



December 2016

# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

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

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**Dec 4 GWEN SNYDER: Hans Selye, Pioneering Endocrinologist and Discoverer of the Stress Syndrome**

What is stress? How does it affect our health? How do we learn to deal with it on a day-to-day basis in a positive way? Gwen Snyder will tell us what Dr. Selye had to say about the effects of stress on our bodies. A life-long Unitarian and re-emerging flute player, Gwen is also our coffee maker, greeter, dishwasher, and choir member. She and husband Phil are the former owner/operators of the local Bee Natural Farm and are now retired.

**Introduction by: Elaine Snyder-Conn**

**Dec 11 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FELLOWSHIP**

In keeping with the fifth Unitarian principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

**Dec 18 CHILDREN’S AND TEEN FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS: Holidays Around the World**

Members of the children and teen fellowships will discuss Holidays All Around the World. Lucy, Aidan, Emily and Sophia Mercer; Brisa and Linda Ables, and Emerson Willkie will talk about eight different holidays, including their only family holiday traditions. Those in attendance will be asked to join us in a musical sing along and performance.

**Introduction by Kate Mercer and Melita Willkie**

**Dec 25 RAY ABLES: A Reading**

Ray’s reading will relate to the Unitarian second principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. It will be followed by our monthly potluck with added festivity. See more “FUF Group Details” on page 6.



## 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.

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

December 25: 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](http://www/Fairhopeuu.org)

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## MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP BUSINESS

### November Board Meeting Summary

- Kay Seymour reported that contributions are still lagging behind budget projections.
- The Welcoming Committee Report for the Annual Meeting shows that the Fellowship has completed the steps to satisfy Welcoming Congregation Status from UUA.
- The Voter Registration Drive and Fish Fry brought out a lot of volunteers, good fellowship, and new voters! Thanks to everyone who helped.
- 122 persons attended the Brock McGuire Concert, and the musicians sounded great on the new sound system!
- The Quakers have asked if the Unitarian Fellowship would host a box for people to donate used stamps. The stamps can be cut from any letter. There just needs to be about a ½ inch border around the stamp. If folks don't want to cut the stamp off, they could insert the entire envelope. The stamps are sold by Right Sharing of World Resources to fund microloans to women in the third world. \$72,000 was raised in 2015. The Quakers would be responsible for collecting the stamps weekly. Board members were in general agreement. The link to Right Sharing is [www.rswr.org/](http://www.rswr.org/).

*Submitted by Lynne Switzky*

### December Board Meeting Agenda

Friday, December 9, 2016, 1:00 p.m.



1. Approve November 2016 Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Annual Meeting
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Program Committee Report
  - B. Publicity Committee Report
  - C. January Board Meeting

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*

### Financial Summary: October, 2016



	October	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Contributions	3,493	33,515	37,500	(3,985)
Other Revenue	(4)	4,017	7,500	(3,484)
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>3,489</b>	<b>37,531</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>(7,469)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Building	2,490	28,782	30,208	1,426
Committees	1,838	11,705	12,042	337
Donations	450	2,950	2,750	(200)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>43,437</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>1,563</b>
<b>Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)</b>	<b>(1,289)</b>	<b>(5,906)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(5,906)</b>

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE FELLOWSHIP**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016**

**In accordance with the Fellowship Bylaws -**

Notice of time, place, and agenda shall be given to all members at least ten days prior to all annual and special business meetings by announcement in regular non-business meetings or by written or oral communication or by e-mail.

Currently there are 126 members on the Member/Friend List of the Fellowship. In accordance with the Bylaws 30% or 38 members constitute a quorum for the Annual Business Meeting. Majority vote may decide any question unless the bylaws specify differently. Friends of the Fellowship will be welcome at all meetings and given the courtesy of the floor but may not vote.

**AGENDA**

**I. Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting minutes**

**II. Annual Treasurer's Report for 2016 – Kay Seymour**

**III. Committee Reports:**

Welcoming Committee – Congregation vote on approval of seeking Welcoming Congregation Status from the UUA

(Committee Chairs are asked to file written reports with the FUF Recording Secretary for the historical records)

**IV. Old Business: None**

**V. New Business**

**A. Report of the Nominating Committee (Nominating Committee Members: Michael Patrick – Chair; Helen Earl, Thelma Topper and Keith Ward)**

**Nominees:** President, Rodney Hoffman; Board Chair, Ray Ables; 1st Vice President, Carl Couret; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Program Chair, Don Sawyer\*\*; Treasurer, Pat Smith; Recording Secretary, Lynne Switzky; Corresponding Secretary, Diana Gardiner

\*\*Don has removed his name from consideration

According to the FUF bylaws:

1. "The committee shall nominate at least one qualified person willing to serve for each office to be filled in the succeeding annual meeting."
2. "Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election, but intent to do so and consent of those to be nominated shall be made known to the presiding officer at least one week prior to the election so that a secret ballot may be arranged for positions for which two or more persons shall have been nominated."

