

April 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

JIM ELLIOT: “M aking Your Yard Environm entally Positive”

Apr. 1 *Jim Elliot is a metallurgical engineer with experience in environmental cleanup. A member of the Baldwin County Planning and Zoning Commission, he has seen examples of environmentally negative action. He will focus on ways to make a positive difference in our environments on a daily basis.*

Introduction: Phil Strniste
Greeter: Rosemary Gustafson
Cookies: Pat Portier

PAT KEOUGHAN : “Day of Great Disappointment: Birth of a New Religion”

Apr. 8 *Pat Keoughan will discuss the significance of Oct. 22, 1844, and the Millerite movement to the emergence of a new religion. She will review the history, central doctrines and basic beliefs of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, identifying key individuals and their contributions. Important contributions of Seventh Day Adventists to present day society will be described. Growing up as a fifth-generation member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Pat has an intimate understanding of this religion.*

Introduction: Harvey Joanning
Greeter: Bonnie Holt
Cookies: Ann Franklin

MICKEY CLEVERDON: “Poets L aureate of 0 ur T im e”

Apr. 15 *Local poet Mickey Cleverdon will be joined by Dr. Sue Brannan Walker, the current Poet Laureate of Alabama, for this presentation. Sue will talk about Lives Like Lines. The talk will connect the lines in verse with the lives that the lines touch– and who says a line has to be a straight line, anyway..*

Introduction: Glenda Slater
Greeter: Helen Earl
Cookies: Ruth Geraci & Diane Ehlers

RICHARD BOND: “The Interface B etw een U nitarian s and C hristian ity”

Apr. 22 *The perception many Christians have of Unitarians is that we do not believe anything. Because we have no dogma or authority that dictates our basic truths, we are often viewed as heretics, devoid of commitments. The Seven Principles that define us as Unitarians, as well as our two most fundamental values, reason and tolerance, refute that view. This discussion will focus on how the two traditions relate to each other.*

Introduction: Bud Gardner
Greeters: Sharon Spielman & Pam Perkins

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.

D EBB IE J E S S U P : “L ooking A fter N um ber 0 ne”

Apr. 29 *Fellowship member Debbie Jessup will examine human behavior under duress, describing both historical and fictional depictions of the descent from civility into ruthlessness, with some examination of the qualities that can buck this trend.*

Introduction: Bonnie Holt
Greeter: Jack Cameron
Cookies: Patricia Cameron

Sustainability Forum: Environmental Hypocrisy Part I

Contemporary conservationists and environmentalists seem extremely prone to giving lip service to conservation policies and habits that require little or no personal sacrifice. Indeed, many remind us that we need not give up our comfortable standards of living since new technologies will permit us to reduce energy consumption and still go on with our lavish, and most often wasteful, ways of living. In other words by utilizing new and better technology we can “have our cake and eat it too.”

First, we must recognize that “we have met the enemy and it is us.” That is, it is the little personal day-to-day expenditures and waste, multiplied by millions of people like ourselves that add up to a terrific consumption of natural resources, space and energy. Americans are the biggest consumers and polluters in the world. Yet the entire world suffers from our excesses. By reducing consumption we can reduce global warming as well as help preserve our natural environment.

Utilizing petroleum and coal products for fuel does several other negative things, aside from the usual problems of politics, global warming and air pollution. First, the practice extracts carbon that has long been sequestered beneath the earth and out of the atmosphere. This sequestering in turn has permitted life as we know it today to evolve biologically. Releasing the carbon into the atmosphere reverses this process.

Furthermore, we should be saving all our fossil fuels for their most economical and

use, which is to make plastics, lubricants, chemicals and other products so necessary for a modern technological society.

Because of these factors, continued burning of fossil fuels will eventually lead to man’s demise.

– Frank Laraway

This is the opening section of a longer essay that Frank has written on a subject dear to his heart. Other sections will appear in future columns of this forum.

