



April 2017

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

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

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Apr 2 **CARL COURET: Water Wars: Alabama, Georgia, and Florida**

Fairhope Unitarian member Carl Couret will outline past efforts by Federal and state governments to resolve this thirty-five-plus year conflict over interstate water use. He will also address the current status of negotiations and detail key natural resource, public, and commercial/industrial water issues of concern to Federal, state, and private citizens. Having received his B.A. and M.S. degrees in Biology and Zoology from the University of Hawaii, Carl served as a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for thirty-four years in New Mexico, Florida, and Alabama. His work focused on fish and wildlife protection, water quality, tri-state water wars, and hydropower relicensing.

Introduction by: Thelma Topper

Apr 9 **WILLIAM MELVIN GARDNER: On the Origin of Morals**

Those expecting an appearance by Adam and Eve, Moses, Jesus, Beelzebub, or prominent Unitarians might be disappointed when Dr. Garner presents a summary of the biological evolution, the cultural evolution, and the psychological development of essential morals. A retired Professor of Psychology, he has taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses and is the author of "Handling Truth: Navigating the Riptides of Rhetoric, Religion, Reason, and Research."

Introduction by: Michael Patrick

Apr 16 **GERARDO CANTU: The Cup Theory**

With what are you filling your cup? When you give, do you give hoping that you get something back? How do you give without that attachment? The "cup theory" might give you some insight. Holding M.A. degrees in spiritual psychology and social work, Mr. Cantu is currently a counselor for Free2BE, a network of partnerships uniting Alabama to end violence in the LGBTQ community through safe schools, safe families, and safe communities. Cantu is also a spiritual counselor, reiki master, certified photo therapist, and a licensed minister. He is bilingual and provides free counseling and support to the Hispanic community in Baldwin and Mobile counties.

Introduction by Ray Ables

Apr 23 **RIVA FRALICK: Introduction to the Citizens' Climate Lobby**

Unitarian member Riva Fralick will present the mission and philosophy of the new national Citizens' Climate Lobby, and its aim to create the political will for a sustainable future. Riva, the Mobile Bay CCL chapter leader, will also describe the history and development of the CCL and its goal: to save the planet's ecosystem and ourselves by switching to a renewable energy economy that reverses global warming. A retired air traffic controller from South Florida, where she was active leader in her community, she has now begun reestablishing the Environmental Action Committee within our Fellowship.

Introduction by: Nancy Darby

Apr 30 **CHARLES EARL: Which Nations' Governments Best Represent the Will and Welfare of the People?**

How does the U.S. compare with the most democratic nations? Is the future of our nation problematic? Charles Earl will lead a discussion on these issues. Charles grew up in rural Ohio and graduated from Bluffton College, a Mennonite College, in Ohio with a B.A. in History. He was aboard ship in the Western Pacific in the U.S. navy during the Korean conflict. He then received an M.A. in education in 1960, then serving as a high school guidance counselor for 30 years. After retiring he served as a volunteer in the GED program at Faulkner State Community College.

Introduction by: Helen Earl

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 9:45 am. Current Events discussion group 10:15 am

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

April 30: 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 March Board Meeting

- Pat Smith, Treasurer, reported that Sunday collections have been on target. Keep it up!
- Ray Ables, Chair, discussed the Declaration of Conscience and ways of notifying the larger community how we stand on the issues. In lieu of an April Board Meeting, Board Members will watch a UU Webinar about the Declaration of Conscience.
- The Strategic Planning Update resulted in five top goals to pursue, listed on page 3.
- Contact Ray Ables if you are interested in attending the UU General Assembly June 21-25 in New Orleans. Two apartments have been donated for use by our delegates. So far, Ray and his daughter Brisa plan to go as delegates.
- Keith Ward is planning a New to UU class on Saturday, April 1, from 10am to noon. New members and other interested persons are invited to attend.

Submitted by Lynne Switzky

**FUF Board Will Not Meet
in April**

Helping Hands Service

There are moments when some of us need a helping hand to fix something in or around the house. It could be as simple as exchanging a light bulb on a ceiling or a door handle or door hinge that is loose. But it also can be help to move things around or hang a painting or do something more extensive. If you have trouble doing these kinds of chores you can contact Ben Gall, our member and "handy man" or, as they are called in his native Dutch, "manus van alles."

The help is free but if you can afford it, before leaving, hand him a modest check, payable to the FUF.



The best way to contact Ben is email: bengallusa@yahoo.com but you can also call 610-889-244.

