

January 2009



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Jan. 4 THE REVEREND JUDIPURCELL: “Are You Magic or Muggle?”

Harry Potter, a series of seven fantasy novels written by J.K. Rowling, is a worldwide phenomenon. Anything that so thoroughly captures the attention of our collective consciousness needs to be looked at to see what it is saying to us. There is so much energy and enthusiasm about these books and movies – they must be telling us something about ourselves and our own lives. Rev. Purcell will explore this hero’s journey.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Jan. 11 BOB GEROLD: “The Challenge of Aging Gracefully”

We're all going to be challenged with the fact of aging, whether we do it gracefully or not. Come hear Bob Gerold talk about this universal quandary and what we might do to prepare for the inevitable. He will read excerpts from his local Pensacola newspaper column.

Introduction: Ruth Geraci

Jan. 18 ROBIN FABEL: “The U.S. Constitution of 1787: Compromise, Conflict, and Consequences”

Our most prized constitutional guarantees, like freedom of speech, religion, the press, and from cruel and unusual punishments, were not in the 1787 constitution. They were added only because several states refused to ratify the original document without them. The compromises implicit in the original constitution ensured disproportionate Southern influence in the Presidency, in Congress, and in the law courts from 1789 until 1861.

Introduction: Katherine Thompson

Jan. 25 CARL COURET: “Hurricanes, South Baldwin County, and Alabama Beach Mouse”

In this presentation, Carl Couret, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, will discuss the history of hurricane occurrences in Alabama and the effects of recent hurricanes on the south Baldwin County coastline, particularly beach and dune habitats along the Fort Morgan Peninsula. One special component of this coastal ecosystem affected by hurricanes and dune destruction is the federally protected Alabama beach mouse. Couret will also discuss hurricane effects on dune plants and other wildlife species in this coastal ecosystem.

Introduction: TBA

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the January 25 program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and conversation.

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

Adult discussion group meets each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Children’s Fellowship each Sunday 11 a.m. -12 noon. Come join us!

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

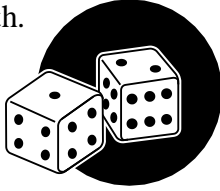
www.fairhopeuu.org

GAME NIGHT TWICE EACH MONTH

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 uuruthg@gulftel.com.



– Submitted by Ruth Geraci

NEWLY ELECTED 2009 OFFICERS

The newly elected officers of the Fellowship for 2009 are as follows:

President: Robin Fabel

Chairman of the Board: Michael Patrick

Vice President: Jack Gooding

Vice President for Programs: Katherine Thompson

Treasurer: Kay Seymour

Recording Secretary: Pam Perkins

Corresponding Secretary: Jill Teumer

Past President: Ruth Geraci

At-large Members of the Board: To be selected in January

– Submitted by Ruth Geraci

Financial Statement for November, 2008

	Nov	YTD Thru 11/30	Budgeted Thru 11/30	Overage/ (Deficit)
BUDGETED RECEIPTS				
Contributions (unrestricted)	3,461	34,219	36,667	(2,448)
Other Receipts	572	5,517	5,500	17
TOTAL BUDGETED RECEIPTS	4,033	39,736	42,167	(2,431)
EXPENDITURES				
Building	1,768	21,113	23,192	(2,078)
Committees	1,111	8,570	13,017	(4,447)
Donations	550	3,814	5,958	(2,144)
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	3,429	33,497	42,167	(8,670)
NET BUDGETED INFLOW/OUTFLOW	604	6,238	0	6,238
SPECIAL PROJECTS				
Contributions (special funds)	120	3,560		
Special Project Expenditures	808	11,806		
TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS	(688)	(8,246)		
INTEREST EARNED ON CD'S & MM		2,691		

– Submitted by Kay Seymour

WELCOME NEW MEMBER MARY BRANCH ALTHERR

A great-grandmother and legally blind, Mary is not as active as she once was. She was born in Kokomo, IN, and attended high school there during The Big War. After graduation, she married her husband, Jack, a returning World War 11 veteran. Jack and Mary celebrated 60 years of marriage in June 2007.

When Jack graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington, the two were parents of a two-year old son and a newborn son. Later, another son was born in Huntsville, AL. There Mary was a homemaker, club woman, tennis and bridge player, and a volunteer in work such as Cub den mother (three times), Pink Lady at the hospital, and work for the Red Cross in its school clinic.