– Debbie Jessup, Chairman,
Green Sanctuary Committee

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

CD and Videotape Donated to Fellowship
Cecil Williams, aka “Panhandle Slim,” who did a program at the Fellowship on George Washington Carver February 18, has donated a CD of his songs, “The Black West”, and a VCR tape on Carver to the Fellowship Library. This and other items in the Library are available for members to borrow at any time.

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

Meet our New Fellowship Members

In March, twelve new members were officially welcomed into our Fellowship. The April and May newsletters will include biographical sketches of each. Beginning with the May newsletter, Juanie Nolan will take on the role of official biographer. Thanks, Juanie!

Dorothy and Stan Dowell

Dorothy and Stan Dowell both started out in California, where they met at San Jose State University. During the sixties, they were both involved in supporting the farm laborers' movement led by Cesar Chavez. Dorothy recalls the time when the Mexican-American children were being sprayed with DDT when working in the fields. The couple was also active in the civil rights movement.

With an M.S. in speech pathology and audiology, Dorothy taught children with special needs, and also enjoyed teaching theatre arts to children. Meanwhile, Stan, who earned an MFA in Fine Arts, taught high school art and coached track and field.

While Dorothy raised their four children, Stan coached three of his athletes in San Jose to gold medals in the 1968 and 1988 Olympic Games: Lee Evans, Andre Phillips and Alice Brown. He developed innovative sprint programs that ultimately produced five world records and four Olympic gold medals.

In 1991 Stan retired from coaching; he and Dorothy moved to the mountains so he could devote himself full-time to his art. Stan's special interest is in the American West. He has had several exhibits, mostly recently at our Fellowship. While in northern California, Dorothy volunteered for the Humane Society. She and Stan also enjoyed exploring the old gold mining towns from the gold rush of 1849.

Then in 1995 Stan was asked to coach the Saudi Arabian Olympic Track Team. In the next two years he and former Olympian Lee Evans coached them to six new national kingdom records.

Lee called Stan to come and coach with him at the University of Southern Alabama in 2001. He and Dorothy discovered Fairhope. They like everything about this area, which Dorothy says is very much

their family in the Lutheran Church, but when a friend recommended Unitarian Universalism, Dorothy went on line and found our Fairhope Fellowship. Dorothy is an active member of the Authors' Discussion Group and a new member of the Program Committee. She also keeps busy volunteering at the Haven while Stan is coaching.

Bert Brun

Bert Brun was born in Brooklyn, New York City, and raised in Staten Island, before the bridge, he says, when the island was mostly woods and farms. After earning a BS in geology and MS in aquatic biology, Bert lived in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Washington State, and North Carolina. His professional life has been equally varied, working as a travel counselor, teacher, oceanographer, and estuarine biologist. He also oversaw the tapping of trees as an inspector on a rubber plantation in Indonesia and as a fisheries administrator in New Zealand, where he enjoyed traveling around that beautiful country, he says.

Married life produced three daughters, one stepdaughter and 17 grandchildren. His daughter Leslie, who lives in Grand Bay, is the reason Bert found Fairhope in August 2006.

All along the way, Bert has been writing. He has completed four plays, six novels, and over 20 short stories. He is currently revising a new play, "Yalta", about the historic 1945 conference among FDR, Churchill and Stalin. His best work to date, he says, has been a play, "Ashes to Ashes" and the novel "Cold Coffee", both of which draw heavily on family history.

A Unitarian since the age of 8 when his mother dragged him to Sunday School, what he likes best is our practice of applying reason to life. What he doesn't like is creeping intellectual elitism, perhaps mostly present on the subconscious level.

Bert is an active member of our Fellowship, joining the Back Porch Folk Singers, attending Game Night where he enjoys bridge, and recently

Looking for Activities? Come to the Unitarian Fellowship!

April 7 Film Examines the Business of War

In his farewell speech of January 17th, 1961, President Eisenhower warned of a growing military-industrial complex, and its possible negative impact on our democracy and our republic. The First Saturday documentary movie at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship,

***Why We Fight* (2005, 98 min.)**

reveals how, as Eisenhower warned, political and corporate interests have become alarmingly entangled in the business of war. This film won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.

