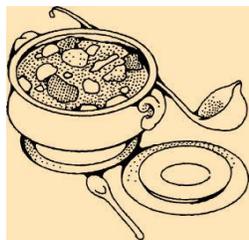
One of the first tasks handled by the newly elected 2016 FUF officers was to choose at-large Board members. Thank you to Jane Finger, Trudi Rogier, and Irene Wegner for accepting these positions. Pam Perkins is continuing on the Board in an at-large position as Past President, Thanks, Pam.

Financial Summary December, 2015

	December	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	8,736	48,193	45,000	3,193
Other Revenue	353	7,684	4,500	3,184
Total Support and Revenue	9,089	55,877	49,500	6,377
Expenses				
Building	4,464	36,510	34,450	(2,060)
Committees	1,324	10,202	12,250	2,048
Donations	450	2,900	2,800	(100)
Total Expenses	6,238	49,611	49,500	111
 Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	 2,850	 6,266	 0	 6,266

WELCOMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE NEWS

“Souper” Sundays



If you read this section of the January Newsletter and thought you missed the first Souper Sunday, rest assured that you did not. It was cancelled because we forgot to put the sign-up sheet out until it was too late-- Oops! It has been rescheduled for February 14, immediately following coffee and cookies. The sign-up sheet *will* be out the two Sundays prior to February 14 so don't forget to sign up. More details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Committee Members Attend Regional HRC Meeting

Four committee members attended the regional Human Rights Campaign meeting in Mobile on January 26, when several state HRC officers presented updates on legislation, both in Alabama and other states, regarding LGBT issues. Also presented was the need for more state and local advocacy in challenging legislative efforts to circumvent the Marriage Equality Act and in educating the public about LGBT issues. Thanks to Trudy Rogier for directing the committee to this important resource for current information.

Submitted by Irene Wegner, Membership Committee Chair

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

Annual Planning Meeting

SAC held our annual planning, potluck meeting, Sunday, January 17, 2016 (the 3rd Sunday of the month) at Kathleen Fendelman's home. Eleven people attended, and we enjoyed a delicious luncheon. Jeanine Normand will continue as chair. Greatly appreciated, Serena Low has volunteered to help with our distribution list, to take minutes, and to help with committee administration.

Reminder for Lighthouse & Nursing Scholarship Donations

The SAC will continue to collect donated items for the Lighthouse this month and throughout February. They need cleaning supplies, and toiletry items that are new and unopened. Our donations basket under the bulletin board in the hall is empty. We always accept your tax-deductible donations to the FUF tuition fund for a student in Nursing at Faulkner State Community College, Fairhope. Write "nursing scholarship fund" in the memo line for your checks. Every penny goes directly into the tuition check.

Submitted by Jeanine Normand, SAC Chair

THE COFFEE PROGRAM



Participation of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship in the Interfaith Coffee Program run by the company called 'Equal Exchange,' marked its tenth anniversary in December. Over this time the sales of gourmet chocolate and coffee products have grown and benefited the five groups whose participation constitutes the 'Interfaith Coffee Program'. These include our fellowship; the coffee and cocoa growers in a number of countries; the Fair Trade program; Equal Exchange and the Unitarian- Universalist Service Organization (UUSC). Each pound of product sold supports our coffee program through a markup; provides the grower with a better price for his product than he/she could get from the commodity market middlemen; supports sustainable farming practices; furthers the bottom line of Equal Exchange; and supports the UUSC Small Farmer Fund. Perhaps that is why our coffee tastes so good!

The full product line of Equal Exchange includes a much larger array of goods than what I offer and can be viewed at www.equalexchange.coop. I mention this because all wholesale pricing until 2015 was on a per case basis. I am now able to purchase sample items on the same wholesale basis. This arrangement works especially well for new items as well as for poor sellers like tea. If you see something new for the group to try, let me know.

The coffee served every Sunday after the program is called "Organic Mind, Body and Soul" and is a blend of coffee beans grown in Oxacca and Chiappas, Mexico. Our Sunday coffee is made from freshly ground beans in a percolator, now done by master coffee brewer Gwen Snyder. Julie Moon carefully makes the decaf from another pre-ground product we sell.

Coffee prices in 2015 continued to hold at historically high levels. Together the nine orders of coffee and chocolate placed during the year cost \$1,944.30! According to Equal Exchange literature this is due to rising production costs, unusual weather variability (climate change), and increased competition for the diminished crop. The impact(s) of 'cherry rust,' a potentially devastating fungal disease of coffee plants is/are yet unknown, but fundraisers for resources to deal with it continue to be made.

The dollar benefit of the FUF coffee program (i.e. the retail value of coffee donated to our kitchen) as of December 27th was \$533.50 (which includes coffee beans (36lbs), regular/ground(5.25lbs) and decaf(7.5lbs)).

