

January 2010



# Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**Jan. 3 KEITH NICHOLLS: "A Surrogate Mother's Fight Against the Evils of Drugs, Prostitution and School Lunch Programs"**

Keith Nicholls is an Associate Professor at the University of South Alabama Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice. The primary focus of this talk is on several amazing contradictions in the political thinking and policy stands evident in American politics. After a brief review of policy conflicts in the areas of drugs, abortion, and prostitution, Dr. Nicholls provides an example of distressingly confused thinking drawn from real world experience.

Introduction: Bert Brun

**Jan. 10 MAX CASSIDY: "Racial Tensions in an Alabama Supreme Court Case Argued by A. C. Lee"**

Max Cassidy, a Fairhope attorney, will discuss the racial tensions in a case that went to the state Supreme Court. Harper Lee's father, A.C. Lee, was a practicing attorney and publisher of the town's newspaper, The Monroe Journal. Mr. Lee was a witness in the Nazarene Parker case in which a white man left all of his property to a black mistress. The case required the Alabama Supreme Court to choose between a man's right to convey property according to his Last Will & Testament and the legal prohibition on mixed race relations.

Introduction: Jack Gooding

**Jan. 17 PHYLLIS SPRINGEN: "Empowering Women in Developing Countries"**

Phyllis Springen, a Daphne artist and civic activist, has spoken to the Fellowship many times in the past. She will talk about the importance of empowering women, and what can be done to bring greater empowerment to women in developing countries.

Introduction: Jean Lawrence

**Jan. 24 THE REV. FRED L. HAMMOND: "Cinema Nirvana: What We Can Learn from Classic Movies"**

Rev. Hammond, part-time minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tuscaloosa, will discuss spiritual lessons that we can learn from classic movies such as *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *Goldfinger*, and *Casablanca*. We will find out what tales of enlightenment are held for us in cinema.

Introduction: Deborah Norris

**Jan. 31 THELMA TOPPER: "Mongolia: Nomads in the 21st Century"**

Fellowship member Thelma will speak about one of her many world-wide travel adventures. Thelma is a native of England and has lived in Alabama for thirty years. An avid traveler all her life, since retirement she has taken the opportunity to visit foreign countries in more depth. Particularly interesting for her has been the privilege of being invited into peoples' homes and experiencing their culture, albeit briefly. She will describe aspects of Mongolia's disappearing way of life and share some photos and memories with us.

Introduction: Harvey Joanning

**Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the January 31 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](http://www.fairhopeuu.org)

[fairhopeunitarian@att.net](mailto:fairhopeunitarian@att.net)

## DECEMBER 2009 BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

At the December meeting, your Board:

- Approved last month's minutes and the November Treasurer's report.
- Discussed funding and naming of the Fairhope Unitarian Scholarship Fund.
- Approved SAC's purchase of the book Gender Justice from the UUSC.
- Requested SAC to provide the Board with a list of recommendations for donations.
- Heard an update on maintenance items discussed at last month's meeting.
- Approved the building usage agreement as drawn up by Jack Gooding.
- Reiterated its decision to remind individuals that they can contribute extra money designated for the UUA Program Fund and for the Mid-South District UUA if they want to make up their "fair share".
- Decided that committee reports would be published in the January newsletter and given to the secretary for the permanent record.
- Agreed to reinstate the "Light Bulb Committee" and try to recruit new members.
- Recommended combining categories in the committee list to try to shorten it.
- In discussing the upcoming annual meeting: during the annual meeting, any proposed

changes to the budget should be stated in the form of a motion, and Robin will then conduct the discussion and the vote on the motion to amend.

- A motion carried to commend Kay for her outstanding work as Treasurer over the last two years.

- Will look into putting a sign at the Bishop Road entrance to the parking lot.

*—Submitted by Pam Perkins*

## JANUARY BOARD MEETING

The Fellowship Board will meet at 10am, Friday, January 8th. Agenda items include-

- Approval of minutes
- Treasurer's Report (Kay Seymour)
- Re-keying of all doors
- SAC report
- ESILL birding classes in building

Fellowship members are reminded that all Board meetings are open and any member is welcome to attend.

Anyone desiring to submit an agenda item may do so by contacting Michael Patrick.