Not until the family moved to Tuscaloosa did she begin college classes at age 46, a new grandmother. Relocating again, to Cullman, she finished an associate degree in business administration, Magna Cum Laude, at Wallace Community College. Then she enrolled at Southern Benedictine College as an English major. After a year of study, the college closed its doors due to financial difficulties. At this point, she began writing seriously.

Moving once more, to Point Clear, she attended classes at USA, mainly creative writing, where she reached senior status with a GPA of 3.9+. Mary is a strong advocate of higher education for women.

A member of The Pensters, she has written numerous short stories and published a western and a romance/intrigue novel. Another novel is finished but no yet published.

Her son, Jack Jr., is a CPA/Corporate Executive, following his dad; Jeffrey (deceased) was a promising artist; and Joel was in New York City seeking fame and fortune as an actor/singer. He now is an engineer with the utilities of Gainesville, GA, and performs in community theaters in the area. There are three grandchildren, three great-grand daughters and one great-

Mary is pleased to have joined Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship and also enjoys bridge, television, a book club, movies and dining out. She has been a golfer, a Literacy Council tutor, a church treasurer, and has traveled to many faraway places.

Writer that she is, Mary composed this biography herself. A postscript from Debbie Jessup: Mary is too modest about her Pensters accomplishments. Her short stories, written month after month, year after year, have won more first prizes, I'm quite sure, than any other member's contributions. She has a gift of describing events or scenes simply but vividly, and quite frequently touching the reader's heart.

Also notable is the manner in which she's made an asset of her blindness. As she'd tell you herself, she wrote only short stories before. It's the blindness that has brought forth the novels, the first of which is a real page-turner.

UUFLIX NEWS

The Fairhope UUflix films list is now available on the Fellowship website at www.fairhopeuu.org.

Each Sunday during the coffee hour, members and friends may choose from over 100 award-winning films– all a dollar a week per film– with new films added regularly. New foreign and independent films added this month are: *Viva Cuba, Familia, Falling Angels, Marion Bridge, Roads to Koktebel, The Middle of the World, Hop, A Peck on the Cheek, Under the Bombs, He Died with a Felafel in his Hand, Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity, OT: Our Town, and The Rage in Placid Lake.*

All proceeds go to the Fairhope UU Fellowship.

– Submitted by Juanie Noland

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE PLANNING FOR 2009

Fellowship mover and shaker, Jule Moon, started something when she ordered a sign for the *Good Kind Wenceslas* performance on Dec. 21 - a sign that read: SOCIAL ACTION NEEDS FUNDRAISERS. Committee members had thought their job was to recommend causes for financial support. Was there a new mission for Social Action? Jule had a simple answer: You need funds, so you need fundraisers to get funds. That caused us to have a meeting to talk about what Jule said, which is what committees do - they have meetings. We all looked at each other, which is what committee members do when they don't know what to say (for once). And then - AHA - could Jule be right? Sure enough, it will be a tough year; perhaps we should be clever and think of ways to make money to help people who have less than we have. But are we clever? We do know there are any number of clever people in our Fellowship and we could use some volunteers working with SAC, either as a member, as an adviser, or as a part-time project worker. You can be assured of a very warm welcome. Nancy Martin just joined as a Social Action member. Why not join Nancy and bring all

like the new energy in Washington!!

Thanks for buying UUSC Christmas cards. Our sales are down this year, but we understand the circumstances - which is why we need fundraisers. Please give what you can to Guest At Your Table. These funds go to places in the world where there is unbelievable tribulation! The boxes will be collected at our January 11 meeting.

So, winding down the holiday season and starting anew, let us wish you all a Happy New Year in which some of us can strut the depression skills we learned so long ago. And let us all thank Dr. Gregory Waselkov, the Nov. 23 speaker who donated his \$100 honorarium to the United Unitarian Service Committee after hearing Flo Schneider kick off our 2008 campaign. Dr. Waselkov's one act of kindness proved that people touching and being touched by others engenders a loving spirit. Feel it? Come and help us accomplish more warmth - more comfort - more assistance to those seeking and gut-level NEEDING the help of fellow human beings. That's a call to you and to me. That's a call to US!

- Submitted by Ann Chapman

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUPS INFORMATION AND CHANGES FOR JANUARY

Pam Perkins and Charlie Earl have made an executive decision that both the Author's Discussion Group and the Non-fiction Book Group will be moved up a week for January only. Neither group will meet on January 1. Non-fiction will meet on January 8 and 22. Fiction (Author's Discussion Group) will meet on January 15.

