



April 2008

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

**THOM BOTSFORD: Jimmy Carter, Palestine, and the Israeli Lobby**

**Apr. 6**

*Thom Botsford is head of the English and Communications Department at Pensacola Junior College. He reviews former President Jimmy Carter's controversial book, *Palestine: Peace, not Apartheid*, and addresses some of the criticism of it. Carter maintains that the Palestinians can not get a fair hearing in this country – so powerful is the lobby on behalf of Israel. Carter tries to show that Israel's long-term interest is not served by fencing in Palestinian populations and moving unilaterally toward an isolated, truncated Palestinian state. The talk will briefly review the thousands of years of history that produced this crisis.*

Introduction: Robin Fabel

**DOROTHY DOWELL: The Emotional Aspects of Hearing Loss**

**Apr. 13**

*Fellowship member Dorothy Dowell received her B.A. and M.A. from San Jose State University in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She has worked with hard-of-hearing adults and children, autistic children, aphasic children and the Head Start program for Santa Clara County, CA. She was employed for 12 years teaching special education in the Morgan Hill School District in California.*

Introduction: Helen Earl

**MARY THWEATT & VALOREY STONE: Autism: a Spectrum Disorder**

**Apr. 20**

*Mary Thweatt is the director of CAAR, The Center for Autism and Asperger Resources in Baldwin County. Her daughter Valorey is a student at Faulkner Community College. They will present information about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) which are affecting increasing numbers of children who grow up to be adults with ASD. CAAR is a grass-roots, parent-led resource center newly established as a non-profit, providing a specialized library, educational workshops and seminars for affected families, school professionals, medical personnel, law enforcement and social service workers, as well as support groups for family members.*

Introduction: Ruth Geraci.

**CELESTE HINDS: Are Birds Unitarians?**

**Apr. 27**

*Celeste Hinds is a long-time member of the Fellowship as well as a long-time birder who has taught ESILL classes and led groups on birding trips throughout the area.*

Introduction: Carolyn Garbett

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the April 27 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. 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)

## Documentary April 5

This month's documentary is **Escape From Suburbia – Beyond the American Dream** (2007, 95 minutes), Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

This film offers a wake-up call that challenges the illusion of never-ending growth and provides viable alternatives for citizens and communities working at the local level to ensure the survival of a sustainable civilization in the future.

## Introducing New Members

Springtime is special for new Fellowship members **Jack and Vivian Gooding**. In 1966 Jack was a senior at Ohio's Bowling Green State University and Vivian a graduate student at Mobile's Spring Hill College. That year they first met at Daytona where, like other college students, they had headed to enjoy spring break.

Three years later they were married and living in Archibald, Ohio, a town native Ohioan Jack describes as the Fairhope of Ohio, where they lived until 2005 when they moved to Fairhope.

After obtaining a degree in business, Jack worked for about six months as an accountant before attending law school at Ohio State. He was an attorney in Archibald until his retirement in 2005.

A Pensacola native, Vivian majored in sociology at Mobile's Spring Hill College and later received a master's degree in counseling from Bowling Green State University. She has worked as a therapist and as a manager in a variety of settings including a juvenile detention center and in the psychiatric ward of a private non-profit hospital. Currently she is a therapist at Altapoint, formerly known as Mobile Mental Health.

The Goodings have two children, a daughter who is a professor of music at Mississippi State University and a son who is a writer in

## President's Message: Help Wanted

We need a volunteer to fill a position on our roster of committees – Membership Committee Chair. It's not a big job, but it does make a difference in our ability to keep our Fellowship running smoothly.

The Membership Committee is responsible for maintaining the official list of members and friends and the mailing list, filing a membership report with UUA once a year, and keeping up the name tags. Currently, Ed Lee does the name tags, Ed Lawrence maintains the membership list, and Diane Ehlers maintains the mailing list. The Membership Committee chair would learn to file the UUA report, send welcome cards to new members, and coordinate information on new members and friends as they sign up, ensuring that Ed, Diane, and Ed get the information they need. Working with the committee, he or she might also come up with ideas to make our new members feel welcome.

Please consider taking on this position. I would be happy to sit down with you and discuss the details. I'll even buy lunch!

– *Ruth Geraci*

Jack's earliest religious affiliation was Baptist and Vivian's Catholic. In Archibald they were Mennonite church members. Of the seven largest Mennonite churches in the world, according to Jack, five of them are within ten miles of Archibald.