The film starts at 7 pm, April 7. Admission is free, but contributions will be accepted.

– *Ed Lawrence*



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:

April 12: Saul Bellow

May 10: Norman Mailer

June 14: Alexander McCall Smith

July 12: Barbara Kingsolver

August 9: Virginia Woolf

– *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.

Bring your favorite nonfiction and join in the lively discussions. New participants are always welcome!

– *Charlie Earl*



Let the Games Begin!

Do you enjoy playing cards or board games? Last month at Fellowship Game Night four brave game-players tried Trivial Pursuit for Booklovers, having a lot of laughs as they struggled with questions about books and authors no one had heard of. (This game is available for loan from the Fellowship Library. It was donated by Rosemary Gustafson – thanks a lot, Rosemary!) Another group enjoyed playing Rummycubes®.

This month we will introduce Super Scrabble®, an expanded version of the classic spelling game. Participants also enjoy hearts, poker, and bridge. A cribbage board is available. New players and new games are always welcome! It has also been suggested that we have a movie option available; this will be set up in the R.E. classroom.

Bring your own beverage, and a snack if you like. A voluntary collection is taken, in the form of a 50/50 raffle.

Join us starting at 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays, April 14 and April 28.

Entertainment Movie April 21

The third Saturday of the Month Movie Night at the Fellowship will feature

Radio Days

This is a lovely, unpretentious comedy of pre-television days in Woody Allen's Brooklyn youth.

The movie starts in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 21. No admission is charged, but donations are accepted.

– *Wilma Albers*

Discussion, Support Groups, Meditation Classes Available at FUF

Another Deepak Chopra Meditation Class at the Fellowship April 11

In March a number of us took the Primordial Sound Meditation class at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship building, taught by Joe Zolnoski of Pensacola. Joe was trained by Deepak Chopra of the Chopra Center in California. In this class we learned the techniques of meditation; all found it a valuable experience.

For those who have had some experience in meditation, as well as those who have not, a one-session course will be taught here at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11.

For those who took the first course, or have had previous experience in meditation, it will take

meditation, you can start on a path toward healing and going beyond your self-imposed limits to experience more peace, joy, and love. The class is called: "Seduction of Spirit".

Registration fee is \$75, but for members of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship (or those who took the first course) the cost is \$65. To reserve your place contact Joe Zolnoski at Jazsg11@aol.com or 850-291-5522.

(The next class, Perfect Health – the Chopra Center Ayurvedic Lifestyle Program, will be taught in four Sunday afternoon sessions starting May 20 at the Fellowship building. Look for details in the May Newsletter. Reserve those dates on your calendar.)

– Ed Lawrence

Transcendentalism Discussion Starts April 8

What do you know about Transcendentalism? Few movements in our nation's history have had the impact of the cluster of ideas discussed and documented during the 19th century by thinkers such as Emerson, Thoreau, Channing and Fuller.

The Fellowship is offering a ten-week discussion group to focus on notable Transcendentalists, which additionally include Theodore Parker, Moncure Conway, Emily Dickinson, the Alcotts, and the Peabody family. This group will provide recorded lectures about these people as well as opportunities to discuss their ideas.

The discussion group will meet Sunday mornings from 9:30 (promptly) until 10:30 a.m. The group is open to all, based on interest in each week's topic, which will be announced in advance. At the first meeting, **April 8**, information regarding Transcendentalism will be shared, and a schedule of featured Transcendentalists provided.

If you are interested in participating, please email Ruth Geraci at ruthdow@gulftel.com, leave a message on the Fellowship answering machine:

Support Group Meets Second Thursday

The Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship support group for those experiencing loss held an organizational meeting March 8. Attendees agreed the time spent in sharing and caring was worthwhile and wish to continue.

