



December 2017

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

www/Fairhopeuu.org

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association



Tues., Dec. 12

Dec 3 ERIC JEFFERSON: Homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties

As Chief Executive Officer of Homeless First, Eric Jefferson assists the community in identifying and creating resources to end homelessness in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. He will provide information on numbers, causes, and services in our community related to homelessness. Eric grew up in Mansfield, Ohio and with a focus on child development served as Chief Executive Officer for the Dearborn YMCA in Mobile from 2007 to 2011. He then joined Homeless First, Inc. (The Homeless Coalition) in Mobile where he focuses on obtaining resources for the homeless.

Introducer: Ken Hudson

Dec 10 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: FUF President, Rodney Hoffman, Presiding

At this meeting, expenditures and contributions will be reviewed versus the current and proposed budget for 2018. Fellowship members will also vote on new officers for the coming year. All FUF members are encouraged to participate.



Dec 17



SOPHIA, LUCY, AIDAN, AND EMILY MERCER; BRISA AND LINDA ABLES; ESHER SCHWARTZ AND KATE NELSON-DOOLEY; AND EMERSON WILKIE:
Happy Xmas and Merry New Year

Our FUF Liberal Religious Youth, will give a theatrical presentation including an Indian Santa play, poetry, a Santa comedy skit, and a song by John Lennon.

Introducers: Kate Mercer & Melita Wilkie

Dec 24 BRITISH MEMBERS OF FUF:

Traditions, Reminiscences, Festivities, Music and Memories From the UK

Dec 31 CHRISTOPHER D. SIMS: What The Beloved Community Looks Like

The Beloved Community, not reached in the 21st century, is what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. hoped for, and what Malcolm X was attempting to achieve before he died. Educator, community organizer, human rights activist, and Universalist Lay Minister, Christopher Sims will explain why we owe it to generations of young people to achieve racial equality and equity in the United States. From Rockford, Illinois, Sims is also an artist who writes poetry and songs and performs spoken word poetry, which our congregation enjoyed when he performed here in September.

Introducer: Donna Orchard

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

Teens' Fellowship 10:00 – 11:00 am. Children's Fellowship 11:00 – 12:00 pm

December 31: 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

HIGHLIGHTS of Board Meeting

November 2017

- Support and Revenue are still down, but expenses remain low, so we are still not experiencing a deficit.
- After much discussion, the Board accepted the Proposed Budget for 2018 to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on December 10.
- The Board accepted the report of the Nominating Committee. The proposed slate will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on December 10 (see p. 2)
- The search for an Education Chair continues.
- The Scholarship Committee has met twice and is working out details of the new scholarship initiative named Scholarship for FUF Seniors Accepted at a University or College. Diana Gardiner has joined the Committee. (see next col.)
- Brian Willkie presented a proposal to replace existing wireless microphones. The Board approved an expenditure of \$4,500 from reserves to purchase the needed items.

Submitted by Lynne Switzky



Committee Chair Reports

Please note that Committee Chairs are requested to submit a written report of the year's activities of their committee with the Recording Secretary (Lynne Switzky) for the Fellowship records. If you would like to make a brief report for your Committee at the Annual Meeting, please let Rodney Hoffman or Ray Ables know ASAP so that you can be added to the Annual Meeting Agenda.

December Board Meeting AGENDA

Saturday, December 9, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

1. Approve November 2017 Board meeting minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Education Chair
 - B. Scholarship Committee
4. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Annual Meeting
 - B. Building Committee Report
 - C. Program Committee Report
 - D. Membership Committee Report

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

Scholarship Initiative

We are all aware that we have some young people who will be going to a college or university in a year or two. The Board voted on August 12th to set up a fund: Scholarship for Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Students Accepted at a University or College. Research was done and parameters set. The committee members administering the Scholarship are as follows: Michael Patrick, Rodney Hoffman, Prad Mathur, Diana Gardiner, Harvey Switzky, Elaine Snyder-Conn, and Donna Orchard. FUF Treasurer, Pat Smith, is prepared to accept contributions to the fund. Please make checks payable to the FUF Scholarship Fund.

Financial Summary

	October	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	2,810	37,478	40,313	(2,835)
Other Revenue	315	5,111	7,500	(2,389)
Total Support and Revenue	3,125	42,589	47,813	(5,224)
Expenses				
Building	2,196	27,891	31,000	3,109
Committees	785	9,379	14,000	4,621
Donations	1,300	3,252	2,813	(439)
Total Expenses	4,281	40,522	47,813	7,291

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Juanie Noland (Chair), Michael Patrick, Ruth Geraci, and Harvey Joanning, proposed the following slate of officers for 2018:

President, Ray Ables
Board Chair, Keith Ward
Vice President, Carl Couret
Vice President, Programs, Donna Orchard
Corresponding Secretary, Pat Cassady
Recording Secretary, Sheena Patrick
Treasurer, Pat Smith

The slate will be voted on December 10 at the FUF Annual Business Meeting.

