



# FUF MONTHLY NEWS

## JULY 2025



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**Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship**  
 1150 Fairhope Ave.  
 Fairhope, AL 36532  
[www.FairhopeUU.org](http://www.FairhopeUU.org)

### A NOTE FROM THE FUF PRESIDENT

Maybe it's because I'm a former teacher and DRE (Director of Religious Education) and maybe it's because I see a LOT of visitors to our Fellowship, but it seems to me that we have an opportunity to promote and educate visitors AND members about who we are, what we believe, and how our history has shaped Unitarian Universalism.

We have some pretty cool dudes in our UU background: Channing, Emerson, Thoreau, Jefferson (maybe), Abigail Adams, Louisa May Alcott, Pete Seeger, Hosea Ballou, and Linus Pauling. The list is long and impressive AND EDUCATIONAL!

SO... my suggestion is that we use our impressive member history to share our heritage and culture. How? By naming the rooms in the Fellowship after some of these remarkable ancestors (it beats naming them "Room 1" or "Room 2.")

We have two classrooms, the sanctuary, kitchen, office, and foyer. Six opportunities! Of course, YOU play a big part in this.

We will have a list of 30 names from which you can choose 6 you want to use. Of course, being UUs, you can write in a name or lobby for a particular candidate. That's OK. You will have until July 20th to turn in your ballot. You can detach and use the ballot list on page 2, pick up one at the Fellowship (ballots and pens will be available in the foyer), by voting online: <https://forms.gle/LUQp1dpwHu1v97JK7>, or scanning the code with your phone:



(Continued on page 2)

Please SIGN your ballot. Oh! And only one ballot per person (this isn't Chicago).

Democracy is a long and sometimes messy process. We'll use it anyway—it's in our Principles. A sub-committee of the Board will tally the votes and determine the best placement of the winners.

If you want more information about some of the people on the list, please Google them at UUA.org. There's plenty of information there. Enjoy the search. You will enrich your knowledge and the story of UU personalities.

Blessings be,

UU Name Selection for FUF Room Naming

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\*One vote per FUF member)



Select **six (6)** names (you may write in names of other famous UUs that you'd like to suggest)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Quincy Adams       | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Cabot Cary         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pete Seeger      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisa May Alcott       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dorathea Dix                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Servetus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan B. Anthony        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ralph Waldo Emerson          | <input type="checkbox"/> Adlai Stevenson  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosea Ballou            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sophia Fahs                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Stowe      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Blackwell     | <input type="checkbox"/> Fanny Farmer                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Henry Thoreau    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> P.T Barnum              | <input type="checkbox"/> Buckminster Fuller           | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitney Young    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clara Barton            | <input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Fuller              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bela Bartok             | <input type="checkbox"/> Francis Ellen Watkins Harper | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Olympia Brown           | <input type="checkbox"/> Julia Ward Howe              | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maja Capek              | <input type="checkbox"/> Florence Nightingale         | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Norbert Capek           | <input type="checkbox"/> Linus Pauling                | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> William Ellery Channing | <input type="checkbox"/> Joseph Priestley             | <input type="checkbox"/> _____            |

## SMALL GROUP CIRCLES



The afternoon Circle will meet at the Joffe's in Daphne on **Wednesday, July 16 at 1:30pm.**

The evening Small Group Circle will meet at Suzanne Tormoen's home on **Tuesday, July 22 at 6:30pm.**

The topic for July is "Connection."

To join, an empty chair awaits you.

**For more information, contact:**

⇒ **Mary Anderson—251.346.6638**

⇒ **Maggie Joffe—678.910.2762**

⇒ **Joanne Preston — 831.402.4997**

⇒ **Vivian McMurray 251.232.2841**

## Little Free Pantry



Now that schools are out for the summer, we will likely have a greater need for our pantry. Please consider donating nonperishable, kid-friendly snacks and drinks. **Single-serve** snacks and items that kids can prepare on their own are especially helpful. Some suggestions include:

- Apple sauce cups and squeeze packs
- Breakfast/granola bars
- Trail mix
- Goldfish packs
- Veggie Straws
- Cracker packs
- Sports drinks
- Juice packs
- Chef Boyardee and similar meals (the ones in the plastic bowls are ideal for kids)
- Cereal

## Upcoming FUF Events

**Sunday, July 27** — Hiryoa Tsukamoto concert

**Saturday, September 20** — Standup Comedy Night

**Saturday, October 4** — Pop-Up Art Event featuring Pinky Bass and other artists





# Hiroya Tsukamoto

## LIVE IN CONCERT

Sunday July 27  
2pm

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship  
1150 Fairhope Ave.

