



April 2016

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

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

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Apr 3 FRAN MORLEY: Teachers, Mothers and Suffragettes: Early Women of Fairhope

Dressed in period costume, Fran Morley will talk about some of the brave women who chose to leave comfortable homes elsewhere and travel to the wilds of the Alabama gulf coast in the 1890s to help establish the town we love today. Women such as a progressive educator, writer, and speaker who financially backed the Organic School; the wife of the Fairhope founder; and writer, editor, and suffragette, Marie Howland, our library founder and avid promoter of “free sex,” who was anything but the typical “Marian the Librarian.” Morley, a full-time freelance writer, editor, and photographer has been published hundreds of times in trade and feature magazines and various online publications. She currently serves as Content Editor for the Association of Personal Historians, a professional trade organization with members around the world dedicated to helping others save their stories in print, audio, and video.

Introduction: Ben Gall

Apr 10 REV. DR. FRED HOWARD: Impressionism and Grace: Aging and Dying as a Work of Art

A radical departure from traditional 19th century art forms and from the realism offered by the then emerging technology of photography, Impressionism changed the very nature of the way we think about art. Dr. Howard will explain how it also offers intriguing possibilities to change the way we think about life, aging, and death. A practicing physician and current minister of the Valdosta, Georgia, UU Church, Howard serves on the Board of Peacemakers, which fosters world peace by teaching children ethical values common to all religions and denominations. He is also the author of a recently published book, “Transforming Faith: Stories of Change from a Lifelong Spiritual Seeker.”

Introduction: Irene Wegner

Apr 17 RAMSEY SPRAGUE: Africatown's Struggle for Environmental Justice

Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition President Ramsey Sprague will describe the unique historical and cultural import of preserving Africatown's history by recognizing and responding to its legacy of industrial pollution and toxic trespass. Believing that information is power and informed people are powerful, he sees the mission of environmental justice in the Mobile area as imperative in the preparations for a just transition from the dirty industries that threaten Mobile's coast lines, health, property, and well-being. Born and raised in the South and with family and friends throughout the South and the repeatedly devastated Gulf Coast, he has an intimate and painful understanding of the landscapes fostered by petrochemical fraud and political corruption. A grassroots community leader since graduating high school and having held campaign direction roles in peace, justice, environmental, and electoral reform groups, Sprague sees the timeliness of the environmental justice movement as a catalyst for a new consensus among systematically disempowered communities throughout the Gulf region.

Introduction: Don Sawyer

Apr 24 PINKY BASS: Creativity, Fear and Frustration

The importance of creativity is not always valued in our educational/cultural systems. The things that limit that quality may be other than what we assume. Pinky Bass' presentation will include Tim Harford's TED talk on creativity. Determination and creativity were evident early in Pinky's life. Her first sentence was “Pinky do it” and she remembers drawing bunnies at her grandmother's kindergarten table at the Organic School before she was old enough to enroll there. She also remembers that when, at age fifty-two, she began working on her MFA in photography at Georgia State University, she expected to be included in some art history book for having influenced the course of art history. The ridiculousness of that endeavor is now clear to her BUT the search to understand creativity in ANY form continues to be a life-long study.

Introduction: Jean Lawrence

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)

April 24: 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/ Fairhope uu.org](http://www/Fairhopeuu.org)

FairhopeUnitarianFellowship@gmail.com

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

Summary – March Board Meeting

- The computer projector had some problems this past month. The projector needs to be updated because of limited connection options (no HDMI connection), and more often we need to be able to connect Apple computers to the projector.
- The Board decided to participate in the Unity Church Auction on April 17. Talents, such as making a cake for a special occasion, and services, such as mounting a birdhouse, as well as items, can be auctioned. The organization donating the item receives the funds generated by that item. The Fellowship will use the funds for new A/V equipment.
- Board members like the new website. Have you checked out www.fairhopeuu.org yet? Don Sawyer, Rodney Hoffman, Jane Finger, Julie Brent, and Ray Ables make up the committee considering future content on the website. Share your ideas with them.
- Phil Strniste will take on the building maintenance job on a 3-month trial basis.