In accordance with Fellowship Bylaws:

1. "The [Nominating] Committee shall nominate at least one qualified person willing to serve for each office to be filled in the succeeding Annual Business Meeting."
2. "Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the time of the election, however 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."

Submitted by Juanie Noland, Chair

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



The Social Action Committee will be collecting food items in November and December for holiday meals.

We will also begin distributing collection boxes in late November for Guest at Your Table (GAYT). The contributions collected through Guest at Your Table are sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to support human rights work around the world. A member of FUF has agreed to match donations to GAYT up to \$500 as a contribution to the Nursing Scholarship at Coastal Alabama Community College.

Submitted by Harvey Switzky, Chair



UPCOMING EVENTS



GROUP TOUR OF WATER/WAYS EXHIBITION - DECEMBER 7TH, 1:30

The Smithsonian Institution will be bringing the Water/Ways exhibition to Five Rivers this fall. Shown in six cities in Alabama this year, the exhibition dives into water, an essential component of life, environmentally, culturally and historically. There will also be an exhibit of local artists' interpretations of water in our local area.

Very excited about this free opportunity, Art Committee Chair Melinda Hicks has arranged for a group tour for FUF members and friends on December 7th at 1:30. She proposes lunch at Ralph and Kacoo's on the Causeway at 11:30 beforehand. As a headcount for both the exhibit and lunch reservation is needed, Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby. There are still a few spots left, so if you wish to go with this group please add your name to the list ASAP. (See Melinda with questions.)

Those planning to go to lunch before the exhibit should meet in the UU parking lot at 11:00 am. We leave for lunch at Ralph and Kakoo's on the causeway at 11:10. Carpooling is encouraged.

NEXT ART EXHIBIT RECEPTION: JANUARY 6 - 2:30 – 4:30. Artist to be announced.

Submitted by Melinda Hicks, Chair



Start Seeing Options

Feldenkrais Method of Awareness Through Movement (sm) Workshop

Tuesday, December 12th from 10:00-12:00

Because of their movement habits, we can recognize friends and loved ones from a distance by the way they move. Habits simplify our daily routine, but sometimes there might be an easier way. Our bones are for supporting our weight, and our muscles for moving our bones around. When we use our muscles as part of our support system, we experience this as stiffness and tension. Learning where we are working unnecessarily frees us from inefficiency and gives us a feeling of balance and lightness.

Join us for a free workshop based on the work of Dr. Moshe Feldenkrais that will use small gentle movement, imagination and sensing to improve movement by becoming more aware of our habits and learning other options. This Feldenkrais Method (sm) workshop will be tailored to the student's interests and abilities.

Moshe Feldenkrais was a Ukrainian born physicist, who worked in the Joliot-Curie Radium Institute. In 1940 as the Germans arrived in Paris, he escaped to England. He became a Judo master and developed ways to deal with his knee trouble resulting from an injury. His work and writings were some of the first in the field of neuro-plasticity, the idea that the brain can rewire itself to heal injuries of the brain or the body. We naturally pick up habits of holding to protect an injury while it heals. These habits, or other random habits, can stay with us and limit our ability to move as we did when we were young. The method he developed uses small gentle movement, imagination and sensing to feed novel information to the brain so we can develop more choices in our movement. Dr. Feldenkrais often said, "I'm not after flexible bodies, but flexible brains."

Sally Locklear, Guild Certified Feldenkrais Method (sm) teacher, will lead the workshop. She first encountered the method in 1996 while seeking to treat her back spasms. She graduated from a 4-year teacher training program in Houston Texas in 2013. She teaches groups and individuals in Huntsville, AL. She is a member of Huntsville UU and the daughter-in-law of FUF member, Kay Seymour.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE

To better familiarize the congregation with this newly-formed committee, a summary of the first Annual Report appears below. Thank you, Riva Fralick, for re-establishing this committee and serving as Chair.

The FUF Board approved the re-establishment of the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) on 2/11/2017, to meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month after services.

Activities of the (usually)monthly meetings as well as community activities are as follows:

- 2/12/2017. Introductions were made and a description of the philosophy and mission of Citizens' Climate Lobby was explained.

- In April, Riva manned a table at Fairhope's Earth Day on 4/22/2017, for Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL). She also attended Rep. Bradley Byrne's town hall in Daphne and presented "Introduction to Citizens' Climate Lobby" to the FUF on 4/23/2017.

- 8/13/17. The CCL monthly call speaker was Paul Hawken, author of "Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming."

Riva attended a screening of Al Gore's new film, "An Inconvenient Sequel: Speaking Truth to Power."

