

May 2007



A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

May 6

GREG BORDENKIRCHER: "The Culture of Iraq"

As the lead American advisor to the prosecution in the trials of Saddam Hussein, Greg Bordenkircher worked behind the scenes to develop opening statements, review the evidence, and prepare witnesses. Having viewed firsthand the evidence of the Iraqi dictator's crimes, he has a unique perspective to share with us. Greg is the Assistant U.S. Attorney for Alabama's Southern District.

Introduction: Prad Mathur

May 13

BRAD MARTIN: "Radio Reading: Turning Print into Sound"

Brad Martin is director of the WHIL Radio Reading Service in Mobile. While attending Spring Hill College he began volunteering for the Radio Reading Service, and later did his internship there as part of his broadcasting degree program. He is on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Audio Information Services.

Introduction: Ed Lawrence

May 20

FRYE GAILLARD: "The Montgomery Bus Boycott"

Lauded for his books on the Civil Rights Movement, Mobile native Frye Gaillard has joined the University of South Alabama as a Writer-in-Residence in the History and English Departments. Through his course "History and Literature of the Civil Rights South," he is sharing his vast knowledge of the South and its history.

Introduction: Michael Patrick

May 27

GWEN SNYDER: "The Memory Garden and Memorial Day"

The memory garden is growing nicely, thanks to the efforts of the Snyder family and to contributions from many Members and Friends. Candles and eulogies will honor loved ones who passed away recently. The Annabelle Snyder Memory Garden will be dedicated and its namesake eulogized. This will include some history of how coastal Unitarian Fellowships fared during the Civil Rights struggle. The Back Porch Folk Singers will provide music to end the program.

Introduction: Phil Strniste

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

Sustainability Forum: Government Action is Needed

Last month in the Sustainability Forum article, Frank Laraway pointed out the need for each of us to take steps to reduce our consumption of energy and natural resources. He emphasized the harm being caused as continued burning of fossil fuels emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Frank is right: each of us should change our lifestyles so as to reduce our environmental impact. But even if each of us who is aware of the impact we are having changes our consumption patterns, that alone will not be enough to achieve sustainability. Most people in this country will not become aware, and even many who do will choose not to make significant changes in their life styles until they are forced to by nature, and by then it may be too late to halt the downward trend in environmental conditions.

In order to achieve environmental sustainability it will be necessary for the federal government to take decisive action. There must be a carbon emission fee, or what some call a carbon tax, paid by corporations and individuals that add carbon dioxide to the environment. Government must mandate greater fuel efficiency in automobiles, and it must stop building expressways and promote public transit instead. The experience with the electric car (revealed in the movie *Who Killed the Electric Car*) indicates we cannot leave these things to the private market.

Unfortunately, the oil companies, the auto companies, the military contractors, and many other corporations like the current system of oil dependency, and they are going to take steps to keep things the way they are. The major way they will work to achieve this is through campaign contributions.

The only way to overcome this enormous corporate influence on public policy is through public funding of election campaigns. Some will say that taxpayers cannot afford to fund election campaigns. In reality, we cannot afford

spending handed out by politicians seeking campaign contributions.

Only when politicians are beholden to the citizens and not to major campaign contributors will we see changes made to increase the likelihood of sustainability. Public funding of election campaigns is essential before any meaningful steps toward environmental sustainability are likely to be taken.

– *Edward Lawrence*

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, Green Sanctuary Committee Chair*

PoetsCorner

Ode to In-Terra-Firma-ties

Today they announced themselves
Those unwelcome visitors
Who wreak aberrations
On my body's performances
They torture the finger that can write
But cannot cooperate
To lift a dinner plate

And when I walked the dog today
A foot refused to flex
Without its forfeit of a pound of pain

And what, pray, is that lightning hot
Sensation encircling my toe?
And also aloft my upper lip, swollen?
From a kiss or a kumquat?

Ah, well, my brain, still capable
Of recall, can be depended on
To predict that these ephemeral intruders
Shall capriciously in a day or two
Mercifully depart

– *by Jule Moon*

Fellowship Films, Fun and Intellectual Exchange Opportunities in May

May 5 Film Explores Birth and Death of the Electric Car in the U.S.

The First Saturday Documentary Movie at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship on May 5 will explore the birth, uninspired marketing, and subsequent death of the battery electric vehicle in the United States. The 2006 documentary

“Who Killed the Electric Car”

will be shown at 7 p.m., Saturday May 5 at the Fellowship building.

Here is what Johann Hari, writing in *The Independent* (U.K.) last month had to say about the vendetta against the electric car:

Some where out there, in the dusty basements of the Chevron-Texaco corporate headquarters, there is a technology that can - in one swoop - slash global warming emissions, save millions of people from respiratory illnesses, and stop us trashing the Middle East to seize its oil. Yet it is being deliberately left to rot, in the hope we will all forget about it.