Jack and Vivian love antique auctions and confess to having at least 50 boxes of treasures they've not managed to downsize. One of their most interesting finds– a wrought-iron meat drying rack– once almost got them on PBS's Antiques Road Show.

After moving to Fairhope they began attending the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship because of the interesting Sunday speakers and soon found they were enjoying the company as much as the programs.

– *Juanie Noland*

## Back by Popular Demand: Contra Dance April 19

Bill Donahue of Pensacola, a veteran contra dance caller with decades of experience, will continue his instruction in basic contra dancing Saturday, April 19, at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship Hall. Our Fellowship's fine fiddler Heather Nutting will provide the lively music. The dance will be held from 7 to 9:30 pm, with light refreshments served.

Contra dance is an early form of American country dance in which lines of dancers face each other and follow directions from the caller. A clear and easy introduction will be given to prepare beginners to join the experienced dancers. Long-popular in the Southeast, this joyful activity has caught on in New England and other places. There are now many active contra dance clubs and associations.

There is no admission fee, however, a donation is requested to help with costs. All are

welcome to attend— bring your friends and neighbors and come to watch or just to enjoy the music!



## Fellowship Artists to Show in July and August

If you are an amateur or professional artist, and are a Member or Friend of the Fellowship, you are invited to participate in an exhibit to be held during the months of July and August this year. We request that the work be original and new (created within the past two years and not shown previously at the Fellowship), and that each person wishing to exhibit submit one or two pieces.

You may exhibit drawings, paintings, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, collage, assemblage, photography, or computer art. All art must be ready to hang if it is a wall piece (framed, and with a hanging wire), or be able to be placed on a stand or pedestal. Please tell Jean Lawrence or Pinky Bass if

idea of how much and what type of art will be submitted. We'll remind you again, and tell you the date when we need to hang the art --but in the meantime, get working! We know you're out there!

– Jean Lawrence

### Life on a Star

Thinking about where you might like to go this summer to relax and keep cool? Consider Star Island, part of the Isles of Shoals off the coast of NH. The UUA shares this island, and holds some excellent weeklong conferences there for UUs throughout the summer. For information on what's available and to see pictures of the Island, go to [www.starisland.org/conferences/2008](http://www.starisland.org/conferences/2008).

## Our Social Action Committee Reports

Our FUF Social Action Committee is currently reviewing recommendations about where to give our FUF donation dollars. Our committee has already investigated several organizations. I'm attending a workshop series (sponsored by the Mobile Public Library) on how to do a thorough research of charitable organizations (including any non-profit organizations). This will be very helpful in my role on the committee to help us meet our mission.

Our mission is to concentrate mainly on organizations that have a positive impact locally and regionally. This is because charity begins at home. In addition, our Fellowship gives money to the UUA, which secures our membership in the national UU network, and some of that money goes to the Mid-South District. The UUA and the Mid South District do many good works on a regional, national, and international scale (check the Web sites: [www.midsouthuaa.org](http://www.midsouthuaa.org), [www.UUA.org](http://www.UUA.org), and also read the UU World magazine for more details.)

Since we are a relatively small Fellowship, and we want to make our donations really count, we intend to give back mainly to our community what is left of our money after FUF gives to the UUA. We have members in our FUF who are individual members of the UUSC (Service Committee), a separate fund from the UUA. The UUSC is well known for its national and international social justice work. Are you aware that the UUSC put the first responders (before any other agency) on the ground in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama after Hurricane Katrina? (Check the main UUA Web site for info on UUSC.)

Plus, we have our Mid-South District UU, the official UU network of the fellowships and congregations in the Mid-South area, which now has an expanded social justice network. I plan to attend the next Mid-South conference, May 2-4, in Valparaiso, FL, (see newsletter for details), to bring back more ideas about how to continue to make our communities a better place to live for all of us.

Coming up, I would like to see us investigate giving to the WHIL service of reading to the blind,

service as our Sunday speaker several months back, and we were impressed with this wonderful public service. In fact, donating to WHIL, PBS, and even Alabama Public TV are areas that I will be proposing to our committee for review for our donation dollars. These are just a few of the places where our help will directly improve our immediate community, having a ripple effect on the greater community and region. Our FUF has a good track record so far, and we aim to sustain this.

– Submitted by Jeanine Normand for Ann Chapman and the FUF Social Action Committee



### 2008 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY -- May 2-4

UU Fellowship of the Emerald Coast, Florida

Sunshine! Beach! Fun! Fellowship! Friends! All of this and much more is happening at this year's **Mid-South Annual Assembly**.