Hiroya Tsukamoto, award-winning, world renown, finger-style guitarist, in concert:

### "A Journey Through Strings and Stories"

Tickets: \$20 at the door

Advance tickets on the website: \$15

Children are welcome, and children 13 and under enter free

**Hiroya Tsukamoto**, fabulous modern and classical guitarist, is coming to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship on Sunday, July 27, at 2:00 pm. Hiroya was very well received several years ago at FUF. His music enchanted us, and it promises to again resonate long after the final note is played.

Hiroya Tsukamoto, a Japanese-born, finger-style guitarist who moved to the United States in 2000, brings a masterful music like evocative storytelling, surpassing cultures. His artistry, honed at the prestigious Berklee College of Music (Boston), has been celebrated on renowned stages like the Blue Note in New York City, the International Storytelling Center, and at the United Nations. He placed second in the International Fingerstyle Guitar Championship both in 2018 and 2022. His music is acclaimed for being "delicate, fluid, orchestral-sounding, and beautifully detailed" by Acoustic Guitar magazine.

Hiroya Tsukamoto, website and social media links:

[www.hiroyatsukamoto.com](http://www.hiroyatsukamoto.com) [www.facebook.com/HiroyaMusic](https://www.facebook.com/HiroyaMusic) [https://www.instagram.com/hiroya\\_tsukamoto/](https://www.instagram.com/hiroya_tsukamoto/)

Please be sure to tell your friends and to bring your friends and families! Children 13 and under are free. Let's fill the Fellowship Hall.

\*See the links to his website and YouTube for samples of his work.

\*See Jeanine DrJazz Normand to pay cash or see our FUF website for advance tickets at a discount.

## Pop-Up Art Event

On **Saturday October 4, 2025**, FUF will host an Arts Fundraiser. Plan to contribute paintings, sculptures, and art works of various media, as well as art supplies and pieces you have that are ready to be recycled. More info to follow.

Pinky Bass ([moosepinky@earthlink.net](mailto:moosepinky@earthlink.net))



## Artist Spotlight

**Richard Radcliff**



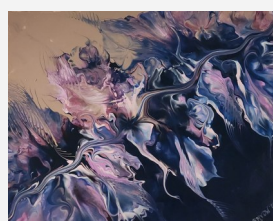
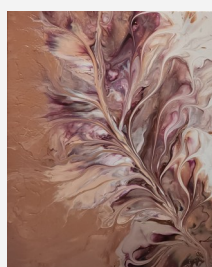
**Shawn VanDeWater**

### **Richard (Dick) Radcliff:**

My God-given talent was first evident in grade school, however, I did not pursue a career in art. The balance of my years in school were devoted preparing for a career in engineering. After graduating from college, my time was spent raising a family and practicing civil-structural engineering. My artwork was limited to wall murals at home for our children's bedrooms and later murals for grandchildren and for our home decor.

The last few years of my career I started painting with oil pastels. After retirement, time was available to pursue charcoal drawings, oil pastels, and, ultimately, wood carving and acrylic painting on wood and canvas.

Most of my artistic efforts have been to support church programs, i.e. vacation Bible Schools, visual aids for Bible studies, etc. In the past few years, I have carved wood and painted with acrylics when commissioned and for our home decor.



### **Shawn VanDeWater:**

I have always been able to “color in the lines” as a younger person. I dabbled in ceramics for a time, had a small business in South Dakota doing arrangements and wedding flowers in silks. So I have always been able to put some colors together.

After retiring and moving to Alabama with my husband and my father, I decided to try my flare at painting with dad and found that I really enjoy it and have a bit of talent. Though our art is very different, we love the time and collective process together now as we work independently in our craft room.



# July Programs



**Phil Strniste**

**July 6**

## Wisdom of a “Prosumer”

For over two years beginning in 1982, Phil and his wife, Gwen, helped build the passive solar house in Fairhope that Gwen’s father, Bayne, had designed with his wife, Annabelle. At the time of construction, inclusion of a photovoltaic component was often mentioned but was never incorporated.

