



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

BUD GARDNER: “Revisiting the Four Domains of Truth”

Jan.6

There are four independent and irreconcilable domains of truth: Rhetorica, Mystica, Logica, and Empirica. Each has its own unique test of truth, so what is true in one domain is unlikely to be true in the others. Until we recognized the four different types of truth, we will never understand why we disagree--or for that matter, why we agree.

Introduction: Gail Gardner

ALICE SEBRELL & ANN EHRINGHAUS: “Eye on the Art”

Jan.13

Alice Sebrell is an exhibiting artist who will give us a brief history of Black Mountain College. The college remained throughout its history a unique experiment in American education with an uncommon vitality and responsiveness. Ann Ehringhaus, another honored exhibiting artist and Alice's sister, will give us insight into the 'Meditation on Auschwitz,' relating her artwork to its impact on our individual and collective conscience.

Introduction: Pinky Bass

REV. JANE THICKSTUN: “Hell and Damnation”

Jan.20

Rev. Thickstun, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, Michigan, is on sabbatical, working in New Orleans with the UU Service Committee. Her discussion will focus on the Christians' concept of hell: where people who misbehave or don't believe properly are sent for an eternal punishment in a fiery blaze. Unitarian Universalists don't believe in hell. Thus, how does our theological outlook compare to those who do? Are we missing out on an important motivation for life, or do we have something that motivates better?

Introduction: Heather Nutting

Jan.27

TESS WACHER: “The Psychology of Women”

Tess Wacher has integrated several career choices. She is an artist, recreational therapist and an Instructor of Women's Studies, thus blending the arts and humanities with the social and behavioral sciences. The 'Psychology of Women' is no easy subject and the role of today's women in society is dynamic. Ms. Wacher's discussion may include such topics as career choice and training; management and performance; education; lifespan role development and change; and physical and mental health and well-being.

Introduction: Holly Couret

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the January 27th program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and good conversations.

Sunday Service 11 a.m., 1150 Fairhope Ave.

Adult discussion group meets each Sunday at 10 a.m. Come join us!

Write 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Tel. 251-929-3207. Visit our website at

www.fairhopeuu.org

Spirituality Discussion Group May Be Formed

The Third Unitarian Universalist Principle reads: “**A cceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.**”

Are you interested in exploring this aspect of UUism in a discussion group?

The Unitarian Universalist Association Bookstore has an assortment of possible guides for such a discussion. Possibilities include:

Spirituality for the Skeptic: The Thoughtful Love of Life by R.C. Solomon. Examining the ideas of great thinkers from Socrates and Nietzsche to Buddha and Kafka, the author explores a modern spirituality that encompasses enthusiasm for the world, transformation of self, rationality, and more.

Everyday Spiritual Practice: Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life edited by S.W. Alexander. Contributors suggest ways to integrate your heartfelt beliefs into your daily life. Practicing martial arts, fasting, and quilting are just a few of the ways they've found to make every day more meaningful and satisfying.

A Walk with Four Spiritual Guides: Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Ramakrishna by Andrew Harvey. This book is described: Four spiritual guides, four classic texts, timeless wisdom for our complicated world introduced by one of today's great teachers of spirituality.

The proposal is to gather at least four and no more than ten Fellowship members and Friends to explore aspects of spirituality using one of these books. If you are interested, send an email to uuruthg@gulftel.com

If there is enough interest, we will get RE Committee approval, then meet briefly on a January Sunday at 12:15 to select a guidebook and a mutually convenient time

When Peace Breaks Out

What to make of barbed wire
cats-cradled on criss-crossed fence posts
when the cattle have all been slaughtered
and the chickens plucked for the pot?

What forgotten mines
seed the melon vines?

What unexploded mortars
hide between the rows of sweet peas,
seemingly waiting
for the heel of a hoe?

Where does the war go
when the troops have looped
their dog tags on splintered crosses,
and holly hocks and prim roses
nose between the rocks of bunkers?

Where does war go
when children shame the killing fields
with their laughter
and farmers after vermin
startle at the sound of their own guns?

Once peace has begun, war slumbers
in the embers of the evening fire,
aspiring to dreams breathed in tobacco smoke,
remembered as a legend in the bottom of a beer.

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Help Wanted: SAC Chairperson

Are you interested in leading the way for social action in our Fellowship? A new chairperson is needed for the Social Action Committee. Contact Ruth Geraci if you're interested.

Art Reception Jan. 12 Honors Two North Carolina Artists

Saturday, January 12, the Fellowship will host the opening of an exhibition entitled *Seek and Hide*. The artists are Alice Sebrell and Ann Ehringhaus, sisters whose artwork speaks to this theme. An opening reception honoring these artists will be held from 3 – 5 p.m. at the Fellowship. The Unitarian String Ensemble will provide music for this event.

