

February 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Feb. 4

LEW TOULMIN: “The Strange Life of Pitcairn Islanders After the Mutiny on the Bounty: More Mutinies, Troubles, and the Current Sex Scandal”

After the end of the movie “Mutiny on the Bounty,” the mutineers and their Tahitian families lived happily ever after on remote Pitcairn Island in the idyllic South Pacific, right? Wrong! The mutinies, coups d’etat, murders, scandals and drunken falling-off-cliffs had just begun. Is tiny Pitcairn a metaphor for our larger world? Fellowship member and world traveler Dr. Lew Toulmin will explain.

Introduction: Flo Schneider

Greeter: Ann Chapman

Cookies: Patricia Cameron

Feb. 11

ESTHER KREEK : “Insights from Esther”

Esther Kreek, musician and storyteller, shares her enthusiasm for living each day to the fullest. As she says, “Everything in life is a choice, and I choose to be positive.”

Introduction: Harvey Joanning

Greeter: Jule Moon

Cookies: Julienne Roach

Feb. 18

CECIL WILLIAMS: “George Washington Carver”

Cecil Williams is a well known Black folklorist whose research has caused him to tour the country and Africa, telling stories and singing songs about great African-Americans. His program on Dr. Carver is the result of one his latest research efforts.

Introduction: Michael Patrick

Greeter: Pat Smith

Cookies: Flo Schneider and George Moore

Feb. 25

DOUG BAULOS: “Images of Southeast Asia”

Artist Doug Baulos will speak on his interdisciplinary art work and experiences in Southeast Asia, primarily related to Cambodia and his work with the French Cultural Ministry. He will show slides of Cambodia and Burma as well as images of his own art work which has been shown in some 20 or 30 shows over the last three years.

Introduction: Pinky Bass

Greeter: Helen Earl

Everyone is invited to attend the Fourth Sunday potluck following the program. Please bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and good conversations.

Sunday Service, Youth Fellowship and Toddler Care, 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

Notes from the Fellowship's January Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Ed Lawrence, Chairman of the Board. Other Board members present were: Wilma Albers, E.J. Campfield, Diane Ehlers, Ruth Geraci, Jon Leff, Jule Moon, Michael Patrick, Pam Perkins, and Kay Seymour. New members to the Board this year are Terry Lindquist, Vice President, and Kay Seymour, member at large.

Jon Leff presented the Treasurer's report. Overall, the Fellowship did very well in 2006.

The 2007 contract for Youth Fellowship services was approved for Shelly and Doug

Board members will review the Bylaws before next meeting and suggest any changes.

Any Member who gives a talk to the Fellowship will be asked to send a copy to E.J. Campfield for the archives on our web site. Previous speakers will be asked for a copy of their talk.

The Board reviewed several Unitarian Universalist brochures for potential purchase.

A Committee is needed to help with audio visual equipment. It was moved that we form an Audio Visual Committee.

Our Spirit of Volunteerism is Alive and Well— Message from Your Fellowship President

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well at Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Last month's newsletter included an appeal for volunteers for two significant positions, Building Usage Coordinator and Building Maintenance Coordinator.

Lo and Behold, two members have stepped forward. Our heart-felt thanks to Edith Hinrichs, who will now head up building usage, and Stu Chapman, who has agreed to oversee building maintenance, working with George Hinds and our maintenance contractor Aaron Hinrichs to ensure that our beautiful building stays in top shape.

However, the need for volunteers continues!

Wanted: AV operators-in-training

We need a few good men and women who are willing to share existing talents or develop their knowledge of audiovisual equipment operation. When several people volunteer to learn how to operate our equipment, we will have a training class, and then call upon the volunteers occasionally to run a movie, set up equipment for a program, or monitor the sound. Contact Wilma Albers, albersw@bellsouth.net, if you can help.