The movie explains how the California Air Resources Board secured state legislation to require that if auto manufacturers wanted to sell gas-fueled cars, they had to produce a certain number of electric powered vehicles as well. General Motors reluctantly went along for awhile, but then lobbied to have that legislation repealed, claiming that the public did not want electric cars.

Was the public to blame for the death of the electric car? Or was its demise due to the oil companies, batteries, car companies, government, the hydrogen fuel cell, or the California Air Resources Board? Come to the Fellowship building 7 p.m. Saturday May 5 and find out.

- Ed Lawrence

Note: Many of the documentary films we have shown are available for loan; see Ed

Entertainment Movie May 19

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

Local Hero

This is a much-honored film with offbeat quiet humor and beautiful Scottish landscape.

The movie starts in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 19. No admission is charged, but donations are accepted.

- Wilma Albers

Come Play With Us!



Last month we introduced the word game Quiddler®. Participants also regularly enjoy poker, Scrabble® and bridge. New players and games are welcome!

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 from 6:30 until 9 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays.

- 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:

May 10: Norman Mailer

June 14: Alexander McCall Smith

July 12: Barbara Kingsolver

August 9: Virginia Woolf

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!

Reception May 5 Honors Artist and Professor of Art Douglas Baulos

On May 5 from 3 – 5 p.m. the Fellowship will host an art exhibit opening reception for Douglas Baulos, artist and professor of art at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Jazz, Jeanine Normand, will provide music as UU members, friends, and the general public enjoy refreshments and a look at the new exhibit in the Fellowship auditorium and foyer.

Speaking to the Fellowship in February, Baulos described his experiences in Southeast Asia, primarily related to Cambodia and his work with the French Cultural Ministry. His multi-media work showcased at the Fellowship in May and June draws from those experiences as well as his prior studies at the University of Mexico with a concentration in Mayan art history.

After receiving his BFA from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Baulos earned an MFA from the University of New Orleans. In 2005 he was the Visiting Artist in Residence in the Australian Outreach Schools with the French Cultural Ministry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Baulos teaches drawing and painting, film, book arts and printmaking as well as numerous other processes used in mixed media work. His art has been shown extensively throughout the United States and internationally, including Switzerland, Canada, Cambodia, Brazil and Burma. Douglas is represented in numerous permanent collections including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Le Lizard Bleu Foundation in Cambodia.

He states, Although I work with the feelings of loss, mortality, and the power and delicate nature of memory, my work is a reflection of my attempt to live my life in fragile exultation... I begin with cast off images and papers, and layer seemingly dissimilar elements that trigger associations in complex combinations. Most of my recent work reflects a multitude of interests including phrenology, meditation, Buddhist architecture, text, medical illustration, and spirituality.

– *Pinky Bass*

Notes from April 6 Fellowship Board 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, Stu Chapman, Diane Ehlers, Ruth Geraci, Jon Leff, Terry Lindquist, Jule Moon, Michael Patrick and Pam Perkins. Also present were Ann Chapman, Kay Seymour and Bayne Snyder.

Bayne Snyder gave a progress report on the memory garden. The crepe myrtle chosen by the family was only available in small plants, so supplemental plantings were added temporarily. The fountain has been purchased and the pump is being tested.

The Board gave permission to the Ad Hoc Insurance Committee to conclude final arrangements with the Schneider Insurance Agency to accept the Safeco Insurance Policy Proposal for our Fellowship.

Committee changes: Celeste Hinds has been appointed to chair the Lawn and Garden Committee; Helen Earl will chair the Membership Committee beginning June 1; Elaine Snyder-Conn will chair the Program Committee beginning October 1; Bert Brun and Dorothy Dowell have joined that Committee.

Building Maintenance Chair Stu Chapman discussed the need for fire and security protection. He met with an ADT representative and a member of the City Fire Marshall's office for ideas. Stu will continue to gather information for the Board.

The Board determined that clarification is needed regarding building usage by outside groups. In the interim, the Board voted to allow meditation classes to continue at the Fellowship.

Another Deepak Chopra Class at the Fellowship in May

In March and April classes in Primordial Sound Meditation were offered at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship building, taught by Joe Zolnoski of Pensacola. Joe was trained by Deepak Chopra of the Chopra Center for Wellbeing in California.

In May & June Joe will lead Deepak Chopra's Perfect Health Class here at the Fellowship. The Perfect Health Lifestyle Program is a program of daily wellness founded on the 5,000 year-old healing system of medicine known as Ayurveda. Ayurveda states that health is not just the absence of disease; it is physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing.

The Perfect Health Lifestyle Program teaches students a powerful regimen of Ayurvedic practices and techniques designed to: balance the mind-body, enhance nutrition, reduce emotional turbulence, restore vitality, and re-awaken the senses.