*—Submitted by Michael Patrick*

### NOVEMBER '09 SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS SUBMITTED BY KAY SEYMOUR

	Nov	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/(Deficit)
<b>Support and Revenue</b>				
Contributions	3,856	35,205	38,500	(3,295)
Other Revenue	221	6,141	2,750	3,391
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>4,077</b>	<b>41,345</b>	<b>41,250</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Building	2,939	25,176	27,931	(2,754)
Committees	959	9,670	10,753	(1,083)
Donations	450	1,800	2,567	(767)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,348</b>	<b>36,646</b>	<b>41,250</b>	<b>(4,604)</b>
<b>Net Operating Increase/ (Decrease)</b>	<b>(272)</b>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,699</b>

## JIM SCOTT AND JAMES DURST IN CONCERT:

### *An Earth & Spirit Songfest*

A music concert featuring musician and songwriter Jim Scott, with fellow musician James Durst, will be held at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship at 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2010. Jim Scott played for years with the Paul Winter Consort, and has been traveling widely bringing his upbeat music to Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships around the country. He has been the Co-Chair of the Unitarian Universalist ecological group, the *Seventh Principle Project*, and helped develop their "Green Sanctuary" program. A contribution of \$7 to \$15 is recommended.

—Submitted by Ed Lawrence

## LAWN CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Tuesday, January 5** is the day! Tree and shrub trimming needed. Bring gloves, trimmers and snippers if you have them. Those of us whose hands don't fit trimmers will pick up and drag trimmings to the curb; others who prefer to work out aggressions near the ground may pull weeds.

Let's show up about 9:30 and work for a couple of hours. If the 5<sup>th</sup> is too cold and/or rainy, let's shoot for the 6<sup>th</sup> and if that does not work we'll try for the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Fellowship budget will benefit from our work. And physical labor will help remove some of those Christmas goodies from our waistlines. Come help out!

See me or call me at 928-6526 if you would like an assignment to do on your own at another time.

—Submitted by Celeste Hinds

## FELLOWSHIP TO EXHIBIT VINTAGE HATS AND GLOVES



In a departure from the usual art exhibits, the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship will have a special exhibit of vintage hats, along with graphics and advertising of the period illustrating models wearing hats. The opening reception will be on January 16th, and the exhibit

will continue until March 18th.

The hats to be exhibited are from the collections of two members of the Fellowship, Jule Moon and Debbie Norris and from that of Lea Fox of Mobile. Most of the hats are from the 1930s through the 1960s. The hats will be hung or placed on hat stands, which will make for an interesting and colorful show.

The hats which will be displayed are beautiful in themselves, and invite memories of those worn by ourselves, our mothers, and our grandmothers during a time when women would not attend weddings, church, or even go shopping without a hat. Some vintage gloves will be displayed along with the hats, as those were equally indispensable. The exhibit represents a more formal time, one for which some are nostalgic and for others represents an era of social restrictions from which they are delighted to be free. Join us in reminiscing about an era not long past, but very different from today.

It is hoped that those attending the reception will wear hats of any vintage, old or new, in order to add to the festivities.

The reception on Saturday, January 16th, will be held at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, 1150 Fairhope Avenue, from 3-5 pm, and will feature hammered dulcimer music by the Gulf Coast Hammer Jammers and Friends in addition to delicious refreshments. As always, the public is warmly welcomed.

—Submitted by Jean Lawrence

## DISCUSSION GROUP TO RESUME THIS MONTH

The Sunday morning discussion group which in the past has discussed such topics as meaning in life, spirituality, Transcendentalism, and Emerson will resume on Sunday, January 3rd.

The group meets at 9:45 (promptly) and runs until 10:45. This round of discussions will be based on the website TED, which deals with ideas worth sharing. A short video will be shown, followed by discussion of the ideas.

All members and friends are welcome to attend. For this series of discussions, it is not necessary to prepare in advance, but it is necessary to arrive on time.

—Submitted by Jean Lawrence

## TEMPORARY SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR NONFICTION BOOK GROUP

Attendees of the most recent Nonfiction Book Group voted to meet on Mondays temporarily instead of the usual Thursdays due to conflicts with the roundtable discussion series on "The Critical Middle East and the United States" at the Fairhope Public Library on Thursday mornings for five weeks. The time (9:30am) remains the same.

If you would like to sign up for the Roundtable discussions you can call the Fairhope Library at 928-7483. It's free, but filling up fast, so sign up right away. In the meantime, new dates for the FUF nonfiction book group are:

Mon., Jan. 11

Mon., Jan. 25

Mon., Feb. 8

Then back to Thursdays, Feb. 18.