Also, in October of 2015, \$300.00 of the accumulated cash surplus which I maintain to cover future orders was transferred directly to the Sunday basket –a first! Undoubtedly the impressive 37% increase in cash taken in from total sales (\$2,310.05) and donations (\$197.41) contributed to this surplus! As of this writing the cash in hand stands at \$399.95 and the retail value of unsold inventory is at \$950.00.

Many thanks to both Jeanine Normand –as ambassador extraordinaire for the coffee program, and also to Lynne Switzky who continues to supply the labels that identify FUF as the coffee's point of sale.

To the committed core of people who support the program and for the regular Sunday coffee drinkers in the group, it is again my pleasure to continue managing this delightful program for our fellowship in 2016.

Submitted by Phil Strniste

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mary Martin Riser: a Retrospective ***Saturday, February 6***

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship is pleased to host an exhibition of the photographs of Mary Martin Riser for the months of February and March. The opening reception will be held Saturday, February 6 from 3-5 pm. Juanie Noland will provide music and Joyce Burkhart refreshments.



Mary is well known for her position as director of the Fairhope Film Festival as well as her work as a photographer, writer and teacher. She writes that she is “interested in images that reflect quiet and solitude.” The collection is a retrospective from 1970 and includes images from Alabama, New Orleans and France.

Submitted by Pinky Bass

"Sentimental Romance," ***with Dr. Jazz Normand, Pianist*** ***Saturday, February 27***

On Saturday, February 27, at 3 p.m., Dr. Jazz Normand will perform in concert on our FUF grand piano. The program for “Sentimental Romance” will include some of Normand’s original compositions, as well as romantic favorites, including Gershwin and Jobim. Normand has performed with classical symphonies and with jazz combos in Europe and around the USA; and piano is her major instrument. *Note: All donations are tax deductible, and go into FUF tuition check for a student in Nursing at Faulkner State Community College, Fairhope. (Write “nursing scholarship fund” in the memo line for your checks.)*



AFRICATOWN TRIP – JAN. 16

“I anticipated 12 or 13 would sign up for the January 16 trip to Africatown,” said FUF Vice President and trip organizer, Don Sawyer, “but it turned out to be 46!”

And what a trip it was—sunny weather, an informed and congenial tour guide, a competent and courteous bus driver, an interesting site visit. We returned with deeper appreciation of Africatown’s unique history, along with a troubling concern for its future as industrial interests threaten its survival as a community.



Our tour guide, Joe Womack, grew up in Africatown. His fascinating presentation included many personal anecdotes about that time.

In Africatown we were hosted by members of the Mobile County Training School Alumni Association. The group promotes preservation of Africatown’s history and advocates to protect its interests. They were delightful hosts. One afternoon was not enough time to hear their many interesting stories about the school

and the community. Thanks to the Association for hosting us, and to FUF Vice President, Don Sawyer, for organizing this great trip.

For more photos (taken by Juanie Noland), see the FUF Facebook page, also the source of this description.

FUF GROUP DETAILS

SOUPER SUNDAYS BEGIN FEBRUARY 14

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 31 or February 7. If you forget to sign up and want to attend call or email Irene Wegner at 517-7248 or Hgbiker44@gmail.com before noon on Wednesday, February 10, to add your name.

SUNDAY TED TALK DISCUSSION

The “Ted Talk” group meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 sharp in the room adjacent to the Children’s Classroom. Michael Delaney or Julie Brent leads the group and begins each session by suggesting a few short TED talks on various topics for viewing. The group decides which one seems most interesting. The video of the talk is then viewed and an always interesting discussion follows. As you can see, being on time allows you to have a say in selecting and viewing the complete talk and participating fully in the lively discussion.

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, February 8, in the FUF Library at 10:30 am. The book selection for February is “The Bedlam Detective” by Stephen Gallagher

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:

No Gentle Yoga (February)

Tuesdays:

3:30 Choir Practice

Wednesdays

10-11:30 UU Coffee Plus
3:00- 4:30 Back Porch Singers
5:00 Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Other Events

Sat., Feb 6: Exhibition Opening Reception 3 -5 pm
Mon., Feb 8: Fiction Book Group, 10:30 am
Wed., Feb 10: Welcoming Committee, 1:00 pm
Thu., Feb 11: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am
Fri., Feb 12: FUF Board meets, 10:00 am
Sat., Feb 13: Game night, 6:30 pm
Sun., Feb 14: Souper Sunday, 12:15 pm
Mon., Feb 22: February Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm
Thu., Feb 25: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am
Sat., Feb 27: Piano Concert 3:00 pm
Game Night, 6:30 pm

NO GENTLE YOGA IN FEB

Julie E. Brent will be out of the country, so her yoga class will be suspended during February.

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