The four-session class will be taught at 3:30 p.m. Sunday May 20 and 27 and June 3 and 10. Registration fee is \$225, but for members of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship the cost is \$200. To reserve your place contact Joe Zolnoski at Jazsg11@aol.com or 850-291-5522.

Notes From Our Members

Youth Recital: The Bayside Suzuki Group will hold its annual recital in the Fellowship auditorium on Wednesday, May 9, 5-9:30 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Thank you: Flo Schneider says thanks to all who are using War is Not the Answer signs and bumper stickers. She still has more available. floschneider@mchsi.com or 990-6242.

Support Group: The FUF Support Group continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. in the office.

Meet Our New Members

Stan and Ana Hodgin

Ana Hodgin grew up in Brownsville, Texas and attended Texas State College for Women – now Texas Women's University – majoring in art with a specialty in advertising design. She taught school for a few years in Brownsville after she and Stan married, until the birth of their first child. Over the years her artistic style broadened to include painting. After a hiatus from painting for several years Ana and Stan's daughter, an accomplished watercolorist, encouraged Ana to resume painting enter her work in juried shows. A viewing of her recent paintings attests to the wisdom of this decision.

Ana and Stan first met in California shortly after WWII when Ana traveled with a friend from Brownsville to visit her brother, a Marine stationed there. Born and raised in Santa Monica, Stan joined the Marines in 1946 when he was 17. Clearly Stan was impressed by Ana for, according to Stan, as soon as he was discharged he rode his trusty 1938 Harley all the way to Brownsville, Texas; and the rest is, as they say, history – nearly 60 years of it together as husband and wife.

Before retiring in 1983, Stan was Southeast Regional Manager and later Director of Training for the Atlanta-based John Crane Company, a manufacturer of mechanical sealing devices used in pumps and rotating equipment found in oil refineries, nuclear power and chemical plants. Stan recalls that he worked in 17 foreign countries and 38 states during those years and the family – Stan, Ana and their four children – lived in several places, none farther north than Atlanta. According to Ana, it was while living in Pensacola that they discovered Fairhope and thought they'd like to live here.

After retiring to Fairhope in 1992, Stan started a musical group called the Jubilee Pickers Dulcimer Society. He not only plays dulcimers but builds them as well as other beautiful wooden instruments including banjos, mandolins, harps, and psalteries, all prized by musicians lucky

Hodgins continued from Page 5

nor apprenticed under a professional to learn his craft. He is self-taught and describes his artistry as something that came kind of built-in, that I learned through trial and error, and that I've really enjoyed doing. Recently he constructed a King David's Lyre, an early classical instrument, by researching its history through the Internet and noting its metric dimensions. Although he has kept no records of the many instruments he has built, he estimates the number in the hundreds.

In 2006, members of the Jubilee Pickers proclaimed Stan the teacher, founder, and guiding spirit of their group—the premier folk music group in our county – and declared that their annual festival would henceforth be named in his honor, the Stan Hodgins Jubilee Pickers Dulcimer Festival.

The Hodgins have two daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Two of their children live nearby, a son in Fairhope and a daughter in Mobile.

Ana grew up in the Presbyterian Church and she and Stan have attended both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in past years. Stan's great uncle was a Unitarian minister.

Ana enjoys painting in her light-filled studio in their home and on Thursday mornings from 9:00-12:00 Stan can usually be found in the Homestead Village Ballroom making music with other dulcimer lovers.

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

Mark Your Calendar

Thur., May 3: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Fri., May 4: FUF Board, 9:30 a.m.

Sat., May 5: Art Reception, 3-5 p.m.

Sat., May 5: Documentary movie, "Who Killed the Electric Car?", 7 p.m.

Sun., May 6: Transcendentalism Discussion: *Theodore Parker*, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sun., May 6: Social Action Committee, 12:15 p.m.

Wed., May 9: Bayside Suzuki Students' Recital at FUF, 5-9:30 p.m. Open to Public.

Thur., May 10: Author Discussion Group, 9:30 a.m.

Thur., May 10: FUF Support Group meets, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sat., May 12: Fellowship Game Night, 6:30 p.m.

Sun., May 13: Transcendentalism Discussion: *Amos Bronson Alcott*, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Thur., May 17: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 a.m.

Thur., May 17: Green Sanctuary Committee meets in the library, 7:15 p.m.

Sat., May 19: Movie, *Local Hero*, 7 p.m.

Sat., May 26: Game Night, 6:30 p.m.

Sun., May 27: Transcendentalism Discussion: *Louisa May Alcott*, 9:30-10:30

UU Gifts

Looking for a suitable Unitarian gift or piece of jewelry? Try the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) for a variety of items such as chalice-themed necklaces, earrings, tie tacks, and pins. They also offer note cards and other gifts. Order through the UU website:

<http://www.uua.org/clf/catalog>