Phil and Gwen have lived in this house since 2012, and in 2021 added a 5.1 kW photovoltaic system to the structure. About one third of the energy generated by this system sustains them, with the rest being fed back to the grid for a modest profit; hence they have become a **PRO**ducer + con**SUM**ER of electricity, or a “prosumer.”

His program will include coverage of their pathway to this achievement, as well as how becoming a “prosumer” has changed their thinking about the electric power upon which our lives depend.

Phillip Strniste has been a member of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship since 1982. He has a background in Mathematics (B.S. 1976) and Horticulture (M.S. 1987). For twenty years he together with his wife, Gwen Snyder, earned their living by running a Community Supported Agricultural project in the Fairhope area. In retirement he enjoys being an active member of this fellowship, staying fit, singing folk music, and volunteering where needed.

**July 13**

## The Writers Around Me

For the past year, Alan has been researching and writing about Fairhope’s rich literary culture, including writers, editors, publishers, librarians, and bookstores. He will tell true stories of Fairhope’s literary beginnings with Marie Howland and Upton Sinclair through today’s local writers, including Sonny Brewer, Fannie Flagg, and so many more.

Alan Samry is a writer, librarian, public historian, and author of Fairhope Past and Present, Mapping Fairhope, and Stump the Librarian (a memoir and history of leg amputees, published in 2018). Alan and his wife, Susan, have called Fairhope home since 2005.

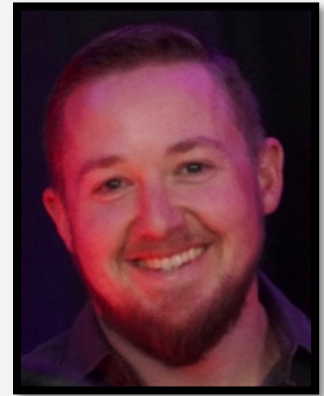


**Alan Samry**

**July 20****Impacting Special Needs in Our Community**

The American Autism & Rehabilitation Center in Daphne provides a full spectrum of therapies for people with special needs—speech, occupational, physical, and applied behavior analysis—all under one roof. The foundation offers additional resources, community connections, practical assistance, and so providing holistic support.

Kevin Mohler is an entrepreneur and President of the American Autism & Rehabilitation Foundation, leading the American Autism & Rehabilitation Center and the digital finance agency, DeFiancy. He is passionate about health, fitness, ministry, and personal development. David lives on a homestead farm in Bay Minette, Alabama, with his family and five dogs.

**Kevin Mohler****July 27****Today's Vaping and Narcan Issues****Michael Cook****Robin Snider**

Michael Cook and Robin Snider will discuss current issues facing our youth and young adults including vaping, Narcan, and good and bad choices.

Mike Cook is director of Baldwin Services at the Drug Education Council in Robertsdale.

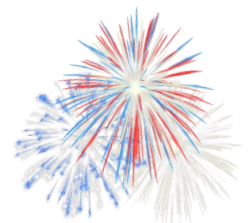
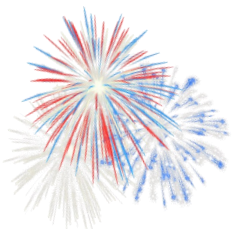
Robin Snider is a retired Daphne Police Officer (30 years) and a college grad from Concordia University Nebraska. He currently works with Baldwin County Community Alliance (BCCA).

Join us for Fellowship every Sunday!

(Note: There will not be a musical prelude during the summer)

11:00am—Program with Guest Speaker

Coffee Hour to Follow (Potluck will be on **July 20** this month)



# FUF Groups

*All are welcome to join any group!*

## Weekly

### Silent Meditation Group

The TED Talk room will be open for silent meditation beginning at 9:45am on Sundays. It will not be guided or linked to any method or religion. All are welcome and may come and go at will provided they respect silence.

Contact: Nick Coulson

### Uke Open Jam

Meets every Monday from 2-4pm. All are invited to come jam with us.

Contact: Carl Couret

### Men's Discussion Group

Join us every Tuesday at 9am at the Kind Café in Fairhope. Contact: Don Joffe

### Thursday Group

Meets every Thursday 5pm at the Market by the Bay on Church Street. Contact: Michael Patrick

## Bi-weekly

### Women of Wisdom Discussion Group

WoW meets every other Thursday at 11am in the TED Talk room. Members select the topic. Lunch to follow at a local restaurant. For more info contact Jane Finger janef09@gmail.com or just show up!