A course from Carol Galginaitis, a UU writer, entitled "*Lessons of Loss*" provided a good starting point for working to resolve old losses and deal with recent changes. Participants talked together in a relaxed manner for longer than scheduled. Beginning time is set for 7 p.m. with 8:30 the intended closing.

Choosing a group name was postponed to the next meeting. A request was made to meet again Thursday, April 12, the second Thursday of the month, at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Library. Members and friends wishing to join are welcome. Call Wilma Albers at 929-0780 for further information.

Meet Our New Fellowship Members

Helen and Gene Garrett

Our new choir member, Helen Garrett, comes rightly by her musical ability. Her father was Clyde Lowell, a songwriter and saxophone player with the Melody Makers, a group who played often during the 1940's at the Casino and Burke's Skating Pavilion, both in Fairhope on Mobile Bay, and at the P.Z.K. in Robertsdale.

Helen is a native of Fairhope, where she graduated in the Class of 1948 from what is now known as the K-1 Center.

Gene Garrett first discovered Fairhope as a traveling representative of the International Harvester Company in the 1950s. Gene formed a partnership to buy the IH dealership in Robertsdale, and met Helen when she joined the firm as office manager and accountant.

Later when it became apparent that family farms were a thing of the past in Baldwin County, Gene closed the dealership and moved to Montgomery to work in real estate. Soon after, Helen and Gene married and Helen moved with her three children to join Gene in Montgomery.

They later moved on to Huntsville. Gene enrolled at the University of Alabama there, and also obtained employment at the University, allowing the flexibility to attend classes. Shortly the entire family became students, often attending the same classes. Eventually, Helen, Gene and daughter Susie became University employees. Susie and Gene both received their degrees in 1979. Gene remained as an employee until 1992, when he retired as Assistant Controller. Helen retired as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Research at UAH in 1995.

In 1999 Helen and Gene decided to move back to Fairhope. They had both attended Unitarian services in Montgomery and Huntsville, and have found a new home at our

Gene's special interests are photography and travel. Helen, who enjoys music, just returned from New York City where, as a member of the Eastern Shore Choral Society, she had the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall. She describes it as "a fantastic experience and one I will always remember."

Prad Mathur

Raised in India, Prad Mathur's native tongue is Hindi; however, he began learning English in third grade and speaks both Hindi and English fluently. Hinduism was his childhood religion and he says his brand of Hinduism is extremely close to Unitarianism.

Having grown up in a patriarchal society, from the time he came to the United States, first to attend college, then to stay, Prad was impressed by the equality of responsibility in family life here. He travels to India about every ten years where he still has family ties.

After receiving his Master of Law degree at Stanford University, Prad practiced law in San Francisco, specializing in legal work for casualty and insurance law firms. He then obtained a PhD in Anthropology and Sociology at Michigan State and taught in that field a few years before returning to the practice of law. The highlight of his legal career has been taking a case to the U.S. Supreme Court against the U.S. where he obtained relief for his client.

Prad became a Unitarian in 1964 when he married in the Unitarian Church in Madison, Wisconsin. He became a U.S. citizen in 1974. He and his late wife had one son who is a research Fellow at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

In 2002, Prad met Heather Nutting in the Unitarian Fellowship in Midland, Michigan. He and Heather share a new home in Fairhope. He had been coming to Gulf Shores for several years before he found Fairhope. He enjoys playing bridge, cooking, and reading historical

Meet More New Members

Jewel Lee

Jewel Lee was born and brought up in Georgia, and also has lived in Mobile and New Orleans, making her a true Southerner. Taking a job with the U.S. Department of Defense gave her the opportunity to see the rest of the country. She worked in California, and in the areas of Boston, MA, and Washington, DC, before retiring from her position as Certified Contract Negotiator, Manager and Specialist. Her work also took her to Canada, Saipan and Guam. Although retired, she is considering returning to work next year, she says, if her security clearance is still valid, considering the current political action.

Jewel holds a BA (double major) in Criminal Justice Administration and Sociology from USA, and a Master's in Acquisition and Contract Management from West Coast University in Louisiana.