—Submitted by Diane Ehlers

## AUTHORS BOOK GROUP LIST

The group has made a change to the authors to be read and discussed:

Thurs., Jan. 14: Jacquelyn Mitchard

Thurs., Feb. 11: Rosamunde Pilcher

Thurs., March 11: Marge Piercy

Thurs. Apr. 8: Toni Morrison

Thurs., May 13: Eudora Welty

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2009 our Fellowship was enriched by the arrival of eight new Members and three new Friends. As of November, our membership totals 130 individuals as Members and 59 individuals as Friends. (We now have a total family Membership unit count of 94, on which the Board bases our contribution rate for the Unitarian Universalist Association.)

A three-week class for new Members and those interested in FUF Membership was held, with ten new people attending. The class included information on the history of Unitarian Universalists and of our Fellowship, The UUA and UUSC, UU Principles and the structure of FUF including bylaws and mission statement, Board positions and committees. The group viewed and discussed the UUA's latest DVD, "Voices of a Liberal Faith." Each attendee received several pamphlets and the Welcome Booklet of UUA.

A special thank-you to our President, Chairman of the Board, and members of the FUF Board and Committee chairs who attended the classes and shared their experiences and understanding of Unitarianism and knowledge of our Fellowship. I'd also like to thank Membership committee members Debbie Norris and Agnes Sanderson for their special contributions to making our visitors, new Members and Friends feel welcome, and also express appreciation to those Members and Friends who make an extra effort to welcome and get to know newcomers. I also greatly appreciate the efforts of Donna Adler, herself a new member, for helping with the website and maintaining the Membership lists this year.

We have recently begun having the Sunday morning greeters give a copy of our Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship brochure, which was updated this year, and a copy of the most recent newsletter to new visitors when they sign our guest book and get their Sunday bulletin.

—Submitted by Ruth Geraci,  
Membership Chair

## GREEN ACTION COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



The most important decision our committee made this past year was to abandon our effort to become an official green sanctuary congregation, hence the change in our name from Green Sanctuary Committee to Green Action Committee. The reason for the change was that the green sanctuary requirements were clothed in unnecessary ritual and formality, a paper exercise that caused us all too much anxiety and aggravation.

Our activities included a nature-watching boat trip on the Blakely River in a comfortable pontoon boat captained by a friend of mine. We raised over \$100 while enjoying beautiful scenery teeming with wildlife, and a picnic at Blakely park. Nancy Martin and Gwen Snyder were our interpreters. We raised an additional \$35 through Debbie's citrus sale.

I'm in the process of surveying the committee as to how we'll spend this money; my suggestion is to give it all to the Alabama Nature Conservancy, an arm of The Nature Conservancy. They've done a great job in acquiring land through partnerships and other mechanisms, including legacy planning. The knowledgeable garden writer Bill Finch is now director of the program.

In the way of future planning, I intend to suggest a rotating chairmanship arrangement similar to that of the Social Action Committee. We also probably will change our meeting time to Monday evening in order to accommodate those who are still working.

—Submitted by Debbie Jessup

## ART COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Art Committee has continued the tradition of mounting six art exhibits per year. Shows are varied: art produced by members, favorite artworks loaned by members and friends, art produced by local professional artists, and the work of professional artists from outside of the area. An attempt is made to present shows which are crowd pleasers as well as those which are more avant-garde. A small honorarium is given to artists traveling from distant places to help with expenses. We are honored that artists are willing to exhibit in a non-traditional venue, allowing us to show their work for two months, with little hope of sales.

Publicity has been excellent in both the Press Register and the Fairhope Courier. We were featured by Thomas Harrison in the Register, bringing more interested outsiders to the receptions and on Saturdays.

A Saturday afternoon reception opens each art exhibit. The receptions are open to all and feature music, usually by the Unitarian String Quartet or Jeanine Normand, as well as a bountiful buffet. In addition, the fellowship is open for gallery hours on Saturdays from 3-5 pm so that interested persons who may have missed the reception can see the exhibits.

In addition, the committee sponsored trips to the Walter Anderson Museum in Ocean Springs, MS, and to Bellingrath Gardens. During the winter, a series on the Louvre was presented on Sunday afternoons. Future series are planned, on art in the 21st century and on the French Impressionists.

—Submitted by Jean Lawrence

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The biggest change in the monthly newsletter arena is that it's now being delivered via e-mail to everyone in the Fellowship who has an e-mail address. Before this improvement, Diane Ehlers reports she was printing 135 mailing labels each month; that number has now dropped to 35 resulting in financial and material savings of envelopes and postage, plus the effort Ruth Allbritton and Diane put forth each month folding, stuffing, stamping and labeling all those envelopes. Thank you, ladies. Roughly the same number of newsletters is still being printed to ensure enough for our visitors or guests and anyone needing a new hardcopy.