Don't be shy, Ben loves to do stuff and it keeps him out of trouble. ☺

Submitted by Ben Gall

Financial Summary February, 2017

	February	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	4,460	8,601	8,063	538
Other Revenue	793	8,930	1,500	7,430
Total Support and Revenue	5,253	17,531	9,563	7,968
Expenses				
Building	6,807	8,930	6,200	(2,730)
Committees	1,209	1,858	2,800	942
Donations	402	402	563	161
Total Expenses	8,418	11,190	9,563	(1,627)
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	(3,165)	6,341	0	6,341

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS a strategic planning meeting was held at FUF on March 5, 2017 after announcing it and publicizing it in our newsletter, and given that a number of strategic goals were voted upon at said meeting including the following top five, which garnered between five and fifteen votes each:

1. Increase community outreach and engagement (Increased visibility around issues that relate to UU values, including the climate solution proposed by Citizens' Climate Lobby)
2. Improve sanctuary (e.g. Develop a plan for building expansion –kitchen, classrooms)
3. Increase diversity of membership and be more welcoming to all community members
4. Increase number of younger FUF members, especially families with children
5. Improve environmental sustainability and efficiency of building

BE IT RESOLVED

That the FUF Board of Directors does hereby direct the FUF committee chairs to look for ways to implement said goals within their respective committees as applicable, and/or working in conjunction with other committees, and to report at a regular meeting of the FUF Board on their efforts to do so, before the end of the calendar year.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE



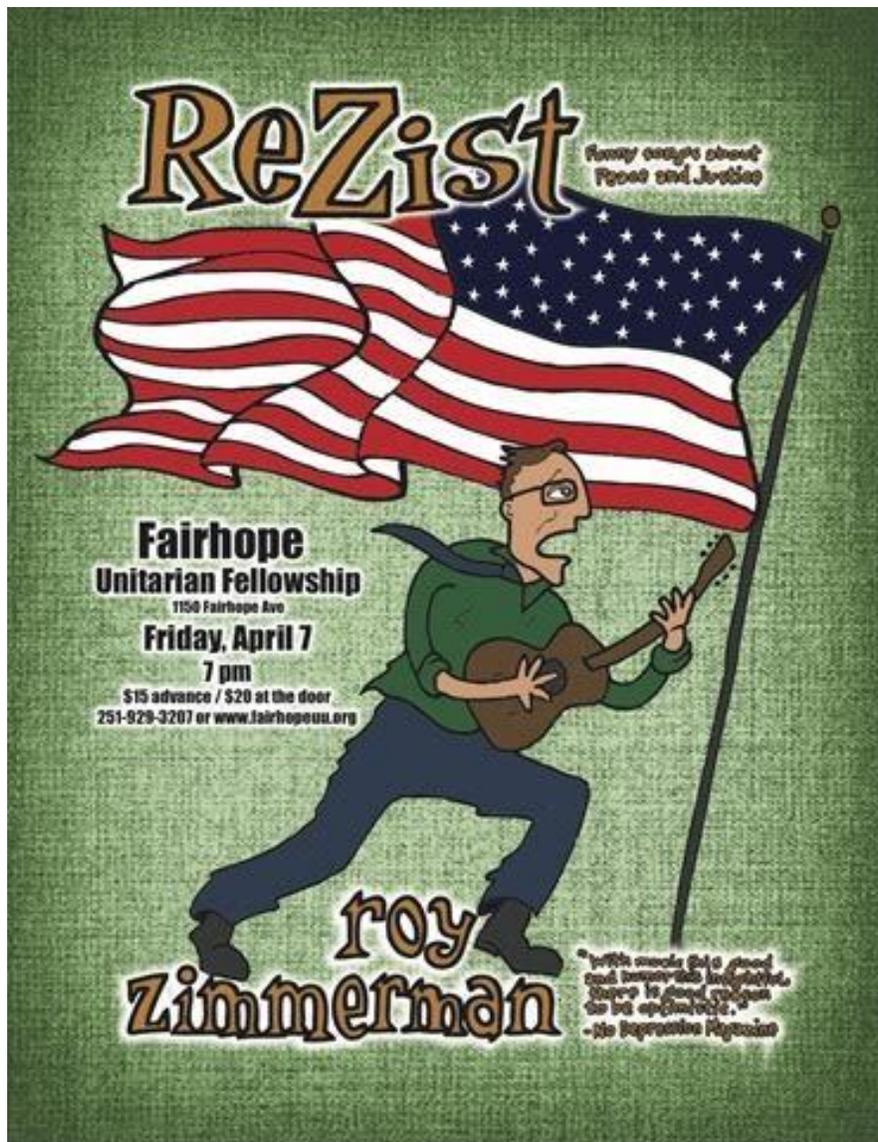
Since joining the FUF, Riva Fralick, chapter leader of the Mobile Bay Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), received the Board's approval to reinstate the Environmental Action Committee using CCL's mission and philosophy as guidance in creating the political will for a sustainable future. This is in line with the Universalist mission of exploring new ideas, searching for truth and knowledge, taking care of the Earth and being in fellowship with open-minded thinkers. At the Sunday program on April 23, using the U.U. principle of "Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We are a Part," Riva will explain the history and development of CCL and what it hopes to accomplish by lobbying for a Carbon Fee and Dividend on fossil fuels.