**B. Proposed FUF budget for 2017 –Pat Smith (Budget/Finance Committee Members: Pat Smith – Chair; Nancy Darby, Gwen Snyder and Diana Gardiner)**

**C. Strategic Plan Update – Don Sawyer**

**D. Items from the floor**

## Social Action Committee



### Fantastic Furry Friend Contest

Mabel & Mia won first place of Fantastic Furry Friends!  
Mabel, (dog) who resides with Irene & Pete Wegner and



Mia (cat) who shares her home with Mary Matthews received the most votes in their category. Thank you to everyone who participated because we raised \$500! Furthermore, we received a gift in Memory of Terry Lindquist for the Nursing Scholarship Fund. Terry was one of the people who established the nursing scholarship. Bow wow! Meow! Hooray!



### Food Collection for Holidays

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals in the collection basket in November and December. The basket is under the bulletin board in the hall.

### Guest at Your Table

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about our work to advance human rights. This year's program theme is Defying Hate, based on the recent release of the Ken Burns documentary about UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War* (on PBS). The Sharps defied hate by helping Jews and dissidents escape Nazi Germany using brave, creative methods, many of which could have caused them to be imprisoned, tortured, or worse.

UUSC, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is an independent, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) nonprofit member organization. Throughout its history, UUSC has advanced human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. The legacy of Martha and Waitstill Sharp has informed and inspired UUSC to respond to humanitarian crises, challenging modern forms of genocide and other violations of human rights. It is timely that this holiday season we carry forward the Sharp's legacy by continuing to defy hate and protect the lives and rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and other marginalized groups, both here in the United States and throughout the world. For more information, visit [www.uusc.org/gayt](http://www.uusc.org/gayt)

Ways to participate:

- Make a donation and become a member for \$40.00 -- see Donation Tally Sheet at the hall
- Shop at The Good Buy - [www.uusc.org/justice-sunday-2016/](http://www.uusc.org/justice-sunday-2016/)
- Watch the documentary, *Defying the Nazis - I T unes* or keep a look out for when it appears on PBS again.
- Read the book, *Defying the Nazis - The Sharp's War*
- Pick up a box, (guest) and set it at your dinner table to fill with your change. Turn in your box at the end of the year.

## Welcoming Committee



### New Members!

Please join the committee in welcoming our newest members: Brisa Ables, Maggie Cunningham, Lucy Mercer, Dana Roberts, and Annette Vazquez. Of course, Brisa and Lucy are familiar to us all because of their many contributions to the children's and teen's Sunday morning presentations as well as their active participation in other FUF events, but now that they are sixteen, we are happy their UU membership is official. If you need to contact either, her contact information will be a separate listing in the "Member/ Friend" list. Dana, who moved to Fairhope from New Jersey, has been a regular in the last year but, if you haven't met her and would like to, you can usually find her somewhere in the vicinity of Harvey Joanning. Those who attend the Gentle Yoga classes already know Maggie Cunningham because of her generous donation of time and expertise as their instructor. Annette, though born in Ontario, Canada, served in the U.S. Navy. Later, she was a secondary school math teacher before moving to Fairhope.

## PAST EVENT

On Monday, November 14, Don Sawyer presided at the marriage of two lovely women, Rita Hilgenhold and Linda Morris, who were finally able to publicly celebrate their 36-year relationship in a moving ceremony at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. As Don said at the ceremony, "Hopefully, we are at the point where marriage is not defined by the limited views and religious sanctions of the past, but by the love and commitment of partners entering into such a relationship." Linda and Rita had been unable to marry in their home church and reached out the FUF. It is a real joy to be able to support and help provide legal sanction to loving couples regardless of sexual orientation.



After the ceremony several FUF members shared cake (supplied by Trudi and Ellen) with the happy couple, who expressed much appreciation to the group attending and for the Fellowship's providing them this opportunity.

## UPCOMING EVENT



### Violin Concert

December 18 – 6:00 PM

As her thank you to the fellowship for fond memories as a youth attending the FUF, Sahada Buckley will give a concert of violin music on Sunday, December 18 at six o'clock at the Fellowship.

## FUF GROUP DETAILS



### CHRISTMAS DAY AT FUF

Christmas Day falls on the last Sunday of December this year, which makes it a no-brainer. Heather is planning to play for us as we sing some appropriate songs; after which we will have our pot-luck lunch, with a little extra festive atmosphere thrown in. If anyone has any ideas of after-dinner activities, please let me know. Hope you can join us!

### YOGA CLASSES RESUME IN DECEMBER

If you have been attending Maggie Cunningham's Yoga classes or want to join now, Maggie will be offering classes again on Wednesdays from 6 – 7:00 p.m. December 7 and 14. The class will not meet on December 21, 28 or January 4 but will resume on January 11th. Thanks so much to Maggie for offering these classes.

### 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!

#### 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) ("Newsletter" in Subject line)

## 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

**Thu, Dec 1:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

**Wed, Dec 7:** Gentle Yoga, 6:00-7:00

**Fri, Dec 9:** FUF Board meets, 1:00pm

**Sat, Dec 10:** Game night, 6:30 pm

**Wed, Dec 14:** Gentle Yoga, 6:00-7:00

**Thu, Dec 15:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

**Sun, Dec 18:** Violin music concert, 6:00 pm

**Mon, Dec 26:** Jan. Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm



### ATTENTION ALL CYCLISTS!

A bike rack has been suggested for the fellowship entrance. Please give your thoughts and concerns about this to the Grounds Committee c/o [otnathell@gmail.com](mailto:otnathell@gmail.com).

### 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*