



May 2008

Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS: “In Their Own Words”

May 4 *Members of the Fairhope Fellowship share poetry they have written. Participants include Bert Brun, Jule Moon and Meg Baxter.*

Introduction: Bert Brun

FLO SCHNEIDER: “Conflict: Opportunity or Crisis?”

May 11 *Fellowship member Flo Schneider has served as a mediator for about eleven years, both in Alabama and in North Carolina, under the auspices of the state court systems. In North Carolina she also taught conflict resolution to children in the school system. The mediation program helps people deal with anger constructively, communicate feelings and concerns without resorting to violence, and to reach solutions in which all parties win.*

Introduction: Ed Lawrence

STANLEY DOWELL: “Coaching Principles”

May 18 *Stan Dowell will share some lessons for life based on his coaching experience. Currently the track coach at the University of Southern Alabama since 2001, Stan has been coaching for over 35 years. From 1995-1997 he coached the Saudi Arabian Olympic Track Team, bringing them to six new national kingdom records. He has also coached six American Olympic medalists during his career. His main principle in coaching elite athletes is that it takes character and dedication to survive competition at that level.*

Introduction: Dorothy Dowell

ROBIN FABEL: “The Dual Bicentennial of the Abolition of Slave Trade”

May 25 *Both the U.S. Congress and the British Parliament passed laws to ban slave trading from January 1, 1808. What made the ban extraordinary was first, two countries then on the worst of terms should act in such accord, and second, that such laws could be passed in defiance of huge vested interests, and third, that such humanitarian legislation could be enacted and enforced at the height of the Napoleonic wars. Retired history professor Robin Fabel will consider these and related aspects of the topic.*

Introduction: Michael Patrick

Everyone is invited to attend the Last Sunday of the Month potluck following the May 25 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.

Our Social Action Committee Reports

The FUF Social Action Committee (SAC) still meets on the second Sunday of the month, but the time was changed to 9:30 a.m. (lasting until approximately 10:15 a.m.). The last meeting, held April 13, 2008, was convened at 9:55 a.m., due to a confusion about the new time, and was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. Jeanine Normand was the chair for that meeting, Flo Schneider will chair the meeting in May.

We are firming up our mission statement to be more succinct and effective. SAC member Jack Gooding has submitted three versions that are all excellent. The committee will be making a decision at the next meeting or so, when all the members have had a chance to weigh in on the subject.

Basically, one of our main functions is to research thoroughly the various charities and causes that seem worthy to our membership. This way, we can recommend where to donate our dollars and our time. Our new emphasis is to have a positive effect on a mostly local area, from the old adage, "charity begins at home."

Many organizations on the surface (or merely by the title) have wonderful causes and propose reasonable remedies. But we must carefully study organizations before recommending them to the Board in the name of the FUF. There are organizations that are fronts for other purposes; others may spend a lot of donated monies toward big salaries or overhead that may be unnecessary; others may purport to have a local focus but in reality, give all of the money that they get to a national or even international organization, where very little if any of it stays in the region; and still others may act contrary to our stated UU principles. These are just some of the considerations. Of course, on an individual basis, any member should contribute to whatever cause or organization that you like. Members may want to have some of our conclusions for their own information. We shall be writing about organizations that we choose in the newsletters for that reason.

Main considerations about charities are: where do they spend the money that is donated? How much of that money goes to the actual remedies, and in the local area or region? We look at the IRS statements and use other research tools. Some of these tools are found at the Mobile Library, the West Regional Branch, which has one of the best research centers to be found near us.

Also, we are sending a representative to the UU Mid South District Annual Assembly meeting this coming May 2-4, at Valparaiso, Florida, to get more information from other UU fellowships on how their Social Action Committees have been effective. There is a Social Justice tract of workshops that promise to be very exciting.

Documentary Looks at America's Election Process

On May 3, the FUF Saturday Night Film is
**Uncounted: The New Math of
American Elections**

This 2007, 80 minute documentary describes irregularities in the 2004 and 2006 elections, and how enraged voters are turning their anger into citizen activism in an effort to safeguard the vote. Eyewitness accounts are backed up by election experts in revealing how Jim Crow tactics, electronic voting machine security breaches, vote count manipulation, and suspicious behavior by a major voting machine manufacturer all threaten the very core of our democracy – the vote.

As we approach the decisive election of 2008, *Uncounted* will change how we feel about the way votes are counted in America.

The movie starts at 7 p.m., admission free, but donations are accepted.

– Ed Lawrence

Organic Architecture Topic of May-June Fellowship Art Exhibit

Opening Reception May 10, 3-5 pm

Organic Architecture, a philosophy of design based on the principles of Frank Lloyd Wright, will be the topic of the exhibit to be on display at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship during May and June.