Things begin Friday night with the Service of the Lively Tradition at 7:30 pm, preceded by the Lively Choir rehearsal at 5:30 and a light supper at 6 pm.

This year's theme – **Living Unitarian Universalism**, – will be explored throughout the weekend through inspiring stories about what it means to be a practicing Unitarian Universalist, and workshops on Saturday.

Plan to stay overnight and attend *Coffeehouse LIVE!* at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday service the next morning at 10:00 a.m

Registration will be available in early April at [www.msduua.org](http://www.msduua.org). Contact MSD Trustee June Bryant for more info. ([junebryant@cox.net](mailto:junebryant@cox.net))

Come be energized and inspired by stories about living our faith! Renew your commitment to the principles and practices of Unitarian Universalism! Learn about projects and practices to adapt for your congregation!

– June Bryant, TEACH Trustee, MSD Board

## Notes of Interest to Unitarians and Their Friends

### **New Construction in Memory Garden** –

At the March meeting of the FUF Board of Directors, Phil Strniste (chairman of the Memory Garden project) presented a proposal to expand the Memory Garden. He and his committee suggested building a pergola with an actual size of a 6' x 9' and a shadow of 8' x 11'. Included would be two benches and some rose bushes from Wilma Albers. A bamboo panel and a cast iron drapery are featured in the overall plan. The estimated cost, using treated lumber for the pergola, is \$500. (The current Memory Garden budget holds \$1224). The plan was unanimously approved by the Board. A building permit has now been secured from the City of Fairhope, lumber has been special-ordered, and the concrete anchors for the posts should be in soon. Watch for further progress!

**Picnics at the Beach** -- Friday night potluck picnics at the beach will be every Friday night from now on, at the far north end of the beach, at 5 p.m. If it rains, go to the pavilion at the beach. Bring your own chair, beverage, utensils, and a dish to share. Call Diane Ehlers, 928-4387 if you have questions.

**Free Music at FUF** -- At 3 p.m. Sunday April 27 the Baldwin County Music Teachers Association is holding its Senior Piano Recital at the Fellowship. Everyone is welcome to attend. Free admission.

**New Museum Opening** – Saturday April 5 is the grand opening of the Fairhope Museum of History. The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation is offering a class on "Fairhope: Past, Present, Future," taught by Donnie Barrett, Curator of the new Museum. It will be at 7 p.m. Thursday nights from April 10 thru May 15 at the Museum of History, 24 N. Section Street. Registration fee is \$15, and

register at the Fairhope Single Tax Corp. office, 336 Fairhope Avenue. – *Ed Lawrence*

**Think Green** – The Green Building Conference April 9 & 10 at the Mobile Convention Center is being sponsored by Smart Coast (Charlene Lee and Wendy Allen, Co-Executive Directors). Information is available at <http://www.smartcoast.org/>. The Green Expo will be free and open to the public 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 10. – *Jeanine Normand*.

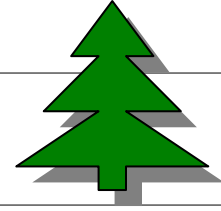
**Earth Day Celebration** – Earth Day Mobile Bay 2008, Sat. April 19, at the Fairhope Pier, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Interactive environmental displays, activities for children and adults, art and live music. The City of Fairhope is providing free recycling/disposal for computers and electronics. Daphne Utilities will provide containers for recycling used cooking oil. Baldwin County will have recycle containers for aluminum, plastic, and cardboard. Free BRATS transportation will be provided from Bruno's and Big Lots parking lots all day. Info: (251)-947-4121 or [www.earthdaymobilebay.org](http://www.earthdaymobilebay.org)  
– *Jeanine Normand*

**Coffeehouse Performance** – Jeanine Dr. Jazz Normand will be providing music at the Mid-South District's Annual Assembly in May. (*See article about Assembly on p. 4*)

**Socially Responsible Investing** – Making a Difference with Ideals, Impact, and Involvement is the topic of three free Teleconference Workshops, on Saturdays, April 12, 19, and 26 at 1 p.m., EST. Information is provided free of charge by the UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing. Register or get more information by e-mailing Rachel Daugherty at [rdaugherty@uua.org](mailto:rdaugherty@uua.org).