Our various committees can always use

Our 2007 Volunteer Committee Chairs:

1. **Art Committee:** Jean Lawrence
2. **Building Maintenance Coord.:** Stuart Chapman
3. **Building Usage Coordinator:** Edith Hinrichs
4. **Caring & Concerns Committee:** Joyce Burkhardt
5. **Chalice Lighters:** Helen Earl
6. **Finance / Budget Committee:** Jonathan Leff
7. **Fund Raising Committee:** Celeste Hinds (*Acting Chair*); Pam Perkins (*yard sales*)
8. **Green Sanctuary Committee:** Debbie Jessup
9. **Historical Records:** Michael Patrick
10. **Hospitality Committee:** Jule Moon
11. **Light Bulb Committee:** George Hinds
12. **Lawn & Garden Committee:** Mary Ellen Hoffman
13. **Library:** Rodney Hoffman
14. **Membership Committee:** Celeste Hinds
15. **Memory / Honor Book:** Lisa Meyers
16. **Music Planning Committee:** Dee Leff
17. **Newsletter Committee:** Ruth Geraci
18. **Opening, Setting Up & Closing:** Frank Laraway
19. **Program Committee:** Wilma Albers
20. **Publications:** Kristina Lindquist
21. **Publicity:** Diane Ehlers
22. **Readings:** Debbie Jessup
23. **Religious Education Committee:** Bud Gardner
24. **Saturday Evening Activities:** Documentary Movies: Ed Lawrence; Entertainment Movies: Wilma Albers; Game Nights: Ruth Geraci
25. **Social Action Committee:** Ann Chapman
26. **Spiritual Concerns Committee:** (*Vacant*)
27. **Sunday Bulletin:** Ruth Geraci
28. **Web Master:** E. J. Campfield

Please contact the appropriate chair if you can lend a hand.

– Ruth Geraci

In Memoriam

Thomas Garbett

Tom Garbett, Past President of the Fellowship and beloved husband of Carolyn Garbett, died January 11, 2007. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Tom spent most of his life in the New York area where he was an advertising executive. During his career, he authored books on corporate life.

After moving to the Fairhope area, Tom enjoyed nearly a decade of tending his goats, chickens, geese, dogs and cats. He loved all animal life and nature. He wrote poetry and essays on his philosophy of life and he drew wonderful cartoons of animals. He was a master carpenter and created unique pieces of furniture.

In addition to his wife, Carolyn, he is survived by two sons John (Joanne) of Rotterdam, Holland, and Tom (Ruth) of Amherst, Mass., one grandson, Damien Garbett of Freeville, NY. Also step-daughter Becky Kern (David) of New Orleans, step-granddaughter Megan Oskay (Scott) and one great grandson Will Oskay, many cousins, nephews and loving niece Martha Hester of Clarksville, TN.

The Fellowship lost a very good friend. He will be sorely missed by his many friends, as well as his loving family. Tom's life was one of kindness, humor, thoughtfulness.

A final sad note is that he recently enjoyed the company of his four year old great grandson who spent New Year's weekend with Tom and Carolyn – it will be difficult to explain to the young child why his grandfather is no longer at the farm.

– Celeste Hinds

Poetry by Tom Garbett

Excerpts from his book:

Alternative Lifestyles of a Beastly Variety

... On the other hand

Sometimes I wish I were a fly
 Who doesn't know it's going to die
 Who takes each day as it arises
 And settles for such little prizes
 A drop of sweet
 Some rotten meat
 Almost anything to eat
 Even a dab of ripe manure
 Or something oozing from the sewer

The only time they want to scream
 Is when they bump into a screen

We in contrast strive and strive
 To figure out why we're alive

 We work and work

 Sometimes perspire

For lots of things our hearts desire
 But which we really don't require

How did I turn so philosophic?
 How did I get upon this topic?

The Moose

Moose grow antlers to a very great size
 In order, I'm told, to win the prize
 Of a lady moose or even mooses
 They like the passions they unlooses

Gene Splicing

Tell me please I do not see
 That donkey sitting in the tree
 I hope it is hallucination
 And not another new creation

Did someone splice a little gene
 Create this monster I have seen
 Could scientists have made such asses
 Or do I simply need new glasses?

Things to Do at Our Fellowship

Fellowship Game Night X 2!

Participants continue to enjoy poker, Scrabble, and bridge. New players and new games are always welcome.

Bring your own beverage, and a snack if you like. A voluntary collection is taken, in the form of a 50/50 raffle. Half the proceeds go to the Fellowship, the other half to a lucky ticket holder. Join us starting at 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. on two Saturdays this month, February 10 and February 24.

- Ruth Geraci



Author Discussion Group

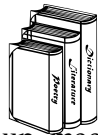
The Author Discussion Group selects one author whose works are read and discussed on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Join us for stimulating conversations. Upcoming authors:

February 8: John Steinbeck

March 8: Amy Tan

- Diane Ehlers

Nonfiction Book Review Group



The Nonfiction Book Review Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Office.