Submitted by Lynne Switzky, Recording Secretary

April Board Meeting Agenda

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

1. Approve March 2016 Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Participating in Auction with Unity Church
 - B. Consideration of new A/V equipment
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Program Committee Report
 - B. Membership Committee Report
 - C. Publicity and Events Committee Report

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

Submitted by Diana Gardiner, Chair



Fund Raising Opportunity
Auction with Eastern Shore Unity Church
 Sunday, April 17, 12:15
 (See Summary-March Board Mtg above)

Financial Summary

February, 2016

	February	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	4,027	7,573	7,500	73
Other Revenue	571	660	1,500	(840)
Total Support and Revenue	4,598	8,233	9,000	(767)
Expenses				
Building	2,915	6,592	6,042	(551)
Committees	1,529	2,122	2,408	286
Donations	0	0	550	550
Total Expenses	4,443	8,714	9,000	286
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	155	(482)	0	(482)

Phil's Headache

April, 2016



'Equal Exchange' the company that provides the gourmet coffee and chocolate many of us enjoy, announced with my last order, a product-line change of some note. Apparently, rising cocoa prices over the years since 2008 have been swallowed by the company, leaving their wholesale prices to us, unchanged. When the increasing shortfall became untenable, changes were made. These will be phased in over the next few months. While Equal Exchange must watch its bottom line to remain profitable, and higher cocoa prices are of course a good thing for the farmers growing the cocoa, the changes made place fundraisers like me in an awkward position-hence this epistle.

The changes include: 1. the size of the new bar (80grams down from 100grams); and 2: the cost per gram of chocolate in each bar(2.875cents up from 2.5cents). The recipes for the new 80 gram bars are exactly the same, ditto for the shape(except slightly thinner) and the packaging.

After some consideration of the dynamics involved, I will be selling the newer smaller bars for \$3.00 each as



they come online, that is, as I sell out of the larger 100gram bars(which will still be sold for \$3.50). So what's the problem?

The rub in this shift is that Equal Exchange has made the decision to charge more for the chocolate in the bar AND simultaneously shrink the size of the bar! This has something of a bait-and-switch type of effect, especially for customers including myself who regularly purchase these chocolate bars. More importantly the fundraising potential will be choked down (not off) because I cannot in good conscience expect customers to pay substantially more than what they are used to paying -for a thinner product! The markup on chocolate sales is the moneymaker for the coffee program and so the impact will no doubt be felt.

So now you have an answer to that age-old question of how two very similarly-sized-and-labeled chocolate bars can be sold for two very different prices.

Submitted by Phil Strniste



ART COMMITTEE

Input on Upcoming Exhibits

The Art Committee will meet soon to discuss upcoming exhibits. Please let me know if there are artists that you would like to have exhibit at FUF so that the committee can review their work. I walked the Fairhope Art Show today and picked up business cards of several artists that I thought had interesting work.

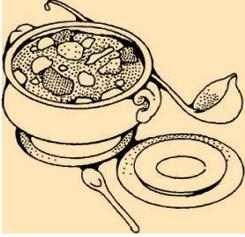
Art Events of Interest Along the Gulf Coast

- Longue Vue Gardens in New Orleans will have a Plein Air Workshop to paint the Louisiana Iris March 29 - 31. March 31st is Louisiana Iris Day. Information about the workshop is on the Longue Vue Gardens website under "Events."
- The historic town of Thomasville, Georgia, will have their annual Rose Festival April 21 - 23. Roses, orchids, arts and a car show will be displayed in the beautiful, historic town. Thomasville is approximately forty miles north of Tallahassee, Florida, about four hours from Fairhope. This is a very pretty area with a healthy arts community.
- The Forgotten Coast en Plein Air in Mexico Beach, FL will be May 6 - 15. This area is just North of Port St. Joe and Apalachicola, FL. It is fun to watch the artists paint and review all of the works produced during this event.

Submitted by Melinda Hicks, Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

“Souper” Sunday Success



Once again Souper Sunday (March 13) brought great ideas and discussion to the Welcoming Congregation committee. Though this second of the series didn't draw quite the crowd as the first did, we were glad we didn't have to turn anyone away. Thanks to all who contributed ideas and/or soup, including the day's presenter Elaine Synder-Conn. The next Souper Sunday will be June 11 and again will include that day's presenter, a member of the Montgomery UU and one of the founders of Welcoming Schools, about which we learned in a recent issue of the Southern Poverty Law Center's quarterly publication.

Next Meeting

The Welcoming Congregation committee will meet Wednesday, March 30, 1 PM, at FUF. All are welcome. We will be planning activities for April, May, and June.

Submitted by Irene Wegner, Committee Chair

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the great response to our request for pasta and related fixings in March! The items have been donated to Ecumenical Ministries.

Lighthouse Supplies Needed

Our April and May collections will be for The Lighthouse in Robertsdale. The Lighthouse is committed to providing support, preventing violence and promoting justice for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Their shelter has an immediate need for toilet paper and paper towels, deodorant, toothpaste, two-in-one shampoo and conditioner, women's socks, women's underwear of all sizes, laundry detergent, and Lysol aerosol spray. They can also use old cell phones. They have an ongoing need for dishwasher detergent, all purpose cleaners, 53 gallon trashbags, bleach, lotion, adult snacks and drinks, tea/coffee/cream/sugar, gallon/snack-size freezer ziplock bags, gas cards, phone cards, new bed pillows, latex gloves, facial tissue, antibacterial soap and gel, women's gowns/pajamas, and house shoes.