Alice's work called *Secrets* is a series of photographs about the peculiar phenomenon in which humans hide things from themselves and others for reasons including self-protection and self-delusion. Using sculpturally altered animal forms as subject matter, with text added to the image later, the work poses a series of questions about our hidden history and what we feel we must do to survive.

Ann's body of work emerges for her insights and experiences after attending an interfaith meditation retreat in Auschwitz, Poland where she met descendants of those who had been on different sides of the war. She saw and heard that the effects of war continue to live in the hearts, minds, bodies and spirits of the next generations.

Ann Ehringhaus resides on North Carolina's Outer Banks and has been exhibiting her photography since 1987. She is included in a number of permanent collections. She is author and photographer of *Ocracoke Portrait*,

a personal look at this unique community where Ann owns and operates Oscar's House Bed and Breakfast. She has been studying holistic healing for the last eighteen years and received her Doctorate in Ministry in 2006.

Alice Sebrell is currently the Program Director of the Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center in Asheville, NC. She received her BFA from the University of Delaware and an MFA in Photography from The Savannah College of Art and Design. She has received numerous grants, exhibited

collections including The Asheville Art Museum, R.J. Reynolds, Davidson College and the Bank of America. Admission: Free (donation suggested).

– Pinky Bass

Two Documentaries to be Shown in January

The First Saturday documentary movie series begins the new year at 7 p.m. Saturday, January 5 with a 2007 film entitled **In Debt We Trust: America Before the Bubble Bursts.**

Inspired by Robert Manning's book *Credit Card Nation*, this film reveals how credit card companies, lobbyists, media conglomerates and government officials have acted to deregulate the lending industry, contributing to a culture of credit dependency. Many Americans are maxing out their credit cards, living beyond their means, and are unable to make the minimum monthly payments. As the US national and consumer debt escalates, our interconnected global economy is at risk.

Documentary on Genocide Jan. 19

Sponsored by our Social Action Committee, this movie tells of the heroic saga of Unitarian Service Committee founders the Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp. They went to Europe in 1939 to rescue Jews and political dissidents from the Nazis, is now being told in a new documentary, **Heroes of the Spirit: Genocide Then, Genocide Now.** The 30-minute film takes viewers along on the Sharps' often clandestine World War II rescue missions, and tells how their work led to the formation of what later became the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The movie discusses the current genocide in Darfur. Contributions at this movie will be donated to the UUSC. – Ed Lawrence

Travel Opportunity: Meet the UUs of the Philippines

Next March the Unitarian Universalist Partnership Church Council (UUPCC) will sponsor a trip to the Philippines. Join us to experience a remarkable culture and place that is home to more than 2,000 Unitarian Universalists. Our visit will introduce you to the fledgling UU churches of Metro Manila and afford you an opportunity to experience both historical and progressive Manila. Then you will fly over many of the more than 7,000 islands of the Philippines to reach the university town of Dumaguete City on Negros Island. The UU Church of the Philippines is headquartered there and you will be warmly welcomed.

Once in Dumaguete, you will be able to tour Silliman University, their Marine Laboratory and mini-Zoo. A visit to the seaside Boulevard in downtown Dumaguete and an evening dinner at the UUCP which highlights information about the history of the UU Church of the Philippines will conclude your first full day on Negros Island. The following morning you will leave for a three-day visit to congregations on the island.

Once back in Dumaguete, you will have relaxation time and another dinner at the UUCP Headquarters where you will learn about the programs and the ministry of the church.

The following day will be a day of rest or exploration. The final morning you will learn about the future plans of the UUCP. That afternoon you will take a return flight to Manila, then leave for the States the next day.

The trip begins in Manila March 4 and concludes March 15. Cost per person is \$1450 which includes an \$80 registration fee. It does not include your travel expenses to and from Manila, alcoholic beverages, gifts, airport fees on your trip home or meals before the 5th or after the 14th. A single

will be \$200. There will be an add-on expense for the optional trips to Apo Island or Seguijor (either \$25 or \$45). It does include your flight to Negros and back, all ground transportation (we will be traveling in vans), all meals and accommodations at night. All accommodations will be in hotels. Your primary trip guides will be Rev. Nihal Attanayake, the head of the UUCP Faith in Action Department, and Lee Boeke Burke, UUPCC Outreach Coordinator. We will have additional travel and cultural information for all interested travelers. The trip size will be between 8 and 14 persons.

Preliminary interest has been high so please contact Lee Boeke Burke, chickadeetree@earthlink.net, if you are interested and she will get you a registration form or keep your eye on the UUPCC website for the form which will be there soon. Please also contact Lee Boeke Burke with questions.

– information provided by the UUPCC

Staged Reading of Play Planned for January

Coming on a Sunday afternoon in January: the first public, staged reading of *Yalta*, a play by Fellowship Member Bert Brun, about the last meeting of the Big Three– FDR, Churchill, and Stalin– during WWII, that changed the course of world history.

This fascinating play will be read by FUF members Robin Fabel, Bud Gardner, Michael Patrick, Thelma Topper, Nancy Martin and others.