All are welcome to join in the lively discussions and share favorite nonfiction books.

New IRA Rule Regarding Charitable Donations May Affect You

Effective January 1, 2007, the IRS has instituted a new rule concerning tax deductible charitable donations. Specifically, all such donations must have printed verification:

cancelled check, bank statement, credit card statement, etc. Written receipts must be

Saturday Night at the Movies

7 p.m. Saturday, February 3: ***Living Under Fascism*** - Sermon by Davidson Loehr, minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas. Here is his first paragraph:

"You may wonder why anyone would try to use the word "fascism" in a serious discussion of where America is today. It sounds like cheap name-calling, or melodramatic allusion to a slew of old war movies. But I am serious. I don't mean it as name-calling at all. I mean to persuade you that the style of governing into which America has slid is most accurately described as fascism, and that the necessary implications of this fact are rightly regarded as terrifying. That's what I am about here. And even if I don't persuade you, I hope to raise the level of your thinking about who and where we are now, to add some nuance and perhaps some useful insights." (One hour.)

7 p.m. Saturday February 17: ***My Fellow Americans*** - Comic 1996 film about two former presidents from opposite ends of the political spectrum who become the targets of a conspirator in the current administration. Starring Jack Lemmon, James Garner, and Dan Ackroyd. (101 minutes.)

There is no admission charge for these movies, but contributions are accepted. Refreshments are served.

Since the Fellowship cannot provide receipts for cash contributions at Sunday collections or any other Fellowship functions, if you intend to claim a tax deduction, write a check!

Whatever medium you use, do keep those contributions coming, folks!

- Jonathan Leff, Treasurer

Hear Folklorist Cecil Williams "Panhandle Slim" in Concert
at the Fellowship Sunday, February 18

Cecil Williams, the cowboy folk singer and story-teller, will present a concert at 3 p.m. February 18 at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Also known as Panhandle Slim, Williams says his goal in his concerts is to enlighten, inform, entertain, and inspire.

Asked how he got the nickname Panhandle Slim, Williams said, Some say it's because I'm from the Oklahoma Panhandle and I'm tall and thin. Others say that on trail drives, I'm the first one to reach for the panhandle full of grub around the chuck wagon.

The folklorist Lyn Wolz has said about Williams,



"He is a guitar-plunking, horse-riding, tale telling cowboy enthusiast. His six foot two inch frame reminds one of Gary Cooper and his drawl, plus the quick wit of Will Rogers. A delightful narrator of little known facts of the lives of black pioneer men and women, he can charm an audience within minutes as he starts talking about his "chaw stick" and how to brew tea from it."

He is well known for the historical insight and mythic grandeur he brings to the stories and songs of the Old West. He was born in Pawnee County, Oklahoma, a descendant of slaves who accompanied the Osage Indians on their forced migration from the Ozarks under the Indian Removal Act. He counts among his forebears cowboys, ranchers, Buffalo Soldiers, rodeo riders, and marshals. His grandfather, Henry Williams, was sheriff of Langston, Oklahoma.

Cecil was educated in segregated schools in Fairfax, Oklahoma. Because there was not a black high school in his home town, he was bused thirty miles to Pawhuska for his secondary education. He is a graduate of

University, a historically black university in Oklahoma.

His personal experiences and segregated education caused him to realize that black American history had been neglected in American schools. To help

overcome this neglect, he has done extensive research on the contributions of blacks to American history. He has written over sixty ballads about American history and given concerts throughout the United States.



The Nairobi Wrangler

During the Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1976, the State Department asked him to go to Africa to represent the United States. There Africans learned about America from not only his music and stories but also from his gregarious personality. When asked by Africans what tribe he belonged to, he always answered, The American Tribe. Among Africans, he became known as the Nairobi Wrangler in honor of both his African heritage and his American cowboy roots.

His pride in being an American caused him to give a series of concerts sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, honoring the contributions of white, blacks, and Indians in shaping American values and beliefs. The series, "Three Cheers for the Red, White, and Black," was performed in schools, theaters, and churches to capacity audiences.

Cecil will speak to the Fellowship Sunday morning as well, sharing his research on George Washington Carver in honor of Black History Month.