Riva decided to become a climate advocate after watching many movies and documentaries and hearing and reading about the man-made, rapid and irreversible effects of climate change on our beautiful planet "Spaceship Earth." She became convinced that something must be done to stop global warming before it is too late. Since then Riva has supported environmental organizations and is an active member of the Sierra Club (which meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Five Rivers Delta Resource Center from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.).

Riva is hoping to find like-minded individuals who believe we have the moral right and responsibility to ask our elected representatives to do whatever is in their power to preserve the planet for future generations. By stopping and reversing global warming to sustainable levels and switching to a renewable energy economy that stops CO2 pollution, we can save the planet's ecosystems and ourselves. The alternative is to do nothing and watch helplessly as we slowly allow ourselves to become extinct. Please contact Riva if you would like to serve on the Environment Action Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Singer songwriter Roy Zimmerman is coming back to Fairhope and will be in concert at the Fellowship Friday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m. Roy is an entertainer with a message, the focus of which is Social Justice. Advance tickets are \$15 and \$20 at the door. Advance tickets can be reserved by emailing fairhopeunitarianfellowship@gmail.com or calling [251-929-3207](tel:251-929-3207). Tickets can also be purchased at the Fellowship on Sunday, April 2nd, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. We invite everyone to join us for the concert, entitled **REZIST**, and refreshments afterward.



ReZist is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman’s original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. “Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression,” says Roy, “because in calling out the world’s absurdities and laughing in their face, I’m affirming the real possibility for change.”

Roy’s songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime. He’s shared stages with Bill Maher, Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin. He’s been profiled on NPR’s "All Things Considered," and he’s a featured blogger for the Huffington Post.

AT Auction

Sunday, April 2, 12:30

FUNDRAISER

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship
Unity Church

Featuring:

ITEMS

(anything someone else might bid on)

MEMBERS' SERVICES

(cooking, painting, yard work, etc.)

GIFTS CERTIFICATES

Also, if you have a *Specific Need*, chances are there's a member who could meet it--for the best price.



Proceeds from each item or service will go to the congregation from which it was donated.



To submit donations or needs
please contact Trudi Rogier at tarogier@yahoo.com or (251) 716-9735.

Last year we joined Unity Church for this type auction at their location. One of their members is a professional auctioneer and he was terrific. It was a lot of fun! We're hoping to have lots of donations—and bidders(!) present. Spectators are welcome too.

This year the auction will be at the Unitarian Fellowship location, which is 1150 Fairhope Avenue, in Fairhope (across from the satellite courthouse).

FUF GROUP DETAILS



FRIDAY NIGHT PICNIC

Although not an official FUF-sponsored event, many of us have enjoyed these get-togethers for many years. We meet at the far north end of the beach around 5:00 and plan to eat around 6:00. (The park closes at dark.) Everyone brings her/his own chair, drinks, plate and utensils, and a dish to share. Now that Daylight Savings Time is back, and the weather should be warm enough, we will resume and go through to the fall, weather permitting. (In the case of light rain, we meet under the pavilion.) Everyone is welcome--membership in FUF is not a requirement

NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP

Just over ten years ago the late Ed Lawrence, then the highly respected president of the FUF, asked Charlie Earl to form a Non-Fiction Book Group. From the start individualism and consensus dominated its practice. Unlike most book groups, its members do not all read the same book or author. Instead each reads and reports on whatever he or she is reading at the time. Usually it can be a book, but may be a pithy article or pamphlet. Participants summarize their reading in ten minutes or so, before general discussion. History, biography, economics, and current politics are favorite topics, but nothing is banned, except fiction.

The group meets at 9:30 every other Thursday morning in the FUF office unless public holidays clash. After a couple of hours someone will mention lunch. The hungry convivial will then adjourn to a local café chosen by consensus.

Despite its negative name, newcomers joining the Non Fiction Book Group could have a positive experience.

Submitted by Robin Fabel

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.

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

6:00 – 7:00 pm Gentle Yoga

Fridays

5:00 Friday Night Picnic at the Park

Other Events

Sun, Apr 2: FUF/Unity Church Auction, 12:30

Fri, Apr 7: Roy Zimmerman Concert, 7:00 pm

Sat, Apr 8: Game night, 6:30 pm

Thu, Apr 13: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Sat, Apr 22: Game night, 6:30 pm

Mon, Apr 24: May Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm

Thu, Apr 27: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

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 to editor at:

Janef09@gmail.com ("Newsletter" in Subject line)