Bert Brun and Edith Hinrichs, who will be directing this reading, would appreciate your attendance and feedback about the play during an open discussion following the performance.

Announcements regarding the exact date and time of this event will be made soon.

Your Social Action Committee Reports

Welcome 2008, a year for us to work toward improvement of our worrisome world. It is with regret I give up the chairmanship of the Social Action Committee because its very purpose means so much and because I have enriched my own life in its pursuit. I know that there are many people in our membership who share in this concern and this interest; I trust a few of them will volunteer to work together, sharing tasks, to maintain our momentum and increase effectiveness. Please do speak to Ruth Geraci of your interest.

You will be pleased to know that we sold \$528 in Christmas cards to benefit UUSC, with only six boxes left to return for credit. A mailing from UUSC announces that Justice Sunday in March (on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King) will spotlight the price of the Iraq war, both at home and abroad. To date the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have cost \$1.6 trillion, an average of \$46,400 per U.S. family.

Information About The Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse is Baldwin County's domestic violence and rape crisis service agency which opened in September 1994. It serves women and children with a wide

serves well over 1,000 people a year, victim shelter and transitional housing, individual counseling and support groups, court advocacy and a children's program, in-service training to relevant community agency staffs, a speaker's bureau, an elementary school program, a dating violence/date rape program and a sexual assault program. That's a lot!

In 2006 there were over 800 assaults reported in Baldwin County and more than 28,000 in Alabama, 88% against women. It's estimated only 60% of family violence victimization and 49% of family violence crimes recorded by police result in an arrest.

Non-Fiction Discussed Twice a Month



New participants are always welcome at the Non-Fiction Book Discussion, which meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month starting at 9:30 a.m. Bring your favorite work of non-fiction to share.

Join Us at Game Night

Game Night is a great way to meet Fellowship members and friends – come join in the fun starting 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.



Game Night is held on the second and fourth Saturday nights of each month. For information contact Ruth Geraci, 251-970-3407 or

Authors Discussion Group

The Authors Discussion Group, which meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m., has selected authors for winter reading:

Jan. 10: Chris Bohjalian, discussion led by Pam Perkins

Feb. 14: Maya Angelou, discussion led by Ruth Geraci

The group welcomes new members to its discussion, which starts at 9:30 a.m.

– Diane Ehlers

Dream Travels Presents "Musical Postcards" Jan. 13 at FUF

Sunday, January 13, at 3:00 pm, the Heim Duo— Annette Heim, flute, Bret Heim, classical guitar— will perform musical postcards evocative of some of the world's most romantic and historic cities. The concert features music of Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Jean-Michel Damase. The Castelnuovo-Tedesco *Sonatina* radiates both the warmth of the Tuscan countryside and the fire of his Castilian heritage. The Damase *Quatre facettes* elicits the romance and joie de vivre of Paris.

The Heim Duo will also feature selections from Stephen Paulus's *Fantasy in Three Parts* and a delightful musical escapade to Stratford on Avon, Rio de Janeiro, and Seville, Spain in the concert finale, *Dream Travels*, by flutist-composer Gary Schocker. The Heim Duo has been featured on the internationally syndicated program Classical Guitar Alive. Pan Magazine of the British Flute Society called their performance of Robert Baksa's *Celestials* "a dazzling performance of a dazzling work!" The Duo was invited to perform at the 2004 National Flute Association Convention in San Diego, California.

The Duo presented a series of concerts of American works for flute and guitar in London and the surrounding area in summer of 2006. Their performance at the National Czech and Slovak Museum was described as "absolutely astonishing! The Duo's compact disc *Celestials* (Nomad Classics) features works by living American composers, including the first recording of Baksa's *Celestials*. The *Memory of a Dance* (Centaur 2559) features premiere recordings of works by English guitarist-composer John Duarte. **Admission: Free (donation**

Editor's Note: Special Thanks to new Fellowship member Jewel Lee for her assistance in laying out this issue of the Fellowship Newsletter. – RG

Mark Your Calendar

- Tue., Jan. 1:** Knitting Group, 1-3 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 1: Fellowship Choir rehearsal, 3 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 2: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 3: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.
Thur., Jan. 3: Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 4: FUF Board meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Sat., Jan. 5: Movie, *In Debt We Trust* 7 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 8: Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 8: FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 9: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 10: Authors Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.
Thur., Jan. 10: Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 12: Art Reception, 3-5 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 12: Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 13: Concert at FUF, 3 pm.
Tue., Jan. 15: Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 15: FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 16: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
Thur., Jan. 17: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.
Thur., Jan. 17: Men's Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 19: Movie, *Heroes of the Spirit*, 7 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 21: Knitters' Group, 1-3 p.m.
Tue., Jan. 21: Fellowship Choir rehearsal, 3 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 23: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 26: Game Night, 6:30-9 p.m.

NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month. 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 in the newsletter as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

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