## Green Sanctuary Committee Page

# “The Naturalist” Reviewed



*The Green Sanctuary Committee is giving readers a rest from worrying about every teaspoon of water or watt of energy they consume and is pursuing a new project to review environmental or ecological books. These reviews may come from committee members or other interested people. Below is the first of these reviews, of E.O. Wilson's very personal biography, *The Naturalist*.”*

**E.O. Wilson** is the pride of Alabama's scientific community. This eminent evolutionary biologist is also considered the world's leading authority on the 9,500 species of ants. He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards, including the prestigious Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Scientists, which recognizes fields of science, including ecology, not covered by the more familiar Nobel.

How often chance drives human endeavor! In this quirky autobiography, Wilson notes that there were no programs for gifted or disturbed children in his childhood. Nor was there any theory in 1918 to suggest that loneliness in a beautiful environment could be a good if risky way to create a scientist. As a very small boy fishing alone at Paradise Beach on Perdido Bay, he mistakenly jerked the line as he caught a pinfish (*Lagodon rhomboides*), causing the voracious fish to fly into his face and pierce the pupil of his right eye. To add insult to injury he discovered he could not hear high-pitched sounds such as many bird calls. His one remaining eye was supernaturally acute, however. Hence he decided to scrutinize the small things of this world— such as ants.

In this manner the autobiography cleverly drifts from details of living to a love for and understanding of nature that made bearable and even joyful an otherwise chaotic childhood. His parents divorced when he was seven. Subsequently he was jostled from his father's to his mother's home, from a boarding school in Mississippi to the homes of strangers. Living in a near slum in Washington, D.C., he discovered the twin joys of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and the National Zoo, as well as a woodsy lake where he could lose himself in

Despite the period in the nation's capital, most of Wilson's youth was spent in the area between Pensacola and Mobile, where the watery multi-species environment couldn't help but enthrall. His major interest during these years was butterflies rather than ants.

In due course he entered the University of Alabama, where he ignored football, was not invited into a fraternity, excelled in biological studies, and graduated in three years at a total cost of \$2,000, about all his parents could afford.

In this autobiography, Wilson praises the education he received at Alabama. He met dedicated students who were to become noted professors and biologists in their own right, and was lucky to have inspiring mentors, such as Ralph Chermock, a relative of Erich Tschermak von Seysenegg, one of the three rediscoverers of the Mendelian laws of heredity.

The autobiography goes on to describe Wilson's trips to remote areas such as New Caledonia, where he uncovered new species of ants, as well as proving that the diversity of ant populations decreases in direct proportion to increases in man's incursions.

Wilson matriculated for graduate work to Harvard University, where he remained until this day. He married a beautiful young woman, Renee Kelley, from Boston's Back Bay... She was a fellow introvert, pleased by long hours of quiet conversation, a budding poet, deeply interested in literature, a scholar by temperament, and thus, though not a scientist, able to understand my dreams of pursuits in faraway places. The marriage was to be happy and enduring. They had one daughter, Cathy.

– *The Naturalist* continued on Page 7

## Environmental Concerns: Waste Produced at FUF

In an attempt to recycle as much waste as possible and reduce our contribution to the landfill, Frank Laraway has been processing our waste. It behooves us as Unitarians to attempt to ameliorate our personal impact on consumption of petroleum products, energy and trash in our private and public environment. To do this in a serious manner, it is up to each of us to constantly check our own consumption and waste of resources. What we do as individuals, how much we waste, how much of a demand for such resources we ourselves create, makes the difference. Keep in mind that each bit of waste, consumption and demand is multiplied by at least millions of people in this country alone. Consequently it would help if Fellowship members would do the following in regard to food, packaging and the kitchen alone:

1. Use as few disposable containers and/or dinnerware as possible. Only #1 and #2 plastics are recyclable by the Fairhope pick-up. The numbers are on the bottom of plastic containers in little triangles. Plastic comes from petroleum, fills our landfill, causes demands for petroleum products from the Middle East and is one of the factors that bring war and conflict there. The plastic on paper plates makes them ineligible for Fairhope recycling as paper. If food is left in or on containers, it must be removed to recycle or use them as energy by burning.
2. Do not mix materials in the trash at FUF. Stuffing napkins, plastics, glass and aluminum in cups and other containers creates additional work in sorting.
3. Do not put food in the trash basket; put it in a box on the counter designated for it. Mixing food in the trash complicates recycling. It can attract mice, roaches and ants. It makes a mess. When it occurs on paper, it is difficult to recycle the paper.
4. We attempt to recycle everything either privately or publicly. It would be far better to not buy or utilize the many disposable products that we use from day to day. Rebel against over-packaging and waste.