- Michael Patrick

Sustainability Forum: Ten Things You Can Do Today to Conserve Energy

In last summer's *Simplicity Circle*, Gwen Snyder brought us an assignment: calculate the size of our ecological footprint.

Think how most of us begin our days: turn off the alarm, take a hot shower, dress, brew a cup of coffee and read the newspaper.

We never think about the ores that were mined, the petroleum refined to produce that alarm and coffee maker. Rainforest was destroyed to grow the coffee, and somebody, somewhere, produced the fibers, the fabric, the garments we wear, then transported and sold them. Even after it's in our closets, clothing continues to require washing and drying, maybe dry cleaning or ironing. Water for our showers is collected and purified, pumped and heated. The newspaper uses computers, telephones, ink, paper, gasoline.

Mining, refining, growing, transporting, heating--each step requires materials and energy, all of it translatable to acreage.

So how many acres does our lifestyle require? For the average American, the answer is 24. My own answer came in a little lower, primarily because I don't fly. Now here's the problem: Worldwide, there exist about 5 biologically productive acres per person. Admittedly, most people don't live the energy-rich life that Americans do, but many people would like to. If everyone succeeded, we'd need 4 additional Earths.

The solution to the energy problem is elusive, and it's clear that just cutting back won't do it. But cutting back does make us feel better. And in the interest of feeling better, here are ten things each of us can do, beginning today:

1. Put on a sweater and lower the thermostat.
2. Plan trips, in order to drive less.
3. Eat low on the energy pyramid--that means fruits & vegetables.
4. Air up your tires. Check the label inside the car door to see how much.
5. Plant a shade tree.
6. Change incandescent bulbs to fluorescent.
7. Recycle.
8. Reuse. That applies to cars, too.
9. If you're not using it, turn it off -- water, television, radio . . .
10. Tell your kids you have enough grandchildren.

– Gail Gardner

Reference: *Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth*. By Jim Merkel, New Society Publishers, 2003.

SUSTAINABILITY FORUM is to be just what it says, a **forum**, in which everyone is invited to participate. Our intention is to be provocative, argumentative, contentious, but not insulting. Most of all, we hope the column's useful. The column will appear in the monthly newsletter as space allows, and is sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. – *Debbie Jessup, Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee*

FAQ: Why do We Have a Light Bulb Committee?

Unitarians are known for operating by committee – many committees. Yes, among the many committees this Fellowship maintains is the Light Bulb Committee. Their purpose? According to committee member Michael Patrick,

“The Light Bulb Committee consists of FUF members who volunteer to do small repairs and maintenance at the homes of members who are unable to do those repairs. In the past the committee has changed light bulbs that can only be changed by climbing a ladder, moved furniture, replaced difficult to reach HVAC filters, and a variety of other odd jobs. There is no charge for the Light Bulb Committee's work, but often the recipient of the work does make a contribution to the Fellowship.

If you are in need of service from the Light Bulb Committee, contact Michael Patrick, George

Social Action Committee: News and Newsworthy Notes

The committee extends thanks to Fellowship members for making 2006 a significant year for giving to Guest At Your Table. Our contributions to world-wide heart-rending causes was \$940.65 of which \$425 qualified for a matching grant, yielding a grand total of \$1,365.65.

As we enter 2007, the quest of this committee will be to attend to well-researched causes suggested to us by the Unitarian Universalist Assn. (UUA) and the UU Social Committee (UUSC) as well as to local needs. How much we can accomplish will be determined by membership enthusiasm. I'm sure we all wish our world were in better shape, but the truth of it is we have multiple concerns: war, warming, pollution, depletion of resources, dynamic shifts in populations and power globally, serious inequities in the distribution and use of world materials, the decline of the middle class in the U.S.

I am drawn to a quote from Martin Luther King: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." These things matter so let's raise our Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship voice!

On January 27, there were demonstrations in Washington and in Mobile protesting the escalation of the Iraq conflict and to protest expanding war into Iran and Somalia. UUA is a member of the Win Without War coalition. Surely an insistence on diplomacy as third world countries emerge will be the leadership position for the U.S.A. In the long run, authoritarianism loses while a justice-based authority positions itself to draw respect. As individuals within this system, we have a resource in the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy; our partnering with their Legislative Asst. for International Issues would make us part of a larger movement - with influence! Are you ready to act?