Thank you to former webmaster E. J. Campfield, current webmaster Ruth Geraci, and new member Donna Adler for making this upgrade to electronic distribution go so smoothly. Many thanks to Ruth G., Diane Ehlers and Ed Lawrence for being my eagle-eyed proofers each month, to Diane for getting the final version to and from the printers each month, and to Ruth G. for being willing and able to "whip up" the newsletter when I'm out-of-town.

—Submitted by Nancy Martin

## MUSIC COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Another year has passed and the Music Committee continues to find and schedule talented members and friends of the Fellowship to perform before services and during collections on Sundays throughout the year.

Our Choir now has 23 singers under the superb musical direction of Heather Nutting, with the support of our talented accompanist, Kay Seymour at piano. (One of the Music Committee tasks is the care and periodic tuning of the Fellowship's beautiful Baldwin grand piano).

This year, after a summer hiatus, the Choir began the new season with an appropriate performance of "Coming Home". The Choir is now again rehearsing regularly on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30. New members are welcome; if you are interested, please call Heather at 990-0798. Members of the Music Committee are Pinky Bass, Diane Ehlers, Debbie Jessup, Sarah Katz, Dee Leff, Jule Moon, and Carol Newell. By the way, we shared a memorable lunch event together this past June 13th, not only to mark another good year of working together, but particularly to celebrate the 90th birthday of our beloved Jule Moon...on that very day!

—Submitted by Dee Leff

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

In spring 2009 the Social Action Committee established a month-by-month topic and goals agenda to provide better direction, efficiency and planning. Also, the committee assisted in the sale of Henry Albers' paintings and for submitting the proceeds to Habitat for Humanity. We miss Henry and appreciate this additional gift he gave to others.

A main achievement for the year was Fellowship approval of \$1,000.00 to finance two \$500.00 Nursing Scholarships at Faulkner State Community College, one for each semester, with SAC to raise as much of that money as possible. A stipulation of these scholarships is that they be for second year students needing financial help to finish their education and, optimally for Baldwin County residents, as close to the Fairhope area as possible but with the first two points the main consideration. We hope to have Nursing Supervisor Jean Graham speak to our membership soon.

SAC implemented bake sales in conjunction with the semi-annual yard sales. The total raised in these two endeavors was \$576.00, \$230 in the spring and \$346 in the fall. \$5.00 raised in the Belk sale was added to these amounts, grand total of \$581.00. Committee fund-raising is a means of providing increased outreach to those in need. There are several ideas in the pipeline and we would be glad to hear from members about their suggestions. Also, we encourage members to take part in any FUF endeavors.

A decision this committee made this year was to focus mainly on local needs, given a restricted budget, and to give to world-wide causes through proceeds from our annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table initiative which runs from Thanksgiving to the New Year. UUSC serves justice causes throughout the world, including the United States. Members are encouraged to contribute to UUSC through Guest at Your Table but also through the annual UUSC Christmas card sale.

At the holiday season, we collect non-perishable food to contribute to Ecumenical Ministries for distribution to the needy in the Fairhope area.

The committee thanks both our Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Board and also its faithful, far-sighted and caring Fellowship members for their help and support in giving to help create a more equitable, kindly world.

—Submitted by Ann Chapman



## COFFEE PROGRAM 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Participation of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship in the Interfaith Coffee Program, run by a specialty coffee company out of Cambridge, MA, called Equal Exchange, marked its fourth anniversary in December '09. Over this time period the sales of coffee and gourmet chocolate products have benefitted not less than five groups:

- The farmers who follow the environmentally friendly Fair Trade guidelines which guarantee them a premium price.
- The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which receives a contribution from Equal Exchange for each pound we (FUF) purchase.
- The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship which receives funds from the sale of packaged chocolate and coffee in addition to having delicious coffee to serve to its members, friends and guests each Sunday.
- The Equal Exchange company; sales, of course, further its bottom line, but through the Interfaith Coffee Program the company also helped Lutherans, Quakers, Catholics and others meet their respective service organization goals.
- And you; you have an opportunity to enjoy these gourmet products in your home with the added satisfaction of knowing your purchase will have a ripple effect felt around the world.

In April of 2009 the UU Kitchen Krewe added a decaffeinated coffee option to the popular regular coffee served after the Sunday program. This was at the suggestion of Holly Couret and has been well received.