Books Welcome at Fairhope Jail



We have learned that the Fairhope Jail would welcome donations of softcover books (no magazines). If you have books to donate, just place them beside the rattan donation trunk below the bulletin board.

Submitted by Lynne Switzky, Committee Member

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE PROJECTS

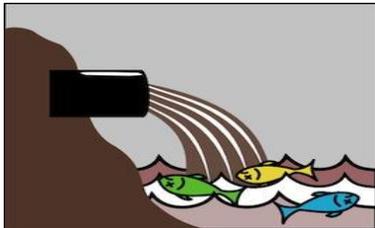


Workshop with Dr. Riki Ott

Friday, April 1, 10:00 – 2:00

(At the Fellowship)

The goal is to give residents in communities at risk of exposures from oil-chemical activities the legal and technical tools, and skills and training, to work together to minimize harm from these activities and to have a meaningful voice in decisions regarding their energy future.



The project involves four main components: 1) public engagement, to provide skills and training for citizens to engage in this work; 2) technical, to research and develop two template community plans—one to protect public health and one to protect contract worker safety—during oil-chemical disasters; 3) medical, to develop and implement a Continuing Medical Education (CME) course for health care professionals to recognize, diagnose, and treat chemical illnesses associated with exposure to oil-chemical spills and every-day activities; and 4) legal, to determine best options to address shortcomings of the national contingency plan (NCP) that were raised in ALERT's petition for, and subsequent comments on, an EPA rulemaking on the NCP.

Trainees will receive a manual, Power Point presentation, and support materials including a Learning Guide booklet with worksheets and an evaluation form to handout at community events. All content & material were developed with and for people most at risk from Oil-Chemical exposures. If you are interested in attending and for more information, please e-mail fairhopeunitarianfellowship@gmail.com by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30.

Submitted by Diana Gardiner

News from Everytown

for Gun Safety

Moms Demand Action

Saturday, April 23rd at 11:00 a.m.

Serda's Coffee Company, Downtown Mobile

Remember how the laws changed for drunk driving when Moms got together? Now Moms and Dads want laws and policies to change to make guns safer.

Please join us at Serda's Coffee Company in Mobile for a Moms (and Dads) meeting. We will have a regular meeting on the 4th Saturday of every month.

We are mobilizing a grassroots effort to pass universal background checks, to see that every gun dealer is licensed, to see that every gun buyer is checked, and to see that every state is demanded by law to provide an accurate data base of those who should not own guns.

Moms, a national organization, has a regional director who works with us on a local level.

For questions, please email me: donnaforchard@gmail.com

Donna F. Orchard Community Organizer for Moms

On Saturday, April 30, we will have the second silent protest at a Gun Show in Robertsdale. We will meet at the Winn-Dixie parking lot on Hwy. 59 in Robertsdale at 10 a.m. to get organized. We had TV coverage of the first protest. We were able to give a visual to those who entered that there are people in the community aware that 33,000 Americans die of gun violence every year—even though we have no common enemy. This is not a Moms Demand Action sanctioned event. If you have questions about safety, you may contact me. We will stand on the grassy area across from the gun show and the mayor and police chief of Robertsdale will know we are there. Last time we experienced politeness as we stood silently. Please bring your own signs, a chair and some water. Three UU members were a part of the first protest.

Submitted by Donna Orchard, Moms Com. Organizer

FUF GROUP DETAILS



GENTLE YOGA TO RESUME IN APRIL

Julie E. Brent will resume the Gentle Yoga classes on Monday, April 4th at 12:45 pm. Anyone can attend; no matter your physical condition, you can learn something to improve your health. The emphasis is on breathing deeply and quieting the mind while moving gently to strengthen and stretch the body. Some will sit in chairs and others who are interested will work from the floor when called for. Please bring a yoga mat, a large towel (used for a bolster for certain postures), and wear socks. You will have your shoes off for the class. If you have questions please call Julie at [251-504-5328](tel:251-504-5328) cell. Class is free; however, all donations go to the Fellowship. The class will last 6 weeks or longer.

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 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 then is viewed and an always-interesting discussion follows.

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)

10:15 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:

12:45 – 2:00 Gentle Yoga

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

Fri., Apr 1: Dr. Riki Ott Workshop 10:00 – 2:00

Fri., Apr 8: FUF Board meets, 10:00 am

Sat., Apr 9: Game night, 6:30 pm

Thu., Apr 14: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Sun., April 17: Auction at ES Unity Church, 12: 15

Sat., Apr 23: Game Night, 6:30 pm

May Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm

Thu., Apr 28: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Sat., Apr 30: Celtic Music Concert, 7:30 – 9:30

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