## Monthly

### Non-Fiction Book Group

Meets at 9:30am on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Contact: Robin Fabel or Michael Patrick

### Small Group Circles

Evening Circle meets 6:30pm on 7/22  
at Suzanne Tormoen's home

Afternoon Circle meets 1:30pm on 7/16  
at the Joffe's home

### Fiction Book Group

Meets at 3:30pm monthly on the 4th Wednesday.

Contact: Nick Coulson



## Cares and Concerns

If you experience a health setback and could use some assists or if you know of a Fellowship friend or member who is experiencing such setback, the Care and Concerns Team is here to help. Team members and friends can provide meals, transportation, cards of support, and/or visits while you are on the mend.

Call/text Susan Hammack @ 205-527-3328


Email the Fellowship office [office@fairhopeuu.org](mailto:office@fairhopeuu.org)

or leave a voicemail at 251-929-3207.

**You are not alone. We are in this together.**





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>  <b>9am-Men's Group</b> (Kind Café)	<b>2</b>  <b>3pm-4:30pm-Back</b> Porch Folk Singers	<b>3</b>  <b>9:30am-Non-Fiction Group</b>  <b>5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>1pm-ESIC</b>  	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>  <b>9:45-Silent Meditation</b> <b>11:00-Program</b>	<b>7</b>    <b>2pm-Uke Open Jam</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>9am-Men's Group</b> (Kind Café)	<b>9</b>    <b>3pm-4:30pm-Back</b> Porch Folk Singers	<b>10</b>  <b>11am-Women of Wisdom</b>  <b>5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>12:30pm-Board Meeting</b>  <b>1pm-ESIC</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  <b>9:45-Silent Meditation</b> <b>11:00-Program</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>10am—2pm ES Music Classes</b>  <b>2pm-Uke Open Jam</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>9am-Men's Group</b> (Kind Café)	<b>16</b>  <b>10am—2pm ES Music Classes</b> <b>1:30pm— Small Group Circle @ the Joffee's home</b> <b>3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers</b>	<b>17</b>    <b>5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>1pm-ESIC</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>12:45pm-4pm-Grandmother's Circle Group</b>
<b>20</b>  <b>9:45-Silent Meditation</b> <b>11:00-Program</b> <b>Potluck Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>10am—2pm ES Music Classes</b>  <b>2pm-Uke Open Jam</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>9am-Men's Group</b> (Kind Café)  <b>6:30pm— Small Group Circle @ the Suzanne Tormoen's home</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>10am—2pm ES Music Classes</b> <b>3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers</b> <b>3:30pm-Fiction Book Group</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>11am-Women of Wisdom</b>  <b>5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>1pm-ESIC</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>9:45-Silent Meditation</b> <b>11:00-Program</b> <b>2pm-Hiryoa Tsukamoto</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>2pm-Uke Open Jam</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>9am-Men's Group</b> (Kind Café)	<b>30</b>  <b>3pm-4:30pm-Back Porch Folk Singers</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>5pm-Thursday Group (FH Market by the Bay)</b>	<b>*All events are at FUF unless otherwise noted.</b>	

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## Deadlines for Publications

### Weekly Bulletin and FUF Weekender

**Wednesdays by 5pm**

Submit to Mary Matthews: [matthewsmary29@yahoo.com](mailto:matthewsmary29@yahoo.com)

### August Newsletter

**Submit by July 23**

Email your UU-relevant articles, bits of wisdom, scheduled events, quotes, poems, or images!

Submit to Ashley Weller: [Office@FairhopeUU.org](mailto:Office@FairhopeUU.org)

*Thank you*  
for reading!

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## Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

### **Mission Statement:**

To explore new ideas,  
To search for truth and knowledge,  
To take care of the Earth,  
To enjoy fellowship with open-minded thinkers,  
To support and care for each other,  
And to create an atmosphere of love and  
understanding among our members and for those  
who come after us.

### **Vision Statement:**

Grounded in love,  
guided by reason,  
committed to spiritual growth and justice.

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*Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship welcomes and embraces  
people of any age, race, gender identity or expression,  
sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, language,  
or cultural background.*