With regards to the coffee program as a fundraiser, it has been successful in that it has been "surplus generating". I determine the confirmed benefit of the program by combining three factors: cash-in-hand, unsold inventory and coffee donations to the UU Kitchen Krewe. As of November 21, '09 cash-in-hand stood at \$392.37, unsold inventory was \$347.30, and donations were 26lbs of regular coffee and 5lbs of decaf.

I would not say the sales of the coffee and chocolate items sold here have ever been robust, yet I

would say there is a committed core of people who are willing to regularly support the program. For them and for all the Sunday coffee drinkers in the group, myself included, it is my pleasure to continue the program in 2010.

—Submitted by Phil Strniste

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Katherine Thompson was elected Program Committee Chair for 2009, but had to resign the position early in the year due to health reasons. Ed Lawrence served as acting Program Committee Chair for the remainder of the year.

It should be emphasized that the responsibility for selecting speakers falls not just on the Committee Chair, but on the members of the Committee, and the members and friends of the Fellowship who recommend topics and speakers, and often make the contact and arrange for securing biographical information and photographs for publicity purposes. Fellowship members and friends are encouraged to offer their suggestions for future speakers and topics.

Committee members in 2009 included Elaine Snyder-Conn, Dorothy Dowell, Harvey Joanning, Juanie Noland, Wilma Albers, Bert Brun, and Katherine Thompson.

About 37% of the 2009 speakers were Friends or Members of the Fellowship; 28% were guest speakers from outside the Mobile & Baldwin County area, and 35% were guest speakers from within the two-county area.

The most popular topic for 2009 programs was history (17%), followed by environment & nature (15%). Civic causes & social problems were topics of 13% of the programs, as was the poetry, art & literature category.

Bert Brun is the newly elected Program Committee Chair for 2010.

—Submitted by Ed Lawrence

## First Saturday Documentary Movie 7p.m. January 2nd



'Bama Girl follows a young black woman's quest to become Homecoming Queen at the University of Alabama. She is running against not only 15 other co-eds, but a strictly segregated Greek system, internal black politics, and most ominously, a secret all-white group called "The Machine" that has been controlling campus politics at the University for most of the past century.

This is a film about the light and dark sides of tradition – and a fascinating glimpse into electoral politics that mirrors many of the challenges we face today. 'Bama Girl is a film by Rachel Goslins. Free admission, contributions accepted.

—Submitted by Ed Lawrence

**Show your UU pride!**  
**Many UU items available at**  
<http://shop.cafepress.com/UU>



## COME JOIN US! Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

1150 Fairhope Avenue  
Fairhope, AL 36532  
251-929-3207

**Sunday Service 11am**  
Adult discussion group meets  
Sunday at 10am

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Sat., Jan. 2:** Documentary movie 'Bama Girl  
**Sun., Jan. 3:** Discussion Group 945-1045am  
**Tue., Jan. 5:** Lawn Care Day 930-1130am  
**Tue., Jan. 5:** Knitters Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Jan. 5:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Jan. 6:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., Jan. 7:** Show-Tunes Singers 3-4pm  
**Fri., Jan. 8:** Board Meeting 10am  
**Sat., Jan. 9:** Game Night 630-930pm  
**Sun., Jan. 10:** Discussion Group 945-1045am  
**Mon., Jan. 11:** Nonfiction Book Group 930am  
**Tue., Jan. 12:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Jan. 12:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Jan. 13:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Wed., Jan 13:** Jim Scott & James Durst concert 7pm  
**Thu., Jan 14:** Authors Discussion Group 930am  
**Thu., Jan 14:** Show-Tunes Singers 3-4pm  
**Sat., Jan. 16:** Art Exhibit Reception 3-5pm  
**Tue., Jan. 19 :** Knitters Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Jan. 19:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Jan. 20:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., Jan. 21:** Show-Tunes Singers 330pm  
**Sat., Jan. 23:** Game Night 630-930pm  
**Sun., Jan. 3:** Discussion Group 945-1045am  
**Sun., Jan 24:** February newsletter deadline 5pm  
**Mon., Jan. 25:** Nonfiction Book Group 930am  
**Tue., Jan. 26:** Knitters' Group 1-330pm  
**Tue., Jan. 26:** Choir rehearsal 330pm  
**Wed., Jan. 27:** Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm  
**Thu., Jan 28:** Show-Tunes Singers 3-4pm  
**Sun., Jan. 31:** Discussion Group 945-1045am  
**Sun., Jan. 31:** Last Sunday Potluck 12pm

## 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](mailto:nanpie@juno.com)

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