Last, it is not the big things, the trendy things, the popular things that will make a difference in all the environmental issues that we address. It is the little things we do and that so many, many others do, day to day, that excessively consume resources and energy and thus make the difference. It is popular to talk about solar energy, mass transit, the new light bulbs, zoning, urban sprawl, foreign oil, the War in the Middle East. However, it is we who consume the resources and thus create these problems by our own personal day-to-day demands.

Resolve to make some personal sacrifice, go to extra trouble, have a little less luxury, waste and comfort to reduce our consumption of resources. The enemy is us. Nor can we have our cake and eat it too.

*by Frank Laraway*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Naturalist, continued from Page 6.*

The book leads the reader into far more detail about the writer's travels, insights, and opinions. In this short review, I've sought to evoke the flavor of the work. Here is a brilliant scientist who is also a successful writer, a man who has met presidents and princes and who is prominent on the world stage. And yet, as the book shows, he remains the little boy who took joy in wading through the rubble-strewn mudflats of Mobile Bay, studying ants, butterflies and alligators with equal wonder.

Whether you are a scientist or a layman interested in science, you can find much to enchant you in this straightforward, unpretentious book.

Oh, by the way, Wilson would fit right in with our congregation. He professes to be a deist, a person who's willing to buy the idea that some creative force determined the parameters of the universe when it began. In his latest book, *Consilience*, he continues this idea by saying, the universe that made itself after it got started, however it got started, is a first class universe... We're free, thank God.

– *Review by Debbie Jessup*

## Bargains at FUF Resale Shop Saturday, April 26, 7-11 a.m.

Come to our Spring house-cleaning and pick up something useful, beautiful or interesting for your home or for a gift. The Fellowship's Yard Sale Committee has determined that enough stuff has accumulated to warrant a Spring Sale. Members and Friends are also invited to contribute items for sale. However, the committee has set parameters for those contributions. Details are in the December 2007 newsletter, but in summary:

- Clothing must be clean, intact, clearly marked as to size.
- Clean, intact, usable kitchen equipment is welcome; stained, chipped, cracked items or ones with advertising are not.
- Electronics in good working order are welcome; obsolete or non-working items are not.
- Do bring interesting or collectible knickknacks without major defects.
- Pictures/descriptions of furniture and other large items are helpful; please DO NOT bring large items to the shed without first talking with a committee member, e.g. Pam Perkins, Nancy Martin, Kris Lindquist. Space is very

### NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship for publication one week prior to the last Sunday of each month. For events, please include all pertinent information. Members and Friends are invited to submit poems, quotations or other brief words of wisdom to be published in the newsletter as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

**uuruthg@gulftel.com**

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DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton

*Editor's Note: Special thanks to Nancy Martin for her assistance in laying out this issue of the Fellowship Newsletter. - RG*

## Mark Your Calendar

- Tue., Apr 1:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm
- Tue., Apr. 1:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4pm
- Wed., Apr. 2:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm
- Thu., Apr. 3:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30am
- Thu., Apr. 3:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 11am
- Sat., Apr. 5** Movie: Escape From Suburbia – Beyond the American Dream, 7pm
- Tue., Apr. 8:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm
- Tue., Apr. 8:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4pm
- Wed., Apr. 9:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm
- Thur., Apr. 10:** Authors Discussion Group, 9:30am
- Thu., Apr. 10:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 4pm
- Sat., Apr. 12:** Game Night 6:30-9pm
- Tue., Apr. 15:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm
- Tue., Apr. 15:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4pm
- Wed., Apr. 16:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm
- Thur., Apr. 17:** Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30am
- Thur., Apr. 17:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 4pm
- Sat., Apr. 19:** Contra Dance, 7-9:30pm
- Tue., Apr. 22:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm
- Tue., Apr. 22:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3-4pm
- Wed., Apr. 23:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm
- Thu., Apr. 24:** Men's Harmony Chorus, 4pm
- Sat., Apr. 26:** FUF Yard Sale, 7-11am
- Sat., Apr. 26:** Game Night 6:30-9pm
- Sun., Apr 27:** Last Sunday Potluck 12pm
- Sun., Apr. 27:** Piano Recital at FUF, 3pm
- Tue., Apr. 29:** Knitters' Group, 1-3pm
- Tue., Apr. 29:** FUF Choir rehearsal, 3pm
- Wed., Apr. 30:** Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30pm