In moving to Foley, she was able to reconnect with her son who is attending USA, and her daughter currently lives with her (see next bio) while attending college.

Over the years she has attended many different churches to better understand their focus. While in Massachusetts, she found a good fit at UU fellowship: free thinking, tolerance, humility, civic action, and fun.

She describes our Fairhope Fellowship as "an island in an ocean." The lectures are informative, the music is excellent, the food is tempting, she says. She hopes to become more active.

She currently keeps busy with yard work, and spends each week providing information to members of the Senate, reading current political events and responding via the internet.

Nickie Lee

Born in Mobile, Nickie Lee has lived in California, Massachusetts and Maryland. She is currently enrolled in the Gulf Coast Culinary

is pursuing a degree in the Culinary Arts to become a certified chef. She currently works at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach as a line cook in one of their restaurants. She originally came here because her mom was retiring and Nickie wanted to help her settle in. She likes her college, her job and the people she has met here.

Nickie's hobbies are painting, small craft making, and writing poetry. Currently her primary focus is on graduating from college with the best grades possible.

From visiting and then joining our Fellowship, Nickie has found that Unitarianism is a lot more open than other religions and that the Fellowship members are more open-minded to different views as well as accepting and welcoming of new people.

Poets Corner

I wish that I were clever
So that whenever
I get around people I'd know what to say.
But most every day
I find myself groping
And more or less hoping
The words would come out the right way.

Other people can do it;
They just sort of intuit
The right thing to utter.
They don't stammer or stutter;
Their words are like butter on toast.
While I stand there mutely
Most definitely not cutely
And sort of feel dumb as a post.

- Pam Perkins

*This poem is printed due to popular request.
Pam read it to the Fellowship last month, and
it hit home with a lot of folks.*

SOS — Support our Sale!

Fellowship Yard Sale to be Held April 14, 7-11 a.m.

Yard Sale, Resale Shop, Boutique, call it what you will, the semi-annual Unitarian Fellowship sale of gently used collectibles and useful items is an event not to be missed.

Yard Sale chairperson Pam Perkins has put out a call to all Fellowship members and friends to help with this major fundraising effort. Here are the ways in which you can support the event:

Between now and the Yard Sale: Find items that you are willing to part with and that could be of use to someone else. These items should be clean, gently used, and of potential interest. Bring your donations to the Fellowship on Sundays, or contact Pam to arrange for pick up or to have someone meet you at the Fellowship's garden house at a mutually convenient time. Pam's phone number is 621-5416; you can also email her:

pamperkins1@peoplepc.com

Thursday and Friday, April 12 and 13: Come to the Fellowship and help sort and price the items to be sold. (You get a sneak preview this way!)

Saturday, April 14: Cashiers and "security" observers are needed during the sale, which takes place from 7-11 a.m. rain or shine. Buyers are needed as well! Bring your

Remembering the adage that "one person's trash is another person's treasure," check out the amazing collection of potential treasures available at reasonable prices. And keep in mind the money you spend goes directly to the Fellowship treasury to help maintain our programs and facility.

Support our Sale!

Mark Your Calendar

Sun., Apr. 1: Social Action Committee, 12:15 p.m.

Thur., Apr. 5: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Fri., Apr. 6: FUF Board, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Apr. 7: Saturday Night Documentary, "Why We Fight", 7 p.m.

Sun., Apr. 8: Transcendentalism Discussion Group begins, 9:30– 10:30 a.m.

Wed., Apr. 11: Meditation Class, 6 p.m.

Thur., Apr. 12: Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.

Thur., Apr. 12: FUF Support Group meets, 7-8:30 p.m.

Fri., Apr. 13: Morning help needed preparing for Yard Sale.

Sat., Apr. 14: FUF Yard Sale, 7-11 a.m.

Sat., Apr. 14: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30 p.m.

Thur., Apr. 19: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., Apr. 21: Movie, "Radio Days", 7 p.m.

Sat., Apr. 28: Game Night, 6:30 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. 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

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