Riva attended Rep. Bradley Byrne's town hall on 9/21/2017, in Silverhill, AL. She sent an email via Facebook to his office and hand-delivered a hand-written letter asking him to join the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus and support House Resolution 195, and asked him in person to support environmental protection legislation.

Notes from the Chair:

In the Winter 2017 issue of UU World magazine, in the article "Six UU leaders reflect on activism and religious identity in a racially and politically charged era," p. 31, Marilyn Sewell writes on pages 37 & 38, "While UUs, like many progressives, have been newly awakened. ... Most knew that 'climate change is a problem,' but did not understand that our use of fossil fuels is on schedule to make the earth hardly habitable." ... "Passivity is no longer an option. ... We need to commit ourselves to being 'the yeast in the loaf;' we are small in number but can be huge in influence. The times call us to do no less. ... we now must take on the role of the devoted and faithful citizen of the nation and the world, for much is at stake."

I sincerely thank everyone at the FUF for their encouragement and support. I have tried to immerse myself in all things "climate change" related. The World Meteorological Organization has said that the year 2016 had the highest CO₂ (carbon dioxide) level ever in 800,000 years and if we don't rapidly reduce CO₂ production, temperatures will rapidly rise by the end of the century.

Peter Wadham, author of "A Farewell to Ice: A Report from the Arctic," when asked about the tipping point of an irreversible process caused by stressing the planet, gave the analogy of poking a lion with a stick. He said to solve Global Warming we must: 1. Stop CO₂ production and reduce emissions, and 2. Remove CO₂ from the atmosphere.

In a recent article in Union of Concerned Scientists, Geoffrey Heal, author of 19 books, including, "Endangered Economies: How the Neglect of Nature Threatens our Prosperity," makes the economic case that switching to renewable energy sources (wind and solar) will be cheaper and cleaner and that we must take into account the economic value of the natural capital involved in our economy. "... the cost of not moving away from fossil fuels is clearly associated with huge costs from sea level rise, wild fires, droughts, potentially more serious storms, the spread of tropical and subtropical diseases, plus the extinction of a large number of species.

Respectfully submitted by Riva Fralick, 11/17/2017

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FUF ACTIVITY DETAILS



SPIRIT ENRICHMENT GROUP

Each service is a conventional UU Service with prelude, chalice lighting, a reading, inspiring music, meditation and a prayer from the UU hymnal acknowledging human suffering in the congregation and in the world. A thought provoking sermon by a UU minister follows on topics such as compassion, kindness, love, atonement, life purpose, beauty, spirituality, UU history, and theology. A closing UU hymn precedes the chalice being extinguished.

MEDITATION/DISCUSSION

The FUF Board has approved a new weekly event of meditation, presentation, and discussion proposed by Andrea Cherry. It is held on Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:45 in the Ted Talk room.

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.

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,

“FUF Newsletter” Subject In, to Janef09@gmail.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: JANE FINGER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Regularly Scheduled Events

Sundays

9:45–10:45 TED Discussion Group(Please be on time)

10:00 – 11:00 Teen’s Fellowship

10:15 Current Events Discussion Group

10:45 Pre-program Music

11:00 Sunday Program

11:00 Children’s Fellowship

2nd Sunday: Environmental Action Committee, 12:20

3rd Sunday: Social Action Committee, 12:20

Last Sunday of every month: Pot Luck Lunch, noon.

Tuesdays

3:30 – 4:30 Choir Practice

Wednesdays

10:00 – 11:30 UU Coffee Plus

3:00 – 4:30 Back Porch Folk Singers Practice

4:30 – 5:45 Meditation/ Discussion

5:00 Weekly Bulletin Deadline

6:00 – 7:00 Functional Lifestyle Yoga (Except Dec 6)

Saturdays

5:00 – 6:00 Spirit Enrichment Group

Other Events

Thu, Dec 7: Art Exhibit at Five Rivers, 1:30 pm

(optional lunch before, meet a FUF 11:00 am)

Sat, Dec 9: FUF Board meeting, 1:00 pm

Game night, 6:30 pm

Sun, Dec 10: Environmental Act. Committee, 12:20 pm

Tue, Dec 12: Feldenkrais ATM Workshop 10 - 12 noon

Thu, Dec 14: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Sun, Dec 17: Social Action Committee, 12:20 pm

Mon, Dec 18: January Newsletter deadline, 5:00 pm

Sat, Dec 23: Game night, 6:30 pm

Thu, Dec 28: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am



Need a last minute gift for someone who doesn’t want more *stuff*? Gwen Snyder’s local honey is a delicious solution. *And* it would be a gift to FUF, as Gwen is donating all proceeds toward the purchase of a programmable thermostat for our H&C system. Her honey can be purchased on Sundays from the table to the left of the coffee station.