The exhibit will consist of selected copies of the architectural work and art of Milton Stricker, a native of Clayton, Wisconsin, and now a resident of Seattle, Washington.

The opening reception of the exhibit will be 3 to 5 pm, Saturday May 10, at the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship. Music during the opening reception will be provided by the Unitarian Fellowship String Trio.

Milton Stricker received architectural training as a member of the Taliesin Fellowship where he apprenticed under Frank Lloyd Wright in 1951. He also studied at Miami University, Carnegie Institute, and the University of Minnesota. After leaving the Taliesin Fellowship he began practicing Organic Architecture in Seattle.

FUF Members Cited for Habitat for Humanity Contributions

Kudos to Fellowship Members who recently participated in a record-setting project by Habitat Women Build. A four-bedroom home was ceramic-tiled throughout in **ONE** workday!

Says Habitat's Lu Schmidt, "Hats off to the volunteers who would not call it quits until the labor of love was completed."

Among the 14 women cited for this project were FUF's Maud Van Eysbergen and Joyce Burkhardt. Well done!

- submitted by Katherine Thompson

Mr. Stricker says that in a very important way Frank Lloyd Wright was to architecture what Pablo Picasso was to painting. Each abstracted from nature the geometry that became a work of art: a cubist painting for Picasso, an organic building for Wright.

Curator of this exhibit is Frank Laraway, a member and former President of the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship, who also studied under Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin Fellowship.

- Information provided by the Art Committee

Join FUF Knitters at Work!

The click of needles can be heard each Tuesday afternoon from 1-3 pm in the Fellowship Library as the FUF knitters, men and women, gather to share their skills and create beautiful woolen caps, sweaters and mittens, destined for the children of Afghanistan.

Knitter Gail Gardner reports:

"Someone asked recently why we aren't knitting shawls. Well, now we are! **Afghans for Afghans** [an International aid organization] has asked for shawls."

Details, including photos of shawls (or stoles) being worn, and some patterns, are available at their website,

<http://www.afghansforafghans.org/rectangleshawlcampaign.html>

Gail will gladly provide details for these projects, which are for warmth and modesty. They will be distributed to new mothers at the CURE hospital in Kabul.

Join the FUF Knitters any Tuesday afternoon. Yarn and instructions are available for the

Hearing Assistance Available for FUF Programs

If you or someone you know has a problem hearing the person speaking at the Fellowship Sunday services, or other Fellowship events, help is at hand.

The Fellowship has acquired a system to broadcast on an FM radio frequency (107.7) the sound which is being transmitted through the sound system in our auditorium.

Thus, if you bring a small FM radio with headphones and tune it to 107.7, you will be able to adjust the volume on your radio to hear the speaker.

To get the best reception it is best to sit in the rear toward the left as you are facing the stage.

We also still have the Gentner assistive listening system in place, transmitting a signal with better quality than the FM system described above. Assistive listening receivers can be purchased for about \$100. Let Ed Lawrence know if you would like to order a receiver.

The Fellowship also welcomes donations of small working FM radios for use by visitors.

– Ed Lawrence

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

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Ruth Geraci

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers and Ruth Allbritton

Mark Your Calendar

Thu., May 1: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Thu., May 1: Men's Harmony Choruses, 4:00 pm

Fri., May 2: FUF Board Meeting, 9:30 am

Sat., May 3: Documentary, "*Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections*," 7 pm

Tue., May 6: Knitters' Group, 1-3 pm

Tue., May 6: Choir rehearsal, 3:30-4:30 pm

Wed., May 7: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 pm

Thu., May 8: Authors Discussion Group, 9:30 am

Thu., May 8: Men's Harmony Choruses, 4 pm

Sat., May 10: Art Reception, 3-5pm

Sat., May 10: Game Night 6:30-9 pm

Sun., May 11: Social Action Comm., 9:30 am

Tue., May 13: Knitters' Group, 1-3 pm

Wed., May 14: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 pm

Thur., May 15: Nonfiction Book Group, 9:30 am

Tue., May 20: Knitters' Group, 1-3 pm

Wed., May 21: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 pm

Thur., May 22: Green Sanctuary Committee, 9:30 am

Sat., May 24: Game Night 6:30-9 pm

Sun., May 25: Last Sunday Potluck 12 pm

Tue., May 27: Knitters' Group, 1-3 pm

Wed., May 28: Back Porch Folk Singers, 3-4:30 pm

Thur., May 29: Men's Harmony Choruses, 4:00 pm

Help! Aaron Hinrichs, our FUF Sound/Video person, is desperately seeking persons to train and serve as substitutes when he is unable to be at the Fellowship. Aaron says it is really not that difficult an undertaking— he would like at least three persons to learn how the system operates. Contact him at 928-3022 or Hinrichs@ksu.edu.