The Authors Discussion Group voted on the following authors for future discussions:

Jan. 15: Jeraldine Brooks (suggested by Jean Lawrence)

Feb. 12: Oliver Sacks (suggested by Ruth Geraci)

Other authors coming up are: Louisa May Alcott (Ruth Geraci), Caleb Carr (Dorothy Dowell), M.C. Beaton (Jill Teumer), Ann Perry (Helen Earl), and Somerset Maugham (Helen Earl).

- Submitted by Diane Ehlers

The Month After Christmas...

'Twas the month after Christmas,
 and all through the house
 Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
 The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste
 At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
 When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
 When I walked to the store
 (less a walk than a lumber).
 I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared;
 The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,
 The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese
 And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."
 As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
 And prepared once again to do battle with dirt---
 I said to myself, as only I can
 "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"
 So--away with the last of the sour cream dip,
 Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip
 Every last bit of food that I like must be banished
 T il all the additional ounces have vanished .
 I won't have a cookie--not even a lick.
 I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
 I won't have hot biscuits or corn bread or pie,
 I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
 I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore---
 But isn't that what January is for?
 Unable to giggle, no longer a riot,
 Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

– *Author Unknown*

POST-HOLIDAY GREEN TIPS

Greeting cards: Cut the fronts off the prettiest ones to use as gift tags next year; use a hole punch to make a hole for the ribbon. Mail the card fronts UPS "ground" or "bound printed matter" to St. Jude's Card Recycling, 100 St. Jude Street, P.O. Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006 to be used by St. Jude's Ranch residents to make new cards for fund raisers; deadline 2/28/09.

Packing "peanuts": Take them to a local shipping agent such as a UPS Store or Office Depot so they can be re-used. Use them in the bottom of your planting pots to provide drainage (much lighter than gravel or rocks). Use them to stuff a pet bed or a leaky bean bag chair.

FIRST SATURDAY DOCUMENTARY MOVIES



7 p.m. Saturday, January 3: *A Crude Awakening - The Oil Crash* (2006, 85 minutes)

This movie demonstrates that the era of cheap oil is over. It looks at the realities of a world that is both addicted to fossil fuels and blissfully unaware of the looming peak oil crisis. The movie offers hope, however, hinting at a humbler way of life built around sustainability and alternative energy.

7 p.m. Saturday, February 7: *No End in Sight - Iraq's Descent into Chaos* (2007, 102 minutes)

This movie avoids the question of why the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003 and focuses instead on the war's aftermath, examining the chain of decisions that led Iraq into a grotesque state of lawlessness and civil war.

Everyone invited; free admission, contributions gladly accepted.

HELP NEEDED ON MOVIE EVENTS

We have documentary movies scheduled each month (except July), usually on the first Saturday of the month. The response has been good, and if you have not attended, you have missed some great films.

It has been suggested that we show some other types of films at the Fellowship as well. For example we could show entertainment movies, ballet, art history, musicals, etc. All we need is someone to select and secure the DVD or video. Please let Ed Lawrence know if you would like to take on this responsibility. These movie events could be held the third Saturday of each month, either in the evening or perhaps as a 2 p.m. matinee.

– Submitted by Ed Lawrence

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sat., Jan. 3: First Saturday Movie 7pm
Tue., Jan. 6: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
Tues., Jan. 6: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Jan. 7: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Jan. 8: Non-fiction Book Group 930am
Sat., Jan. 10: Game Night 630-9pm
Tue., Jan. 13: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
Tues., Jan. 13: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Jan. 14: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Jan. 15: Authors Discussion Group 930am
Tue., Jan. 20: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
Tues., Jan. 20: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Jan. 21: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
Thu., Jan. 22: Non-fiction Book Group 930am
Sat., Jan. 24: Game Night 630-9pm
Sun., Jan. 25: Last Sunday Potluck 12pm
Sun., Jan. 25: January newsletter deadline 5pm
Tue., Jan. 27: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
Tues., Jan. 27: Choir rehearsal 330pm
Wed., Jan. 28: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

February newsletters will be distributed on Sunday, February 1, not the last Sunday in January. Therefore, the February newsletter submission deadline will be Sunday, January 25th.

NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month or as 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:

nanpie@juno.com

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