At home, the UUA has announced that Now Is The Time to register for NOW IS THE TIME, a thrust to fulfill the resolution overwhelmingly

General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's General Assembly." As you know, this committee is inquiring into what can be done in Fairhope. A letter was just received from the minister of the High Street UU Church in Macon, Ga. who is soliciting congregations - especially small congregations - in the Mid-South district to take advantage of funding available for local projects. We'll be back to you on this.

- Ann Chapman, Committee Chair

Children's Fellowship Sundays at 11 a.m.

Our Unitarian Children's Fellowship meets weekly, 11- noon, with a class average of 8 children, ages ranging from 5 to 13 years old. Toddlers 3-4 years old are also welcome.

Class schedule: Review of the 7 Unitarian Principles, Chalice lighting, children sharing good things and bad things of the week, story, group activity to reinforce weekly theme or topic, and snack.

- Doug and Shelly West, RE Leaders

Invitations from Our Members & Friends

ESILL Birding Classes- Eastern Shore Institute of Lifelong Learning (ESILL) Birding classes at the Fellowship will begin Tuesday February 13 and continue for six weeks with the final class on March 20. There will be two indoor classes and four field trips. Cost is \$54/person with proceeds going to the Fellowship. For details or to register call Celeste Hinds 928-6526.

"War is Not the Answer" Signs Available- The Friends Committee on National Legislation (Quaker) has published yard signs that read "War Is Not The Answer." They are available here through Flo Schneider, 990-6242, or [floschneider@mchsi.com](mailto:flo.schneider@mchsi.com).

Welcome our New Member: Kay Seymour

Kay Seymour was attending a meeting that happened to be at the UU Fellowship of Mobile last year when she picked up a pamphlet about Unitarianism. After reading the UU principles and history, I thought to myself, I have got to find these people, she says. All my life I have felt like I was swimming upstream. My beliefs seemed so different from everyone else around me. I had learned to just keep my mouth shut when it came to religion.

Finding the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship through our website, Kay came to visit, and has been with us ever since. People here have made me feel so welcome, she says.

Kay joined our Simplicity Circle this past summer, made new friends, then in the fall joined the Back Porch Folk Singers and the choir. She is a former church organist and pianist from a long time ago. Now, accompanying the choir and teaching a music education class at the Fellowship are keeping her busy. In addition, she was recently appointed to our Unitarian Board as a member-at-large.

Originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Kay and her husband Clark moved to this area after his retirement in 1997. With three children grown and scattered to Texas, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, they decided to take advantage of the shorter and milder winters, salt water fishing and golfing opportunities Lower Alabama offers.

Kay has years of experience in bookkeeping and accounting, which she learned on the job, she says. She has used these skills working for insurance companies, banking, business machine companies, and manufacturing. Most recently she worked at RMS Precision in Loxley, and Daniel Communication in Daphne.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of the Fellowship, talk to Membership Chair Celeste Hinds or any

Mark Your Calendar

Thur., Feb. 1: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Fri., Feb. 2: FUF Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Feb 3: Saturday Night Documentary, "Living Under Fascism", 7 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 4: Social Action Committee, 12:15 p.m.

Thur., Feb. 9: Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Feb. 10: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30 p.m.

Thur., Feb. 15: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Feb. 17: Movie Night, My Fellow Americans, 7 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 18: Cecil Williams in Concert, 3 p.m.

Mon., Feb. 19: Presidents' Day holiday.

Sat., Feb. 23: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30 p.m.

2007 Fellowship Board

President: Ruth Geraci (ruthdow@gulftel.com)

Chairman of the Board: Ed Lawrence (edfairhope@bellsouth.net)

Vice President: Terry Lindquist (TSL@localnet.com)

Vice President, Programs: Wilma Albers (albersw@bellsouth.net)

Treasurer: Jonathan Leff (jondeel@peoplepc.com)

Recording Secretary: Diane Ehlers (dianefairhope@bellsouth.net)

Corresponding Secretary: Pam Perkins (pamperkins1@peoplepc.com)

Past President: Michael Patrick (Patrick_36532@lycos.com)

Members-at-Large: E.J. Campfield (ejcampfield@bellsouth.net); Jule Moon (ladykt@bellsouth.net)

NEWSLETTER

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

ruthdow@gulftel.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Ruth Geraci

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton