



February 2017

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

[www/Fairhopeuu.org](http://www.Fairhopeuu.org)

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Feb 5 **GLEND A SNODGRASS: Cyber Self Defense: The Ways We Leak Data**

As we introduce more and more “smart” things into our lives, we need to understand how these devices work and how to secure them. Lead consultant and project manager at The Net Effect in Mobile, Ms. Snodgrass is primarily engaged in cyber security training, threat analysis and mitigation for commercial, non-profit, and governmental organizations. She is also involved in developing security awareness training for clients. Glenda is an active member of the Gulf Coast Industrial Security Awareness Council, InfraGard, ASIS International, and the Gulf Coast Technology Council. She holds a B.A. degree from the University of South Alabama and a maitrise from Universite de Paris I- Pantheon-Sorbonne in Paris.

Introduction by: Pat Smith

Feb 12 **LEW TOULMIN: The Elusive Female Chiefs of Vanuatu**

Despite the 100-plus-year-old assumption that there were no female chiefs in the Republic of Vanuatu (ex-New Hebrides), Dr. Lewellyn (“Lew”) Toulmin discovered otherwise. In 2016, while working in the Prime Minister's Office there, he launched an Explorers Club Expedition to find and document these brave women. Holding a Ph.D. in public administration and economics, Lew has not only worked in thirty developing countries overseas, but also traveled to 144 of the 196 countries on Earth and is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of The Explorers Club. Lew is the son of Mary and Harry Toulmin, who were for many years members of this Fellowship -- and he is a member also. He is the fourth great-grandson of Judge Harry Toulmin, a founder of Alabama and a Unitarian minister, who was run out of England in 1794 for his Unitarian beliefs.

Introduction by: Julie Moon

Feb 19 **PAM PERKINS: Laughter Really is the Best Medicine**

As literal-minded and left-brained as they come, Unitarian member Pam Perkins hated studying poetry in school. All that flowery, romantic language, combined with obscure symbolism, just left her cold. Asked to write a poem of her own, she could never get past the humorous poetry of Dr. Suess or the simple style of limericks. She continues to write in this genre to this day, sparing the sensibilities of English teachers. She will read some of her favorite humorous poetry by such great and diverse poets as Billy Collins and Ogden Nash. After retiring from her position as office manager for a chemical company, Pam works even harder as a community service volunteer in numerous capacities including seemingly unending service to this Fellowship. She has previously entertained us with wonderful humorous poetry, some by others and some her own.

Introduction by Ruth Geraci

Feb 26 **PHIL STRNISTE: Illuminating Poe's Shadow**

Upon Poe's death, James Russell Lowell echoed popular opinion with the couplet: “There comes Poe with his raven, like Barnaby Rudge, three-fifths of him genius and two-fifths sheer fudge.” Even after 168 years, Poe remains popular, with treks to his gravesite by pilgrims from around the world. Phil Strniste will highlight his literary legacy, his moral view (versus that of Emerson and the Transcendentalists), and the circumstances of his mysterious death, as depicted in Matthew Pearl's historical novel, “The Poe Shadow.” After graduating from Lowell University in Massachusetts, Phil worked in the Peace Corps in Swaziland, where he met Gwen Snyder, then travelled the world with her for a year. Having earned an MA degree in horticulture at Auburn, he returned with Gwen to Fairhope and the two ran Bee Natural Farm, an organic community-supported agriculture farm until their retirement last year.

Introduction by: Robin Fabel

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 am. Current Events discussion group 10:15 am

Teen Fellowship 10:00 – 11:00; Children's Fellowship 11:00 – noon

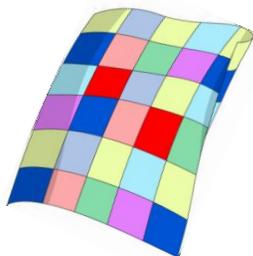
February 29: Last Sunday of the Month Potluck: Bring a dish and join us for fellowship and conversation.

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

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

Summary of January Board Meeting

- Because of generous contributions in December, the 2016 budget shortfall was reduced considerably. Thank you to our generous members and friends!
- We received a bequest from the estate of Ruth Greenbury. The Board has to decide what to do with the bequest.
- The Board is looking for a Publicity Chairperson. For job description contact Pam Perkins (perkinsp947@gmail.com).
- We are looking for donations of quilts, blankets, or area rugs for noise abatement in the children's classrooms.
Submitted by Lynne Switzky



February Board Meeting AGENDA

Saturday, February 11, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

1. Approve January 2017 Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Selection of remaining at-large member
 - B. Youth Fellowship / TED Talk – Mitigating noise – update
 - C. Strategic Planning – Set a date
 - D. Publicity Committee – Current status
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Membership Committee
 - B. Building Committee Report
 - C. Program Committee Report
 - D. Education Committee – Update
 - E. “Share Your Family”
Request for Consideration of Program – Caring and Concerns/Helping Hands
 - F. UUA/UUSC Declaration of Conscience
 - G. General Assembly – Delegates

Teen Class Needs Eight Used



(Please bring Sunday or leave in children's classroom)

To add agenda items, please promptly notify Rodney Hoffman or Ray Ables. Board meetings are open to all friends and members.
Submitted by Ray Ables, Chair

Financial Summary

December, 2017

	December	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	9,080	45,593	45,000	593
Other Revenue	342	4,496	9,000	(4,505)
Total Support and Revenue	9,422	50,088	54,000	(3,912)
Expenses				
Building	3,690	35,037	36,250	1,213
Committees	1,741	14,289	14,450	161
Donations	450	3,400	3,300	(100)
Total Expenses	5,881	52,726	54,000	1,274
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	3,541	(2,638)	0	(2,638)

THE COFFEE PROGRAM - 2016



Participation of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship in the Interfaith Coffee Program run by the company called 'Equal Exchange,' marked its eleventh 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 I am able to purchase individual sample items on the same wholesale basis that is used for case pricing. 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. She also carefully makes the decaf from another pre-ground product we sell.

Coffee prices in 2016 continued to hold at historically high levels...together the 8 orders of coffee and chocolate placed during the year cost \$2,068.40! 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 31st was \$454.00 (which includes coffee beans (26lbs), regular/ground (6.75lbs), decaf (6.75lbs)), tea (2 boxes) and chocolate to sample (2bars).

Also for the second year in a row, \$300.00 of the accumulated cash surplus which I maintain to cover future orders was transferred directly to the Sunday basket! The marked increase in cash taken in from total sales was not repeated this year. Sales declined to \$2013.61 and donations to \$157.67. As of January 1,2017 the cash in hand stood at \$536.73 and the retail value of unsold inventory at \$759.00.

Again, 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 2017.

Submitted by Phil Strniste

ART COMMITTEE

CALLING ALL FUF ARTISTS!!!

Our March/April 2017 exhibit, "Artists From Within", will feature FUF artists. If you are an artist and have original artwork that you would like to be included in the exhibit, please contact Melinda Hicks or Debbie Jessup and let them know.

Submitted by Melinda Hicks



From a Visitor



For those of you who missed this part of our January 22 program, the following was received by our president from an (anonymous) visitor and shared (a capella) with the audience.

To the President of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fairhope counting on his discretion:

I wrote this little parody to be shared only with those within the Fellowship. It is NOT meant to be disrespectful to the religious groups throughout the world whose doctrines are very specific. Many of us (including myself) are grateful to these groups for giving us early moral and ethical awareness.

"Oh, Fair Fairhope"



(Sung to the tune of "Oh, Susanna")

Oh, I come from Indiana
With a strict theology*
Down to Fairhope, Alabama
Found an isle of sanity.

There was so much that stressed my mind
In religiosity,
But then I found this Fellowship
And its isle of sanity.

Oh, fair Fairhope,
You mean a lot to me;
For down in Alabama,
You're an isle of sanity.

Yes, down in Alabama,
You're an isle of sanity.

*Underline syllables are to be stressed.

FUF GROUP DETAILS



GENTLE YOGA CLASSES

Led by AFAA certified yoga instructor, Maggie Cunningham, this eight-week series is designed for anyone, regardless of abilities or prior experience, to take advantage of the benefits of Yoga. Classes will be from 6 – 7 pm. Please bring a Yoga mat and towel. While work will be primarily from the mat, those who prefer to use chairs will be accommodated. Classes are free but donations to FUF are suggested.

SUNDAY TED DISCUSSION

The “Ted Talk” group meets every Sunday morning at 9:45 sharp in the room adjacent to the Children’s Classroom. Michael Delaney 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 then is viewed and an always-interesting discussion follows.

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 – perkinsp947@gmail.com

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. There's no need to sign up...just show up. Everyone is welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Regularly Scheduled Events

Sundays

9:45 – 10:45 TED Discussion Group (Please be on time)
10:00 Teens’ Fellowship
10:15 Current Events Discussion Group
10:45 Pre-program Music
11:00 Sunday Program
Children’s Fellowship
Third Sunday: Social Action Committee, 12:20
Last Sunday of every month: Pot Luck Lunch, noon.

Tuesdays

3:30–4:30 FUF Choir Practice

Wednesdays

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

Other Events

Sat, Jan 28: Communication Workshop, 3:00-5:00
Wed, Feb 1: Gentle Yoga, 6:00-7:00
Thu, Feb 2: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am
Wed, Feb 8: Gentle Yoga, 6:00-7:00
Sat, Feb 11: FUF Board meets, 1:00 pm
Game night, 6:30 pm
Wed, Feb 15: Gentle Yoga, 6:00-7:00
Thu, Feb 16: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am
Mon, Feb 20: March Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm
Wed, Feb 22: Gentle Yoga, 6:00-7:00
Sat, Feb 25: Game Night, 6:30 pm

SUNDAY BULLETIN INFO DEADLINE

Wednesday at 5:00 pm is the deadline for information to be included in the 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 (“Newsletter” in Subject line)